

8/18/13

## Justice and Judgment

God's standard, or rule of living is complete righteousness, which means zero tolerance for sin, or evil.

He created man in His own image, and gave him the will and capacity to choose to follow (1) His way, or (2) his own way.

The results were fixed: (1) Immortality, with a righteous, sinless nature, or (2) mortality, with an unrighteous, sinful nature.

Pausing here, it is natural and important to wonder why Adam made the devastating choice of the conditions God established in Eden, depriving himself and all mankind of a perfect future on earth, and cohabiting with God forever.

The first thing is not to second-guess, or blame God in any way, for Adam's failure. We could rationalize over it, and might easily be tempted to say that it was so eternally essential to make the right decision, that God would have ensured it, by preventing the wrong thing from happening.

We could think that surely we all wouldn't have made the mistake Adam did, or we could wonder why we all should be included in the consequences of someone else's commission of original sin, and, if we can't stop questioning it, or thinking it could have been different, we cast aspersions upon God, as being less than absolutely perfect, i.e., not infallible! And, that is a line that man should never cross!

A special scripture, Deut. 29:29, is very applicable here, and at any time we can't answer or understand the complexity of, or reason for a particular event or matter in life that is not fully explained, the verse says, "The secret things belong unto the Lord, our God, but those things that are revealed, belong to us and our children forever". And, we have to learn how to make the distinction between "secret", and "revealed".

We can't always ask why a thing is so, but recognize what it is, and put the best,

God-favoring construction on it! For example, it is a safe rule for me, that if I can't prove that something is scripturally wrong about God, or His word, then, I accept the literally true interpretation of it, without lingering doubts, or questions! Not that we should ever try to find something wrong about God, because that would be irreverent, and futile, as well.

On the subject of God's justice, and judgment, it would be well for us to refer back to God's plan for the earth's inhabitants. God created man to have "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth". Gen. 1:26. Man was to be lord of the earth!

If he had not sinned, he would have been perfect, free, independent (but willingly subject to God), and gifted with every talent and ability he would ever need. He would have walked and talked with God daily, or regularly, even instantly.

But, the intervention of Adam's fall from grace through original sin, changed everything for the worse, diminishing and restricting man's mental and physical capacities, and facility of work, by imposition of judgments affecting everything of the lives of man, animals, and nature--including earth discoveries, development, production and general management, and everything else.

There came a time when "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth.....". Gen. 6:5. And, in Gen. 6:6, "And it repented God that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart". In verse 7, God said, "I will destroy man whom I have created, from off the face of the earth".

We, in our finite state, tend to see the right and wrong of things relatively, either to each other, or customs, and a limited sense of what God calls wickedness, or sin and evil. But, starting from, and comparing to God's absolute righteous standard, any degree of evil, or sinfulness is subject to punishment, or judgment.

Even though God is merciful, loving, and forgiving, justice in His universe must

exact compensation for the offense of any wrongdoing, great or small! God certainly loved us (Christians) when He chose us, and planned our salvation. And, as perfect as the love of Jesus, our savior was in His death on the cross for us, it was a sacrificial death, wherein He paid the penalty for our sins, satisfying the justice required by God!

There were enormous, gross crimes committed in the world before the judgment of the flood. It might help to see how abominable and vile sin is to a pure, holy God, by trying to see something of its offensiveness to Him by looking at scriptural references on the subject, from his sovereign perspective.

In Genesis before the fall, God saw that everything he had created was good, and He was pleased about it, looking ahead to an exciting future of man's populating, and utilizing the great powers and resources He endowed man and the earth with, and more importantly the love and faithfulness to Him and each other, of the people who would multiply and occupy the earth.

It would have been indeed a natural kingdom on earth (the only one ever needed), with every feature and all desirable conditions, and privileges imaginable. But, sadly, after the fall God saw, in man's and Satan's destruction of His marvelous creation, such a dishonorable betrayal of Him, and His works, that it "grieved Him at His heart".

Imagine what God had invested in the man he created: His likeness, free will, lordship of the world, exceptional mental and physical capacities and abilities, etc. In another reference to sinful, fallen man's "wickedness", is the following passage from Rom. 1:29-32, which exemplifies the classification: 29 "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful, 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them".

Would not God be both grieved, and "angry at the wicked every day" (Ps. 7:11), for those things above, which characterize the behavior of the fallen race, to one degree or another? All these, and any evil actions of unregenerate man, besides possibly being partially judged on earth, are due for eventual reckoning at the Great White Throne Judgment. Nothing goes unsettled, or omitted.

If we saw the just deserts of the crimes of mankind, carried out as they occurred, we would have a much different awareness and concern about how abominable and repulsive sin is in God's universe--which once was a sinless and perfect environment, and will be again when finally He purges and purifies the earth of the pollution by man's unclean living, and of the effect on nature of the advent of sin. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain until now". Rom. 8:22.

If it is difficult to understand why the earth is included in the fall, since it did nothing wrong, or failed God in any way- think of the incompatibility of a perfect earth environment, and grossly imperfect man! First off, it wouldn't fit the judgment conditions that God placed upon man, especially his labors of growing and producing food, and utilizing materials for the construction of homes, manufacturing, and a host of other things involving man and nature.

If nature were unaffected, it wouldn't be consistent with fallen man's corrupted nature, to be surrounded with a perfect physical world. It would be too good for him, and he would corrupt it anyway.

When the bible says of God, or Jesus, that "He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever, that includes His administration of all the affairs, and events of the world, no matter how severely God has dealt with man at various times in history, and that He will yet act in judgment of evil man's doings.

We cannot, with the vitiated, carnal old nature we have been born with, ever half understand how vile the sinfulness of man has been, and how not only will it continue to be before God renders final judgment, but how bad it might be if it were not restrained by God, as it is! 2 Thess. 2:7. "For the mystery of iniquity (lawlessness) doth already work: only he who now letteth (hindereth) will let

(hinder, or restrain) until he be taken out of the way".

There are misinterpretations of the person referred to in the verse, i.e., the AntiChrist. But, it really relates to the Holy Spirit, being a restraint on the sinfulness of man, which if not restricted would be much worse than it has been, and will be again after the Holy Spirit leaves the earth, and accompanies the church in the rapture!

The point of the foregoing is the fact of how perverted, and evil man's nature became after the fall. We get some evidence of it when a person suddenly gets violently angry and vengeful; often without much provocation, who may normally seem to be calm and controlled.

The usual demeanor, and temperament of most people may appear to be stable and benign, but it is often only a word or relatively minor act that offends, and causes an angry response, that is out of proportion to the cause. The outward appearance is often a fairly thin veneer over the real person beneath.

I have a commentary on my website, titled "The Two Faces of Human Relations" that discusses some of the insincerity, and demeaning habits, i.e. gossiping, lying, jealousy, judging, etc. that is part of the "normal" conduct of family, friends, and others in their inter-personal relations, usually behind each others' back!

Unfortunately, many if not most, Christians are guilty of the same "two-faced" social conduct! Yes, you and I, and probably everyone, to some extent! It is difficult to overcome such lifelong bad habits, but the effort is sorely needed--to confess it, and pray about it, and hope to get victory over it as much as possible!

As to man's wickedness, and how God will deal with it, can be seen in the parable of the tares and the wheat in Matt. 13:36-43. Verses 41-42 say, "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth".

John Gill, in his commentary, says of the furnace of fire, it is "Not a material ,

but a metaphorical one, denoting the wrath of God, which shall fall upon wicked men, and abide upon them to all eternity".

It is a typical reaction to the strong words describing some of God's actions, or judgments, that, i.e., "the God of the old Testament was cruel", which might be said also of the parable just discussed. Even believers can have some questions, or wonder about the severity that is expressed.

Four important things to believe about God, that will help our understanding, and trust, are (1) that God's nature is perfect, and He cannot be cruel, or unjust, (2) that heaven is justified by His love and mercy, and (3) hell is justified by His justice and judgment, which means that "the punishment fits the crime" (that is, since unsaved man's evil disposition is eternal, so must be the continual judgment of God against it), and therefore, (4) the completely righteous standards of a perfect, sovereign God are the only true and just measure of His actions!

Quoting again from Heb.13:8, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever", of course, includes God the father, as well! Which means God cannot be understood in human, mortal terms, as in Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts".

Our judgments of God are often too narrowly conceived and relative to our limited intellects. That is why the Arminian gospel is so humanistic versus theistic. Instead of learning and acknowledging the total extent to which human depravity has affected fallen man--making him thoroughly unable to comprehend the simplest spiritual truth--the Arminian gospel belief mysteriously leaves room for natural man to have the ability to believe, or reject the gospel!

That assumption, which drives their "free will" obsession, is scripturally illogical and contradictory. But, along with other doctrinal misinterpretations, the AG philosophy epitomizes the unspiritual state of the vast majority of believers, who have capitulated to heretical gospel teaching!

So, unless and until anyone might ever get out of that unspiritual old nature mode, they are never in their earthly life, going to escape from their bondage to a false gospel constitution. The fact that the end-time church prophecy projects the current degenerated condition to remain largely unchanged, doesn't mean that it couldn't have been, because God's grace, and space to repent is always available!

The problem, therefore, by simple deduction is that today's errant church does not want to change what they believe! But, at least they ought to make the distinction and admit, that its not that they couldn't, but that they wouldn't!

Or, to put it even more bluntly, they (most all of you) have traded everything for nothing. How can I say that? Because, God only makes one way to follow Him--and that is the way of truth, and obedience to it!

If the doctrinal foundation of your new life, is not the real gospel, but a false substitute, then it seems logically consistent to me that whatever is built on that false premise, or material cannot be called anything but unfaithful workmanship, and a fleshly, unspiritual structure.

And, the worst factor of all is that such ones have dishonored and broken fellowship with the Lord, which will continue until there is full repentance, and reformation from that egregious disloyalty! If repentance never occurs, then, it will be the No. 1 sinful act of disobedience to God, to be faced with at the Judgment Seat of Christ!

When I said if you are an AG believer, you traded everything for nothing, I meant every good thing that is potentially available, in exchange for nothing, truly spiritual, which is the value of whatever has resulted from your adoption and allegiance to a worthless excuse for the precious gospel of the Lord!

What do you hang on to, that you unknowingly (by choice) and ignorantly think will be acceptable to the Lord? Because, he doesn't allow for differences of opinion, or varying interpretations of His word; especially a major doctrine like the gospel.

Do you think the Lord was allowing for variances, or exceptions when He said to

the disciples, who asked him why he spoke to the crowds in parables, and he said, "Because, it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given"? That is, for believers to be able to know the singular, true meanings of the various "mysteries".

The first part of the verse is supposed to include you, but because of being in the AG category, and not spiritually engaged or active, you would be in the parable class, effectively (or ineffectively). Jesus addressed the multitudes that followed him, in parables, "because they seeing, see not; and hearing, they hear not, neither do they understand".

The point is fitting, that most of you do not see, or hear spiritually, or you would not have been duped into believing an unspiritual gospel concept. Also, as long as you have been a Christian, you couldn't have hardly ever acted spiritually, at least not long enough, or seriously enough to suspect or realize your gospel heresy, and how much damage it has caused to you, and your likeminded brethren. Hence, the universal church dilemma, that you are blind to--just as you are described in Rev. 3:17.

There is a saying in the world, "What are you going to do for an encore?" In your case of being asked why you let yourself be led into false gospel doctrine--what useless excuse are you going to offer the Lord, when it is too late?

I have said some very strong things against you, even blunt criticisms, which I don't think you will conscientiously listen to, or consider, but only be angered, and convince yourself that I am wrong, and the one who is failing God.

I will reiterate that I started where you are, and then studied the gospel carefully, having to overcome the AG bias at first, and gradually coming full circle to the gospel truth that I didn't know for the first 10-12 years of my Christian life.

Now, there is no going back. Once we have come to any true doctrinal belief, it seems that we become spiritually anchored in the factual understanding of it, and nothing else can draw us away from it! Why would anyone who knows the difference, turn from truth to error? That is what the issue really comes down to!

Error can only be exposed, and refuted by the truth!

The Arminian gospel has glaring inconsistencies that an honest, unbiased Christian ought to see for their illogical, disjointed, forced relationships. And, the only common denominators they have are the false principles of universal atonement, and natural free will. And some of the interpretations that are used for doctrinal explanations, are as confused, and impossible as the imaginary, far-fetched assumptions of evolution.

Both are theories of assumptions and schemes, and are shamelessly and unconscionably put forth as true theology, and science! I think it is often the case, that even when Christian man can't, or won't accept the hard truth of a matter, that he will modify it to make it more favorable to mankind--often by subtle manipulation, or benefits of his doubts, etc.

Which is nothing less than tampering with the word of God, that He warns against in Rev. 22:18-19, and even though it relates to apostates, or false professions versus true beliefs, violation of the principle of not adding to, or taking away from bible truths is a serious offense against God, which the Arminian gospel commits in the formulation of their false gospel theology!

In all of this, when simple logic would answer certain questions or mysteries for both an objective Christian, and a scientist, they choose rather to invent their own ridiculous theories, or fantasies. So, we have to realize that they let their minds be coopted and controlled by the supernatural power of Satan, who is the god of the unregenerate world (and captor of Christians who accept false doctrine)!

All because most Christians do not, and will not, "walk in the Spirit", which should be the operating principle of their lives, but instead continue to "walk in the flesh", or their old nature!

Their reluctance, and refusal to accept legitimate rebukes, and correction from brethren, who confront them with vital truth that they critically need for repentance and reformation--only proves that they do not have "spiritual" eyes to see, and ears to hear, "what the Spirit saith unto the churches".

And, it would be well to remember that "what the Spirit saith unto the churches", in addition to the scriptures, He says through His messengers--whom to ignore, when they are right, is the same as ignoring God, Himself!