

February 09, 2020

## God is Righteous (Pt. 3)

**1 John 4:8, 16** ...God is love...

- *Just* is a forensic determination that something or someone is in a right standing before the Law.

**Deut. 32:4** ...all [of God's] ways are Just...

- *Righteousness* is the activity of God that is in moral correspondence with His holy Nature so that God is shown to be Just.

**Ps. 71:19** For Your Righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens, You Who have done great things...

- All of this is critical for us to have a Biblically accurate understanding of God's love. It is important that we always remember that God's love is a Righteous love because it is His love for Who He is.
- To say that God's love is a Righteous love is to affirm that God's love is His perfect passion for Who He is within Himself.
- God's love is a Righteous love because His love is a Trinitarian love, the relational love that exists among the three Divine Persons of the Trinity.
- God's love is a Righteous love because it always demonstrates that He alone is just in all His works.

- Because God's love is a Righteous love, His is a love that differentiates between what is just and what is un-just, between what is Righteous and what is un-Righteous.
- Because God's love is a Righteous love, He must passionately oppose anything or anyone that is of His own holy Nature. Because God is love, He must reject all that is contrary to Who He is, to all that is sin and lawlessness.

**1 John 3:4** *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness...[unRighteousness]*

**Heb 1:9** *YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS...*

- It was Jesus' love for God that moved Him to so passionately oppose the unrighteous Pharisees:

**Matt 23:28** *So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness...*

- It was the love of God in Jesus that moved Him to reject the un-Righteous:

**Matt 7:23** *'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'*

- And God's opposition to all un-Righteousness is His wrath:

**Rom 1:18** *...the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and un-Righteousness of men...*

**Rom 1:32** ...although they [un-Righteous] know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death...

**Rom 2:2** ...we know that the judgment of God rightly [justly] falls upon those who practice such [un-Righteous] things...

**Gen 18:17-33** The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? 19 "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." 20 And the Lord said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. 21 "I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know." 22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the Lord.

23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" 26 So the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account." 27 And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am but dust and ashes. 28 "Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five [righteous] there." 29 He spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose forty [righteous] are found there?" And He said, "I will not do it on account of the forty [righteous]." 30 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty [righteous] are found there?" And He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty [righteous] there."

31 And he said, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty [righteous] are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the twenty [righteous]." 32 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten [righteous] are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the ten [righteous]." 33 As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the Lord departed, and Abraham returned to his place.