

# The Attributes of God ~ His Righteousness

**Intro:** The Righteousness of God is an attribute closely related to His Holiness. It specifically speaks of God's perfect conformity to His Law ... not that He is subject to that standard for God IS the standard! As the standard, God is the perfect Judge of the just and the unjust, and the punisher of all evil.

## Deuteronomy 32:

3 "For I proclaim the name of the LORD;  
Ascribe greatness to our God!

4 "The Rock!  
His work is perfect,  
For all His ways are just;  
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,  
Righteous and upright is He.

## Psalms 72:2

He will judge your people in righteousness,  
your afflicted ones with justice.

## Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

## Note and mark

- How God's work & ways are described. Deut 32:4
- How God is described. Deut 32:4
- How God will judge. Psalm 72:2

## Interpretation:

Deuteronomy 32:4 Paraphrase this verse in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_

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What if God was not righteous and just. What affect would that have?

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What affect does the righteousness of God have on us? \_\_\_\_\_

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Psalms 72:24 What does it mean when it says God will judge 'in righteousness' and 'with justice'? \_\_\_\_\_

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What gives God the right to Judge? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Note:

In his final words to Israel, Moses proclaims the righteousness of God, in the perfection of His work and the justness of His ways. The Israelites are about to enter the land promised them by God. In preparation, God has warned Moses that they will forsake Him and break the covenant He made with them by worshipping other gods. So these words of Moses are designed to lay the foundation for the judgments of God that are sure to come. The cornerstone of that foundation is the righteousness of God.

## Note:

God will judge us. Make no mistake about that. But in His judgments, God will always be just. It is impossible for Him not to be, for God cannot help but be just.  
Because God is righteous, He alone has the right to judge, for His judgments are always perfect and just.

# The Attributes of God ~ His Righteousness (Cont)

## Romans 1:

- 17 For in (the gospel)  
the righteousness of God is revealed  
from faith to faith;  
as it is written,  
"BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man  
SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."  
18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven  
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness  
of men  
who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

## Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

## Romans 2:5

But because of your stubbornness  
and unrepentant heart  
you are storing up wrath for yourself  
in the day of wrath  
and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

## Note and mark

- What is revealed in the gospel. Romans 1:17
- What is revealed from heaven. Romans 1:18
- What will be revealed in the day of wrath. Romans 2:5

## Interpretation:

Romans 1:17-18 How does the gospel reveal the righteousness of God?

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Why is 'the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness'?

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How do men 'suppress the truth in unrighteousness? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does verse 18 relate to verse 17? \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 2:5 How does this verse relate to 1:17-18? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Note:

Few of us think about the Righteousness of God when we consider the Gospel message, but God's Righteousness is both the problem that necessitated the Gospel and the solution provided for by It.

Romans 1:18 & 2:5 outline sinful man's destiny without Christ ... God's wrath and His righteous judgment. That's bad news.

God's response was to send His Son to live a perfectly righteous life in order that He might become an acceptable sacrifice for sin.

God forgives the sins done by all who believe in Jesus, and credits them with His righteousness that they did not do. That's the good news!

### Note:

Picture this verse in your mind. Can you imagine the vat that is storing up the increasing amount of wrath God has for people's sins? What more do we need to motivate us to share Christ with others!

**Application Principles:** In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Righteousness?

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**Application Practicals:** In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

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**Write out a verse from above** that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

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**From what you learned,** how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

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**Final Note:**  
The Righteousness of God is that perfection by which God is both the Standard and Judge of righteousness. It is that attribute which ought to fill us with the fear of God, and the motivation to keep us from anything that would cause His displeasure. Though the world tries to diminish and even eliminate this aspect of God, it is this aspect to which we will all have to give an account. Every person will be measured against God's perfect Righteousness. And only those who have repented of their sin, received God's forgiveness in Christ and been credited with the righteousness of Jesus, will be able to measure up to God's perfect standard!

*God is Righteous*  
*He will judge the living and the dead!*