

No Justice, No Peace/Know God's Justice, Know Real Peace-- Sunday AM 06/14/20

Introduction:

Over the last few weeks we have seen various signs concerning social injustice, demands for action, and political solutions. The one that stood out to me was the signs and chants "No justice, no peace." That is a pretty powerful slogan but what does that mean in our relationship to each other and to God.

I) Definitions

A) Justice - Right, and righteous is closely associate with justice.

1. Deals with our conduct, how we treat others, what is fair, and good.
2. Just laws protect the innocent and punishes the law breaker (criminal).

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

3. How do we determine what is just/fair/righteous?
 - a. Sometimes man makes bad laws or is unfair in application of such laws. Ex. Fountain Ferry Park and blacks not allowed.
 - b. This creates unjust situations.
4. God's law defines what is fair and just.
 - a. Examples
 - i. Just weights and measurements - **Leviticus 19:35** *'You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. 36 'You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.*
 - ii. Six of the 10 commandments dealt with man's dealing with his fellowman – not covet, not bear false witness, not steal, honor father and mother, not murder, not commit adultery.
 - iii. Sometimes the penalty for disobedience was death, sometimes it was restitution, eye for eye/tooth for tooth. **Exodus 21.24**

B) Peace – freedom from disturbance, soundness, healthy

1. God's law promotes peace between man and his fellowman. **Proverbs 16:7** *When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*
2. If everyone would **"LOVE HIS NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF"**, **Matthew 22.39** there would be harmony and peace.

C) No Justice, No Peace

1. Without justice there is hostility. The statement itself recognizes the need for “justice” and therefore the need for “law.”
2. God’s purpose in His law is to create justice and peace. ***Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.***
3. Fact is man has often disagreed on how to have justice and peace.
4. Sometimes man tries to set aside his law in order to create some type of peace (leniency).
 - a. The penalty has to be paid but there is still some mercy involved.
 - b. The family asking the judge to show leniency.

II) Know God’s Justice, Know Real Peace

A) God is Just and we will receive justice

1. ***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.***
2. His Law is Just - ***Psalms 19:8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.***

- a. You and I may not like a particular law of man – speed limit, no u-turn, no parking.
 - b. You and I may not like a law of God – but the law still applies.
 - c. We cannot judge God's Law - **James 4:11** *Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.*
3. Jesus says we will receive justice before God - **Matthew 16:27** *"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."*
 4. **With God there is no partiality, Romans 2.11, Acts 10.34.**

B) God's Law and His Grace

1. God's law condemns us all as law breakers – **Romans 3.23**
2. Justice demands the penalty for sin be paid – **Romans 6.23a.**
3. God's grace is exhibited in His Law and not outside of or despite His law.
 - a. Some hope to be saved due to God simply laying aside His law.
 - b. Some hope to be saved based on their own good works.

- c. All of the above as hoping to be saved outside of Christ.
- 4. Grace is used in the Old Testament but fulfilled in the New Testament. **John 1:17** *For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*
Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
- 5. Grace can be received or rejected – up to you. A pardon not received does no good.

C) Peace – in and through Christ

- 1. **Luke 2:10** *Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*
- 2. Christ came to establish justice, mercy, and peace.
 - a. With God - **Acts 10:35** *"But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. 36 "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all-- 37 "that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all*

Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached:

- b. Between man and his fellowman - ***Ephesians 2:14***
For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,
- c. No Jew/Gentile in Christ; no black/white in Christ, no rich/poor etc.

III) **Romans 3.21-36 Brings This All Together**

Romans 3:21 ***But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.***

A) God is righteous

1. The Old Law and Prophets point to something better, ***v. 21***
2. This is to those who believe in Jesus Christ, ***v. 22.***
3. Our righteousness is not based on our perfect in law

keeping because we all sin, **v. 23**

B) In Christ, v. 24

1. Those who believe in Christ are made just (declared righteous) by God's grace.
2. Redemption – Jesus paid the price for our sins.
3. Propitiation – refers to the righteous anger of God being satisfied by Jesus' blood, **v. 25**
4. By His cleansing blood we are made just (free from sin), **v. 26.**

Conclusion:

Sadly, man often in his search for peace and justice run away from God. Only by coming to Christ can we be justified and have the peace that surpassed all understanding. ***Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.***
Will you do that this morning?