

The Pursuit Of God

Session Thirteen / September 14, 2016

THE JUSTICE OF GOD

1 A few days ago, I sat on Florida's Death Row (located at the state prison in Raiford)
2 talking with an inmate who has been there for close to 20 years. We were in a very large
3 room which would accommodate both prisoners and visitors. I noticed that over in a far
4 corner, where I usually saw a prisoner with his family so many times before, on this
5 occasion the corner was vacant. I was always deeply moved when in previous times I
6 had witnessed this family in such close and loving harmony even in this place of hopeless
7 despair.

8
9 I asked my inmate friend, "Hey, where is that prisoner and his family?" "Oh," he replied,
10 "he is not here anymore." I knew there had been no executions for nearly a year so I
11 asked, "Well, what do you mean, he isn't here?"

12
13 "He was released," my friend responded. "After a decade in this place, authorities
14 learned he was not guilty at all of the crime for which he was sentenced to death and he's
15 been released."

16
17 Yes, the fellow will get a few dollars from the state for his ten years in the death house,
18 even though he was found innocent. So...where is the justice here? Being finally set
19 free cannot make up for all those years in one of the most isolated and grim locations in
20 America - a prisoner, bound to a 7 x 9 ft room.

21
22 The fact is, the poor man did not get justice - nor can he ever be properly reimbursed for
23 that lost decade of his life. Set free? Oh, sure. Justice served? Hardly. He never
24 should have been arrested at all. We really don't know much about true justice in this
25 current world.

The Eichmann Affair

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29 My friend, William L. Hull, was a Canadian clergyman who had migrated to Israel. In
30 the early 1960's he was contacted by officials in the Israeli government and invited to
31 serve as the chaplain to convicted Nazi killer Adolf Eichmann, who was on trial for his
32 life in Jerusalem.



Adolf Eichmann awaited his date with the hangman at Ramle Prison near Tel Aviv in 1962.

If any person ever deserved the death penalty, it was Eichmann. During World War II he had served Hitler almost fanatically in the transfer of European Jews to various Nazi death camps. It can be faithfully documented that he sent several million people to their deaths in the gas chambers and finally to the constantly-burning crematoria.

Eichmann was finally tracked down some years later by Jewish Nazi-hunters in Argentina and taken to Israel where he went on trial for his life. He was found guilty by an overwhelming amount of evidence and eye-witnesses. On the last night of May, 1962, he was hanged. My friend Hull was with him on the scaffold when the trapdoor opened.

It was 4:35 a.m. Friday morning, the first day of June, 1962. The rays of the hidden sun were pinking the sky to the east as the ashes of Adolf Eichmann, one of the greatest assassins in history, were slowly poured over the stern rail of the Israel Police patrol boat 'Yarden.' They fell into the foaming wake which plunged after the moving ship. For a moment the ashes were carried on the crest of the wave up under the stern and then slowly sank into the churning water. The disturbed water seemed symbolic of the unsettled life now ended, which in its time had brought fear, suffering and death to millions of Jews."

THE STRUGGLE FOR A SOUL / WILLIAM L. HULL / PAGE 1 / DOUBLEDAY

Some news commentators declared that justice had been done. While Eichmann certainly deserved his fate, the question must be asked, "Was justice really done?" One life was executed against literally millions of lives taken by this man's hatred. One in three million! Justice? How could there ever be justice? Once again it must be stated: We really don't know very much about justice in this present world.

But....GOD'S JUSTICE.....! Ah that's another thing altogether!

By the "justice of God" we refer to that aspect of His immaculate Holiness which is seen

1 in the way He responds to and treats us. Scriptures speak so often of this. Such as:

2
3 2 Chron. 12:6

4 **Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said,**
5 **The Lord is righteous.**

6
7 Ezra 9:15 **O Lord God of Israel, thou art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it**
8 **is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before**
9 **thee because of this.**

10
11 In a time of national desperation, cried out to God for mercy. The Jews were beginning
12 to return to Israel from Babylonian captivity, yet many were reluctant or hesitant to trust
13 God and lean on His divine mercy. The situation: the decades of captivity were ended.
14 Yet the people once again were emulating heathen practices, doing the very thing that had
15 sent into captivity in the first place. In the above verse (9:15) the priest Ezra cried out
16 that only the mercy of God, the confession of sin, and the grace of God would make it
17 possible for God to save the people. That was a spiritually very healthy cry!

18
19 Psalm 89:14

20 **Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go**
21 **before thy face.**

22
23 Because God is “just” there must be retribution for disobeying Him.

24
25 Isaiah 45:21

26 **Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath**
27 **declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the**
28 **Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none**
29 **beside me.**

30
31 John 17:25

32 **O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and**
33 **these have known that thou hast sent me.**

34
35 Jesus Himself acknowledged the righteousness - the holiness - of God the Father.

36
37 2 Tim. 4:8

38 **Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the**
39 **righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also**
40 **that love his appearing.**

1 This was Paul's last great testament to the fairness of God. As he wrote this - his last
2 will and testament - he was locked up in Emperor Nero's death cell, awaiting the arrival
3 of the Roman death squadron to take him out north of Rome where his head would be
4 severed. Yet he called upon "the righteous judge" to give him a crown of righteousness,
5 which he had no doubt would be delivered to him. What a pillar of faith and vision
6 came from this man of men!

7
8 Rev. 16:5

9 **And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art,**
10 **and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.**

11
12 The day is coming when God will judge this earth by the standard of His righteousness.
13 Anyone not covered by the precious blood of Christ will be in a very precarious position.

14
15 Whether mankind accepts it or not, God has instituted a moral standard upon this world,
16 based upon His laws, with attached sanctions. As a result there are two kinds of rewards
17 He will bestow:

18 19 REMUNERATIVE JUSTICE

20
21 These are blessings that He will bestow upon those who have followed His dictates.
22 Here are supporting scriptures:

23
24 2 Chron. 6:15

25 **Thou which hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou hast**
26 **promised him; and spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as**
27 **it is this day.**

28
29 Simply put....what God has promised to do, He WILL do - even though there will be
30 times in life when we may wonder if He remembers us at all.

31
32 Psalm 58:11

33 **So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a**
34 **God that judgeth in the earth.**

35
36 I love the story of the old, old missionary returning to America on board a ship. He had
37 poured out his life, his health, his everything to reach the heathen with the Gospel.
38 Arriving in New York, the passengers were met at the dock by a welcoming band and a
39 crowd of people. But they were not there for the missionary; no, they were there for
40 some film star. There was no one to meet the missionary. Saddened, he left the ship and

1 found a ride to his next destination. While riding, the man of God complained to the
2 Lord, "Father, I have poured out my life for you. I come home broke and apparently
3 friendless. There's not even anyone here to greet me." And the Lord spoke to him,
4 "Well, Son -- you aren't home yet!"

5
6 Oh, friend, it will be worth every burden we have carried, every sacrifice we have ever
7 made, when we get home to Glory.

8
9 Matthew 25:21

10 **His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been**
11 **faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into**
12 **the joy of thy lord.**

13
14 There is God's promise to His servant. Enter into the joy of thy Lord! We often sing
15 this grand old chorus:

16 *It will be worth it all when we see Jesus;*
17 *Life's trials will seem so small, when we see Christ.*
18 *One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase;*
19 *So bravely run the race til we see Christ!*

20
21 Romans 2:7

22 **To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and**
23 **immortality, eternal life:**

24
25 Paul who wrote that verse knew well the promises of Jesus - and he believed them. It is
26 said he walked over 8,000 miles during his lifetime of taking the Gospel to Asia Minor
27 (Turkey), Greece, and other place far away from his homeland. He knew what awaited
28 him in glory.

29
30 Hebrews 11:26

31 **Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for**
32 **he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.**

33
34 Almost all of his life, Abraham believed the promises of God. He was a paragon of
35 believing faith. And he, too, knew what awaited him in Glory.

36
37 Now those verses have referred to REMUNERATIVE justice. What a positive belief!
38 But let's take a look at the other side of God's justice which is:

39
40 **RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE**

1 This, of course, has to do with punishment for sin. It could also be called “punitive
2 justice of God.” There are many scriptures that teach this:

3
4 Genesis 2:17

5 **But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the**
6 **day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

7
8 *Adam was given all things richly to enjoy. One thing and one thing only was reserved*
9 *for God. A choice was placed before Adam, a necessary choice, for Adam could not*
10 *have been a moral, accountable being without such power to choose. Without it he*
11 *would have been a mere automaton, a puppet on a string. But God did not make a*
12 *mechanical man; He made a moral man. Once the right to decide was invested in*
13 *Adam, he became a moral being. But with that right there was always the possibility*
14 *that his power of choice would be used amiss. So God set the alternatives before His*
15 *creature, making the issues clear and plain.*

16 EXPLORING GENESIS / JOHN PHILLIPS / PAGE 51/ MOODY PRESS

17
18 Exodus 34:7

19 **Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and**
20 **that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the**
21 **children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth**
22 **generation.**

23 God makes it clear that choices we make will decide much of the future of our children.
24 Yes, even up to four generations down the line. You are not an island unto yourself.
25 Your decisions for life will affect those who come after you.

26
27 Ezekiel 18:4

28 **Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is**
29 **mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.**

30
31 Romans 1:32

32 **Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are**
33 **worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.**

34
35 Romans 2:8-9

36 **But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey**
37 **unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, [9] Tribulation and anguish, upon every**
38 **soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;**

39
40 2 Thes. 1:8

41 **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not**

1 **the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:**
2

3 Here is a vital truth, sometimes being overlooked now in Christianity: **GOD'S JUSTICE**
4 **DEMANDS PUNISHMENT OF THE SINNER — UNLESS – UNLESS - SOMEONE**
5 **TAKES THE PLACE OF THE SINNER AND TAKES THE PUNISHMENT UPON**
6 **HIMSELF. YES, THAT'S WHAT JESUS DID FOR US!**
7

8 None of our own “works” can satisfy God’s justice; He takes comfort only in the sacrifice
9 of Jesus Christ, His Son. Isaiah 64:6 **But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our**
10 **righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities,**
11 **like the wind, have taken us away.**
12

13 How foolish then is the thinking of a person who attempt to “earn” salvation. Some are
14 told to repeat man-made mantras so many times to achieve God’s mercy. One might as
15 well repeat the alphabet for all the eternal good that mantra will do you. Or to light so
16 many candles as if some waxed light could equate what God’s **LIGHT OF THE WORLD**
17 has already done for us. Our salvation is a precious and God given gift. It cannot be
18 earned, no matter how desperately our human natures crave to earn it.
19

20 **HOW GOD’S JUSTICE SHOULD AFFECT YOU AND ME**

21

22 **1.** One of the main considerations is this: I never - never! - have to defend myself -
23 and I won’t! If God is just, and He is, and takes care of His own, I can stand as did King
24 David and declare that God is my refuge, my protector.
25

26 Consider carefully God’s words about Himself: Isaiah 45:18-21

27 **For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the**
28 **earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be**
29 **inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else. [19] I have not spoken in secret, in**
30 **a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the**
31 **Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.**

32 **[20] Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of**
33 **the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and**
34 **pray unto a god that cannot save. [21] Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them**
35 **take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it**
36 **from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God**
37 **and a Saviour; there is none beside me.**
38

39 It is not some “person” who declares once and for all what is right; Look at verse 19 on
40 line 31: **GOD DECLARES THINGS THAT ARE RIGHT!** It is His verdict that

1 counts.

2

3 2. Since it is God's verdict and no one else's, I will wait upon His for His answer to my
4 life's challenges. We often sing, "I will wait upon the Lord - for He is worthy to be
5 praised - so shall I be saved from my enemies." Good song, great lyrics. But....DO WE
6 WAIT upon Him, or like some modern day King Saul take matters into our own hands?

7

8 How can I trust God to enact His justice in my life?

9

10 God created everything! He did so with a purpose. He has ownership of us all, whether
11 we acknowledge it or not. As a created human being, I am on this earth to fulfill the
12 purpose of God. Dare we say it? If we obey Him and live according to His dictates,
13 God "has our back!"

14

15 God is just. God is merciful! Why should we fear anything or anyone?

16

17

18 Next time: The conclusion of this study, THE PURSUIT OF GOD.

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