

Ps. 106:4-5 “Favoured Ones”

For the Children: How do you know when a parent or teacher has a “favourite”? Of course, neither parents nor teachers should play favourites. But if they did, it would perhaps involve special praise, or extra gifts for the favoured child. It might mean that that child would not get into as much trouble. God does not play favourites the way sinful people do. Think of Isaac and Rebekah with Esau and Jacob. The Lord loves all of His children. The Lord Jesus died equally for all of them. That is why the children in His kingdom are just as valuable as the adults.

Questions: What does God’s favour mean for the individual believer in the next life? How does God favour us by placing us in His covenant, church and kingdom? Can God “forget” His children?

Introduction:

First Point: The Psalmist’s Plea for Himself

- 1) Remember Me and Visit Me: The Lord never forgets a single thing. This is a request for the Lord to pay special attention to the Psalmist, resulting in special treatment. The word “visit” is similar: God is being asked to take special note and attend to the Psalmist with care, leading to a change in his situation. This is a word often used of a superior making a call on a subordinate for some special reason.
- 2) With Your Salvation: The change in situation desired by the Psalmist is that of deliverance. This is the word from which the names “Joshua” and “Jesus” are derived. The ultimate answer to this plea is the sending of Jesus into the world to bring salvation. See Lk. 1:68, 72, which use this “remember/visit” language.
- 3) In Your Favour: That God answers this prayer is a matter of grace. “Favour” means good-will, pleasure or delight, freely and sovereignly bestowed on God’s “chosen ones.” Of course, the ultimate in God’s “favour” is the bestowal of everlasting life. But it is also by His favour that the children of believers are placed in the covenant of grace. There they are nurtured in His promises and law; there they begin to learn what it means to be prophets, priests and kings in Christ – a highly favoured position, even though some reject it and become covenant-breakers.

Second Point: The Psalmist’s Plea in Connection with the Church

- 1) The Church Connection: The Psalmist does not merely ask for something for himself; he does so in connection with the church. He wants to be attended to by the Lord in connection with God’s favour toward His people. He asks for this so that he may see the prosperity of the church – God’s chosen ones; that he may rejoice in the gladness of God’s nation; and glory with God’s inheritance. The church is, after all, God’s “portion.” “Glory” means that the Psalmist wants to boast in what God has done with His church- creating her, preserving her, using her to nurture God’s people and make new disciples.
- 2) Teaching This to Your Children: Teaching our children about the Lord is not just a matter of explaining individual salvation. It also involves teaching them about the church and their connection to it. Their baptism demonstrates that connection. To teach that to the children, we need to understand it for ourselves – to have a right attitude toward our own congregation.

Conclusion:

