

Lent Day 9

Friday March 10, 2017

Reading: [Romans 3:21-31](#)

Reflection

“Mom, who do you love most?” Believe it or not this doesn’t just happen in kids stories; children really ask this question. Underneath the question is, perhaps, a conviction that everyone must have a preference. This might also be a fear. Imagine how amped up that fear must be when we think of God, “God, who do you love the most?” Paul works through a whole theology to answer that question.

Perhaps the biggest distinction in Jewish theology in its early days is that their God who brought them out of Egypt is One, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” (Deut. 6:4) Paul takes that most basic claim and says, if this is the case then our God is not the God of the Jews only but also of the Gentiles. So if God is going to ultimately deal with the issue of humanity’s sin, both Jew and Gentile, then it must be universal in scope.

So, if God is impartial, the typical “I love you all equally,” then his means of salvation cannot be a favouritism either. In other words, it cannot come through the Jewish shaped law — even if it is God’s law. Enter the Messiah who is given as an atonement for our sin. By this sacrifice, offered by God himself note, both Jew and Gentile are justified equally by the same faith in the sacrifice of Jesus.

Who does God love most? You.

Prayer

Loving father who has made us and loves us, thank you for your love and for the sacrifice of your Son for us. You are truly lovely and good. Amen.