

## Members Only

**Discrimination! I'm being discriminated against!** More and more we are hearing this cry, or one similar to it. Boys want to be allowed to play on an all-girl team, and girls insist on being accepted on an otherwise all-male team. Organizations and clubs that were traditionally all-male have been ordered by the courts to accept women into their ranks. More and more exclusion from clubs, organizations, sports teams, the work place, etc., because of race, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation is being viewed as not "politically correct." Refusal to rent a dwelling to a homosexual or lesbian, or to give employment to one is viewed as illegal and discriminatory. Churches have even been known to be sued because they discriminated and refused to hire someone whose lifestyle was contrary to beliefs of the respective church. Those who refuse to yield to the advancement of the new "politically correct" way of thinking are threatened with court action. The time is coming and, yea, now is upon us that all those who would live Godly in this present evil world can expect, and will receive persecution from all quarters of life. However, come what may, there is one area of **discrimination** that society, government, and the judicial system cannot, and will not change. They can pass and enforce all the laws they want, but they can't change it! They can threaten all they want, but it will not do any good. They are without any power whatsoever to change it! And what may that be? **WHO GOES TO HEAVEN!**

The Bible is God's eternal Word, forever settled in Heaven, and in it, He tells us who will go to Heaven, and on what basis. Briefly put, only those who have repented of their sin, and by faith alone in the cross-work of Jesus Christ, having received Him as personal Saviour will go to Heaven. A good life, clean living, church membership, etc., are worthless and count for nothing when it comes to the matter of salvation and going to Heaven. Ephesians 2:8,9 tells us that we are saved by faith, not as a result of our good "works." That is **discrimination**. John 3:16-18 tells us that those who receive Jesus Christ as Saviour are not under God's condemnation, BUT, those who do not receive Him are at this very moment under God's condemnation because they have not trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour. That's **discrimination**. John 3:3 records that a person must be born-again, otherwise he cannot enter Heaven. Again, this is **discrimination**. Revelation 20:15 says, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Again, **discrimination!** And, yet again in Revelation 21:27, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." More **discrimination!** The Bible is full of it!! But it's not because God hates anyone. Quite the contrary. He loves us, even to the point of having His Son, Jesus Christ, who Himself is God, die on the Cross of Calvary as the payment for our sin debt that we justly owed. God loves us and is not wanting that any should perish in a devil's hell. Salvation is freely offered to all who repent of their sin and receive Jesus Christ as Saviour. To do so means the forgiveness of ALL our sins, and when this physical tabernacle that we now dwell in dies, our eternal soul will immediately be in Heaven with our Saviour. BUT, to not receive Jesus Christ as Saviour means eternal damnation in hell, the lake of fire. **Discrimination?** Yes it is, but **Heaven is for members only - those who are members of the family of God**, having been born-again by the Holy Spirit of God. God said it! That settles it!! Now, will you believe it?

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath eternal life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (I John 5:11-13)

-Richard A. Ciarrocca