

**Introduction: Two Questions -
that Disturb Believers and Unbelievers Alike**

1. Why do bad things happen to good people?

2. Why do good things happen to bad people?

The Real Issue is . . . “Life’s not _____!”

Defining “The Justice of God”

- Revealed through Abraham

Genesis 18:25 (NIV)

“Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

- Revealed through the Psalmist

Psalm 97:2 (NIV)

“Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.”

“Justice embodies the idea of moral equity, and iniquity is the exact opposite; it is *in*-equity, the absence of equality from human thoughts and acts. Judgment is the application of equity to moral situations and may be favorable or unfavorable according to whether the one under examination has been equitable or inequitable in heart and conduct.”

A. W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*

“. . . it becomes clear that the Bible’s proclamation of God’s work as Judge is part of its witness to His character . . . It shows us also that the heart of the justice which expresses God’s nature is retribution, the rendering to men, what they have deserved; for this is the essence of the judge’s task. To reward good with good, and evil with evil, is natural to God. So, when the New Testament speaks of the final judgment, it always represents it in terms of retribution. God will judge all men, it says, ‘according to their works’ (Matthew 16:27; Revelation 20:12f).”

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

How does God reveal His justice to us?

1. Through the _____ Order Romans 1:18-20

2. Through the _____ Romans 2:15-16; Acts 28:3-6

“These, then are the two points I wanted to make. First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in.”

C. S. Lewis

3. Through His Role as _____ Hebrews 12:23; 2 Timothy 4:8; John 5:22

4. Through the _____ Romans 3:25-26 (NIV)

²⁵God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished- ²⁶he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

5. Through the Promise of _____

• For Believers 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

• For Unbelievers Hebrews 9:27

How are we to respond to God's justice?

1. _____ to embrace Jesus today as your Savior rather than meet Him as your righteous judge later.
John 5:22-24
2. _____ to take revenge when treated unjustly knowing God and God alone is judge.
Romans 12:17-21
3. _____ when you encounter injustice knowing God will "balance the scales" either in this life or the next.
Psalm 73
4. _____ deeply on the reality of the "judgment seat of Christ," the promise of spiritual reward and loss.
2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15