

GOD IS RIGHTEOUS

Int.

1. Aim: To show the characteristics of God that are necessary for him to be righteous in his dealings with us. Then to learn some lessons for our righteousness.
2. Dan. 9:14 "...For the Lord our God is righteous in all His works which he doeth."
 - a. All of us have sinned - Rm. 3:23
 - b. Heaven's problem -- How could God be just and also justify me without a compromise?
 - c. Can God be just and forgive us?
3. RIGHTEOUS = Hebrew Word [Tsedakah] - that which is straight, upright, no crookedness - straight like an arrow - Just, lawful
 - a. Ps. 23:5 "...leadeth me in the paths of righteousness"
 - b. No crooked paths, but straight
 - c. Ps. 15:1-2 "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart."
4. God is righteous: - Jer.11:20 Ps.71:19
 - a. God is the essence of all that is right - Deut. 32:4 "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."
 - b. Ps. 89:14 "Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face."
 - c. Ezra 9:15a "O Lord God of Israel, thou art righteous..."
5. As we study God's righteousness we can learn how we are to be righteous.

Discussion

I. FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. FAIRNESS

1. Equity, honesty, integrity
2. In all relationships we are to deal with fairness
3. "A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight." Prov. 11:1
 - a. The goddess of justice was named = Nemesis [Greek Mythology]
 - b. Holds in her hands the scales of justice
 - c. A Hebrew merchant was not considered righteous if he when buying took too much [20 ounces for a pound] and when he sold gave too little [12 ounces].
4. Righteousness requires fairness and honesty

B. NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

1. Nemesis is blindfolded while she holds the scales
2. Righteous dealings will be the same for all persons. It makes no difference who they are. Justice is no respecter of persons.
3. Color of skin makes no difference. Financial, educational, or political differences will not affect the righteous.
4. Lev. 19:15 "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour."
5. Jas. 2:1-9 we are not to respect persons
6. Acts 10:34-35

C. JUSTICE IS RIGID

1. It is unbendable, inflexible, it cannot be changed
2. Example - Daniel suffered the results of this characteristic of righteousness.
 Darius loved Daniel. Darius, the king, was tricked into signing a law that no man could ask a petition to any God or man for 30 days except to the king. The penalty was to be cast into a den of lions. When Daniel prayed to God as he usually did then he was brought to the king. Darius worked all day to try to keep Daniel out of the lions den. But he could not because There were no loop holes. "the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not." Dan. 6:12b
3. Ps. 15:4b "...and changeth not." Heb. 13:8
4. Ill. - Small church in Kansas was selling it's old building. They wanted \$5,000. A man talked with the preacher and they made a deal for \$5,000 and the man said he would be back tomorrow with the money. Later that day Texaco contacted the preacher and offered him \$10,000 cash. He said NO! It's been sold. He did not change.

D. DEMANDS A RECOMPENSE

1. Recompense, retribution, pay back, payment must be made
2. Gen. 9:6a "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed:..."
3. Num. 35:31 "Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death."
4. Capital punishment is right - upheld in both the O.T. and N.T. - Rm. 13:4 "...he beareth not the sword in vain:..."

5. Ex. 21:22-25
 - a. Two men fight and injure a woman with child.
 - b. Her fruit depart from her - baby is born prematurely - more than one child - either twins or triplets
 - c. No mischief follow - no harm follows to the mother or the children = be fined
 - d. If mischief follow - harm to either the mother or the children
 - e. Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

6. Acts 28:1-5
 - a. Paul was bitten by serpent
 - b. He was immediately accused of being a murder
 - c. "No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live." Acts 28:4b

E. Summary: Righteousness requires these 4 characteristics:

1. Fairness
2. No respecter of persons
3. Rigid
4. Recompense

F. As we learn about God's dealings with man we know that....

II. GOD IS RIGHTEOUS IN HIS DEALINGS WITH MAN

A. FAIR

1. He is honest in his dealing with man
2. Ps. 143:2 "And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified."
3. God will always treat every person in a fair way.
 - a. His omniscience [knowledge] assures us that He will know what is fair.
 - b. His omnipotence [power] gives Him the ability to do what is fair.
4. Because God is righteous he will treat us fairly.

B. NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

1. I would like to think that I am something special - but I am a human being that has a responsibility to be obedient to God
2. I am not a privileged character with exemptions from God to do as I want.
3. God is not a respecter of persons in dealing with us.
 - a. He treats us all alike.
 - b. Men sometimes do not.
 - c. But God always give to each according to what he has done.
4. Acts 10:34-35

C. INFLEXIBLE OR RIGID

1. I want it changed somehow to suit me
2. But it is unchangeable, immutable
3. If God changed his rules or laws then he would not be just.

D. PENALTY

1. No exception - wages of sin is death
2. Ill. - Man caught stealing chickens. Brought before the judge. He was shaking. The judge said "Don't be afraid, I'll give you justice." That's why I'm afraid. I Don't want justice. I want mercy.
3. I want mercy from God.
4. There had to be a price paid for the sins of man.
 - a. Gal. 2:20 - Christ gave himself for me.
 - b. He died for me - He paid a debt He did not make. I made a debt I could not pay.
 - c. Heb. 10:10 NKJV "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.."
 - d. That is God's grace through Christ

Conclusion

1. God is righteous in His dealing with man - always has been, always will be.
2. Ill. of Grace - Judah begged his father Jacob to take Benjamin down to Egypt. Finally he relented. Benjamin went along. Joseph played a trick on him. He put the money in his bag and the silver cup. Judah thought Benjamin had stolen it. -- He could have scolded his little brother. "Why did you do this? You asked for it. I'll go back and tell daddy that you are a thief. You'll have to stay here in prison all your life." -- But he told the story of how he would be responsible. Penalty must be paid. Let me take his place and I'll pay his debt. Let him go back to his daddy. I'll go to prison in his place.

3. Another III. Hosea married a good woman. She ran away and lived with other men. But with age she was no longer attractive and had to sell herself as a slave. Time passed. Hosea still loved her. Not many husbands love that deeply. He came across her in the market place. Gomer come back to me, I still love you. I can't because I'm sold to a master. We need 30 pieces of silver to buy your freedom. I have 15 pieces of silver. Hosea had some barley. He sold it to get the silver. He could pay the price and get her back. She went home to him.
4. God is Righteous:
 - a. He wants us to be with Him in Heaven
 - b. But because of our sin He could not accept us without a price being paid
 - c. He allowed His son to take our place - Heb. 2:9
 - d. His righteousness in dealing with us should lead us to live righteously.
5. God is righteous and therefore He is:
 - a. Fair
 - b. No respecter of persons
 - c. Rigid
 - d. Requires a penalty for sin
6. 2 Pet. 1:1 "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:"