

SCRIPTURE: Deut. 32:1-4; 35-43

Series on *Knowing God* #3

SINGING: 262:1-3 – 206:1-5 – 13:1, 2, 5 -7 – 400:1-3, 6

Intro: *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge* (Hosea 4:6)

A. Ignorance of God brings

a. self idolatry (Romans 1:22-23)

b. distorted understanding of God's glory (Ps. 50:1)

c. false worship (John 4:22)

d. fatal sleep in sin (1 Cor. 15:34)

B. The cure of self-idolatry is therefore coming face to face with God

a. compare Ex. 33:11, 34:29-30

THE GLORY AND BEAUTY OF GOD'S JUSTICE

I. Why does this attribute fail to *inspire your devotional admiration*?

1. Because we sense it to be *against us* since we are sinners

2. Because we consider it as a *punishing* attribute

a. God's justice is *retributive* (Romans 2:6, 8-9)

b. God's justice is *remunerative* (Rom 2:6-7, 10; Ps. 18:20-24; 2 Tim. 4:8)

II. God's justice is an attribute that is essential to His glorious Being!

1. Scripture describes this attribute with *righteousness – justice – equity*

2. God doesn't only **act** justly – He **is** just – but above all He **delights** in justice

a. Ps. 7:11 *For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness*

b. Ps. 36:7 *Thy righteousness is like the great mountains: thy judgments are a great deep*

c. Ps. 45:6-7: *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness*

d. Ps. 89:14 *Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne*

e. Jer. 9:24 *But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth Me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD*

3. God is an impartial Judge:

- a. Deut. 10:17: *For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh rewards.* (2 Chron. 19:7)

- b. Job 34:10 *For be it from God that He should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that He should commit iniquity.* (Also, Job 8:3)

THREE APPLICATIONS

A. God's justice is a source of great comfort

1. Ps. 7:11-12 *God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, He will whet His sword; He hath bent His bow, and made it ready.*

2. Eccl. 12:13-14 *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

B. God's justice is source of great discomfort

1. We all will stand before judgment seat of Jesus Christ
2 Cor. 5:9-11 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

2. We face our *hopeless condition* for we cannot give satisfaction
Isaiah 64:6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags*
 - a. God's mercy cannot override God's justice!

C. Yet God made a way in which 'mercy and truth are met together and righteousness and peace have kissed each other' (Ps. 85:10

1. The Law proclaims, *Stay away!* The Gospel proclaims: *Draw near!* *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way (...) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.* (Heb. 10:19-22)