

# First Baptist Church Maddoxtown Church Bible Study

## Key Points

November 4, 2020

### "What is the favor of God, and how can I get it?"

- The best definition of the word favor is “demonstrated delight.”
- God shows favor to the ones who delight in, connect with, and give honor to Him. (*Isaiah 66:2*)
- To be “perfect” toward Him means we seek His favor more than we seek the favor of anyone else, even ourselves.
- Favor is closely related to grace in the Bible.
- God seeks out those who love Him and love His commands so that He can bless, guide, and protect them (*Psalms 37:23; Proverbs 3:5-6*).
- This does not mean that everyone who is prosperous or healthy has found favor with God (*Jeremiah 12:1; Psalm 37:7; 73:16*). Nor does it mean that those whom the Lord favors will never suffer difficulties.
- Those who are favored of God know that God is with them and that nothing can happen to them apart from His good purpose (*Romans 8:28*).
- The Lord invites us to seek His favor (*Psalms 119:58, 135; 2 Kings 13:4; Jeremiah 26:19; Zephaniah 2:3*).
- When we seek His favor, we humble our hearts before Him (*2 Kings 22:19*); seek Him for Himself, not just for the blessings He gives (*Jeremiah 29:13*); and arrange our lives around loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (*Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27*). We seek first His kingdom and righteousness (*Matthew 6:33*).
- One way to obtain favor from the Lord is to seek wisdom.
- Finding favor with the Lord keeps our lives and thoughts pure because we desire to please Him more than we desire to please ourselves.

### "How do God's mercy and justice work together in salvation?"

- One of the fundamental characteristics that set human beings apart from other creatures that God created is their need for justice.
- "Justice is getting what we deserve."
- "Mercy is not getting what we deserve."
- "Grace is getting what we don't deserve."
- "Which raises the question: Who decides what we do and do not deserve?"
- I would say in simplest terms, God does (many verses, from *Job 34:21* to *Psalms 94:8-10* and beyond). Herein lies the problem, we don't always agree with God's idea and purpose of justice.
- So the Bible showcases the fact that God is merciful, but it also reveals that He is just and will one day dispense justice on the sin of the world.
- In every other religion in the world that holds to the idea of a supreme deity, that deity's mercy is always exercised at the expense of justice.

- Christianity is unique in that God's mercy is shown through His justice.
- The Christian doctrine of "*penal substitution*" states that sin and injustice were punished at the cross of Christ and it's only because the penalty of sin was satisfied through Christ's sacrifice that God extends His mercy to undeserving sinners who look to Him for salvation.
- All the sin from Adam to the time of Christ was under the forbearance and mercy of God. God in His mercy chose not to punish sin, which would require an eternity in hell for all sinners, although He would have been perfectly just in doing so.
- At the cross, God's justice was meted out in full (upon Christ), and God's mercy was extended in full (to all who believe).
- The end result is that everyone who trusts in the Lord Jesus is saved from God's wrath and instead experiences His grace and mercy (*Romans 8:1*).