**Knowing God**

**Class #9 Justice**

**OVERVIEW:**

1. Justice is getting what you deserve.

2. Justice is not the same thing as fairness.

3. God’s justice is a function of his righteousness – doing what is right.

4. Believers (the elect) have God’s justice tempered by God’s grace and mercy based on the imputation of our sin to Christ and his righteousness to us.

5. God’s justice is a great hope for the believer.

**INTRODUCTION**

1. When you think of the word “justice,” does it connote negative or positive feelings? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. What’s the difference between “justice” and “fairness?” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*God’s compassion flow out of his goodness and goodness without justice is not goodness. God spares us because he is good, but he could not be good if he were unjust.*

 – A. W. Tozer, ***The Knowledge of the Holy***

*Justice, when used of God, is a name we give to the way God is, nothing more; and when God acts justly he is not doing so to conform to an independent criterion, but simply acting like himself in a given situation . . . Everything in the universe is good to the degree it conforms to the nature of God and evil as it fails to do so. God is his own self-existent principle of moral equity, and when he sentences evil men or rewards the righteous, he simply acts like himself from within, uninfluenced by anything that is not himself.* – A. W. Tozer

**JUSTICE IS SCIPTURE**

1. Read Deuteronomy 32:4 and 32:35-43. What are the motivations for God’s justice? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. Read I Samuel 2:3, 10. What do these verses say about the justice of God? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. Read I Kings 8:31-32. Why does Solomon pray for the imposition of God’s justice? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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4. Read Psalm 9:1-8. How did David apply God’s attribute of justice to his own needs? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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5. Read Psalm 50:1-6.

 a. To whom is God speaking? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 b. What does this passage say about the certainty of his judgment? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 d. How does the “covenant with me by sacrifice” affect the imposition of God’s judgment?

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*But God’s justice stands forever against the sinner in utter severity. The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consciences of millions. It hushes their fears and allows them to practice all pleasant forms of iniquity while death draws every day near and the command to repent goes unregarded.* – A. W. Tozer

6. Read Psalm 58:10-11. What is the motivation for seeing God’s judgment come to pass (v. 11)?

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7. Read Isaiah 30:18. What is the meaning of combining the justice of God with the grace and mercy of God here? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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8. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. The knowledge of God that we are to boast in does not include just God’s love, but also his justice and righteousness. What would you say to someone who focuses on the love of God but minimizes the justice of God? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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9. Read Daniel 7:9-10. What are the symbols used here to portray the justice of God? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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10. Read Hebrews 10:26-31. What is the author’s purpose in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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11. Read Revelation 11:16-18. What is the differing result in God’s judgment toward the unbeliever and the believer here? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**SO WHAT?**

1. If God was not just, what would happen to his moral superiority? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. Read Revelation 6:9-10. How is God’s justice the believer’s great hope? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. Read Hebrews 12:18-29. How would your life be changed if you really focused on God’s judgment on sin? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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