

THE JUSTICE OF GOD **(Romans 3:24-26)**

1. The definition of justice.

- a. The English word is defined as: “the administering of deserved punishment or reward.”
- b. The Hebrew idea of the word justice is righteousness.
- c. The Greek idea of the word just is righteousness as well.
- d. What is righteousness?
 - i. Simply it is the idea of doing right.
 - ii. This, of course, is derived solely from God and His word (Psalm 119:172; Proverbs 8:8).
- e. Justice is seeing that right is done.
- f. Therefore, we can say that justice is getting what we deserve.
- g. We don't like to think about that though do we?
 - i. Have you ever heard of a criminal crying out that justice must be done?
 - ii. Have you ever heard of a child caught in an act of disobedience to his parents cry out for justice?
- h. We have often heard of them crying out for mercy but never for justice.
- i. We must understand that God is a God of justice.
- j. This is why the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
 - i. Sin must be punished (Ezekiel 18:4).
 - ii. God is a holy God and cannot be in the presence of sin.
- k. Sadly, we all sin (Romans 3:23).

2. The satisfaction of God's justice.

- a. Somehow, God's justice, His demand that right be done and wrong punished, must be satisfied.
- b. God, as we've noticed, always does right.
 - i. He is perfect in justice (Psalm 89:14).
 - ii. Even those who suffered because of the severity of God came to realize that their punishment was just (Nehemiah 9:33).
- c. It is not possible that we can satisfy God's justice ourselves.
 - i. We've all sinned.
 - ii. Notice Romans 4:4.
 - iii. As great as Abraham was, and he is the one under consideration in the first 3 verses, he could not work his way into being justified.
 - iv. No matter what we do on our own, we cannot satisfy the justice of God.
- d. The only way God can have His justice satisfied is through the work of Christ on the cross.
 - i. Remember our text (Romans 3:24-26).
 - ii. God is both just and our justifier through what Jesus did for us on the cross.
- e. The cross shows us God's depth of hate for sin: it cost the precious blood of Jesus.
- f. The cross shows us God's depth of love for man: God does not want us to be lost so He sent His Son to satisfy His justice.
- g. This is how God can be just as well as the Justifier of man.
- h. The beautiful words of an old hymn are brought to mind: “Beneath the cross of

Jesus, I fain would take my stand—The shadow of a mighty rock Within a weary land... O safe and happy shelter! O refuge tried and sweet! O trysting-place, where heaven's love And heaven's justice meet!

3. Our reaction to God's justice.

- a. God has always called for His people to act in a just manner.
 - i. Micah 6:8.
 - ii. Proverbs 21:3.
 - iii. Philippians 4:8.
 - iv. Titus 1:8.
- b. The only way we can do that today is be justified by faith (Romans 5:1).
 - i. This justification is available because of God's grace (Romans 3:24).
 - ii. It takes place when we obey the gospel (1 Corinthians 6:11).
- c. Once we are justified by what the Lord has done for us and our response to it, there are some things that God's justice cause us to think about.
 - i. We won't take sin lightly.
 - (1) Sin put Jesus on the cross and it is only through Him we can be just in the eyes of God.
 - (2) The more we think of the price it took for us to be just in God's eyes, the more we will understand how horrible sin is.
 - ii. We won't respond rashly towards those that sin against us.
 - (1) God is measured in meting out His justice.
 - (2) He doesn't react swiftly and immediately in punishing us or else we would have no hope.
 - (3) We are to be like God as much as we can.
 - (4) We will follow the commands of James (James 1:19-20).
 - iii. We will be greatly concerned about those who are not just in the eyes of God.
 - (1) God is just and has promised that those in sin will be punished and told us how that punishment will be accomplished.
 - (2) Because God is just, He can be severe (Romans 11:22).
 - (3) We don't want anyone to experience that side of God do we?
 - (4) Knowing what awaits them our knowledge should move us to be evangelistic.
 - (5) There will be no excuses on that day because God did not spare His own Son and He will not spare those who have not been justified by His Son.