

JUSTICE

Justice is a word that we hear almost every day. Yet, it is a word that has perplexed the minds of many thinkers in the past. The perplexity was created by the word mercy. Mercy and justice are obviously two different things; but often where you see justice, you see mercy.

To say that I fully understand the mercy and justice of God, I cannot. For God rarely delivers instant justice. God shows His mercy to us when He withholds the punishment we deserve. Is this to say that God does not act in justice? Absolutely not!

Mercy is always voluntary with God. He is never obligated to show mercy. He reserves the right and has the right to exercise His mercy as He sees fit. He said to Moses, “. . . I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion” (Romans 9:15). As a result of such action people often complain, and say that God is not fair. He does not treat people equally concerning His mercy. If He pardons one, He is obligated to pardon all.

On these three charges brought against God by these people, they are only correct on one point. God does not show His mercy equally to all people. However, we must remember, that God does treat all people in a just manner. Just law is law that reflects God’s standards, and not mere human reasoning. Beware, lest we confuse mercy and justice.

Scripture: King James Version: Genesis 18:20-25; Exodus 23:1-9; 34:6-7; Nehemiah 9:32-33; Psalm 145:17; Romans 9:6-21.

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