

I Believe in God who is Just

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You naturally support the umpire裁判 calling strikes on the opponents 对手的 Toronto Blue Jays and you argue against the umpire calling strikes against the Toronto Blue Jays. It is natural to want to get the benefit of the doubt because you like your team and you think your team should win!

That is what you are like in your spiritual life as well. You want God to give you a pass in spite of what you do because you like you! You think you are better than you are. But God is just公义的. His decisions reflect his character. And you have to accept that! This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

The Doctrine (教义) : God is Just

Illustrations (举例说明) of the Doctrine of a God who is Just

Applications (应用) of the Doctrine of a God who is Just

Our goals are: That you will honor God for his justice in his character and for his kindness to you in sending Jesus to take the full force of his justice.

Article 1: The Only God

We all believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that there is a single and simple spiritual being, whom we call God—eternal, incomprehensible (不可测透的), invisible, unchangeable, infinite, almighty; completely wise, just, and good, and the overflowing source of all good.

The Doctrine: God is Just

1. God is a just God; he is always fair (公平的) in his character and judgments.

The Bible says so. And God extends a challenge so that the world could see that he is just!

Isaiah 45:21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

His justice is so evident that he opens himself up to scrutiny.

2. God is a just even when we think he is unfair (不公平的) .

When there were people complaining against God for their captivity (被掳) in Babylon and then Medo-Persia, Nehemiah disagreed and proclaimed God as just!

Nehemiah 9:33 However You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly

Asaph initially thought God was unjust when he saw the prosperity of the wicked and the suffering of the saints, but he was wrong. God was simply waiting to bring justice on the wicked.

Psalms 73:8 They scoff嘲笑and speak wickedly concerning oppression压迫; They speak loftily. 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches. 16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me — 17 Until I went into the sanctuary圣所 of God; Then I understood their end.

3. God is the only ultimate source of appeal (申诉) for justice.

You must go to his Word to learn what is right or wrong; don't go to the Alberta government! He and his word are over the Alberta's any day of the week. Premier Notely, and all civil leaders, ought to take note. That was what Jephthah declared to the wicked people of Ammon... who tried to rob God of his honor and undermine (破坏) his authority.

Judges 11:27 'Therefore I have not sinned against you, but you wronged me by fighting against me. May the LORD, the Judge, render judgment this day between the children of Israel and the people of Ammon.'

Besides God there is no other. Have no respect for what other gods say! They are nothing. Then bow to your God.

Psalms 75:7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.

Your God will judge every single person of every single religion!

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable (数不清的) company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

4. God's justice will be seen by the whole world one day and everyone will have to acknowledge it.

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

If you do not have all your sins forgiven in Jesus Christ you will be condemned...

Romans 2:15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) 16 in the day when **God will judge the secrets of men** by **Jesus Christ**, according to my gospel.

Remember, God's justice is linked to your justification (称义) . No justification no heaven. And all will see it!

5. God's justice involves retribution (报应) – full, stinging retribution.

Retribution is an integral part of God's law. Those who do well will be rewarded, those that don't will be judged. You either come with your sins forgiven or you go to hell for eternity!

Illustrations of the Doctrine of a God who is Just

1. Because of God's justice, God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden.

Genesis 2:17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

2. Because of God's justice, he flooded the whole earth and destroyed the wicked.

Genesis 7:20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.

3. Because of God's justice, God destroyed Sodom, even against Abraham's appeal.

Genesis 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**"

And God displayed his justice. He had to destroy that land that had become so corrupt. He did justly.

4. Because of God's justice he destroyed Egypt: people, army, and leaders.

Exodus 15:10 You blew with Your wind, The sea covered them; **They sank like lead** in the mighty waters. 11 "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? **Who is like You, glorious in holiness**, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? 12 You stretched out Your right hand; **The earth swallowed them.**

5. Because of God's justice he caused Israel to be taken into captivity by the Assyrians, the baby crushing peoples.

2Kings 17:20 And the LORD **rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted (使受苦) them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers (掠夺者)** until He had cast them from His sight. 21 For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them commit a great sin. 22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, 23 until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria...

6. We could add the rebels with Korah, Nadab and Abihu, Achan, the Babylonian captivity, Ananias and Shapphira, those who misused the Lord's Supper圣餐, Herod for his pride...and many, many others that show God's justice.

God's nature requires that he be just and he showed that. Grandfather theology (神学) of God is no theology at all.

Applications of the Doctrine of a God who is Just

1. The fact that God is just brings joy to the Christian.

You know that his justice was put 100% on Christ and that God can therefore never, ever punish you in hell for your sins! All charges against you have been dropped. You are a free man! You are saved for eternity! This is why you sing psalms every week! This is why you have peace in your heart all day long.

2. The fact that God is just will mean reward in heaven for the Christian.

2Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is **laid up for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Are you looking forward for those rewards that you could enjoy forever?

3. The fact that God is just is a terror to the non-Christian who cannot escape God's judgment – ever – and will have to spend eternity (永恒) in hell to satisfy God's justice.

God is not a sweet Grandma who winks when a child does wrong and still gives her the cookie! They think the God of the NT is too kind to send the wicked to hell. (We only have one God who is just!) So much they know! Remember, there are no “participation” trophies (参与奖) with God. The wicked may think he can live how he wants...and God will let his sins slide...But, whether Old or New Testament...

Ecclesiastes 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; **But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.**

4. Because he is just, God has to act when he sees perversion (堕落, 败坏) in our land.

We call it hate speech if we talk about abortion (堕胎) in the classroom. We threaten parents who teach their children that God's law is above man's law. We use the law to protect and promote perversion. We send a first degree murderer to be healed instead of executing (处决) her. Of course God has to act. (Yet, before he does, shouldn't you use this time to work and pray for repentance悔改?)

5. Every secret thing will be exposed, even things you have never told to anyone!

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For **God will bring every work into judgment**, Including **every secret thing**, Whether good or evil.

This should make you shiver (发抖) if you are not a Christian.

6. Those who persecute (逼迫) and torture Christians will not escape, though it might seem so now.

1Peter 4:4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation speaking evil of you. **5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.** (4他们在这些事上 ,

见你们不与他们同奔那放荡无度的路, 就以为怪, 毁谤你们。5他们必在那将要审判活人死人的主面前交账。)

No one can fool God! The false accusers (控告者) of Bibi Asia...the judges who condemned her to death...all will have to give an account for their evil. And you should pray for this.

Psalms 82:8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations.

7. Because God is a just judge, and because you are his children, you too must judge fairly.

This includes the judgments you make of your spouse...or of your children...or of your pastor and elders...or of your boss...or of the Prime Minister... You have to make sure you have the evidence.

Conclusion:

God is just, totally just, in his nature and his work. This brings joy to the Christian, for your sins are totally covered by Jesus.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Never get tired of praising God for the work of Jesus who took God's justice for you. And when you do get careless or tired in your praise of God (and you will from time to time), remember the cross and remember you should have been on it!

2. Share this message with those who would otherwise have to face the punishing justice of God for themselves. Help them to see that they don't need to take God's justice when God could count the suffering of Christ as theirs.

Finally: While God's justice is a source of joy to Christians as our sins have been forgiven, if you are not a Christian, this must bring total terror for you. But you don't have to face that terror. God can remove that terror and give you joy if you ask him to count Christ's terror on the cross for you! You could then become God's child.