**GOD IS JUST, RIGHTEOUS, FAIR, HONEST**

Intro: Some have the mistaken idea that God is not fair and honest. They seem to think God will not be just (some do not believe punishment of any form is just). However, God always has been and always will be just, fair, honest, or righteous in His dealings with man.

I. **THE BIBLE EMPHASIZES GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS**
   A. Psa. 145:17 “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”
   B. 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
   C. Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.”

II. **GEN. 18:23-33**
   A. God had determined to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness.
   B. God revealed this to Abraham who interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah.
   C. Abraham’s question to God:
      1. “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”
      2. Gen. 18:25 “That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”
   D. To “do right” God must:
      1. Punish the wicked.
      2. Save the righteous.
   E. God would be willing to save the cities if 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10 righteous could be found.

III. **FOR GOD TO BE RIGHTEOUS, HE MUST PUNISH THE WICKED.**
   A. Rom. 3:5-6 “But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) ‘God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?’”
   B. 2 The. 1:6-9 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

IV. **CONSIDER GOD’S JUSTICE.**
   A. Rom. 11:22 “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”
      1. Adam and Eve cast out of the garden; Gen. 3.
      2. Cain had a mark placed upon him, and he became a vagabond; Gen. 4.
      3. The old world destroyed in a flood; Gen. 6.
      4. Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed; Gen. 18-19.
      5. Egypt with the plagues; Exo. 1-12.
      6. Israel taken into Assyrian captivity; Judah taken into Babylonian captivity.
      7. Ananias and Sapphira died before God; Acts 5.
B. **Heb. 2:1-3** “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”

1. *Every* transgression and disobedience received a **just** recompense.
2. **Heb. 10:28** “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:... 31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**
3. **Heb. 12:25** “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more **shall not we escape**, if we turn away from him that **spaketh** from heaven:”

V. **2 Pet. 3:9** “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

A. **God is not slack about His promises.**
B. **God will punish the evil-doer.**
C. **However, God is longsuffering to them.**

Conclusion: We can be confident that God will be just. While we have the opportunity to receive God’s mercy if we will trust and obey Him, come judgment, God will deal justly with man. Obey His Will today and escape the condemnation God’s justice demands.