

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course
An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

THE JUSTICE OF GOD

Lesson 6

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God's character is so holy that He cannot sin, nor can He even in the least degree approve of sin in another. His great love never causes Him to violate His holiness in this regard. If it did, it would not be real love. If God countenanced sin in another He would become party to that sin and, thus, make Himself a sinner. This He will not do.

Experience has taught in a thousand ways that to follow God's standard brings blessing, even in this life, and to depart from it leads to untold misery.

God always does what is right. When men think that God has not done right, they do not fully understand His ways and time will prove them to be utterly mistaken.

The holiness of God is not passive. His holiness, of course, is active in His own conduct. But, being the ruler of the universe, He must act in relationship to the conduct of others. He must decide not only what is right and wrong, but He must decide WHO is right and WHO is wrong. Then, He must decide what must be done with those who do wrong, and how those who do right shall be rewarded.

This is not all; God must see that His decrees are executed. He is a God of love, yet His love can never set aside His justice.

If His love would bestow mercy on one whom His justice had condemned, a righteous way to do so must be found, or else that love must yield to justice and judgment.

As we approach and consider this matter of God being a judge, and His justice and judgment, we are going to consider six points.

First: there is no partiality or favoritism with God. In 1 Peter 1:17 God says, *And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.*

Notice that the Father executes judgment according to every man's work. He does this without respect of persons. God does not care if you are rich or poor, Oriental or Caucasian, educated or uneducated, a man or woman, religious or not religious; God will judge you on the basis of His righteousness and His holiness without any respect to your person.

In Romans 2:11 we are told again. *For there is no respect of persons with God.* You won't bribe God, or impress Him with who you are. The one who created the heavens and the earth, *and all that in them is* (Exodus 20:11, Acts 4:24) will not be swayed by what you've done.

God will judge without respect of persons, for in His sight *every man at his best state is altogether vanity.*

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Second: God judges the thoughts and secrets of men, as well as their outward acts. Romans 2:16 says, *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.* There is going to come a day when God will judge, not only the things you did which other men saw, and the words you spoke which other men heard, but God will judge the very secrets of your heart. That's the God of the Bible.

We are told in Luke 12:1-3: *In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all. Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.*

You are not hidden. Your thoughts, words, deeds, and actions are all known to God. In the day of judgment He will call you to account for the life you have lived.

Third: The law of God for man has been proclaimed through conscience and the Bible and can never be altered.

Again, from Romans 2:14-15 the Bible says. *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.*

Skeptics often say, "What about those people who live and die and they never have a copy of the Bible in their hands to read?"

Ladies and gentlemen, these verses state the fact that every man and woman on the face of this earth has within their bosom light from a holy God (John 1:9). God's word is not only written in a book but it is written in the hearts of the men which God has made. You know in your conscience there is a God. You know in your conscience that God is Almighty. You know in your conscience that God is your Maker. You know in your conscience that some day you will stand before God. And you know in your conscience that you have sinned against Him.

The question is, what are you going to do about it? God's perfect law for man has also been proclaimed through the pages of the Bible: *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled* (Matthew 5:18).

Instead of arguing about those people who don't have a Bible, you had better get busy obeying the Bible you have. You are not going to stand before God one day and give an account for someone else. You are not going to stand before God one day and plead another man's case. One day you are

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going to stand before God and God is going to ask you about YOU, not about someone else.

Fourth: Along with the proclamation of His law. God announced the penalty for its violation. That penalty is eternal death.

For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law (Romans 2:12).

Let this sink down into your conscience, for you know as you read the verse that it speaks of you.

Beloved, the question is not how much light from God that one man has as compared to another man. The question is, have you perfectly obeyed all of the light that God has given you? You know that you have not. The Bible says in Romans 3:23, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Romans 6:23 declares: For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. The wages of sin IS, not was, not will be, but the wages of sin IS death.

What is sin? It is a violation of the holiness of God. It brings about the judgment of a just God.

Fifth: A single violation of a single law, even in one's thoughts, would make one deserving of the penalty. *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them* (Galatians 3:10). *As many* means there are no exceptions to the rule. All things means there are no acceptable excuses or alibis. One must do all things, keep all commandments, obey every jot, tittle, and word of scripture, or fall under God's curse. *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all* (James 2:10).

This needs to be stated again and again and again for there are so many who wish to justify themselves before God by establishing their own standard of righteousness. God's standard is absolute sinless perfection. One must not transgress or violate even one law one time for a lifetime.

Dear reader, you can plainly see that no man by his own merits, works, or deeds stands a chance of getting by God's judgment on the basis of his own righteousness.

Sixth: No service rendered or forgiveness asked could set aside the execution of the penalty unless some other means were found to satisfy the justice of God. You see, God is a just God. His judgment is unyielding. He will not. He CANNOT, forgive sin until someone has paid for that sin.

Back in the Old Testament law, in the book of Exodus we find this stated very clearly: *And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed. The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and*

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sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped (Exodus 34:6-8).

Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of grace. Our God is a longsuffering God. He is a God who is abundant in goodness and truth. Our God is a God who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin, BUT He cannot and will not CLEAR the guilty.

God cannot put away sin until someone has paid the penalty for that sin. This explains why those who died in faith during the ages before Jesus died on the cross could not go to heaven. They waited in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16) for some better thing (Hebrews 11:40) that would allow the captives to be set free (Ephesians 4:8). That *better thing* was Jesus' payment for sin, which cleared the guilty. The Bible says that *the soul that sinneth it shall die* (Ezekiel 18:14) and *the wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23). Yet, sinners are alive all around us.

This is because God is merciful and gracious. But do not suppose that just because God waits in longsuffering for such men to repent that they are not abiding under His condemnation. They must be cleared of their guilt. This can only come through faith in the blood atonement of Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament scriptures we find these words: *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified (Galatians 2:16).*

No work of man could satisfy God's justice. The Bible says the Lord Jesus Christ paid the penalty for your sin. The Lord Jesus Christ paid for your transgression. The Lord Jesus Christ bore your iniquity in His body upon the cross and if you will put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ you can and will be justified. Galatians 2:21 states, *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

You see, if works, deeds, or the acts of sinful man could pay for sin, then the death of the Lord Jesus Christ was a meaningless act.

God's object in punishing sin is to uphold righteousness; for it is only as perfect righteousness is upheld and maintained that there can be true joy and true happiness.

In an age of grace. God brings other judgments besides death, but these are only temporary and do not take the place of His final judgment of sin.

How many times one may hear men say that they have suffered through war or disease or poverty, they have lost loved ones, they have suffered

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personal tragedy, and therefore they feel their sins have been punished and there is no hell.

Many times you will hear men say, "I've been through war and war was hell. I have been through this disease and that was hell. I have suffered this affliction and that was hell."

Those circumstances may well have been God's judgment upon sin. Those circumstances certainly would not have taken place were there no sin in the world, but they were not hell.

Hell is a burning fire (Luke 16:23-24). Hell is outer darkness (Matthew 25:30). Hell is a place of weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth where the *worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched* (Mark 9:44-48).

If you are living and breathing you are not in hell, and you have not been to hell. And, better still, you do not have to go to hell. You can be saved by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ. The only exception to God's judgment is for the man who will receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

You see, God's temporary judgments, though you may not realize or appreciate it, are actually acts of kindness. These actions are God's striving to warn and correct you before it is too late.

In a judgment like the flood of Noah's day, the wicked were destroyed to preserve the seed of the righteous. When God sent the fire down on Sodom and Gomorrah the righteous were saved.

When God sent the destroyer through Egypt on Passover night, God smote the firstborn in every unbelieving house, but the righteous were saved.

God judges sin, but God saves and delivers the righteous.

You and I are not righteous. Jesus Christ is righteous. We must come to Him. We must receive Him. We must believe on Him and trust HIM for our soul's salvation.

Notes

KJV

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Lesson 6

Name _____

1. Explain the purpose of this Lesson.
2. What is the key verse in this lesson?
3. What happens to those people who live and die and they never have a copy of the Bible in their hands to read?
4. Explain Romans 6:23.
5. Explain God's character.
6. How does God decide who is right and who is wrong?
7. Explain the principal of the Love of God.
8. Explain why you have not perfectly obeyed all of the light that God has given you?
9. Explain your conscience based on the information given in this Lesson.

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10. What is meant by the term "God's temporary judgments"?
11. Men may say that they have lived through Hell, why is this statement false?
12. Why is it not possible for your works, deeds, or righteous acts to justify yourself in the sight of God?
13. Explain Exodus 34:6-8.
14. Compare Ps 26:2 with Romans 2:16, explain the similarities.

True/False

- Each man has his own personal set of standards and rules with God?
- People who dies without knowing the Bible go straight to heaven?
- God will respect you more if you are rich?



Scripture memorization Romans 2:16; Galatians 2:21; James 2:10 (write out these verses on the back of this page) must be in KJV

My friend, have you seen that you are a sinner, facing the judgment of a just God? Would you come to this just God and be honest with Him? He already knows that you are a sinner but He is waiting for you to repent of this sin. If you will cast your soul at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, calling upon Him to save you, to forgive you. He will give you His righteousness, the free gift of eternal life, a full and free pardon from sin. Would you do that today?