

Hebrews 6.10

Unjust...

The writer of Hebrews makes an assertion that we must understand, that we must wrestle and that we must be at peace with regardless of how we see the world if we are going to enjoy peace with God. This assertion is fundamental to the whole of the cosmos, the entirety of all things falls apart if it is not a true statement. God is not unjust. God is not unrighteous. God IS the only standard of all things right, true and good. He alone is the arbiter of TRUTH and He alone is worthy to be the judge of how we (or anything) has measured up to that truth. Thus He ALONE will be the judge; and thus we must have a definitive, comprehensive and acceptable answer to the question, "Will not the judge of all the earth do what is right?" In other words, can we **KNOW** that God is not unjust?

I. **GOD IS NOT UNRIGHTEOUS**

a. Unjust/Unrighteous

- i. The word here is <adikos>. In classic Greek, it means "violator of law" in the widest possible sense. Rule and custom, unjust in a general sense of what is acceptable, but more than this, hostile to all, and completely contrary to the rule of law. It flies in the face of all ethos.
 - ii. But in scripture it takes on a deeper idea, it is the violation of Divine Law, rooting the ethos of comparison with the mind and will of God. This is the truest sense of the word since God alone **is the standard** of what is right and good.
 - iii. At the core the idea is that God is always true Himself, and that this is always what is best and right. And further, there is NONE that has the right or power to argue against what God has decreed.
- b. Some would charge Him with unrighteousness

- i. Their lives are not what they want
- ii. They do not have the things they want
- iii. They have difficulties they do not/cannot overcome
- iv. They have sorrows they do not/cannot endure
- v. They do not see the promises of God as fulfilled, and believe that they should be kept according to their own understanding instead of altering their understanding to match what God has said.
- vi. They insist that THEY have the right, the might and the wisdom to stand in judgment against God

Job 38:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ² “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? ³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. ⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

c. He is Good

- i. He is wondrous in everything He is
- ii. He is beautiful in every manner
- iii. He is absolutely right and glorious
- iv. He is gracious
- v. He is kind
- vi. He is generous
- vii. He does all things well and right
- viii. He is absolutely righteous in all His ways

d. God owes us nothing

- i. He is the creator of all things
- ii. He can do with His own as He pleases
- iii. He has given us His law by which we might please Him
- iv. He has given us a clear path of obedience through which we could know His blessing
- v. We have willingly and willfully rebelled against Him in every possible manner.
- vi. His absolute sovereignty over all His creation is no excuse for our sin, for it never

enters into our thinking or our motive for our rebellion

e. God IS just

- i. He will always act in accordance to His own nature and goodness
- ii. He will always do what He has said, and keep every promise He ever made
- iii. His ways are always consistent with Himself and how He has made creation to function.

f. There is no argument against which He is not inviolate

Romans 3.1-8

1. God is always true, His word is always proven right
2. God will keep every promise He made to the nation of Israel even if some individuals are not included
3. Our rebellion is never committed with any eye or intent toward truth or

righteousness. It is ALWAYS about our own wants and desires. It is always about US.

4. Our unrighteousness only confirms that God is righteous. The blackness of our sin and rebellion far from impugning His goodness and righteousness, only shows them more clearly. Against the backdrop of our sin, His glory shines all the brighter.

II. THERE IS ONE DIFFICULTY

Proverbs 17.15

- a. The thing that must be understood is that God has **seemingly** done this very thing. And we must understand that His actions are NOT contrary to His nature, nor to His justice, nor to the established order of all creation.
- b. The difficulty plainly stated is that God has not punished us, (the guilty) and He HAS

punished Christ, (the innocent). How then has this not made God unjust, how is God still righteous?

- c. Further, His own pattern of action against rebellion (ie: the heavenly rebellion) would argue that mankind should have been eternally cast away from His presence for the sin in the garden... (this was probably the intent of Satan)
- d. This is the one true difficulty which must be resolved if we are to retain the justice of God as the foundation of all good.

III. GOD VINDICATES HIMSELF AT CALVARY

Romans 3.19-26

- a. The law condemns us, for we have no answer to it which excuses us.
- b. Thus the law is no hope for our deliverance. It only shows us how evil we are.

- c. But at the same time, the law is witness to the overarching and undergirding righteousness of God. So much so that it stands as righteous even apart from the ability of anyone to keep it.

- d. God has provided a means by which we might obtain the righteousness which is required by the law, but in a manner that does not rely on our ability to keep the law in any fashion, time or measure.
 - i. God does not accept our best efforts
 - ii. God does not look forward in time and see that we might have some small acceptable righteousness
 - iii. God does not accept our partial righteousness

- e. This righteousness is given to all who trust in Jesus to be their representative

- i. There is no distinction between Jew (who have had the law) and Gentile who have not had the law.
- ii. Thus God deals with all mankind on an even playing field.
- iii. With true equity.
- iv. This equity presupposes universal guilt, and presents a universally applicable solution to that universal problem.

IV. GOD'S JUSTICE DISPLAYED

By this method the absolute righteousness of God is counted to our credit.

- a. God the Father agreed to accept the substitution of Jesus Christ in our place.
 - i. As if we died in payment
 - ii. As if we had obeyed the law fully even as Jesus did
 - iii. God counts His life as our life
 - iv. God counts His death as our death.

- v. God rewards us for His faithfulness as if we had been as faithful as He was
- b. God the Son agreed to stand in our place in every way.
 - i. He lived a life of perfect obedience as a man
 - ii. He died the death we deserved as if He had been guilty of all our sin
 - iii. The actual particular sin of every person that God gave Him to redeem
 - iv. The actual specific punishment for every sin thus imputed

Romans 5.18-19

- v. He endured the wrath of God, consumed our portion of Hell, fully expiated the guilt and condemnation that our sin so richly deserved.
- vi. He agreed to share His own inheritance with us as equal partakers of the reward

Romans 8.15-17

- c. God the Spirit agrees to secure all who the Father chose to save
 - i. Effectually calls us to life

Ephesians 2.1-3

- a. Gives us new hearts that love God and hate sin
 - b. Gives us new eyes that see our sin as God sees it so that we repent and cry for mercy
- ii. Comes to dwell within us

Galatians 4.6-7

- iii. Grants us His own communion with God so that we might fellowship with Him
 - 1. Alters our relationship with God so that we know we are sons.

2. Teaches us God's ways

John 14:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

3. Helps us pray

Romans 8:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

4. Seals and keeps us for the day of redemption

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- d. Thus God can be both completely righteous and just, and STILL justify all who trust in Jesus

V. GOD DISPLAYS

a. His Justice

1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

b. The wisdom of His plan

Ephesians 3.8-12

1. To the watching world
2. To the powers and principalities in the heavenly places
3. For His own glory and justice

c. The perfection of His will

d. The beauty of His son

e. The power of His will to make us like Jesus

Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.