

*Introduction***GOD LOVES JUSTICE & HE UPHOLDS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- ❖ Psalm 37.28 — the Lord loves justice & does not forsake his godly ones.
- ❖ Psalm 99.4 — indeed, a true, Godly king’s strength is that he loves justice!

- WHAT DOES GOD WANT? He wants His people to...
 - be **TAUGHT**,
 - be **OBEDIENT**,
 - be **PURE**,
 - be **DISTINCT**,
 - be **WORSHIPERS**,
 - be **JOYFUL**.

As a called out people who are righteous *in Christ*, living in *unrighteous* times, what can we learn? How do we live as *holy* people in *unholy* times?

THESIS — As we walk through chapter 19, we’ll capture our thoughts under two headings to learn to be a “hearer *and a doer* of the Word!”

I. THE DESERVED REBUKE FROM GOD’S PROPHET (1-3)

A. See the **GRACE** of God (1)

B. See the **REPROOF** of God (2a)

C. See the **HOLINESS** of God (2b)
(compare with 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 - don’t be unequally yoked...)

D. See the **PURSUIT** of God (3)

JEHOSHAPHAT was a leader....

1. of courage
2. of repentance
3. of teaching/instruction
4. of pursuit (of God)
5. of encouragement (leaders)
6. of delegation (had other leaders with him)
7. of warning (do not sin & be found guilty!)

II. THE DETERMINED REFORMS FOR GOD’S PEOPLE (4-11)

- Here’s Jehoshaphat totally determined to bring God’s LAW to God’s people and not just to be *hearers* of the Word but to be *doers* of it as well.

The purpose of verses 4-11 is to establish (or, re-establish) a judicial system that is built on sincere devotion to the LORD and obedience to His Word.

Why the Reforms? What’s the purpose?

A. to **TURN** back to the Lord (4)

B. to **ENFORCE** the Law of God (5)

C. to **LEAD** righteously reflecting the character of God (6-9)

Judicial authority depended upon the rule of the Lord and was to reflect God’s own attributes of:

- righteousness
- justice
- fairness
- equity
- truthfulness

D. to **PROCLAIM** a message of warning & blessing of God (10)

E. to **ENCOURAGE** resolute action & comfort w/ God’s presence (11)

Conclusion

Jesus will come and lead **JUSTICE TO VICTORY** (Matt 12.20)

Luke 18.7 - will not God bring **justice** for his people who cry to HIM day and night.

- What Justice **DEMANDS** – holy character to God (=just wrath/punishment)
- What Justice **DOES** – brings God’s punishment
- What Justice **ORIGINATES** – from God Himself

ALAS & DID MY SAVIOR BLEED + O THE WONDERFUL CROSS

Alas! and did my Savior bleed
 And did my Sovereign die?
 Would He devote that sacred head
 For such a worm as I?

Thy body slain, sweet Jesus, Thine—
 And bathed in its own blood—
 While the firm mark of wrath divine,
 His Soul in anguish stood.

*O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
 Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live!
 O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
 All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name!*

Was it for crimes that I had done
 He groaned upon the tree?
 Amazing pity! grace unknown!
 And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide
 And shut his glories in,
 When Christ, the mighty Maker died,
 For man the creature’s sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
 While His dear cross appears,
 Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
 And melt my eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne’er repay
 The debt of love I owe:
 Here, Lord, I give my self away
 ’Tis all that I can do.

Prayer Meeting: *praying through the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)*

1. Reverence (9a) -- example: I thank you that you are “my Father”; you’ve adopted & loved me, etc.
2. Response (9b-10) -- example: Let your holiness be known! Let your kingdom come! Let your will be done
3. Request (11-12) -- example: Give us our daily bread; Forgive us as we forgive others.
4. Readiness (13) -- example: and do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil