

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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GOD'S JUSTICE

The judge considers the man standing before him. He is filled with hate, rage, and violence. His list of convictions is long including robbery, assault, rape, and now murder. The judge must find justice for his victims and an equitable punishment for the crimes committed. With the law as his guide, it seems the judge has no choice but to pass a harsh and lengthy sentence.

Considering all the facts mentioned above, you would think this was an easy decision for the judge to make. Yet in the back of his mind he hears the pleas of another side of justice. Where was justice when this man's father abandoned him before he was even born? Where was justice when, as a child, he was abused by those who were supposed to protect him? Where was justice when he watched his mother prostitute herself to support her addictions? Or when he had to carry drugs for the dealers in his neighborhood to keep from being beaten or killed? Where was justice when this man's life and character were being formed?

This scenario reveals the limitations of human justice. Despite all the injustices that formed this man's life, the judge knows that to release him back into society would be a crime unto itself. He would most certainly offend again and destroy the lives and property of others. So justice must

be carried out upon this man; a man who rarely, if ever, had justice offered to him.

God's justice does not have the limitations of human justice. It is revealed in the scriptures as *"the righteousness of God."* Paul said *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ ...for therein is the righteousness (justice) of God revealed..."*

Romans 1:16-17 The book of Romans presents God as the presiding judge over the trial of all humanity. The evidence against us is overwhelming, and presented in such a way *"that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."* Romans 3:19 The question is: What will God do with an entire world that has been found guilty of sin?

God did not desire to damn the sinner, but neither could he take the sinful to heaven. Iniquity found in one, Lucifer, caused a *"war in heaven"* that lasted for thousands of years. Revelations 12:7-11 This iniquity also destroyed everything it touched on earth. Knowing that God could never populate heaven with *"workers of iniquity"* Luke 13:27 Revelation 21:27, it seems that damnation is the only answer.

The ruling from heaven's court began with an explanation of God's deliberation in making his decision. Paul writes *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"* Romans 5:12 God's justice did not only consider our offences, but the great offence of Adam that caused us to be sinners in the first place. We may have had a choice in what sins we committed, but we did not have a choice whether or not we were sinners. If someone tosses a child into the mud is it just to punish the child for being

dirty? Of course not! God's justice considered that if one man brought sin upon all humanity, then that great injustice had to be dealt with if God was to indeed be the righteous judge of all.

The justice of God is summed up in a single sentence. Paul writes, ***"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."*** Romans 5:19 God had made his decree. There had to be a *"second man"* to undo what the first man, Adam, had done! To make a decree is one thing, but to bring justice is not always easy. This justice would require the death of the Son of God upon the cross.

How could Christ come as a man and fulfill this decree of divine justice that required *"many be made righteous?"* To do this He would have to *"take away the sin"* 1 John 3:5 that entered through Adam and replace it with the life of God himself, which is Eternal Life. The only way to accomplish such a thing would be through his death. Jesus Christ went to the cross so that we could joined to him in his death, and thereby be delivered from our *"old man"* of sin. Paul writes *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."* Romans 6:6-7 Christ also came out of the grave to bring us with him into newness of life. Paul tells us *"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."* Romans 6:8 This is how Christ made many righteous. He died to deliver us from the depravity of sin, and he resurrected to birth us into his eternal life. If we will believe this gospel and trust in Christ, this

glorious redemption becomes our reality. This is
the justice of God!