

God's Justice Will Stand

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest joys for the Christian today is to know that God is love (1 John 4:16). Few people, however, realize all that Love had to do. Justice is not greater than His love. In fact, in fulfilling the demands of justice, God proved how great His love is.

Here is the issue: As much as He is love, God is also holy. His eyes are too pure to behold evil, and according to Habakkuk 1:13, He cannot even look upon sin. Holiness demands that justice be served in order for fallen men, born in iniquity, to be restored in His sight. Therefore, God's justice had to be satisfied before His great love could be freely shed abroad in the hearts of men.

With this in mind, God formulated the plan of Redemption—a plan that would satisfy justice and reconcile man to Himself (Colossians 1:20). At the heart of that plan was the decision to send His only begotten Son to die for the sins

of men. This decision was made in submission to justice.

Justice demanded a price to be paid for our sins. Seeing there was no one righteous in all the earth who could measure up to the standards of justification (Romans 3:10), God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to shed His perfect blood on the Cross and die in our place. Thus, the only perfect man became the only perfect sacrifice—a sacrifice to satisfy His justice. At Calvary, God’s judgment for sin was exacted and it cannot be judged again (Hebrews 10:10).

But there is a scandal on the earth today. Heaven declares that truth—the truth about Redemption—has fallen in the street. It seems as if there is no justice, and judgment appears to be turned aside. This booklet will show that we need to pick up the truth to understand that justice has been satisfied. Perfect love can now have its way in us because mercy rejoices against judgment (James 2:13). Once we have received Jesus Christ as our Savior, no matter what evil seems to prevail against us for a season, God’s justice will stand.

Chapter One

THE GREATEST TRAGEDY

Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment. "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

"For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

"None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

"They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper.

“Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands.

“Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

“The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

“Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.

“We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noon-day as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men.

“We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.

“For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;

“In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

“And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

“Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment” (Isaiah 59:1-15).

Picture it: There was a roadblock in the midst of a perfect creation, at the foot of the Tree of Knowledge (Genesis 3:1-6). Alie collided with the truth, and for a time, the lie prevailed. God said, “Yea, truth faileth....” Oh, the truth is still true. It has not changed. But we need to pick it up. So first we have to know the truth and be sanctified, and the truth will make us free (John 8:32).

Take It Personally

The truth—the sure Word of God—is always personal. Deuteronomy 32:4 says that God is a God of truth and without iniquity. He is the only true God (Jeremiah 10:10; John 3:33); He *does* the truth (John 3:21). The Father is truth (Psalm 31:5,

the Son is truth (John 14:6), and the Holy Spirit is truth (1 John 5:6). Therefore, we desire to function in and receive the truth as we begin to learn about God's justice, how it works, and how it is satisfied.

We have taught through the years that God's justice precedes His love. It is not greater than His love, nor does it contradict His love. Judgment is the expression and the execution of justice. For God's judgment to be righteous and His integrity to be upheld, justice had to be served before love could be shed abroad in our hearts.

Everyone loves to be loved; we love God's love. But you may be facing a situation where justice is standing afar off. Truth has fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

Oh, the Lord is still there, loving the entire world—each husband, each wife, each family member, and yet there is no justice. There is no knitting together in love, because the truth about God's love has fallen in the street. Jeremiah 18:15 says that God's people forgot Him, and they entered into idolatry. They caused themselves and others to stumble and fall from the ancient paths. Proverbs 4:16 says that the wicked do not sleep unless they can cause harm by causing someone to fall.

When people live in sadness and self-pity, they are not receiving the truth about God's love, and that truth falls in the street. The Lord saw it, and it displeased Him because they did not appropriate righteous judgment (Isaiah 59:15).

People condemn themselves for so many things. We *should* be confessed up-to-date, and we *should* walk in the light. Surely we must take the holiness of God seriously. But here we have a picture that there are serious divisions among Christians. Instead of agreeing with God, we let truth fall in the street, and justice—the proper administration of the law—stands afar off.

Certainly, there are innocent victims who suffer unjustly, and God knows they are clean. And there are those who *were* guilty but have repented. They are now cleansed and free, and they cannot be judged again. They are brand-new creatures in Christ. This is why we must judge nothing by what we see or hear. We must have the Word and the mind of Christ controlling every thought.

The Importance of Having Right Thoughts

When people get involved with certain sins, such as pornography, it pollutes their minds, corrupts their capacity, and impairs their think-

ing. In love, God pleads with them, “Repent of your lust for pornography.” If they do not receive His admonition, justice stands afar off, and that love is made void. Judgment is turned back, and the equity of forgiveness, God’s power, and His loving grace cannot function.

It is so difficult to comprehend that millions and millions of souls are burning in hell because they had an attitude toward God and could not accept His mercy that rejoices against judgment. His grace goes beyond what any of us deserves. His love has paid for our sins in advance. But when people will not be entreated, justice goes afar off. We may try to counsel someone; we may plead with them and reason with them. But none of it does any good.

Some people want the love of God, but they reject it as they try to turn the grace of God into foolishness and lasciviousness (Jude 4). Others continue in the negativity of wounds and heartaches because justice has not taken over the operation of love through the Holy Spirit. As a result, the Holy Spirit is grieved and quenched (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19).

But God executed His perfect justice when He let His Son take on all the sins of the world. And because God honored Christ’s payment,

God has to honor the fact that His justice is satisfied. As a result, we can have forgiveness and receive everlasting life.

The Beauty of Holiness

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

“And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:26).

When the Father honored the blood of His Son as the payment for our sins, He executed divine justice. The agreement was between the Father and the Son; therefore, the Father had to reveal justice toward the Son. Only after that could the righteousness of God be imputed to us. But He found a way because of the great love wherewith He loved us (Ephesians 2:4).

Let’s say, for example, that we don’t respond to God’s love as we should. In those times when we are insecure toward people, when we don’t have confidence, when we have a poor self-image—those are the times when we have to depend upon God’s justice, not His love. The love

is there forever, whether people receive it or not. We have to depend upon God's justice to reveal the new creation in us—the very life of the Son of God (1 John 5:12). That is the only basis for Him to reveal His love *in* us.

God loves judgment. He loves justice. When heaven determined that the Father could never condemn us and we received His offer of eternal security, in the beauty of His holiness we entered into the precious justice of the redemptive character and unconditional love of God. Justice precedes the unconditional love of God, yet it must be based on the unconditional love of God. Neither His love nor His justice is exclusive. Both of them must be expressed. But unless God's justice preceded His love, we could never receive His love.

Scores of believers do not have proper relationships because they do not understand justice. They react instead of responding to others through the royal law of love. And when they do not treat others with divine justice that precedes love, they enter into all kinds of bondage, heartache, and sorrow.

God loves me beyond anything I can express, but His justice paid for my sins *before* I understood that He loved me. His justice took all of

my guilt, and He became sin before I understood the quality of His love. Justice was operating toward me so that when I simply believed, I accepted something that had already taken place: I received the forgiveness of my sins.

The Tragedy of Hell

Never forget this: People do not go to hell because of their sins. They go to hell because they reject Jesus Christ. We are not our own. We have been bought and paid for with a great price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), therefore it would be unjust if we took back what was purchased by and belongs to God.

That is why we are not to love the world, in terms of the world's system. We are to hate worldly things. We are to function in justice by responding to God as He demonstrates divine justice that reveals His character of love.

Millions are in hell because God's justice had to precede His love. God loved every individual who is in hell tonight. He died for each one. But they did not accept Him by grace through faith. And because they didn't accept Him, His justice said, "You have to go to hell."

Can you imagine waking up in hell, where the conscience never stops dwelling on all the

possibilities that are no longer possible? Can you imagine being free from the penalty of sin but going to hell because you abused and rejected God's justice?

Think of it! His love paid for everything, but His justice has declared the sentence of hell to those who have rejected His provision. His love doesn't consider one single sin that anyone has ever or will ever commit. But, of those who are unsaved, justice overrules what love has done.

God's justice sends people *who are free from sin* into hell forever. Not one sin is charged to any person's account. But here is the problem: Many people never acknowledge their need to have the righteousness of God imputed to their account. They either rely on their own righteousness, or they wallow in their unrighteousness. In either case, they have never leaned on the precedent of God's justice that judged him "Not guilty."

Chapter Two

THE DIVINE ORDER OF THINGS

“Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

“Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

“Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

“Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.

“Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps” (Psalm 85:9-13).

“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” (1 Peter 3:18).

Divine Justice and the Royal Law of Love

God *loves* justice, and He *loves* righteousness (Psalm 33:5; Isaiah 61:8). But because so few believers understand this, people go through so

much heartache. Families survive, but there is no intimacy of love. People are busy doing their own thing because divine justice is not active—it is not part of their personal honor code.

Divine justice is best explained in the royal law of love, which is summed up in James 2:8: “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.”

The royal law of love is the dignity of Calvary’s love expressed through us by the Holy Spirit. It is not human love, which is based on personality rapport, sentimentality, or mutual concern. God’s divine love has everything to do with Him and does not depend on our response.

God loves us because that is who He is (1 John 4:8, 16). When people go to hell, they will go there knowing how much God loved them. Perhaps more than anything, knowing what they rejected will torment them. Justice was served in their favor, but they refused it.

When a believer receives perfect love by believing and receiving the Savior, he also receives divine justice that was executed in his favor. No one has ever been loved with a greater or more glorious manifestation. And now, we are called to love others with that same love (John 15:12).

We are called to let mercy rejoice against judgment in our relationships. That is the royal law of love.

How God's Justice Precedes His Love

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness 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).

God's love is only revealed in its proper perspective when His justice is understood. When mercy and truth met together, and when righteousness and peace kissed each other, God's justice, now satisfied, looked down from heaven, and truth sprung up from the earth (Psalm 85:10-11). That was the execution of divine justice.

Good people go to hell, and God loved them as much as He loved us. He loved them enough to die for them. He loved them enough to pay for their sins. He loved them enough to be crucified in their place. But, His justice precedes His love, and to receive His love, it must be based on His righteousness and the execution of divine justice.

Divine justice was the Lord Jesus Christ saying to every person in the universe, "I have paid for your sins! You don't have to do any works to be saved, but you do have to believe upon Me by grace and through faith. You must believe that I died, and was buried, and rose again, so you could rest in the *Finished Work*. You must believe that."

When you do believe that, you are saved. But if you do not believe that, you are not saved. Remember that God loves justice, so He made a plan that satisfied His justice. When a man depends on his own way, he is rejecting God's way, and the end of it is death (Proverbs 16:25).

When we say that justice precedes love, we do not mean that it nullifies love. In fact, justice comes ahead of love and prepares the way for love to satisfy justice. All that is required is a response to the truth, then love satisfies justice.

When a man divorces his wife because he feels he isn't in love with her anymore, he violates justice. If he makes a righteous judgment to keep his vow before God because he loves God, he is picking up the truth, which makes a way for mercy and peace to enter. With that kind of submission to God's ways, God can work. But if you say God has led you to get a divorce, the an-

swer is No. He is not leading you. You are leading yourself.

When we are not faithful in church attendance, we are not executing justice. We are to seek the Kingdom of God first. And the minute we do that, we have entered into justice.

As believers, we have already received the love of God. And when we confess our sins, we know that He is faithful and just to forgive us. We understand that the Holy Spirit is in our hearts, and He has shed abroad His love there. With that, the royal law of love is fulfilled in us.

Still, for so many believers, the truth has fallen in the street. They seek to justify themselves, therefore God's justice stands afar off. There is no knitting together, no comfort of love (Colossians 2:2), because the truth about God's love has fallen in the street.

Is That a Fact?

Once we pick up the truth, we must not operate with the facts as man sees them but as God sees them. Justice has gone before, so now we speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), and love can have a full impact. When I make a decision, I am making a judgment. And when I make a decision based on the truth as God sees

it, my judgment is an expression of His justice.

So when the Lord said to you, "I do not charge you with any sin," what He was really saying is, "When My Son died in your place, I had to make a judgment. And because mercy met with truth, and righteousness and peace have kissed each other, My judgment must express the fact that justice is satisfied."

But it doesn't stop there! Truth will spring up from the earth, and God's righteousness will look down from heaven. Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father (James 1:17), and now He can give us every good thing, and He will increase the yield of our land (Psalm 85:12).

Now we have His righteousness. And because we have His righteousness, and not our own, we are free forever. That is why God loves righteousness; that is why He loves justice.

Why does God love perfect justice? It is His only basis for not condemning us. If it were left up to human justice, He would have to condemn us. In fact, on that basis, we are condemned already (John 3:18). But glory be to God, He cannot condemn us. Divine justice prepared the way, so mercy could rejoice against judgment in us.

“For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment” (James 2:13).

Isn't it interesting that human justice has to condemn us, but once we are saved, divine justice cannot condemn us! There again, God's justice preceded His love. Divine judgment has been executed, and we have been set free. Thank God that beyond every accusation, His justice will stand.

Chapter Three

THE PATH OF JUSTICE IS PAVED WITH LOVE

“He executed the justice of the LORD, and his judgments with Israel” (Deuteronomy 33:21*c*).

“He loved righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD” (Psalm 33:5).

What is justice? Scores of Christians react and enter into the land of the flesh because they do not understand justice. Truth has fallen in the street; and when that happens, there is neither justice nor godly judgment.

Justice is the impartial administration of the law. It is defined by right actions, correctness, righteousness, and conformity to truth. Judgment is the right assessment of the guilty. You cannot presume against anyone—that someone did what you “think” they did. That is not just. A person who operates with justice will not cross over into someone else’s jurisdiction. He knows

that he would be way off in his judgment because he does not know the truth about the person.

Of course we realize that every single person will be placed in situations where they need to make judgments. Until we go home with God, we will have to discern many, many times. But in our judgment, justice must precede love. Problems arise because most people are not qualified to judge. If a person does not have the truth of love, if he is not filled with the meekness of love, he does not have the right to judge *anything*; he is disqualified as one who can judge rightly.

Commit Your Ways to God

“And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been *recommended* to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled” (Acts 14:26).

The apostle Paul became a “hostage” to the truth. In Acts 14:18-26, after being stoned and left for dead, he picked up the truth and let the grace of God work him over on every side. He submitted to the elders who prayed for him, ordained him, and sent him out on a team with Barnabas. Through every kind of persecution, he carried the Word of Truth to the world—the truth of the glorious Gospel, which had been

committed to him.

“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10).

We need to give ourselves over to the grace of God. Commitment says, “Let grace do it, no matter what it is.” Remember, Jesus did not commit himself to men but to the Father (John 2:24). Commit your cause to the One who judges righteously (1 Peter 2:23). Give yourself over to the One who is in the business of giving righteousness for faith, through grace.

It is more than just having a belief system; it is having a commitment to a belief system, to what you believe. It is the act of delivering yourself up and entrusting yourself for safekeeping to the authority of God.

Commitment always picks up the truth. And remember, it is the truth that makes us free (John 8:32). God promises that through His justice and His judgment, the truth will set us free. When Christ died on the Cross in our place, God’s justice was served. His judgment? “No condemnation!” to those who believe.

So now, God executes that justice toward us—justice preceded by the atonement of grace.

That is why our salvation is secure. That is why, through every attack, God's justice will stand.

The Word of God is absolutely clear about the wages of sin (Romans 6:23) and the fact that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). God's justice stands through all the reasoning of vain men. And ultimately, whether He declares a man innocent though the "facts" are stacked against him, or guilty though his only crime was that he rejected the Savior, God's ways are perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:30). God's justice will stand.

CONCLUSION

When truth has fallen in the street, there is a traffic jam.

Justice says, "I can't go."

Judgment says "I can't go."

Truth "fails" because no one is executing righteous judgment. We know what is true—we see it lying there in the street. But now we need to pick it up, and that requires a commitment. More than that, it requires surrender to God's plan and purpose.

God loved us so much that He became the perfect sacrifice. He paid the debt His justice demanded. He has paid for every sin—past, present, and future—through the greatest expression of love ever manifested (John 15:13). But love was not enough to keep people out of hell. The truth about Redemption has fallen in the street, and until a person picks it up and embraces it, the effect of Calvary is void. God's justice stands afar off, judgment is turned back, and

the objectivity of equity cannot enter the scene.

When James 2:13 says that mercy rejoices against judgment, it reveals that God's justice is functioning. Justice no longer stands afar off, waiting to be satisfied. God loves judgment, and righteous judgment is the result of divine justice.

Pick up the truth. Stop living in the devil's lies. The price has been paid for every sin. The Savior is risen. The past is all gone. Whosoever will, may come to Him. So now, believe it, receive it, and walk in the light of it. No matter what things look like, God's justice will stand.