

“TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM”

2. Attributes of God: His Righteousness

As we study the attributes of God, we will find that each one is indeed every bit as important and “representative” of God as the next. Each embodies all of God and isn't some aspect or element that comprises Him. There is no part of God that does not contain ALL of Him.

“Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.”

(NKJV, Psalms 97:2)

From this verse we can conclude that every reference that we see in the Bible about God's throne reveals something about His justice and righteousness. Justice and righteousness are inseparable. Virtually all of the over 400 verses pertaining to righteousness make reference to justice.

(NKJV, Deu 32:3-4) “For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God. [4] He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.”

What is Righteousness?

An examination of the Old Testament Hebrew words for justice, just, righteous, and right all share the same root word. It means *uprightness* or *rectitude*. When something is upright it is equal. The Hebrew word for inequality and iniquity is the same word, “*evil*”. It is where we get our English word, “evil” from.

(NKJV, Psa 11:7), “For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.”

(NKJV, Psa 92:15), “To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”

(NKJV, Psa 145:17), “The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.”

God IS righteousness and justice. Justice is not something that God is “held accountable to”.

Many times people will say that "justice demands God to do something" as if justice is an external influence on God. There isn't some universal law of justice that forces God to do anything. He is the only source/standard of righteousness and justice.

(NKJV 1Jo 2:29), "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him."

Humanity's notion of justice stems from the revelation of who God is.

God's Righteousness and Justice explain why Jesus' sacrifice was required.

(NKJV, Rom 3:10), "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: " (Psa 14:3)

(NKJV, Rom 6:23), "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God's perfect and complete righteousness is unchanging and immovable. HIS justice demands payment for sin. The only acceptable payment was the shed blood of Jesus.

Jesus' sacrifice explains why we are held accountable to God's Righteousness.

(NKJV, Rev 20:11-12), "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. [12] And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

God gave us a way to "pay" for our sins (substitutional death/resurrection of Jesus). If we don't take it, then we are on our own...and judged on our own works. He even warned us that our works would not be sufficient. There is no excuse.

Group Discussion

- How did the Lord reveal His righteousness to you this last week, either through the study of His Word or through the circumstances of your life?
- The Bible says that God is the only one who is to dispense a penalty for a wrongdoing (Rom 12:19, Deu 32:35). Why do you think that God reserves vengeance for Himself?
- What are some of the reasons why we'd want to dispense vengeance ourselves?