

Sermon Title: Gripped by the Righteousness of God

Sermon Text: Psalm 11:7

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to study, understand and apply the righteousness and justice of God.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 vital truths about the righteousness of God to understand.

I. The declaration of God's righteousness. Psalm 11:7 (Deut. 32:4)

Psalm 145:17 The LORD *is* righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.

Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

Jeremiah 50:7 All who found them have devoured them; And their adversaries said, 'We have not offended, Because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, The LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

II. The definition of God's righteousness.

Righteousness means conformity to a right standard, uprightness, being right, or what is as it should be. Righteousness in God, then, is that perfection of His character or that aspect of His holiness in which His actions, activities, and attitudes are always in conformity with His own perfect being or nature by which He demands absolute conformity righteousness in others.

A. **The uprightness of God** – by which His actions eternally conform to His being.

Genesis 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Jeremiah 9:24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

B. **The law of God** – which is the expression of His nature, that is, His perfect standard and the demands for absolute conformity. God commands only what is right, and what will have a positive effect on the believer who obeys. (**Psalm 19:7-9**)

C. **The justice of God** – this is the aspect of His holiness by which He rewards conformity and punishes non-conformity to His perfect standard of right. Put simply, God gives to man what is due Him. He rewards righteousness because of its merits and He punishes sin because of its intrinsic demerit.

"The justice of God means that He administers His law fairly, not showing favoritism or partiality."

Only a person's acts, not his or her status in life, are considered in the assignment of consequences or rewards. So God condemned those judges in biblical times who, while charged to serve as His representatives, accepted bribes to alter their judgments (ex. **1 Samuel 8:3** But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. **Amos 5:12** For I know your manifold transgressions And your mighty sins: Afflicting the just *and* taking bribes; Diverting the poor *from justice* at the gate.). The reason for their being judged was that God, being just, expected the same sort of behavior from those who were to administer His law.

At times however, the rule of God does not appear to be just. Psalm 73 reflects on the apparent prosperity of the wicked. (**Ps. 73:17-20, 27**)

The justice of God cannot be evaluated on a short-term basis. As was the case regarding holiness, God expects His followers to emulate His righteousness and justice. (**Rom. 5:12-21**)

III. The distinctives of God's righteousness.

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is* the Rock, His work *is* perfect; For all His ways *are* justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright *is* He.

The Old Testament and New Testament words for righteousness and righteous means conformity to a proper standard or norm. The Hebrew word (tsadiq) has a basic meaning of straight, firm, or hard.

Moses suggests God's righteousness positively means He is righteous (tsadiq), just and upright, while at the same time negatively meaning He is without injustice.

IV. The demonstration of God's righteousness.

- A. God's righteousness is demonstrated in God's requirement for daily activities of human beings.
Leviticus 19:35 `You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume.` 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.
- B. God's righteousness is demonstrated in God's punishing the wicked.
Revelation 16:4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things. ⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." ⁷ And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* Your judgments."
- C. God's righteousness is demonstrated in God's rewarding of the righteous.
Hebrews 6:10 For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
- D. God's righteousness is demonstrated in God's chastening His people.
Daniel 9:14 "Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God *is* righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice.
- E. God's righteousness is demonstrated in God's forgiveness of sin.
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- F. God's righteousness is demonstrated at the cross.

The response of the believer to God's righteousness:

1. We must desire the righteousness of God.
Matthew 5:6 Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
2. We must seek the righteousness of God.
Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
Proverbs 21:21 He who follows righteousness and mercy Finds life, righteousness, and honor.
3. We must become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
4. We must submit to the righteousness of God.
Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.
Psalms 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
5. We must wear the righteousness of God.
Ephesians 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
6. We must live the righteousness of God. (**Titus 2:11-15**)
Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.
7. We must hope in the righteousness of God.
2 Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.