



## Psalm 75: The God Who Judges Righteously

We all know the heart of the Lord is many things. God is loving, kind, merciful, and compassionate. These are all things we know about God. But He is also righteous. When the day will come, He will judge us according to our sins. This is a truth that we see from Genesis to Revelation.

God reveals His righteousness in many ways in the Bible:

- God reveals His righteousness by revealing His will and His word to the world,
- God reveals His righteousness by fulfilling His promises,
- God reveals His righteousness by judging the enemies of Israel,
- God reveals His righteousness in His hatred and in His anger,
- God reveals His righteousness when He shows mercy and compassion,
- God reveals His righteousness by saving sinners.

Nevertheless, there is a good news. There is hope for us. As Pastor Donovan reminded us: God is a righteous judge. He judges the wicked *AND* the righteous. The eternal judgement is covered for those who believe by the death and resurrection of Christ. No matter the type of sins someone as committed, when a sinner recognizes the state of their heart and asks for forgiveness, Jesus' sacrifice covers every sin.

*After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*

*Isaiah 53:11*

The challenge that many believers face regarding judgement has little to do with judgement itself, and almost everything to do with knowing who God is. Because if we know who He really is, we would welcome the judgment.

Today, we try to justify ourselves and measure the world with our own righteousness and our good deeds. We want the kingdom of God without the King. We want the fruits of the spirit in our lives, but we don't want to recognize God's sovereignty over it. Only when we will acknowledge our wickedness and the state of our hearts we will be able to understand that God's judgement also means God's love. It is because He loves us that He disciplines us, and tries to get our attention back to Him. It's only because He loved us that he sent Jesus to cover our sins.

*And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.*

*Revelation 20:12*

Knowing that Revelation was written as an encouragement for the early Church, the idea of the final judgment by the Righteous Judge means deliverance and eternal life with God. His righteousness means that His virtue and character never falter, and are always right!

### DISCUSSION

- What is your interpretation of God's righteousness?
- How can a loving and caring God can also be a judging God? Are both attributes irreconcilable in your opinion?

- In Psalm 75, we see a man who worships God for His judgement. Does it sound irrational to you? How is it possible to worship someone for the judgement that person brings?
- How can you transition from a place of theological confession to a place of functional trust in God?

## **POSTURING**

*“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” James 5:16*

Confession: (admit, acknowledge, reveal, make known)

- In light of our conversation, is there anything that the Lord is asking you to confess and be made known?

*“Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!”  
Ps 106:1*

Thanksgiving: (a prayer expressing gratitude)

- Thank Him for all that He has promised and for His faithfulness upon your life.

## **EMPOWER**

*“God will strengthen you with His own great power so that you will not give up when troubles come, but you will be patient. And you will joyfully give thanks to the Father who has made you able to have a share in all that He has prepared for His people in the kingdom of light.”*

*Colossians 1:11,12*

- Pray for each other for strength, strategy, wisdom etc.
- Listen in prayer for words of encouragement and edification.
- Spur each other on!