**THE JUSTICE OF GOD** **Text: Various Scriptures Date: 7/29/18 Sunday AM**

When justice is administered, it is based upon the laws of the land. Justice requires a standard! Every country has laws! America is no exception! GOD has laws! Life has laws! When laws are broken, justice is applied to establish right from wrong. There is a ***positive note*** to justice. Justice includes making things right! When things go wrong, we look to our laws and our law enforcement agencies to set things in order. Sometimes we experience what could be called a miscarriage of justice. In this case we think of justice as being flawed in its application to the situation. The truth is this! Right does not always prevail! This is the ***negative side*** of justice.

On the other hand, with God, justice is always administered equitably! In **Job 8:3 Bildad** states, *Doth God pervert judgment? Or doth the Almighty pervert justice?* God cannot misapply justice. God cannot apply justice without pouring out mercy! God’s application of justice is always holy and righteous given the fact that His character and nature are perfect and flawless. *Judges make mistakes, so do juries, and so do courts!* But with God there has never been a mistake regarding justice! **God is just!** God is always thorough and complete when He executes justice. Justice in the Biblical sense is based upon the truth of God and the holiness of God’s expectations. Justice originates with God. God’s righteousness makes true justice a divine operation. Justice ultimately culminates with God’s judgment in the end time. God’s justice is balanced and fair, based upon His grace and mercy. Justice is God’s way of revealing to us His justness or better yet His righteousness! Justice is a short word that represents God’s holiness being vindicated. Divine justice says that God will right **ALL** wrongs and bring **EVERYTHING** under the Lordship of Christ. Justice from God’s perspective describes the impact of His will and purpose upon His fallen creation. Redemption fulfills God’s justice! *Ultimately,* Satan, sin, death, hell, and the grave will face the justice of God. Justice is the fruit of God’s holy and righteous discernment! God’s wisdom guarantees that justice will take place. ***Sinners*** experience the justice of God through Jesus. Those without Christ, experience divine justice on Judgment Day, heaping up God’s wrath on their way! **John 3:18-19 explains,** *He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

**CONSIDER THIS…** It is actually terrifying to think that any person would request that God’s justice be applied to their sins. Justice in that case would be condemnation without Christ! Why is this true? *Justice requires that the sinner bears the full responsibility for his or her sins!*

**Justice requires consequences!** The sins of man at some point in the future will meet the justice of God. Justice means that God upholds His holy and righteous standard that He has set! God cannot go against His own righteous standard. Justice means that God works on the sinner’s behalf through Christ fulfilling His own just standard. Without Christ, God’s justice would prevail and every sinner ever born would not only taste death, but also the consequences of death, which is eternal damnation! **Romans 6:23** makes this very clear for us all: *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* God’s justice opens up the doors of Heaven for the grace and mercy of God!

**I. THE JUSTICE OF GOD DEFINED II. THE JUSTICE OF GOD ILLUSTRATED III. THE JUSTICE OF GOD PERSONALIZED**

**I. FIRST, WE SEE THE JUSTICE OF GOD DEFINED**

* **Question:** What is the justice of God? How does justice apply to the character and nature of God?
* **The Justice of God** isthat perfection of God’s nature whereby He is infinitely righteous in Himself **and** in all He does. Justice is not an optional product of His will, but an “unchangeable principle” of His very nature.

**There is a benevolent, charitable, generosity that accompanies justice!**

* **AW Pink helps with this thought,** “Divine holiness has to do more with what God is; Divine justice respects what He does. Or to state it in other words, holiness pertains to the Divine character, justice to His office.”
* **Psalm 89:14 (AMP)** *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne*; mercy *and* loving-kindness and truth go before Your face.
* **Mary said in Luke 1:52-53** He hath put down the mighty from *their* seats, and exalted them of low degree. 53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.
* **Jesus said in Luke 4:18-19** The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (TO DO JUSTLY ON MY FATHER’S BEHALF!)
* **Moses ~ Deuteronomy 32:4** *He is* the Rock, His work *is* perfect: for all His ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* He.
* **King David ~ Psalm 89:14** Justice and judgment *are* the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before Thy face.
* **David’s son Solomon says in Proverbs 29:26 (NLT2)** Many seek the ruler’s favor, *but justice comes from the LORD.*
* **The Prophet Isaiah ~** [**Isaiah 30:18**](http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/isaiah/30/) Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore He will rise up to show you compassion. ***For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!***
* **Paul warns his listeners about the justice of God in 2 Thessalonians 1:6** *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you!*

***Paraphrased* Justice is on the way!!!**

* **2 Thessalonians 1:6 (AMP)** [It is a fair decision] since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with distress *and* affliction those who distress *and* afflict you.
* **CONCLUSION:** God cannot, as being infinitely righteous, do otherwise than regard and hate sin as deserving of punishment. "He cannot deny Himself" ([2 Timothy 2:13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/2-timothy/2-13.html)). *His essential and eternal righteousness immutably determines Him to visit every sin as such with merited punishment.* (Biblestudytools.com)
* **TRUTH!** The Bible knows nothing of a foggy minded deity that forgets our sins and remembers our good deeds and rewards us accordingly!
* **FIRST, WE SEE THE JUSTICE OF GOD DEFINED**

**II. SECONDLY, WE SEE THE JUSTICE OF GOD ILLUSTRATED**

* **Abraham to God** ~ **Genesis 18:25** That be far from Thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from Thee: ***Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?***

**50 righteous? 45? 40? 30? 20? 10?**

* **In his wondrous song from Deuteronomy 32:3-4** **Moses** declares, I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, *His works are perfect, and all His ways are* ***just****. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and* ***just*** *is He.*
* **King David’s reign is described in 2 Samuel 8:15** And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed ***judgment and justice*** unto all his people.
* **King David** extolled his God in **Psalm 145:17** as, "The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works"
* **Solomon ~** **1 Kings 3:16-17** Then came there two women, *that were* harlots, unto the king, and stood before him. 17 And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.
* Most remarkably, **Jeremiah** calls the Lord "the Habitation of Justice" (Jeremiah 50:7) so that His people might take hope from and shelter in His righteousness.
* **God’s Prophets** found comfort during Israel’s dark days of rebellion: "the just Lord is in the midst thereof, He will do no iniquity" (Zeph. 3:5).
* **Joseph ~** **Luke 23:50-51** And, behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a counsellor; *and he was* a good man, ***and a just:*** 51 (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them ;) *he was* of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.
* **The Apostle Paul testified to his brothers and sisters in Thessalonica in 1 Thessalonians 2:10** Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, *how holily and justly and unblameably* we behaved ourselves among you that believe:
* **In** **Revelation 15:3**, John records the voices of the inhabitants of Heaven as they shout, **"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Your ways, O King of saints."**
* **God’s justice was also illustrated through His Son Jesus Christ ~ How so?** Through Jesus God’s justice was satisfied at Calvary. At Calvary the wrath of God was finally and completely satisfied once and for all!!! God’s justice required the shedding of blood, the death penalty!
* **Galatians 3:13 says,** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree.
* **The Apostle Peter** explains what happened on the cross in **1 Peter 2:24** Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
* **Peter adds this in 1 Peter 3:18,** For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the JUST for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.
* **FIRST, WE SEE THE JUSTICE OF GOD DEFINED**
* **SECONDLY, WE SEE THE JUSTICE OF GOD ILLUSTRATED**

**III. THIRDLY, WE SEE THE JUSTICE OF GOD PERSONALIZED**

* **QUESTION:** What does the justice of God have to do with me? Does God’s justice apply to me? If so, how does it apply to me?

**Being made in the image of God we all possess a moral constitution at some level… an inner moral code.**

* **First, Through Encouragement/Perspective** = To know that in His time God is going to right all wrongs!
* **John MacDuff writes** ~ Wondrous thought! Justice, the very attribute which excluded the sinner, has become the first to throw open a door of welcome; proclaiming that infinite merit has cancelled infinite demerit– infinite holiness has covered infinite sin! While "justice and judgment" are the habitation of God's throne, provision has been made whereby, in perfect consistency with every principle of His moral government, "mercy and truth" may go continually before His face!
* **AW PINK regarding Abraham and Sodom and Gomorrah ~** “But if the consideration of God's justice fills the *unbeliever* with dislike and dismay—it is far otherwise with those in Christ. In very early times Abraham consoled himself in Genesis 18:25 with the fact that **‘The Judge of all the earth" would assuredly "do right.’”**
* **How encouraging is Psalm 37:27-29?** Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. 28 *For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. 29 The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.*
* The Psalmist inspires us from **Psalm 71:15**, "My mouth shall show forth Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day!"
* Isaiah personalizes his praise of God’s justice in **Isaiah 61:10**, **I** will greatly rejoice in the Lord, **my** soul shall be joyful in **my** God; for He has clothed **me** with the garments of salvation, He has covered **me** with the robe of righteousness!
* **Secondly, Through Judgment/Retribution** = Judgment Day is coming! God’s truth will be vindicated! Those that reject Christ will answer for their rejection of God’s Son!
* **King Solomon encourages us with his insight from** [**Proverbs 21:15**](http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/proverbs/21/) When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous ***but terror to evildoers.***
* **Saint Augustine explains divine justice,** “There is enough divine justice executed so that we may be convinced that God is a living God, moral and holy, *and yet there is not full justice executed so that we may keep in mind that a final day of reckoning is coming.”*
* **Hosea 14:9 says,** Who *is* wise and he shall understand these *things*? Prudent and he shall know them? *For the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*
* **Isaiah 42:4 declares** He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for His law.
* **Paul’s final words include 2 Timothy 4:8,** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.
* In *punitive justice* God inflicts punishment/judgment on account of sins/transgressions.
* **AW Pink states,** “***JUSTICE***gives a firmness and consistency to the Divine character—but the criminal dreads justice, and the *Divine* justice most of all, since it is far more formidable and relentless than man's.”
* **Thirdly, Through Involvement/Lifestyle** = Justice for every child of God is a verb! Showing forth Christ is evidence that we understand that God is a just God and that we are bearers of His image!
* [**Criss Jami**](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4860176.Criss_Jami) in her book entitled [Healology](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/48697422) writes, “Always seek justice, *but* love only mercy. To love justice and hate mercy is but a doorway to more injustice.”
* **Speaking of justice the Prophet** [**Amos 5:24**](http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/amos/5/) **says,** But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!
* [**Zechariah 7:9**](http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/zechariah/7/) **echoes**… the LORD Almighty said: Administer true **justice**; show mercy and compassion to one another.
* **Paul gives us this healthy reminder in Romans 12:19,** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
* **TRUTH:** The Christian life is an expression of God’s righteous justice!
* The Justice of God connects us *socially!*
* The Justice of God connects us *relationally!*
* The Justice of God connects us *vocationally!*
* The Justice of God connects us *spiritually!*
* **Micah 6:8 tells us what God expects from us as His people…** He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, *but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*
* **FIRST, WE SEE THE JUSTICE OF GOD DEFINED**
* **SECONDLY, WE SEE THE JUSTICE OF GOD ILLUSTRATED**
* **THIRDLY, WE SEE THE JUSTICE OF GOD PERSONALIZED**