



## The Just and Justifier

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-36).*

In modern times, the word’s ‘just’ and ‘justice’ are often misunderstood and misrepresented. Justice is not achieved by tipping the scales to correct a past wrong. Justice is not obtained by doing wrong in an effort to atone for past wrongs. Justice is concerned with what is right according to law.

The word most often translated ‘just’ in the New Testament comes from the Greek adjective δίκαιος, which means ‘righteous, observing divine and human laws; on who is such as he ought to be’ (Thayer).

God is just. God is righteous. This means that God’s character is such that everything He thinks, says or does is right. So how could a just and righteous God give to sinful men what they clearly do not deserve? How does corrupt flesh and blood inherit the kingdom of God?

The apostle Paul tackled this problem in his letter to the Roman church, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his

blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

Question: Couldn’t God have merely declared men righteous and justify them without sending His Son to suffer and die on Calvary’s Cross? Isn’t God omnipotent? Wasn’t it within His power to simply let man “off the hook” and remove the stain of sin from him? What difference would it really make?

God must be just if He is to make us just. God must be righteous if we are to inherit a righteous kingdom from Him. Therefore, it is extremely important that God did not merely repeal laws, but that He acted righteously in all that He did for us.

Certainly God could have dismissed all the sins that men have committed and removed all the consequences those sins caused. But by sacrificing His Son, God carries out what justice requires.

Christ on the cross is the once for all sacrifice that satisfies the righ-

teous nature of God, brings salvation to mankind, and makes Him the just and the justifier of all those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

God offers his righteousness to all those who will receive it, not as something to supplement our own good works, but as a free gift that

alone can place us in a right standing with Him.

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