

NO DEVIL?

God is often referred to in the Bible as being just. In fact 'Justice' is one of His perfect attributes. Our God is a righteous God in every sense especially as a matter of Law. God cannot do something that is wrong. It is impossible for God to lie. God's Word is all Truth, He has all knowledge, and He is entirely right and never mistaken. That is to say, in His judgments of people, the nations, over all that He has created and in all of His dealings – God is perfectly just. Injustice is commonplace in our fallen world, in mankind's rules and judgments – *but not so with God.*

Now everyone wants justice. How could a society function without it? There has to be an outworking of the God-given sense of morality that is within all of us as an outward manifestation of our corporate sense of right and wrong. The fact that we all crave 'justice' is ample evidence of a Just Creator whose Word by Law dictates our conscience. *Everyone wants justice with vengeance, but everyone wants to be loved and forgiven as well!* Imagine the horror of living in a world where the slightest contravention of law brought instant reprisal and harsh penalty. The fact that sinners are able to exist and live on a planet like ours, proves that God as our Creator who as perfectly just – is also perfectly gracious, loving and willing to forgive as well. God is love and He is a faithful Father to all He has made, not wanting anyone to perish for their sin, *not the criminal nor their victim.* But where or how does God in perfect justice, administer perfect judgment -and yet be capable of perfect love and forgiveness at the same time? Where does God draw the line? More to the point... *where does our perception of God draw the line?*

God by His Word is the Author of all genetic information, but our first father Adam came to believe that by being disobedient to God's Word, (Command), he could be independent of God and independent, in and of himself, as only God

the Creator of everything can truly be. Adam and Eve were deceived. Nothing that is created by God can sustain itself without God's omnipotence. Their separation from the Author of Life through sin, brought death to the whole human race and now all who are born of this one man are cursed by God to suffer and die. God entrusted His Word to Adam. The Command, *'to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil'*, enabled Adam in his sinlessness to have a dependant, loving, trusted relationship with God as Father based on freewill. *(This entrusting of God himself via His Word to Adam made Adam superior to the animals that are driven purely by genetic impulse).* The Command was forsaken and God the Father was forsaken. God's Word then justly sentenced Adam and Eve to death for their rebellion, but here is where God's love kicks in. To restore the dependency of His sinful man upon Himself, God makes a Promise that He would through the 'Seed of the Woman' come one day and defeat sin and death. Now to Adam that same Word of God as the 'Command' which gave him and all of us a conscience, is the same Word of God that as a 'Promise' makes us able to choose to have faith and hope in Him even in our sinfulness. God again in love then cursed the man and woman to work and suffer as a constant reminder of their temporal existence and need of Him. *So then the Word of God in 'Creation', is the 'Command', the 'Curse', the 'Sentence of Death' and the 'Promise' all being the work of God's Holy Word.*

Consider the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. He as the Word of God, (John 1:1-14) is God's 'Sentence of Death' on us in our flesh for our sin. *This Word became flesh and was sentenced to death in our place.* So likewise, Jesus as the 'Law' of sin and death dies and the offended 'Command' is buried and our offences are buried as well. *The Word of God that would otherwise condemn us - is condemned in our place.* Jesus as the 'Curse of God' became 'accursed'

hanging upon a tree and finally God's Word as the 'Promise' is resurrected and raised to life in victory over sin and death. If you believe in your heart that God has raised this Word, His Son from the grave, as the dissolution of the Law of sin and death, and if you confess before men this Jesus Christ, the very 'Word of God', as 'Lord' to obey Him *you will be saved from the penalty of sin.* This is God's plan of salvation. All who refuse this Word of Good News will perish. God is not mocked, neither can He be tempted. God cannot die and God cannot lie. Yet in the life of Jesus the Messiah, he was tempted yet without sin, so although tempted –*he proved He could not be tempted.* He was mocked, he was broken and he died, yet *in His resurrection power, death and sin are defeated on our behalf and His mockers are utterly put to shame.*

The true witnesses of God Jehovah and Jesus Christ, testify that upon this one man – Jesus of Nazareth God placed the punishment for the sins of the world. *From the very outset of human rebellion, either the sinner must die and stay dead or God's Word must die and rise again!* So in one act of love, God Almighty satisfied His justice and mercy to bring salvation to sinners, taking the penalty for their sins upon Himself and His Word who died in their place and rose again that they might have life. This Word of Command who made us, and made it possible for Adam to disobey giving us all the freedom to choose, then as the blameless Lamb of God, takes the blame for our sin. (The sinless Lamb of God became sin for us). As God's Word is eternal in life, He gives an eternal responsibility bringing eternal consequences for all men in either 'heaven' or 'hell'. Have faith in God our Father. Have faith in God's Word, His Son - the Lord Jesus Christ! He is trustworthy and He is able to forgive and save sinners to the uttermost.

Now the Devil's assault on God's love for man, is aimed at the attributes of God, as if to make God out to be less than the one true God that

His Word reveals Him to be. The 'Great I am' is who He says He is. But suppose our 'concept of God' created just a 'perfect man' or an 'angel' and this 'God' then took this innocent creature and made him suffer and die for all the sin of all other creatures? Could such a just 'God' punish the innocent for all the sins of all the people of the world? It would be the ultimate miscarriage of justice! Would such a 'God' be a just and perfect God? Never! He would be the opposite of the real God of perfect justice, and perfect forgiveness. He would be totally evil. He would be the Devil. This 'God' sacrifices at no cost to himself whereas our true Father in Heaven through the death of His Son, sacrificed all that He had to give. This teaching that Jesus is anything less than the eternal Word of God is blasphemy against Almighty God and His Word, against God the Father and His only begotten Son.

I ask again, where or how does God in perfect justice, administer perfect judgment and yet be capable of perfect love and forgiveness at the same time? Where does the perfect God draw the line? More to the point... *where does your understanding of God draw the line?* We all fall short in our understanding of God and His Word but we cannot end up with a different god and a different word. We are not to be the brethren of a false christ or is it just that your religion does not believe in the Devil because in reality, it actually serves the god of this world, the father of lies, of all injustice; a god of hatred, pride and lust. Is your 'god' really the 'Devil', and are you his witnesses? Have you been lied to like Adam? Repentance is a change of heart and mind. Exchange your man-made religion for the God-made Way of Salvation. I say again - if Jesus were not God, as the very Word of God incarnate - then your concept of God is not just, *and your words are from the Devil!*

Consider what Peter says as a witness of Jesus to the false witnesses of Jehovah in his day, (whom Jesus had before referred to as 'the sons of the Evil One')...

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:8-12 (NKJV)

Jesus made the good confession or testimony before Pilate. He said 'yes' - to the question that he was the King, but pointed out that his Kingdom was not of this world. To be the King in heaven is to be God himself in that God, His Word and His Holy Spirit are inseparable. Jesus says, you must be born again of the Spirit of God to enter this Kingdom. Be like the apostle Thomas - confess to Jesus alone, 'My Lord and my God'. God says that the man who does this, 'shall be saved'. It is upon this confession, this 'rock' that Jesus Christ will build His Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.
1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (NKJV)

May God bless all who oppose the true witness of Jehovah and the Lord Jesus Christ with repentance and a truly contrite heart. Turn from your sin, believe the true Gospel and put your faith in the eternal Word of Almighty God, His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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ETERNAL TRUTH FOR OUR CHRISTADELPHIAN BROTHERS