

## Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another  
in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



Who is God? What is He like? Can He be known? These are the most important questions in the universe. The good news is God has answered these questions by revealing Himself through His attributes. The most important thing we can do in the universe is grow in our knowledge of God. We have been created by God to know God. For the season of Lent our devotions will be on knowing God through His attributes.

### **Just**

What does it mean that God is just? It means more than he is simply fair. It means he always does what is right and good toward all men. Likewise, although this is hard for many to accept, his sentencing of evil, unrepentant sinners to hell is also right and good. In order to maintain His justice, all sin without exception must be punished. God will have justice for sin, either from Christ's atoning death or, for those who will not accept it, eternal wrath in hell.

A natural question that arises from this is, how then can a just God justify the unjust? Tozer answers this by reminding us that we find the answer through the Christian doctrine of justification and redemption. "Through the work of Christ in atonement, justice is not violated but satisfied when God spares a sinner." His mercy does not forbid him to exercise his justice, nor does his justice forbid him to exercise his mercy. He is both fully merciful and fully just.

"Let's assume that all men are guilty of sin in the sight of God. From the mass of humanity, God sovereignly decides to give mercy to some of them. What do the rest get? They get justice. The saved get mercy and the unsaved get justice. Nobody gets injustice" (R. C. Sproul).

### **Scripture on God's Justice**

*Deuteronomy 32:4 The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.*

*II Chronicles 19:7 Now then, let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the Lord our God, or partiality or taking bribes.*

*Psalms 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.*

*Isaiah 5:16 The Lord of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.*

*Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

*Isaiah 30:18 Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.*

**Jeremiah 9:24** But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.

**Zephaniah 3:5** The Lord within her is righteous; he does no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame.

**Romans 3:23-26** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**Romans 12:19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

## **Song**

**Psalm 59:16** But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

### ***Sing a New Song to Jehovah***

(tune of Love Devine All Loves Excelling)

Sing a new song to Jehovah  
For the wonders he has wrought;  
His right hand and arm most holy  
Triumph to his cause have brought.  
In his love and tender mercy  
He has made salvation known,  
In the sight of ev'ry nation  
He his righteousness has shown.

Truth and mercy toward his people  
He has ever kept in mind,  
And his full and free salvation  
He has shown to all mankind.  
Sing, O earth, sing, to Jehovah,  
Praises to Jehovah sing;  
With the swelling notes of music  
Shout before the Lord, the King.

Seas with all your fullness thunder,  
All earth's peoples now rejoice;  
Floods and hills in praise uniting,  
To the Lord lift up your voice.  
For, behold, the Lord is coming,  
Robed in justice and in might;  
He alone will judge the nations,  
And his judgment shall be right.

("Sing a New Song to Jehovah" words by Joseph Haydn, music by Rowland H Prichard ©Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

## **Prayer**

*II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, as the God of righteousness you always do what is right. As the God of justice you always do what is just. There can be no injustice with you. We are in no position to question you or tell you what is right and wrong. And you are under no obligation to explain your ways to us.

Because you are holy and just, you must make things right by punishing sin and evil with judgment. But in your great mercy, your righteous justice is perfectly satisfied in the death of Jesus on the cross. This is the good news of the Gospel that you forgive all the sins of those who put their trust in your Son as their Savior and as their hope of righteousness.

We pray, Lord, you will right all the wrongs that are taking place in our world and vindicate those that are being treated unjustly. Keep us from trying to take matters into our own hands for vengeance is yours and you will repay. You have called us all to love our neighbors and to engage in the work of justice on behalf of the least among us. In so doing you invite us to always be mindful of the needs of those around us

You have called us, through the prophet Jeremiah, to seek the peace of the city no matter what Babylon we find ourselves living in. Today we find ourselves living as your people in the United States of America and in the State of Washington. We pray for peace in our land through the Gospel of peace, and we pray for truth, justice and righteousness to prevail in the hearts and lives of all those in authority over us. Grant this for the sake of your name and glory, we ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.