

GOD IS JUST DEUT. 32:3,4

Intro. Deut. 32:3,4. . . What do we mean by the statement, “just and right is he...” When we begin to talk about justice, it depends on which side you are on. We all want “justice” for the other guy, but we want “mercy” for self. We often hear about the grace of God and the mercy of God. One man defined “mercy” as “that which is promised to those who have accepted the grace of God, but is not promised to those who have not accepted his grace.” What about the other side, i.e. the justice of God.

God’s justice is based upon His immutable, Divine nature. The word for “justice” comes from the same Greek and Hebrew words that are many times translated “righteousness.” In the New Testament, the word “just” and “righteous” are used to convey the idea of justice. Therefore, when we consider God’s justice, we are also considering His righteousness. Abraham in dealing with God’s justice toward the righteous and unrighteous, said, “Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?” (Gen. 18:25). Abraham knew that God would not punish the righteous along with the unrighteous. To do so would be unjust. God, in every situation, will always do what is right. The Bible often talks about the fact that God is a just God. In our text (Deut. 32:3,4; 10:17,18; Psa. 97:2). Bildad stated in the long ago, “Doth God pervert judgment? (Job 8:2) The answer is NO!. Psalm 89:14. . . God is a merciful, but just Judge.

I. Justice,

- A. Justice, as a general rule in our society, has to do with one’s conduct in his dealings and relations with others.
 - 1. Justice also involves establishing and maintaining the rights of others.
 - 2. You do not have to look very far today to see injustices of all kinds.
- B. When you visit a courthouse, you see a picture or a statue of a lady.
 - 1. That picture or statue represents Themis
 - 2. She is the goddess of justice.
 - 3. You notice that she has scales in her hands. (Keep it fair, and equal, straight, no dishonesty).
 - 4. She is also blindfolded.
 - a. Justice is blind.
 - b. It plays no favorites.
- C. Because God is just, He has always demanded that His followers be just.
 - 1. We must be just in business dealings. (Deut. 25:13-16)
 - 2. Court actions that involves the poor, rich, strangers, etc. (Deut. 16:18-20).
 - 3. Helping the oppressed, orphans, and widows (Isa. 1:17; 11:4).
 - 4. Speech and actions toward others (Prov. 10:20; 20:7)
 - 5. Every situation under every circumstance!
- D. Injustice was one of the reasons that God punished Israel; it contributed to their being taken into captivity.
- E. The idea of justice or righteousness becomes more spiritual and ethical in the N.T.
 - 1. It is a matter of character, and God’s own spirit is the standard (Matt. 5:48).
 - 2. The mere give-and-take justice is not enough.
 - 3. The idea is righteousness, not rights.
- F. Because God loves righteousness, he executes absolute justice and judgment.
 - 1. This is seen in His fair punishment of the wicked, and proper justification of the righteous.
 - 2. Jehovah is the only judge that has a perfect sense of right and wrong.
 - 3. He has the “whole” truth in every situation.
 - 4. In His justice and judgments it is not possible for Him to be a respecter of persons and show partiality.
 - 5. He cannot be bribed to act contrary to truth and proper justice.
 - 6. We can rest assured that God will always uphold righteousness in every situation.

II. Justice of God.

- A. In The O. T., Jehovah is seen as the Just God and Savior of Israel in a national and temporal sense.
- B. In the N. T., Jesus Christ is seen as the Just God and Savior in the spiritual sense.
 - 1. Peter said, Acts 3:14
 - 2. Many times in N.T., Christ is referred to as judge.
 - a. John 5:22, 27, 30
 - b. Acts 17:30, 31
 - c. Romans 14:10
 - d. II Cor. 5:10
- C. God's justice and righteousness are fully realized in His forgiveness of sins.
 - 1. It is by the forgiveness of sins that God establishes righteousness, and this is the supreme task of justice.
 - 2. Thus it is that God is at the same time, "just, and the justifier of him that hath faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26).
 - 3. I John 1:9
- D. How wonderful to know that our Judge has paid our "fine" with His own precious blood.
 - 1. I Peter 1:18,19
 - 2. Acts 20:28
 - 3. John 3:16
 - 4. The cross demonstrates the righteousness, the justice of God.
- E. Therefore, when we appropriate that blood by obedience (Rom. 6:1-6; Rev. 1:5), he pronounces us – NOT GUILTY!!
- F. Truly, our Judge is a just judge

III. What does it mean to us today?

- A. Knowing God is just is a comfort to us.
- B. Knowing God is just gives us hope of salvation.
 - 1. Rom. 3:20, 21-26...
 - 2. I John 1:9
- C. Knowing God is just brings fears.
 - 1. Are you ready to stand before God and receive justice.
 - 2. Heb.12:23
 - 3. Rev. 18:8
 - 4. Heb. 10:31.
 - 5. I need to remember that justice is blind.
 - a. I cannot be a favorite with God.
 - b. He is no respecter of persons.
 - c. No big "I's" and little "you's"
 - d. I can't bribe him, or say, "I know somebody that you know."
 - 6. Justice keeps it fair and equal.

Con: What is the solution? I do not want justice. I want mercy! The answer is Christ!! John 10:17,18; I Pet.1:18,19. The justice of God has been satisfied by Christ. He gave His life for you. God is Just!!