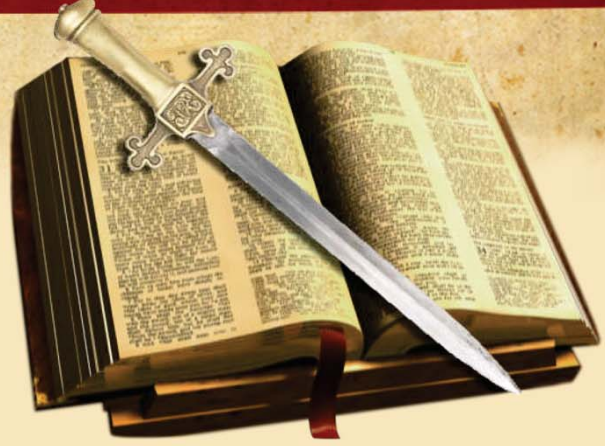


# Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



## 1 PETER

### *What If God Offers Mercy to People You Despise?*

*(The Principle of: Prejudice and Impartial Mercy)*

1 Peter 2:9-10

Peter still remembered it as if it were yesterday. It was his ordinary time of prayer on the rooftop. But the ordinary abruptly turned to extra-ordinary when God apprehended his mind. In a flash, the apostle fell into a trance. The heavens opened and a great sheet descended containing all sorts of animals—unclean and forbidden by Jewish Law to eat. Peter was stunned by God’s command, *“Slay and eat!”* But his mind would forever be etched with the words he heard next: *“What God has cleansed, no longer consider common!”* ***Then came the knock at the door that changed Peter’s theology.*** They were Gentiles...the race whom the Jews regarded as “common and unclean!” Listening to Peter preach, they received both salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Awed by God’s impartial mercy, Peter declared, ***“I most certainly now understand that God does not show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him” (Acts 10)!***

Twenty-three years later, Peter penned his first epistle to the Church. Writing to former Jews and Gentiles, his words expressed his divine encounter: *“You once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”* ***There is no place for prejudice in God’s Church. He reaches to all people, even those you once rejected as “common and unclean!”***

Beloved, God’s Church is a collage of humanity. He loves to include those whom religious people reject! For in so doing, God demonstrates **Impartial Mercy**...offering salvation to all men regardless of their moral condition (*Titus 2:11*). By including the rejected, God deals specifically with **prejudice** within His Church...pre-judging human worth based on race, social status or gender (*Gal. 3:28*). Yes, God welcomes the **accursed** of society into His Church. According to Jesus, **if they believe**, they’ll enter the Kingdom before self-righteous church leaders (*Matt. 21:31-32*)! But how about people you despise? If God chooses them, you are one in Christ (*Col. 3:11-15*)! ***As the embassy of God’s Kingdom, the Church welcomes all who defect out of darkness into His marvelous light...no matter who they are!***

***Next: The Kingdom of God in 2 Peter - Slow Acting Poison!***

