

God Is Love

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 55:9 For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- Why are we trying to determine if God's ways are fair or not?
- What we think is fair is tainted by our own sins and finite mind

Ezekiel 3:20 Again, When a righteous [man] doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Ezekiel 3:21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous [man], that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

- This chapter reveals that if a lost soul turns to God at the end, he shall receive mercy and be saved, but if a righteous man turns away from God at the last moment, then he is lost.
- That is evidently true because the thief of the cross was saved.
- Yet, we declare this to be unfair? Even hold a grudge?
- Did Stephen hold a grudge against Saul? Acts 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.
- We humans create various levels of sin but to God, James 2:11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.
- So if we smoke all of our lives, it is equivalent to murdering 6 million Jews.
- So if we don't believe it is right that Hitler, if he repented at the last moment, should be allowed in Heaven, how can someone who smoked all their lives should be allowed into Heaven then?
- And if we get into the percentage game stating that a certain percent of a godly life is required, then we are declaring works are meritorious.

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John 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

John 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what [shall] this man [do]?

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what [is that] to thee? Follow thou me.

- So why are we worried about the status of other people and how God treats others?
- How many parables did Jesus tell dealing with this very issue?
 - Parable of the workers agreeing for a penny and the 1 hour workers getting paid the same as the all day workers
 - The wayward son that demanded all that is owed him before dad dies so he can go and have fun only to come home to a brother who is jealous
- We need to stop thinking how God will treat others and just worry how God will treat us, for He says, "he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

- And if it is not looking to how God will treat others, then it is looking to God's failed ways when it is humans that do not do it exactly the way God says so
- We have to remember, Matthew 7:14 Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
- That means we may never encounter a truly godly person with success in their life
 - All of Israel, only Moses, Joshua, Caleb
 - All of Israel, only John the Baptist and Jesus, maybe Mary Magdalene, not even the disciples
 - All of Israel, only Elijah and 7,000 that did not bend the knee to Baal, but out of millions is Israelites, that's not many
 - Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego only were true to God
 - Only Jeremiah in his day
 - Noah and his family
 - Only Lot was saved from Sodom
- And setting up extreme comparisons is the work of Satan

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- It takes effort to unlearn the worldly way and to present God's way in a positive light

WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE?

- John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
- John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
- Romans 5:8-10 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
- 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

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Isaiah 55:6-9

Ezekiel 3:20-21

John 21:20-22

1 Corinthians 3:18-19

John 3:16-17

John 15:13

Romans 5:8-10

2 Peter 3:9