

SHEPHERD'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday ABF – May 18

“The Knowledge of the Holy”

by A.W. Tozer

CHAPTER 17

The Justice of God

*I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. (Deuteronomy 32:3-4).*

For the LORD is righteous, He loves justice; upright men will see His face (Psalm 11:7).

*For the word of the LORD is right and true; He is faithful in all He does.
The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love.
By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth.
Psalm 33:4-6*

Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne (Psalm 97:2).

*"Then he said: "The God of our fathers has chosen you to know His will
and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth" (Acts 22:14).*

*And put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
Ephesians 4:24 NASB*

1) While growing up as a child in America or Morocco or South Africa (or even Wisconsin!), you saw many good and bad things. **How did this influence your concept of *justice* or *injustice*?**

*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people (Proverbs 13:34).
"By justice a king gives a country stability" (Proverbs 29:4 a).*

2) **Where does God's standard of justice or righteousness come from? What keeps God's decisions and actions from being arbitrary or capricious?**

*"Justice is weighed by the standard of righteousness,
which in turn is measured by the standard of God's character." R.C. Sproul*

If you don't have a copy of Tozer's book, you can read it online: www.heavendwellers.com/hdt_knowledge_of_the_holy.htm

3) “Few things grieve the human soul more bitterly than the taste of injustice,” writes R.C. Sproul. (In Hell, resides perfect justice and, even there, no bile of injustice will linger!) **Have you personally experienced injustice recently? Have you been able to forgive the offending party?**

4) One of the definitions of justice I ran across in my reading is “that which is in accord with the nature and will of God.” Pastor Tozer sees the terms *justice* and *righteousness* as virtually synonymous and interchangeable. (See Psalm 9:8; 37:30; Job 29:14; Proverbs 12:5; Proverbs 21:5.)

Another way of defining *righteousness* is to say that it is *divine integrity*, or God’s being true to His own character and nature! **So, now, try substituting the phrase “Christ-likeness” for the words *justice* and *righteousness* in some or all of the following Scriptures:**

Follow *justice* and *justice* alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you (Deuteronomy 16:20).

I will maintain my *righteousness* and never let go of it; my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live (Job 27:6).

Judge me, O LORD, according to my *righteousness*, according to my integrity, O Most High (Psalm 7:8).

The LORD loves *righteousness* and *justice*; the earth is full of His unfailing love (Psalm 33:5).

Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with *justice* (Psalm 112:5).

I walk in the way of *righteousness*, along the paths of *justice* (Proverbs 8:20).

The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue *righteousness* (Proverbs 15:9).

Though grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn *righteousness*; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing evil and regard not the majesty of the LORD (Isaiah 26:10).

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for *righteousness*, for they will be filled (Matthew 5:6).

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of *righteousness*, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:10).

And will not God bring about *justice* for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? (Luke 18:7)?

“I do not set aside the grace of God, for if *righteousness* could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing” (Galatians 2:21)!

And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true *righteousness* and holiness (Ephesians 4:24).

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in *righteousness* (2 Timothy 3:16).

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of *righteousness* and peace for those who have been trained by it (Hebrews 12:11).

5) Psalm 97:6 “The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.”
In what way do the Heavens declare the *righteousness* of God?

6a) **What is “imputed” righteousness?**

6b) **What is “infused” righteousness?**

6c) **What is “imparted” righteousness?**

7) **What does Pastor Tozer mean when he says, “redemptive theology teaches that mercy does not become effective toward a man until justice has done its work”?**

8) “The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consciences of millions,” writes Tozer. **In what way is this “hope” a deadly opiate?**

9) Though Christ is our Righteousness (1 Cor 1:30), God also calls us to sanctification and the *practice of righteousness*. (Please read Proverbs 4:18; Matthew 23:23-24; James 1:22-24; 1 John 3:7.) Micah 6:8 reads:

“He has told you, O man, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?” NASB

We see here, that justice, kindness, and humility are beautifully woven together. **What does this look like in our lives? Are there areas in your life where you are have difficulty practicing this?**

10a) Proverbs 21:5 proclaims: “When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.” **Why does true justice produce joy in the Believer?**

10b) Being like Christ (in righteousness) produces this great treasure (joy) in our lives. **Practically speaking, how can we strive in the Spirit to be more like Jesus and thus experience His joy?**

*Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart (Psalm 97:11).
Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise His holy name (Psalm 97:12).*