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ACCEPT, ACCEPTABLE, ACCEPTED, ACCEPTING, ACCEPTS, ACCEPTABLY, ACCEPTANCE, ACCEPTATION, ACCEPTTEST, ACCEPTTETH

God **accepted** Abel's offering.

- **Genesis 4:4:** "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:"

Cain was angry with God when He didn't **accept** his offering.

- **Genesis 4:5:** "But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

It seems the reason God didn't **accept** Cain's offering was because He didn't have respect for Cain.

- **Genesis 4:5:** "But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

God told Cain that if he did well then he would be **accepted**.

- **Genesis 4:7:** "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him."

It seems the reason Cain wasn't **accepted** was because he had *not* been doing good things. In other words, since was evil God didn't accept his sacrifice.

- **Genesis 4:7:** "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him."

The reason Cain murdered Abel was because God **accepted** Abel's sacrifice but not his sacrifice.

- **Genesis 4:4-5, 8:** "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell. ... And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him."

Laban told Jacob that he was Laban's bone and flesh. (In other words, Laban **accepted** Jacob as his relative.)

- **Genesis 29:14:** "And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month."

When Laban defrauded Jacob and told him that he was going to have to work for another seven years to earn Rachel, Jacob didn't try to negotiate a better deal. Instead he **accepted** the terms.

- **Genesis 29:27-28:** "Fulfil her week, and we will give thee

this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also."

When Rachel told Jacob to have children with her maid Bilhah, Jacob didn't refuse or say that was a terrible idea. Instead he **accepted** it.

- **Genesis 30:3-4:** "And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her. And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her."

When Leah gave her maid Zilpah to Jacob, he didn't refuse or say that was a terrible idea. Instead he **accepted** it.

- **Genesis 30:9:** "When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife."

When Jacob said he wanted to get paid in brown sheep and speckled and spotted goats, Laban **accepted** his offer.

- **Genesis 30:31-34:** "And he said, What shall I give thee? And Jacob said, Thou shalt not give me any thing: if thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep thy flock. I will pass through all thy flock to day, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and of such shall be my hire. So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen

with me. And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word."

When the sons of Jacob were taken to Joseph's house after the cup was found in Benjamin's sack, they didn't try to claim that they were innocent, or protest that there had been a mistake. Instead they **accepted** the guilt.

- **Genesis 44:16:** "And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants: behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a man entrusted his animal to someone else and asked him to care for it, and something happened to it, the person who was asked to keep it had to swear an oath of the Lord that he hadn't stolen it. Once he did that, the owner of the animal had to **accept** it.

- **Exodus 22:11:** "Then shall an oath of the LORD be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good."

When Aaron brought Israel's gifts to the Lord, he had to wear a golden plate that said HOLINESS TO THE LORD in order for God to **accept** the gifts he brought.

- **Exodus 28:38:** "And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may

be accepted before the LORD."

When a person offered a burnt offering and put their hand on the head of the animal that was being offered, God would **accept** the offering.

- **Leviticus 1:4:** "And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him."

If any of the meat from a peace offering was eaten on the third day, it wouldn't be **accepted**.

- **Leviticus 7:18:** "And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings be eaten at all on the third day, it shall not be accepted, neither shall it be imputed unto him that offereth it: it shall be an abomination, and the soul that eateth of it shall bear his iniquity."

The reason Eleazar and Ithamar hadn't eaten their portion of the sin offering (when their brothers Nadab and Abihu were killed by God for offering strange fire) was because they didn't think God would **accept** it.

- **Leviticus 10:19:** "And Aaron said unto Moses, Behold, this day have they offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD; and such things have befallen me: and if I had eaten the sin offering to day, should it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD?"

Under the Mosaic Law, a peace offering could be eaten the same day it was offered, or on the next day. However, if it was

eaten after that then it wouldn't be **accepted** by God.

- **Leviticus 19:7:** "And if it be eaten at all on the third day, it is abominable; it shall not be accepted."

Under the Mosaic Law, God didn't accept animal sacrifices that had a blemish. They weren't **acceptable** to Him.

- **Leviticus 22:20:** "But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you."
- **Leviticus 22:21:** "And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein."
- **Leviticus 22:25:** "Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer the bread of your God of any of these; because their corruption is in them, and blemishes be in them: they shall not be accepted for you."

Under the Mosaic Law, when the Israelites reaped the harvest of their field they were required to bring to the priest a firstfruits offering. The priest would wave it before the Lord so that it would be **accepted**.

- **Leviticus 23:11:** "And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it."

Under the Mosaic Law, God **accepted** offerings of wine.

- **Leviticus 23:13:** "And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the

drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin."

Under the Mosaic Law, God said that He would forgive the Israelites if they **accepted** the punishment for their iniquity.

- **Leviticus 26:41:** "And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:"

God **accepted** the tribe of Levi as a substitute for the firstborn of the rest of the tribes of Israel, and their cattle as the substitute for firstborn of Israel's cattle.

- **Numbers 3:41:** "And thou shalt take the Levites for me (I am the LORD) instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel; and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstlings among the cattle of the children of Israel."

Under the Mosaic Law, judges weren't permitted to **accept** whatever they were told. Instead they were commanded to inquire diligently to see if what they were being told was true.

- **Deuteronomy 19:18:** "And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother;"

Under the Mosaic Law, if a city that Israelites were going to attack **accepted** terms of peace and opened its gates, then the people in that city had to be spared. (This didn't apply to the

invasion of Canaan.)

- **Deuteronomy 20:10-11:** "When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it. And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, that all the people that is found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee."

When Moses blessed the Israelites before he died, he prayed that God would **accept** the work of the hands of the tribe of Levi (who made intercession for the Israelites).

- **Deuteronomy 33:10-11:** "They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar. Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands; smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again."

When Moses blessed the Israelites before he died, he prayed that the tribe of Asher would be **acceptable** to his brothers (the other tribes of Israel).

- **Deuteronomy 33:24:** "And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil."

The angel of the Lord agreed to **accept** a present from Gideon (which points to the angel being a preincarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus).

- **Judges 6:18:** "Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before

thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again."

Jephthah believed he had to keep his vow by offering his daughter as a human sacrifice to the Lord (even though such a thing was an abomination to God and something He would never **accept**).

- **Judges 11:35:** "And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back."

When Manoah (Samson's father) told his wife they were going to die because they had seen God, she said that if God was going to kill them He wouldn't have **accepted** their offerings.

- **Judges 13:23:** "But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these."

The 30 companions who came to Samson's wedding feast **accepted** his offer and asked him to tell them the riddle.

- **Judges 14:12-13:** "And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments: But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear

it."

Samson didn't **accept** the offer to take the younger sister of the woman who was supposed to have been his bride. (Instead he rejected her and burned down the fields of the Philistines to get revenge.)

- **Judges 15:1-5:** "But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in. And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: is not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her. And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure. And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives."

Even though the men of Jabesh were willing to make a covenant with Nahash and serve him, Nahash rejected them. He would only **accept** their surrender if he could also put out all of their right eyes.

- **1 Samuel 11:2:** "And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel."

Bribes blind the eyes of those who **accept** them.

- **1 Samuel 12:3:** "Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you."

Saul thought God would still hear his prayers and **accept** his burnt offering, even though it was being offered as an act of disobedience and sin.

- **1 Samuel 13:12:** "Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering."

When the prophet Samuel told Saul that he had done evil, he refused to be corrected or **accept** that he had done anything wrong.

- **1 Samuel 15:19-20:** "Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the Lord, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the Lord? And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites."

When David served Saul, he was **accepted** in the sight of the people and Saul's other servants.

- **1 Samuel 18:5:** "And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants."

After David decided to **accept** Saul's offer to become his son-in-law, he went to fight the Philistines.

- **1 Samuel 18:25-27:** "And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife."

David refused to **accept** the fact that God had made him king and removed Saul from being king. David stubbornly insisted that Saul was still the rightful anointed king of Israel, long after that was no longer true.

- **1 Samuel 24:6:** "And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."
- **1 Samuel 26:17:** "And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king."

- **1 Samuel 26:18:** "And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?"
- **1 Samuel 26:19:** "Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods."

After Abigail brought David and his men a very large gift of food and apologized to him for the way her husband Nabal had treated him, David **accepted** her and decided not to kill Nabal and his entire household.

- **1 Samuel 25:32-34:** "And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall."

David kept insisting to Saul that he was innocent and hadn't done anything wrong, even though that was completely beside the point. David would **never** accept the fact that he was the rightful king of Israel and Saul was *not*, and the whole reason Saul wanted to kill David was because *Saul knew that*.

- **1 Samuel 26:18:** "And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?"

David refused to **accept** that he was the rightful king of Israel. He stubbornly ignored the fact that God had rejected Saul as king over Israel, and referred to Saul as the rightful king and himself as a flea.

- **1 Samuel 26:20:** "Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains."

Saul knew that God had taken the kingdom of Israel away from him and given it to David. However, he refused to **accept** that, and spent the rest of his life trying to kill David, the man who God had given the kingdom to.

- **1 Samuel 28:16-17:** "Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the Lord is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David:"

When David lamented the death of Saul, he said that since Saul had been anointed with oil it was a terrible thing for him to be defeated in battle. (David never **accepted** the fact that God rejected Saul.)

- **2 Samuel 1:21:** "Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of

offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil."

God **accepted** Solomon (even though he was the son of David and Bathsheba).

- **2 Samuel 12:24-25:** "And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the Lord loved him. And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD."

When David unjustly took away everything Mephibosheth owned on the basis of a single false accusation (in violation of the Mosaic Law), Mephibosheth didn't criticize him. Instead he humbled himself before David and **accepted** the injustice.

- **2 Samuel 19:28:** "For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?"

After David gave seven of Saul's grandsons to the Gibeonites and they hanged them, God **accepted** their deaths and put an end to the famine.

- **2 Samuel 21:14:** "And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was

intreated for the land."

When David tried to by Araunah's threshingfloor to stop the angel from destroying Jerusalem, Araunah prayed that God would **accept** David.

- **2 Samuel 24:23:** "All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee."

When Naaman tried to give Elisha a reward for curing his leprosy, he refused to **accept** it.

- **2 Kings 5:15-16:** "And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused."

When Gehazi saw that Elisha didn't **accepted** a reward from Naaman, he decided to run after him and take something from him. (That went very poorly for Gehazi.)

- **2 Kings 5:20:** "But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him."

There's a time when it's appropriate to **accept** a reward in

exchange for helping people, and a time when it's not.

- **2 Kings 5:26:** "And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?"

When Jehoram gave Hazael a lot of treasure (which he obtained by robbing God) to pay him to not attack Jerusalem, Hazael **accepted** the treasure and left.

- **2 Kings 12:18:** "And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria: and he went away from Jerusalem."

The reason Menahem killed everyone in Tiphseh and the surrounding area was because they refused to **accept** him as the rightful king of Israel.

- **2 Kings 15:16:** "Then Menahem smote Tiphseh, and all that were therein, and the coasts thereof from Tirzah: because they opened not to him, therefore he smote it; and all the women therein that were with child he ripped up."

David told Ornan that he wouldn't **accept** his threshingfloor, and the items that it contained, as a free gift. David insisted on paying for it.

- **1 Chronicles 21:23-24:** "And Ornan said unto David, Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all. And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost."

When Rehoboam saw that ten of the tribes of Israel had rejected him as their king, he didn't **accept** it. Instead he decided to go to war and force them to serve him by killing large numbers of them.

- **2 Chronicles 11:1:** "And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam."

When Asa learned that Maachah (his mother) worshiped an idol, he didn't **accept** it. Instead he removed her from being queen and destroyed her idol.

- **2 Chronicles 15:16:** "And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron."

King Artaxerxes believed the false accusation of the enemies of the Jews and **accepted** it at face value.

- **Ezra 4:21:** "Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until another commandment shall be given from me."

The reason Nehemiah didn't **accept** a salary was because the people of Judah would have to pay it, and Nehemiah didn't want to oppress them. In order to help the poor he didn't take a salary. (The people who were with him didn't take a salary either.)

- **Nehemiah 5:14:** "Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor."

Esther sent clothing to Mordecai but he refused to **accept** it. Mordecai continued to wear sackcloth and ashes (because he was in mourning over the proclamation that all of the Jews were to be killed).

- **Esther 4:4:** "So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not."

King Ahasuerus held out his golden scepter toward Esther. The king **accepted** her and didn't put her to death.

- **Esther 8:4:** "Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,"

Mordecai was **accepted** by the Jews.

- **Esther 10:3:** "For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed."

We must **accept** the painful and difficult things that God brings into our life.

- **Job 2:10:** "But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips."

Eliphaz told Job that if he **accepted** the things his friends told him then he would be at peace. (However, the things he told Job consisted of false accusations and foolish statements.)

- **Job 22:21:** "Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee."
- **Job 22:22:** "Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart."

In the past people didn't argue with Job. Instead they listened to what he had to say and **accepted** it.

- **Job 29:22:** "After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them."

Job said that in the past, people didn't cast down the light of his countenance. (This seems to mean people **accepted** and

honored Job, and didn't reject him.)

- **Job 29:24:** "If I laughed on them, they believed it not; and the light of my countenance they cast not down."

Elihu said he wasn't going to **accept** anyone's person. (In other words, he wasn't going to show partiality to anyone.)

- **Job 32:21:** "Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man."

God said that when Job prayed that He would forgive his three friends for their sin, He would **accept** Job's prayer and forgive them.

- **Job 42:8:** "Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job."

When Job prayed that God would forgive the sin of his three friends, God **accepted** Job.

- **Job 42:9:** "So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job."

When people visited Job and gave him money and gold, he **accepted** it. He didn't reject their gifts.

- **Job 42:11:** "Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold."

We must **accept** the statutes of the Lord.

- **Psalm 19:8:** "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."

It's not **acceptable** to sin in ignorance. We must strive to be free of all sin, including the sins we're unaware of.

- **Psalm 19:12:** "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults."

We should seek to make sure that our words and our thoughts are **acceptable** in God's sight.

- **Psalm 19:14:** "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

It's good to pray that God would **accept** the sacrifices that we've made to Him.

- **Psalm 20:3:** "Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah."

We must not **accept** vanity.

- **Psalm 31:6:** "I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD."

Before we praise God in song, we must seek forgiveness for our sins. (This is because God doesn't **accept** worship or praise from the wicked).

- **Psalm 51:14:** "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness."

The gifts that we give to God don't purchase His favor. Instead we must be clean in His sight *before* He will **accept** them.

- **Psalm 51:14, 19:** "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. ... Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar."

David said he prayed to God in an **acceptable** time.

- **Psalm 69:13:** "But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation."

It's good to pray that God would **accept** our praise.

- **Psalm 119:108:** "Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill

offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments."

The path to avoiding evil is to **accept** wisdom and reproof.

- **Proverbs 1:20, 33:** "Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: ... But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."

We must **accept** and believe the truth.

- **Proverbs 3:3:** "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:"

Ignorance isn't an **acceptable** option for Christians.

- **Proverbs 7:4:** "Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:"

The wicked don't speak **acceptable** words. Instead they speak words of hatred, cruelty, and oppression.

- **Proverbs 10:32:** "The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness."

The righteous know which words are **acceptable** to God.

- **Proverbs 10:32:** "The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness."

In order for God to **accept** your gift you must first be upright.

- **Proverbs 15:8:** "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight."

The wicked aren't doing themselves any good when they give gifts to the Lord, because He doesn't **accept** gifts from the wicked.

- **Proverbs 15:8:** "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight."

If you seek to live then you must not **accept** bribes.

- **Proverbs 15:27:** "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live."

Be careful about the type of responsibility that you **accept**. Not all responsibility is good. There are some situations where taking responsibility is a sign that you're a fool.

- **Proverbs 17:18:** "A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend."

Those who are wise ask questions. They don't simply **accept** whatever they're told.

- **Proverbs 20:5:** "Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out."

It's impossible to correct some servants by speaking to them. They won't **accept** verbal correction.

- **Proverbs 29:19:** "A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer."

We need to **accept** what the book of Ecclesiastes has to teach us, and learn what it has to say.

- **Ecclesiastes 7:18:** "It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all."

The reason we should eat and drink with joy is because God **accepts** our works.

- **Ecclesiastes 9:7:** "Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works."

Ecclesiastes is a book of wisdom. It's true and upright, and the things it says are **acceptable** in the sight of God.

- **Ecclesiastes 12:10:** "The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth."

The day is coming when the remnant of Israel will trust in the truth of the Lord. They will no longer reject that truth, but will instead **accept** and believe it.

- **Isaiah 10:20:** "And it shall come to pass in that day, that

the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth."

God heard Isaiah in an **acceptable** time.

- **Isaiah 49:8:** "Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;"

The way God will bless the Gentiles who please Him is by **accepting** their sacrifices.

- **Isaiah 56:7:** "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."

Fasting is an **acceptable** day to the Lord (if it's done the way God requires).

- **Isaiah 58:5:** "Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?"

God sent the Messiah to proclaim the **acceptable** year of the

Lord.

- **Isaiah 61:1-2:** "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;"

God doesn't **accept** gifts that were stolen from others. He won't receive stolen property.

- **Isaiah 61:8:** "For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them."

Jeremiah knew at the beginning of his ministry, that the rulers, priests, and people of Judah wouldn't **accept** his message, and would instead fight against him.

- **Jeremiah 1:19:** "And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee."

God told the Jews that their burnt offerings weren't **acceptable** to Him (because they wouldn't repent of their wickedness).

- **Jeremiah 6:20:** "To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me."

The reason God didn't **accept** that generation of Jews was because they wandered away from Him to serve idols.

- **Jeremiah 14:10:** "Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins."

There are some prayers that God doesn't **accept**.

- **Jeremiah 14:11:** "Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good."

God told Jeremiah that when the Jews offered Him burnt offerings, He wouldn't **accept** them.

- **Jeremiah 14:12:** "When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them; but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence."

Jeremiah said that he ate the words of God. (This seems to mean he didn't reject them, but instead **accepted** them.)

- **Jeremiah 15:16:** "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts."

The princes knew that King Jehoiakim wasn't going to **accept** the words of God that were written in the book of Jeremiah.

- **Jeremiah 36:19:** "Then said the princes unto Baruch, Go, hide thee, thou and Jeremiah; and let no man know where ye be."

We must search our ways and see if they're **acceptable** to God.

- **Lamentations 3:40:** "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD."

God commanded Ezekiel to proclaim His messages to the Jews, regardless of whether they **accepted** those messages or not. Even if the Jews wouldn't listen he still had to proclaim the words of God anyway.

- **Ezekiel 2:7:** "And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious."

If God had sent Ezekiel to the Gentiles, they would have listened to Ezekiel and **accepted** what he had to say.

- **Ezekiel 3:6:** "Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee."

God doesn't **accept** gifts from pagans and idolaters.

- **Ezekiel 20:39:** "As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your

idols."

In the day when God regathers the Israelites from the nations and **accepts** them, He will be sanctified in Israel in the sight of the pagans.

- **Ezekiel 20:41:** "I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen."

Once the altar is cleansed, God will **accept** the sacrifices that are offered in the millennial temple.

- **Ezekiel 43:27:** "And when these days are expired, it shall be, that upon the eighth day, and so forward, the priests shall make your burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, saith the Lord GOD."

When none of Nebuchadnezzar's wise men could interpret the king's dream, Daniel didn't simply **accept** his fate and die with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Instead he sought to speak with Arioch to see what he could do about his situation.

- **Daniel 2:14-15:** "Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel."

Nebuchadnezzar's command was urgent. He would **accept** no delay, and wanted the Jews to be killed immediately for refusing to bow down to the idol that he had made.

- **Daniel 3:22:** "Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego."

It's shameful when rulers **accept** bribes.

- **Hosea 4:18:** "Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye."

When the Israelites worshiped God alongside their idols, God didn't **accept** their sacrifices.

- **Hosea 8:13:** "They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt."

It's impossible for those who are unclean in God's sight to give Him an offering that's clean. Those who are unclean can only give God things that are unclean, and God doesn't **accept** unclean offerings. (This means it's impossible for the wicked to purchase God's favor through gifts, because God hates gifts from the wicked.)

- **Hosea 9:4:** "They shall not offer wine offerings to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices shall be unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their

soul shall not come into the house of the LORD."

We must never tolerate evil, or make peace with evil, or **accept** evil. Instead we must hate evil.

- **Amos 5:15:** "Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph."

God doesn't **accept** the worship of unrepentant idolaters. He hates it.

- **Amos 5:21-22:** "I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts."

The church must not have wicked in its midst, because the wicked are poison. God commands His church to be pure, and its praise to be pure. The church can't be pure if there are unrepentant people in its midst! It's wrong for the church to allow the wicked to join them in songs of praise because that's greatly offensive to God. The church *cannot* **accept** the presence of the wicked and must exclude them from its services.

- **Amos 5:23:** "Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols."

God doesn't want gifts that are so awful that no one else will

accept them.

- **Malachi 1:8:** "And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts."

God despises those who only serve Him because they're being paid to do so. Even though they may be working in His temple, God doesn't **accept** their offering and has no respect for them.

- **Malachi 1:10:** "Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand."

God refused to **accept** the polluted sacrifices of the Jews.

- **Malachi 1:13:** "Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD."

The Lord didn't **accept** or overlook the sins of the priests.

- **Malachi 2:1-2:** "And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart."

When people are doing evil, God won't **accept** their offerings or their tears.

- **Malachi 2:13:** "And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand."

The Lord won't **accept** the offerings of those who sin by divorcing their wives. Even if those people continue to give things to the Lord, He will reject them.

- **Malachi 2:14:** "Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant."

We need to be reconciled with those we've wronged before God will **accept** our gifts.

- **Matthew 5:24:** "Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

When Jesus taught the parable of the sower, He said that those who had ears to hear should hear what He had to say. He explained His parables to those who were willing to **accept** His words, but He hid their meaning from those who rejected Him.

- **Matthew 13:9:** "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Jesus **accepted** the worship of others (which points to His deity).

- **Matthew 14:33:** "Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God."
- **Matthew 28:9:** "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him."
- **Matthew 28:17:** "And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted."

We must not **accept** all doctrine. Evil doctrine must be rejected.

- **Matthew 16:12:** "Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."

Jesus **accepted** the premise that some people in the kingdom of Heaven will be greater than others.

- **Matthew 18:2-4:** "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

The chief priests and elders wanted the people to believe that they **accepted** John the Baptist, even though in reality they rejected him.

- **Matthew 21:26:** "But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet."

The Sadducees rejected the doctrine of the resurrection, but believed the books of Moses were authoritative. When Jesus defended the doctrine of the resurrection He quoted from a book that Moses wrote, which the Sadducees **accepted**.

- **Matthew 22:32:** "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

Jesus told the Jews they weren't going to see Him again until they **accepted** Him as both their Messiah and their God.

- **Matthew 23:39:** "For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

There was a time when there was a difference between what God the Son wanted and what God the Father wanted. When that happened, Jesus humbled Himself and **accepted** the cup of suffering from God the Father.

- **Matthew 26:39:** "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

It's not wrong to pray that God would spare us from suffering. (However in the end we must **accept** the will of God.)

- **Matthew 26:39:** "And he went a little farther, and fell on

his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Even though the soldiers who guarded Christ's tomb were eyewitnesses to what happened that morning, they didn't believe. Instead they **accepted** a bribe to cover up the truth.

- **Matthew 28:12-15:** "And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day."

God doesn't **accept** worship from everyone. (He rejects the worship of the wicked.)

- **Mark 7:7:** "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

We must **accept** the suffering that comes from following Jesus.

- **Mark 8:34:** "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."
- **Luke 9:23:** "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

It's not possible for the elect to be persuaded to reject Jesus and **accept** a false Messiah.

- **Mark 13:22:** "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect."

When the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive and have a son, she **accepted** it.

- **Luke 1:38:** "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."

God the Father sent Jesus to preach the **acceptable** year of the Lord.

- **Luke 4:18-19:** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Jesus wasn't **accepted** in His own country.

- **Luke 4:24:** "And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country."

Those who were baptized by the baptism of John the Baptist were ready to hear what Jesus had to say, and were willing to

accept it.

- **Luke 7:29:** "And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John."

Jesus compared the generation that existed during His earthly ministry to petulant children who rejected everything and would **accept** nothing.

- **Luke 7:32:** "They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept."

There were times when Jesus **accepted** people's invitations to go to their house and eat.

- **Luke 7:36:** "And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat."
- **Luke 11:37:** "And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat."
- **Luke 14:1:** "And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him."

Jesus expected cities to **accept** His disciples and listen to what they had to say. (Those who didn't would be punished in the final judgment.)

- **Luke 9:5:** "And whosoever will not receive you, when ye

go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them."

When a city refused to **accept** one of the 70 people who Jesus sent out to preach, they were to go out into the streets and make a public announcement that the kingdom of God had come near that city. They were *not* allowed to kill anyone.

- **Luke 10:10-12:** "But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city."

Those who hear and believe what the apostles have to say are **accepting** both Jesus and God the Father. This is because the apostles proclaimed the words of Jesus. (Likewise, those who reject what the apostles have to say are rejecting both God the Son and God the Father.)

- **Luke 10:16:** "He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me."

The Jews won't see Jesus again until they **accepted** Him as their Messiah.

- **Luke 13:35:** "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in

the name of the Lord."

In the parable of the dinner invitation, when people rejected the supper invitation they couldn't repent and eat of it later. Instead their spots were taken by other people who did **accept** it.

- **Luke 14:24:** "For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."

When Jesus rode to Jerusalem on a colt, the city failed to recognize Him. They didn't understand who He was or what He came to do, and they didn't **accept** Him.

- **Luke 19:42:** "Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."

The religious leaders were unwilling to **accept** Jesus as the Messiah. They rejected Him.

- **Luke 22:67:** "Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe."

Those who are of God listen to His words and **accept** them.

- **John 8:47:** "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

The high priest didn't want to **accept** responsibility for killing Jesus, even though he was directly responsible for His death.

- **Acts 5:28:** "Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

The first time Peter and John left Jerusalem after the resurrection of Jesus was to travel to Samaria. The reason they made that trip was because they heard the Samaritans had **accepted** the gospel.

- **Acts 8:14:** "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:"

The apostles **accepted** Saul (who later became the apostle Paul) after Barnabas introduced him and explained what had happened.

- **Acts 9:26-28:** "And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem."

God **accepts** all those who do what's righteous, no matter what nation they're from.

- **Acts 10:35:** "But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, the Jews had already heard that Peter had gone to Cornelius and that the Gentiles had **accepted** the gospel.

- **Acts 11:1-2:** "And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,"

The angel of the Lord didn't smite Herod when he put the apostle James to death. However, he did smite Herod when he **accepted** praise that he was a god, instead of giving that glory to God.

- **Acts 12:21-23:** "And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost."

Even though Paul taught that people didn't have to be circumcised to be saved, Paul still had Timothy circumcised so the Jews would **accept** him.

- **Acts 16:3:** "Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek."

The decree that was sent from the apostles and elders in Jerusalem about the salvation of the Gentiles, which Paul

delivered from city to city, was **accepted** by the churches.

- **Acts 16:4-5:** "And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."

There was one dispensation *before* the resurrection, and another one afterward. In the previous dispensation God **accepted** a measure of ignorance, but He no longer does that.

- **Acts 17:30:** "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"

Jesus knew the people of Jerusalem had rejected the gospel and wouldn't **accept** it.

- **Acts 22:18:** "And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me."

Tertullus said the Jews **accepted** the rule of their governor (Felix).

- **Acts 24:3:** "We accept it always, and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness."

In the apostolic era, Christianity wasn't popular or **accepted**.

- **Acts 28:22:** "But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against."

Through Isaiah, the Holy Spirit said that the heart of the Jews had waxed gross so they wouldn't **accept** the Word of God.

- **Acts 28:27:** "For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

God gave the nation of Israel incredible gifts that He didn't give to any other nation. Yet they rejected Him and refused to **accept** the Messiah.

- **Romans 9:4, 31-32:** "Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; ... But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;"

Since the Jews rejected the gospel, God is going to use the Gentiles to provoke them to jealousy (because the Gentiles will **accept** the gospel and obtain righteousness).

- **Romans 10:19:** "But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you."

God offered salvation to the Jews day after day, but they didn't **accept** it.

- **Romans 10:21:** "But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

The reason we can turn from sin and live lives that are **acceptable** to God is because of His mercy.

- **Romans 12:1:** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Christians are commanded to lead holy lives that are **acceptable** in the sight of God.

- **Romans 12:1:** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Part of our transformation in Christ is renewing our mind. Our mind must be transformed so we do what's **acceptable** to God instead of what's **acceptable** to this world.

- **Romans 12:2:** "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

The church should only **accept** Christians who are weak in the faith if they don't try to dispute the faith or cast doubt on it.

- **Romans 14:1:** "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye,

but not to doubtful disputations."

Those who believe that it's morally **acceptable** to eat meat are correct. Rejecting meat (on the grounds of morality) is a sign of weak faith.

- **Romans 14:2:** "For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs."

Christians must be careful about judging people based on personal convictions. We must not despise people who have different convictions than we do if God has **accepted** them.

- **Romans 14:3:** "Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him."

Servants only need to be **accepted** by their master. They don't need the approval of anyone else.

- **Romans 14:4:** "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."

Those who serve Christ in all things are **acceptable** to God.

- **Romans 14:18:** "For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men."

The church can't reject those who are weak in the faith. Instead the church must **accept** and include them.

- **Romans 15:1:** "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

Paul sought to minister to the Gentiles so that they might be an **acceptable** offering to God.

- **Romans 15:16:** "That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost."

The world doesn't need to hear a message it will **accept**. Instead it needs to hear Christ crucified (even if they reject it).

- **1 Corinthians 2:2:** "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

Any sin that's present in a church impacts the type of teaching it can be given. The presence of sin limits the teachings it will **accept**.

- **1 Corinthians 3:1-3:** "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

Those who are wise in the ways of this world need to set aside that wisdom and **accept** the wisdom of God (which is foolishness in the sight of the world).

- **1 Corinthians 3:18:** "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."

Paul didn't **accept** sin in the church. It had to be dealt with and couldn't be tolerated.

- **1 Corinthians 4:21:** "What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?"

When we purchase something, God doesn't require us to thoroughly investigate its background to make sure no sins were committed during its manufacturing process. Instead we're allowed to **accept** it at face value and move on.

- **1 Corinthians 10:25:** "Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake:"

The reason we can **accept** material goods at face value, without asking questions, is because everything in this world belongs to God.

- **1 Corinthians 10:26:** "Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake: For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof."

It's not good for society to **accept** men with long hair. Men shouldn't have long hair, and nature itself makes that clear.

- **1 Corinthians 11:14:** "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?"

The church should **accept** those who repent. (Paul does *not* say that it should accept those who don't repent.)

- **2 Corinthians 2:7-8:** "So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him."

Christians who are in this world must labor so that Jesus will **accept** us. (This isn't teaching that we're saved by our works. Instead Paul is saying that our actions matter to Him, and we must always seek to please Him in everything we do.)

- **2 Corinthians 5:9:** "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him."

This is the **accepted** time. This is the day of salvation.

- **2 Corinthians 6:2:** "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"

The Macedonian church begged Paul to **accept** their financial gift.

- **2 Corinthians 8:1-4:** "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that

we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints."

Paul didn't want anyone to condemn the apostles for **accepting** financial gifts from churches and giving them to other churches that were in need.

- **2 Corinthians 8:20:** "Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us:"

Paul was concerned that if someone preached a false gospel to the Corinthian church, they would **accept** it (which would be a terrible mistake).

- **2 Corinthians 11:4:** "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."

There were times when Paul **accepted** financial gifts from churches.

- **2 Corinthians 11:8:** "I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service."

One of the reasons Paul didn't **accept** money from the Corinthian church was to keep people from finding an occasion to condemn him. Paul knew the church had opponents, and he wanted to make sure they weren't able to raise a complaint of any kind.

- **2 Corinthians 11:12:** "But what I do, that I will do, that I

may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion;
that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we."

Even though Paul suffered many terrible things, and even though there were times when he went hungry and thirsty, he still blessed God. He didn't believe the terrible things he suffered meant that God didn't love him, or that God was cruel and unjust. Instead he **accepted** persecution and continued to faithfully serve the Lord and praise Him.

- **2 Corinthians 11:31:** "The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not."

Paul gladly **accepted** his physical infirmity because he wanted the power of Christ to rest on him.

- **2 Corinthians 12:9:** "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

The reason Paul talked about himself was because the Corinthian church forced him to do so. Since they questioned his credentials and refused to **accept** him as an apostle, Paul defended himself.

- **2 Corinthians 12:11:** "I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing."

Paul wasn't going to **accept** any money from the Corinthian church. He refused to be a burden to them.

- **2 Corinthians 12:14:** "Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not your's but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children."

Paul called the Galatians "brethren". However, this didn't mean he **accepted** their false gospel or approved of what they were doing.

- **Galatians 1:11:** "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man."

Paul didn't **accept** the heretical teachings of the false brethren. Instead he rejected them.

- **Galatians 2:5:** "To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you."

When the Galatians **accepted** the gospel of salvation by works, they were being disobedient.

- **Galatians 3:1:** "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?"

Paul was trying to save the Galatians. He wanted them to repent and **accept** the true gospel.

- **Galatians 4:19:** "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,"

It's not **acceptable** to worship both God and idols. We must worship God alone. We can't just add God to other idols in our lives.

- **Galatians 5:20-21:** "Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

God is the reason why we're **accepted**. It's because of what *He* has done, and not because of anything we've done.

- **Ephesians 1:6:** "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."

God **accepted** the sacrifice of Christ. He didn't reject it.

- **Ephesians 5:2:** "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

Some things aren't **acceptable** to the Lord.

- **Ephesians 5:10:** "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."

Christians must seek to do what's right in all areas of their

lives. There are no places where sin can be tolerated or **accepted**.

- **Ephesians 5:27:** "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Paul rejoiced over the Philippian church because they **accepted** and believed the gospel.

- **Philippians 1:3-5:** "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;"

Christians are commanded to seek perfection. Instead of **accepting** our sins, we must fight against them and seek to grow in obedience to God.

- **Philippians 3:12:** "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."

Christians should have the same mind in the Lord. This means **accepting** the doctrines and commandments of the Scriptures, and interpreting them the same way.

- **Philippians 4:2:** "I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord."

The gift that the Philippian church gave to Paul was an **acceptable** sacrifice.

- **Philippians 4:18:** "But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God."

Paul didn't consider his life to be a success or failure based on whether people **accepted** the gospel. Instead he considered himself to have succeeded if he was able to present the gospel faithfully and truthfully.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:1-4:** "For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention. For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

Paul didn't try to emotionally manipulate people into **accepting** the gospel. He also didn't try to make the gospel more **acceptable** to people. Instead he preached the whole truth with the intent of pleasing God, not other people.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:5:** "For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:"

In the apostolic era there were both Jews and Gentiles who didn't **accept** the gospel, but who persecuted the church.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:14:** "For ye, brethren, became

followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:"

It's bad to **accept** a doctrine without testing it first.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:21:** "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

Christians must seek to be blameless in all things. No amount of sin is **acceptable** in the sight of God.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23:** "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Those who **accept** the antichrist will perish along with him.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10:** "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

Paul didn't say it was **acceptable** to resort to sin or dishonesty if that would result in a peaceable and quiet life. Instead he said we must pursue godliness and honesty.

- **1 Timothy 2:2:** "For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

It's **acceptable** in the sight of God for Christians to pray for those who are in authority over them.

- **1 Timothy 2:1-3:** "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;"

Paul said that bodily exercise has little benefit, but godliness is greatly beneficial both in this life and the life to come. He added that this was a faithful saying, and all people should **accept** it.

- **1 Timothy 4:8-9:** "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance."

It's good and **acceptable** in the sight of God for children to take care of their parents.

- **1 Timothy 5:4:** "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God."

In order for Jesus to acknowledge us, we must acknowledge Him and **accept** the suffering that this brings into our lives.

- **2 Timothy 2:12:** "If we suffer, we shall also reign with

him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"

We must continually proclaim the doctrines of the Bible with all longsuffering. This is true even if those doctrines are "out of season" andn't **accepted**.

- **2 Timothy 4:2-3:** "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

Christians aren't allowed to **accept** those who are teaching error and heresy, no matter how many other good things they might be proclaiming.

- **Titus 3:10-11:** "A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

Since Moses was raised by Pharaoh's daughter he could have **accepted** that lifestyle, but he rejected it.

- **Hebrews 11:24-26:** "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."

If we seek to be holy then we must **accept** the chastening of the Lord.

- **Hebrews 12:10:** "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness."

We must serve God the way He requires us to serve Him. We must do the things that are **acceptable** in His sight.

- **Hebrews 12:28:** "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:"

James didn't say that Christians should focus on the gospel and leave everything else alone. Instead he said we must be free from error. James believed that no amount of error (in any matter) was **acceptable**.

- **James 1:16:** "Do not err, my beloved brethren."

In order to be saved we must meekly **accept** the word of God, and lay aside everything that's filthy or sinful or evil.

- **James 1:21:** "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

Christians must offer spiritual sacrifices that are **acceptable** to God.

- **1 Peter 2:5:** "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a

spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

It's **acceptable** to God when Christians patiently endure suffering.

- **1 Peter 2:20:** "For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God."

Corruption is a filthy thing that we must escape. It's not something we can tolerate or **accept**.

- **2 Peter 2:20-22:** "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

It's not **acceptable** for Christians to remain ignorant.

- **2 Peter 3:18:** "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

Whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father as well. Those who **accept** Jesus as the Messiah also have God the Father.

- **1 John 2:23:** "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."

One of the distinguishing characteristics of genuine Christians is that they **accept** and believe what the apostles teach.

- **1 John 4:6:** "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

We must **accept** God the Father's testimony about Jesus.

- **1 John 5:9:** "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son."

The good things that churches are doing don't excuse their sins. Jesus requires churches to do what's right, and He doesn't **accept** sin in their midst.

- **Revelation 2:2-4:** "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

Even though Jezebel was doing wicked things, the church **accepted** her and allowed her to teach people to sin (which was the wrong thing to do).

- **Revelation 2:20:** "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."

The good works of a church don't excuse their **acceptance** of false teachers.

- **Revelation 2:20:** "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."

Jesus puts a difference between people based on the doctrines they **accept**.

- **Revelation 2:24:** "But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden."

The angels of God don't **accept** worship.

- **Revelation 22:8-9:** "And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the

prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."

ADMIRATION, ADMIRE, ADMIRE, ADMIRERS, AFFINITY

Paul says we must make a melody in our heart *to the Lord*. Our audience is the Lord, not other people. Our goal must not be to sing to an audience in order to gain their **admiration** and praise.

- **Ephesians 5:19:** "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

Paul encouraged the persecuted Thessalonian church by having them look forward to the return of Christ, when He will punish the wicked for their sins and be glorified and **admired** by His saints.

- **2 Thessalonians 1:10:** "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."

**APPROVAL, APPROVE, APPROVED,
APPROVEST, APPROVETH,
APPROVING, APPROVES, DOTE,
DOTING, DOTED, FAVOR, FAVORED,
FAVORITISM, FAVORS, FAVOUR,
FAVOURABLE, FAVOURED, FAVOUREST,
FAVOURETH, WELLFAVOURED,
FAVORABLE, FAVORABLY, FAVORITE**

Abraham's oldest servant wanted **approval** from Rebekah's household before leaving with her.

- **Genesis 24:54:** "And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master."

Rebekah's **favorite** child was Jacob.

- **Genesis 25:28:** "And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob."

Isaac's **favorite** child was Esau.

- **Genesis 25:28:** "And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob."

Rebekah wanted Isaac to bless Jacob (the son that she **favored**).

- **Genesis 27:6-10:** "And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the Lord before my death. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth: And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death."

After Jacob took Laban's livestock, Laban no longer **avored** him.

- **Genesis 31:2:** "And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before."
- **Genesis 31:5:** "And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me."

Jacob wanted to buy Esau's **favor** by giving him a lot of gifts.

- **Genesis 32:20:** "And say ye moreover, Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind us. For he said, I will appease him with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face; peradventure he will accept of me."

When Esau asked Jacob why he had given him so many animals, Jacob told him he was trying to find grace in his sight. (In other words, Jacob admitted they were intended to buy Esau's **favor**.)

- **Genesis 33:8:** "And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord."

When Jacob told Esau that all the animals his brother had encountered on the way were a gift intended to buy his **favor**, Esau told him he already had enough possessions.

- **Genesis 33:9:** "And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself."

Jacob's **favoritism** (loving one wife and one child more than the rest) led to problems in his family.

- **Genesis 37:3-4:** "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him."

There are times when God causes one person to show **favor** to someone else.

- **Genesis 39:21:** "But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison."

When the sons of Jacob were at the house of Joseph, Joseph showed **favoritism** to Benjamin.

- **Genesis 43:34:** "And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so

much as any of their's. And they drank, and were merry with him."

God can cause one group of people to find **favor** in the sight of another group.

- **Exodus 3:21:** "And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty."

The reason the Egyptians were willing to give their jewelry to the Israelites was because God caused the Egyptians to **favor** the Israelites.

- **Exodus 11:3:** "And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people."
- **Exodus 12:36:** "And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians."

It's good to seek that God would look upon us with **favor**.

- **Numbers 6:25:** "The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:"
- **Numbers 6:26:** "The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Moses claimed that when God put him in charge of Israel, He

being cruel. Moses claimed it was a sign that he hadn't found **favor** with God.

- **Numbers 11:11:** "And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?"

Under the Mosaic Law, husbands had the right to **approve** the vows that their wives made.

- **Numbers 30:13:** "Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void."

The judges of Israel weren't allowed to show respect of persons. They had to be impartial, and not show any type of **favoritism**.

- **Deuteronomy 1:17:** "Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it."

When Moses blessed the Israelites before he died, he said the tribe of Naphtali was satisfied with the **favor** of the Lord.

- **Deuteronomy 33:23:** "And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD: possess thou the west and the south."

God hardened the heart of the Canaanites so they wouldn't

find **favor** in the sight of the Israelites.

- **Joshua 11:20:** "For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly, and that they might have no favour, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses."

After Gideon defeated the Midianites, he asked a **favor** of the Israelites.

- **Judges 8:24:** "And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)"

The men of Shechem **approved** the murder of Abimelech's brothers.

- **Judges 9:5-6:** "And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself. And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that was in Shechem."

Ruth asked that she would find **favor** in the sight of Boaz.

- **Ruth 2:13:** "Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I

be not like unto one of thine handmaidens."

The child Samuel found **favor** with God and other people.

- **1 Samuel 2:26:** "And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men."

The Israelites **approved** of Saul as their king when they met him for the first time.

- **1 Samuel 10:24:** "And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king."

Saul told Jesse that David had found **favor** in his sight. (However, that didn't last very long.)

- **1 Samuel 16:22:** "And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight."

David told Jonathan that Saul knew that Jonathan **favor**ed David.

- **1 Samuel 20:3:** "And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death."

David told the ten young men who he sent to Nabal to ask that

they might find **favor** in his eyes. (In other words, David wanted Nabal to give him a gift.)

- **1 Samuel 25:5-8:** "And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast. And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David."

Achish told David that the lord of the Philistines didn't **favor** him. (In other words, they didn't trust him.)

- **1 Samuel 29:6:** "Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, as the LORD liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host is good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not."

When Hanun deliberately humiliated the servants who David sent to comfort him, it caused the Ammonites to lose **favor** in the sight of David. (In response, they decided to make things even worse.)

- **2 Samuel 10:6:** "And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent

and hired the Syrians of Bethrehob and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men."

David believed that if he had found **favor** with God then Absalom's rebellion would fail and David would return to Jerusalem.

- **2 Samuel 15:25:** "And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me both it, and his habitation:"

Ahithophel believed that if Absalom publicly raped his father David's concubines then that would cause the Israelites to support him even more. He said that committing this horrific crime (which was punishable by death under the Mosaic Law) would be viewed **favorably** by the Israelites and would strengthen his support. (He was right. That's how wicked the nation was in those days.)

- **2 Samuel 16:21:** "And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong."

God caused Absalom and the elders of Israel to **favor** Hushai's plan instead of Absalom's plan.

- **2 Samuel 17:14:** "And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to

defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom."

After Joab killed Amasa, one of Joab's men said that those who **favor**ed Joab should follow Joab.

- **2 Samuel 20:11:** "And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Joab, and he that is for David, let him go after Joab."

When Adonijah went to see Bathsheba, he told her that he wanted her to do him a **favor**. (Adonijah was trying to use her to overthrow Solomon. That decision went badly for him.)

- **1 Kings 2:16:** "And now I ask one petition of thee, deny me not. And she said unto him, Say on."

The reason Pharaoh gave his sister-in-law to Hadad was because he greatly **favor**ed Hadad.

- **1 Kings 11:19:** "And Hadad found great favour in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen."

Elisha told Gehazi to ask the woman if he wanted someone to speak to the king about her, in return for all she had done for him. (In other words, he wanted to know if she wanted a **favor** from the king.)

- **2 Kings 4:13:** "And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she

answered, I dwell among mine own people."

God has the power to grant us **favor** in the sight of others. He has control over people's hearts and minds.

- **Nehemiah 1:11:** "O LORD, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer."

Esther was **favored** by all those who saw her.

- **Esther 2:15:** "Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her."

Esther obtained **favor** in the sight of King Ahasuerus.

- **Esther 2:17:** "And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti."
- **Esther 5:2:** "And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and

touched the top of the sceptre."

Ahasuerus **approved** of Haman's plan to kill all of the Jews.

- **Esther 3:11-13:** "And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee. Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring. And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey."

Esther asked the king to save the Jews if she had found **favor** in his sight.

- **Esther 8:5:** "And said, If it please the king, and if I have favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:"

Job rebuked God for being in **favor** of the counsel of the

wicked (which was *not* what God was doing).

- **Job 10:3:** "Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress, that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?"

Job told God that in the past He had given him **favor**.

- **Job 10:12:** "Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit."

Zophar told Job that if he repented of the sins that caused God to punish him, people would **favor** him again. (However, Zophar's basic premise was wrong. Job wasn't suffering because of any sin he had committed.)

- **Job 11:19:** "Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid; yea, many shall make suit unto thee."

Elihu said if someone teaches others to do what's good and right, and that person then prays to God, the Lord will be **favorable** to him.

- **Job 33:23, 26:** "If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to shew unto man his uprightness: ... He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness."

God **favours** the righteous, and will encompass them as a shield.

- **Psalms 5:12:** "For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous;

with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield."

We must not **approve** of wickedness.

- **Psalm 26:5:** "I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked."

We should seek God's **favor**.

- **Psalm 30:5:** "For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."
- **Psalm 119:58:** "I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word."

There may be times when God extends His **favor** to us.

- **Psalm 30:7:** "LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled."

God's **favor** makes us strong.

- **Psalm 30:7:** "LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled."

God **favors** those who are faithful to Him.

- **Psalm 31:23:** "O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer."

The psalmist said that although he mourned for others when they were sick, they didn't return the **favor**. Instead the people he prayed for actually rejoiced when he was hurting, and gathered together to fight against him.

- **Psalm 35:13-15:** "But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother. But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not:"

We should **favor** the cause of the righteous.

- **Psalm 35:27:** "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant."

If we show **favor** to the proud then we haven't put our trust in the Lord.

- **Psalm 40:4:** "Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies."

God will show **favor** to those who care about the poor. He will reward them for it.

- **Psalm 41:1-2:** "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies."

The way we can know that God **favors** us is that He doesn't allow our enemies to triumph over us.

- **Psalm 41:11:** "By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me."

The reason the Jews were given the promised land is because God showed them **favor**.

- **Psalm 44:3:** "For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them."

The psalmist was saying that at the marriage of the king, those who were rich among the people would seek the **favor** of the bride. (This psalm may be referring to the wedding between the Lamb of God and his bride, the church.)

- **Psalm 45:12:** "And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour."

There are times when the posterity of the rich are foolish. They **approve** of boasting about their wealth, even though such boasting is foolish.

- **Psalm 49:6, 13:** "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; ... This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah."

God doesn't **approve** of the wickedness of the wicked.

- **Psalm 50:21-22:** "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver."

The gifts that we give to God don't purchase His **favor**. Instead we must be clean in His sight *before* He will accept them.

- **Psalm 51:7, 19:** "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ... Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar."

Rulers must not **favor** the wicked.

- **Psalm 82:2:** "How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah."

Bringing the Jews back to the promised land was an act of **favor** toward that land.

- **Psalm 85:1:** "Lord, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob."

God shows **favor** to the saints.

- **Psalm 89:17:** "For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted."

One day God will show **favor** to Zion.

- **Psalm 102:13:** "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come."

The psalmist said that the servants of God took **favor** in the dust of Zion.

- **Psalm 102:13-14:** "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof."

One of the ways God causes people to fear Him, and reveals His glory, is by showing **favor** to Zion.

- **Psalm 102:13, 15:** "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. ... So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory."

It's good to pray that God would show **favor** to us.

- **Psalm 106:4:** "Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation;"

David prayed there would be no one to show **favor** to the fatherless children of those who repaid his love for evil (a reference to Saul). (However, Abner helped Saul's son Ishbosheth. Together they started a civil war against David that killed many people. If this prayer had been granted then many lives would have been saved.)

- **Psalm 109:12:** "Let there be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favour his fatherless children."

Those who are good show **favor** to others by lending to them.

- **Psalm 112:5:** "A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion."

It's good to seek God's favor.

- **Psalm 119:58:** "I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word."

If you want to find **favor** with God and man then pursue mercy and truth.

- **Proverbs 3:3-4:** "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

If you seek to obtain **favor** from the Lord then don't reject wisdom or instruction.

- **Proverbs 8:33-35:** "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD."

If you want to find **favor** then diligently do what's right.

- **Proverbs 11:27:** "He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him."

God **favours** the righteous but condemns the wicked.

- **Proverbs 12:2:** "A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn."
- **Proverbs 14:9:** "Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour."

Wisdom gives **favor** to those who have it. It's a blessing in people's lives.

- **Proverbs 13:15:** "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard."

If you seek the **favor** of those who are in authority over you then seek wisdom, make wise choices, and lead a wise life.

- **Proverbs 14:35:** "The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame."

The **favor** of a king is life-giving.

- **Proverbs 16:15:** "In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain."
- **Proverbs 19:12:** "The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass."

Finding a wife is a **favor** from the Lord.

- **Proverbs 18:22:** "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."

Since the rich know that they don't need the **favor** of others, there are times when they're cruel and heartless.

- **Proverbs 18:23:** "The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly."

Giving people gifts can win their **favor**.

- **Proverbs 19:6:** "Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts."

People seek the **favor** of those who can give them something in return.

- **Proverbs 19:6:** "Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts."

It's foolish to sacrifice loving **favor** for silver or gold.

- **Proverbs 22:1:** "A GOOD name is rather to be chosen

than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."

We're not allowed to **favor** people in judgment based on who they are. Instead we must execute justice based on the facts, and *never* on the characteristics or wealth or status of the person.

- **Proverbs 28:21:** "To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress."

You'll find more **favor** from rebuking a person than flattering him.

- **Proverbs 28:23:** "He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue."

People seek **favor** from rulers because they desire something in return. However, in reality all of our blessings come from God.

- **Proverbs 29:26:** "Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD."

We must be careful about being **favoured** by others because that can be deceiving.

- **Proverbs 31:30:** "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."

The fact that sometimes good things happen to evil people doesn't mean God loves them or **favours** them.

- **Ecclesiastes 9:2:** "All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath."

Don't think that just because you have skill, that means you will be **favored**.

- **Ecclesiastes 9:11:** "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

Solomon's beloved said that because of her great beauty, she had found **favor** in the eyes of her lover.

- **Song of Solomon 8:10:** "I am a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour."

Even though Ahaz was a wicked king, God still didn't **approve** of what Rezin and Pekah were doing.

- **Isaiah 7:3-7:** "Then said the Lord unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shearjashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field; And say unto him, Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah. Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah, have taken evil

counsel against thee, saying, Let us go up against Judah, and vex it, and let us make a breach therein for us, and set a king in the midst of it, even the son of Tabeal: Thus saith the Lord God, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass."

Wicked people won't be turned away from their wickedness if they're shown **favor**.

- **Isaiah 26:10:** "Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD."

The reason God wasn't going to show **favor** to the people of Israel was because they lacked understanding.

- **Isaiah 27:11:** "When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding: therefore he that made them will not have mercy on them, and he that formed them will shew them no favour."

One day God will have **favor** upon the Jews.

- **Isaiah 60:10:** "And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee."

God said that even though Moses and Samuel stood before Him, He couldn't have a **favorable** view the generation of Jews

that lived in Jeremiah's day. The great faithfulness of Moses and Samuel couldn't save them.

- **Jeremiah 15:1:** "Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth."

God told Jeremiah to tell the Jews that when He exiled them to a land they didn't know, He wasn't going to show them any **favor** while they were in that land.

- **Jeremiah 16:13:** "Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, neither ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour."

God doesn't **approve** of those who deprive people of their rights.

- **Lamentations 3:35-36:** "To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High, To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not."

When a nation sins, it's demonstrating **approval** of those sins. It's also setting an example to other nations that those wicked actions are good.

- **Ezekiel 16:51:** "Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done."

One day God will show **favor** to the mountains of Israel. (This may be a reference to the millennium.)

- **Ezekiel 36:8-9:** "But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown:"

By the time Daniel objected to the food that the Babylonians were serving him, Ashpenaz already **favored** Daniel.

- **Daniel 1:9:** "Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs."

God has the ability to cause one person to like someone else, and give them great **favor**.

- **Daniel 1:9:** "Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs."

Because Daniel's health improved when he began eating pulse, Melzar **approved** the change in diet.

- **Daniel 1:15-16:** "And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse."

God had nothing to do with the princes and kings that Israel appointed. They didn't come from God and weren't **approved** by Him.

- **Hosea 8:4:** "They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off."

God doesn't **approve** of idolatry.

- **Hosea 8:5:** "Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast thee off; mine anger is kindled against them: how long will it be ere they attain to innocency?"

It's impossible for the wicked to purchase God's **favor** through gifts and offerings. This is because God doesn't accept offerings from the wicked.

- **Hosea 9:1, 4:** "Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor. ... They shall not offer wine offerings to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices shall be unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the LORD."
- **Amos 5:12, 21-22:** "For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right. ... I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts."

Even though God was angry with Edom and was going to punish that nation, He still didn't **approve** of what the king of Moab did to the body of the king of Edom.

- **Amos 2:1:** "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime:"

We shouldn't be impressed when the wicked sing praises to God. The Lord *hates* the songs of the wicked and doesn't **accept** them.

- **Amos 5:12, 23:** "For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right. ... Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols."

Just because a person is wealthy and prosperous doesn't mean God **approves** of them or is with them.

- **Amos 6:3-4, 8:** "Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near; That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; ... The Lord God hath sworn by himself, saith the Lord the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein."
- **Zechariah 11:5-6:** "Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed be the LORD; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not. For I will no more pity the

inhabitants of the land, saith the Lord: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them."

The princes of Israel were perverse. They showed **favoritism** and didn't treat people equally.

- **Micah 3:9:** "Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity."

Even though the leadership of Israel was corrupt, they still claimed that God was among them and that God **approved** of them.

- **Micah 3:11:** "The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us."

Just because a city is prosperous doesn't mean God is **favorable** toward that city.

- **Zechariah 9:3-4:** "And Tyrus did build herself a strong hold, and heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold as the mire of the streets. Behold, the LORD will cast her out, and he will smite her power in the sea; and she shall be devoured with fire."

One day the people of Israel would see that God was against

the Edomites and **avored** the people of Israel.

- **Malachi 1:2-5:** "I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the Lord hath indignation for ever. And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel."

It's an evil thing to accuse God of **approving** of evildoers.

- **Malachi 2:17:** "Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?"

The current prosperity of the wicked doesn't mean God **approves** of them or is rewarding them. One day the wicked will face a terrible fiery judgment that will utterly consume all of them.

- **Malachi 4:1:** "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

God the Father **approved** of the things that Jesus did.

- **Matthew 17:5:** "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

The reason the mother of Zebedee's children went to see Jesus was because she wanted Him to do her a **favor**. (She wanted Him to put her two children at His right and left hand in His kingdom.)

- **Matthew 20:20:** "Then came to him the mother of Zebedees children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him."

The angel Gabriel told Mary that she was highly **avored**.

- **Luke 1:28:** "And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."

The reason Mary didn't have to be afraid was because she had found **favor** with God.

- **Luke 1:30:** "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God."

When Jesus became a man, He grew in **favor** with both God and other people.

- **Luke 2:52:** "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature,

and in favour with God and man."

Jesus had many opportunities to say that His mother was the queen of Heaven, or to tell people to look to her for salvation or to find **favor** with God. However, *He never did that*. Instead He *stopped* people from glorifying her and commanded them to obey God instead.

- **Luke 11:27-28:** "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

When lawyers built tombs for the prophets, that action meant they **approved** of the fact that their forefathers murdered the prophets.

- **Luke 11:46-48:** "And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers. Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres."

God doesn't reward us when we do **favours** for people who can repay us.

- **Luke 14:12-14:** "Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy

rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

In the parable of the unrighteous steward, the steward decided to do **favours** for people so that once he was fired, the people he helped would take care of him.

- **Luke 16:4:** "I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses."

God wants us to do **favours** for people. The righteous should use their positions in this world to help others, so that in Heaven those same people will help us in return.

- **Luke 16:9:** "And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

Joseph didn't **approve** of the crucifixion of Jesus.

- **Luke 23:50-51:** "And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God."

Jesus was **approved** of God.

- **Acts 2:22:** "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:"

In the earliest days of the church, the apostles had **favor** with all the people. (It seems this didn't last very long.)

- **Acts 2:47:** "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

The reason Pharaoh made Joseph the governor of Egypt was because God gave Joseph **favor** in the sight of Pharaoh. It was God's doing.

- **Acts 7:9-10:** "And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house."

David found **favor** with God.

- **Acts 7:45-46:** "Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David; Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob."

When Stephen was martyred, Paul stood by and **approved** of it.

- **Acts 22:20:** "And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him."

Felix didn't leave Paul arrested because he had done something wrong. Instead it was to gain **favor** with the Jews.

- **Acts 24:27:** "But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound."

Festus **approved** Paul's appeal to Caesar.

- **Acts 25:12:** "Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go."

The people who lived on the island of Melita were kind to the shipwreck survivors from the very beginning, *before* Paul did them any **favours**.

- **Acts 28:2:** "And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold."

There's no respect of persons with God. The Lord doesn't show partiality or **favoritism**.

- **Romans 2:11:** "For there is no respect of persons with God."

Apelles was **approved** in Christ.

- **Romans 16:10:** "Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household."

The church isn't doing people **favours** by allowing them to remain in the church while they're living lives of unrepentant sin. It would be better if the church removed them from the congregation, because that might motivate them to repent and be saved.

- **1 Corinthians 5:5:** "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

The reason God allows people to try to bring heresies into the church is so those who are **approved** by Him can be revealed (because those people will resist the heresies and fight against them).

- **1 Corinthians 11:19:** "For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you."

The way to be **approved** as a worker of God is to endure times of affliction (including imprisonment, if necessary).

- **2 Corinthians 6:4-5** "But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;"

The way to be **approved** as a worker of God is to be kind, be

pure, and have genuine love for others.

- **2 Corinthians 6:6:** "By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,"

The way to be **approved** as a worker of God is to pursue knowledge.

- **2 Corinthians 6:6:** "By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,"

We need the truths of the Bible in order to be an **approved** worker of God.

- **2 Corinthians 6:7:** "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,"

We need righteousness in order to be an **approved** worker for God.

- **2 Corinthians 6:7:** "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,"

We need the power of God in order to be an **approved** worker for Him. (Those who are wicked, and who lack the Holy Spirit, are incapable of being approved workers of God.)

- **2 Corinthians 6:7:** "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand

and on the left,"

Those who are **approved** are those who are praised by God, not those who praise themselves.

- **2 Corinthians 10:18:** "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."

In order for the church to be sincere, it must have a love that's grounded in knowledge and judgment, and it must only **approve** things that are excellent. That's the sort of sincerity God is looking for.

- **Philippians 1:9-10:** "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ."

It's wrong to show **favoritism** to the rich over the poor.

- **James 2:1-4:** "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?"

James rebuked Christians for showing **favoritism** to the rich

and despising the poor, when the rich oppressed them and filed lawsuits against them.

- **James 2:6:** "But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?"

James rebuked Christians for showing **favoritism** to people who blasphemed the holy name of God.

- **James 2:7:** "Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?"

James didn't show **favoritism** to the rich. Instead he condemned them for their wickedness and warned them that judgment is coming upon them.

- **James 5:3:** "Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."

Peter didn't teach that Christians should compromise with the world, appease them, and try to win their **favor**. Instead he taught that we must continue to do what's right, even though the world will condemn us for it. This is because in the end God will hold the wicked accountable for their evil behavior.

- **1 Peter 4:1-5:** "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought

the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."

Evil words and deeds should vex the righteous. Christians shouldn't **approve** of them or be tolerant of them.

- **2 Peter 2:8:** "(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)"

If a church has great wealth, that doesn't mean Christ is blessing them or looks **favorably** upon them.

- **Revelation 3:16-17:** "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

A miracle, in and of itself, isn't proof of God's **approval**. The devil does have the power to perform miracles.

- **Revelation 19:20:** "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with

brimstone."

GOODWILL

When Moses blessed the Israelites before he died, he prayed that God would bless the land of the tribes of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) with the **goodwill** of Him who lived in the bush. (This is a reference to the fact that Moses first encountered God at the burning bush.)

- **Deuteronomy 33:16:** "And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren."

UNOFFENSIVE

Christians must strive to not give offense in anything. We must seek to be as **unoffensive** as possible (although we aren't allowed to compromise any of the truths or doctrines of God). The reason we must do this is to avoid unjust condemnations of the gospel.

- **2 Corinthians 6:3:** "Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:"

UNOPPOSED

There may be times when the wicked are **unopposed**.

- **Psalm 94:16:** "Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?"

When the wicked are in power and are **unopposed**, it's good to look to God for help.

- **Psalm 94:16-17:** "Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence."

The antichrist won't be an all-powerful figure who will reign **unopposed** and win every encounter. He will be vexed by enemies.

- **Habakkuk 2:7:** "Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?"