



Part 5: Justice

Justice in the rest of the Scriptures

Justice and Joy:
Proverbs 21:11-15

The Lord loves Justice:
Isaiah 61:1-9

Justice and Blessing:
Proverbs 24:23-25

Learn to seek Justice:
Isaiah 1:10-31

Turn the Other Cheek:
Matthew 5:38-42

A Prayer for Justice:
Psalm 82:1-8

The Lord loves the Just:
Psalm 37:27-30

The Name of the Lord:
Deuteronomy 32:1-4

I will Repay:
Romans 12:17-21

Final Judgment:
Matthew 12:33-45

What does the Lord require?:
Micah 6:6-8

The Great White Throne:
Revelation 20:11-21:8

Justice in Ecclesiastes

The latest reality check the Preacher wants to walk us through is in the area of Justice. We may not take much convincing that this is a real problem in the world, but the Preacher still knows that this whole subject can be a massive stumbling block to many of us as we observe the injustices of the world. In many ways we in the western world may be more sheltered from this than some across the world, but we still see all around us examples of where people have been treated badly through no fault of their own, and other 'bad' people who just seem to get off scot free. Elsewhere in the world, the reality can be magnified with corruption being widespread and justice seemingly the last thing on the mind of some governments or leaders.

These things can turn into one of the most classic objections to the Christian faith - if God was really there, surely He wouldn't let all of this injustice take place. Undoubtedly this is just a smoke-screen objection for some, but for those who genuinely stumble over this question the Preacher has some wise observations to help them overcome it. However what he doesn't do is to delve deep into the reasons why these things take place. What he actually tells us is that we will never fully understand why God does what He does - in chapter 8:17 he tells us plainly that we will 'never find it out'.

It may seem like a cop-out, but God is really under no obligation to reveal all the reasons for His actions to us. Those who would object to the existence of God based on the injustice in the world must ask themselves whether injustice in a godless, meaningless life really does make more sense and whether God's silence on this issue can really overrule the clear evidence for His existence. Even the fact that we consider this question of justice points us to a deeper meaning to life, a meaning that can only be defined by the reality of God.

Secondly the big truth that the Preacher points us to when wrestling with this question is the reality of final judgment. Much of the wickedness in the world happens because people don't really believe this truth (8:11), but it really is true that your 'sin will find you out' (Numbers 32:23). God will one day 'bring every deed into judgment' (12:14). This has to be our big weapon against the problem of injustice, one that can give us great comfort, hope and perseverance even when we personally encounter injustice. In this life, any fight against injustice, though maybe something we are called to be involved in as God's people, will be futile in its attempts to rid the world of injustice. However one day this world will be replaced with one of perfect justice - every wrong will be righted, and every right rewarded and the greatest perspective we can ever have is that this new world will be for ever - this life is a vapour, the one to come is eternal.