
The Justice of God

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

THE best explanation for the lack of spiritual life and power of the Holy Spirit in today's church is the neglect of sound doctrine. The first stated profitable benefit from the Scriptures is not soul-winning – it is *doctrine*. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for DOCTRINE, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16).

One of the most neglected doctrines in our day is my subject matter this moment. How can we obey a God we do not understand? Why must God punish the sinner along with his sin? (The Scriptures do not separate the sinner and his sin except by the blood of Christ.) The doctrine of grace and salvation means little unless we comprehend the action of God and the motivation behind it. If we have lost the proper concept of God's holiness, we will never see our sin, nor the method God has used to rid us of it.

His actions are according to His justice, not the result of our abilities or actions. Judgment is never understood unless justice be comprehended. God's

nature, which promotes the accomplishment of that which is right, proper, and equal. He is an impartial judge and never acts in a rash or unprincipled manner. This is true of His distribution of rewards and punishments. Just as He punishes the rebellious and impenitent both here and hereafter, He rewards those who honor Him in all ways and diligently labor for the accomplishment of His plan and purpose. His actions are perfectly just and righteous. He acts fairly and rightly with all men. “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” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Justice demands God's action that matches not only His promises, but His Person. His just actions are demanded by His perfect holiness and righteousness. If He be unjust, then He can also be unloving and unholy. His will is the standard of equity. Since he is wise and good, He wills nothing but that which is JUST. God always treats man in harmony with the purity of His own nature. There is no possibility of bribing, forcing, or perverting His justice since it flows from His nature. All perfections meet in Him,

The reason for most people's rejection of the Savior is an unwillingness to be under the authority of another

course of action will always be governed by His holy, righteous and just standards.

His compassion does not supersede His justice. He will demonstrate His fury against sin, as He will forgive the sinner upon repentance and trust in His Son. God will keep his declaration of judgment and mercy. “And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this” (Ezra 9:13).

The main reason for the justice of God being neglected is the revelation of the absolute standards in His authoritative declarations. “Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place”

Definition

God is absolutely holy and unfailing in His love. He will always act in a fair manner and do right with all men. God's justice is His action, by His holy and loving

Who is just. Thus, all of (Isaiah 28:17). Man may reason and demand fair play, but it is not the natural man's ability to fathom the depth of divine justice.

God's Action

Faith rests upon the fact that God knows what is right and proper. “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?” (Genesis 18:25). Because of His justice, the sin which He hates must be punished sometime and somewhere. For the believer, this was on Calvary's cross.

Dr. J. B. Tidwell declared: “God's justice demands of all moral beings conformity to moral perfection and visits non-conformity with personal loss or suffering. “With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright; With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward” (Psalm 18:25, 26). “But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God” (Romans 2:5).

What thrilling truth to realize that Christ met all of God's demands of justice. "Whom God hath set forth to be propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteous ness for the remission of sins that **are** past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Romans 3:25,26). The very next verses forever remove man's motivation for claiming such provision as an accomplishment of his own endeavor. 'Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:27, 28).

It is interesting to observe that God gave some of the greatest revelations of Himself through a character who suffered tremendously. "Doth God pervert judgment? Or doth the Almighty pervert justice?" (Job 8:3). "Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict" (Job 37:23).

The righteousness of God demands His justice in dealing with sin and sinners (those who practice sin!). "And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy" (Revelation 16:5, 6).

Man's finite reasoning desires God to tolerate sin in His grace and love. This is the reason for so little preaching on the wrath of God that rests upon all sinners in the here and now, not to mention in the flames of hell in eternity. "He that believeth on the Son bath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth (present tense) on him" (John 3:36). "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). This course of action is in our day as well as any other.

God's Promises

His commitment to us will never change. His promises of both judgment and blessings will forever remain the same. "Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there bath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant" (I Kings 8:56). Being of perfect holiness, as God is, He possesses essential truthfulness and cannot go back on any declaration. "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" (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Jesus Christ has met all the righteousness and holy demands of the Father. All of God's temporal and eternal blessings are found in Him. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit" (Romans 8:1).

You must receive Christ into your heart and life in the Person of the Holy Spirit. He is to be within us. Such possession is the work of regeneration. (You should enroll in our free home Bible Study Course to understand this scriptural term.) "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

The basic reason for most people's rejection of the Savior is an unwillingness to be under the authority of another, especially one on the outside beginning to operate within their being. The deception of sin questions the right and rule of another. One glimpse of the good intentions of God forever removes fear of His motivations and actions. The revelation of truth from the Bible reveals the righteousness and justice of God. In the knowledge of His attitude against sin and His provision of restoration to His Divine favor, we repent and rest upon the faithfulness of Christ, provided for us by a God of justice. "Even the righteousness of God which is by (on the basis of) faith in Jesus Christ (His faithfulness) unto all and upon all them that believe (your faith given to you by God), for there is no difference" (Romans 3:22).

Never forget this! The sinner is without power to offer satisfaction for his sin; but righteousness is provided as Christ, the representative of man, meets all the righteous demands of the law and paid the price of sin in the believer's place, so the person trusting in Christ's righteousness might be justified by God. The holy Father can now forgive the sins of the person whose trust is in Christ, Who took our place in death and meets all the holy and righteous standards of God. "For Christ also bath 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" (I Peter 3:18). The gospel is the Good News that through the Savior, the requirements of Divine justice have been fully met.

Additional free copies of this message are available. It is a reprint from our free publication, THE CHALLENGER. Also, available are nine free lessons of our free Home Bible Study Course.

The Hour of Grace & Power
PO Box 5900
Titusville, FL 32783-5900
www.thehourofgraceandpower.org