

SERIES INTRO //

Over the last few weeks we have looked through the perfect nature of our God, and today we will be looking at how he is perfect in His justice and judgement.

SCRIPTURE // JAMES 4:12 NLT

“God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy.”

Whether believers of God, unbelievers, and everything in between, one truth remains: **GOD WILL JUDGE ALL PEOPLE AND ALL WILL HAVE TO STAND BEFORE HIM. HE HAS THE POWER TO SAVE OR TO DESTROY.** This can be a scary thought!

ILLUSTRATION //

- **Story of when you broke or did something and knew you would have to face the wrath of your parents.**
 - **This is how many of us live our lives as believers. In this fear that God, the big mean judge, is one day going to punish you for every little thing you have done.**
 - **This mindset affects our view of God and also our relationship with God.**

MAIN POINT // God is the Perfect Judge and it's Good News for Us.

- God is perfect in His justice and judgement.
- When we judge we judge based on bias or perspective. When we judge we judge based on our experiences and even worse our evil hearts. Only God can truly bring justice and judge correctly.

WHAT IS GOD'S JUSTICE + JUDGEMENT? - God's perfect ability to be right, make all things that are wrong right.

- God is perfect in his judgement, He will eradicate evil and all wrong. All crime, all oppression, all brokenness, all sin. He doesn't judge unfairly, with bias, or irrationally. He will judge all creation, perfectly.
- This can be a scary thought because we sin, we are broken, does this mean we are on the chopping block?
- This often makes us think: How can a perfect God be perfect in His judgement but also perfect in His love? If we make mistakes, how will He judge us?

ILLUSTRATION //

- **Share this story:**
 - **There are two best friends. They are inseparable. They love each other greatly.**
 - **But one day they choose different paths. One to a life of crime, the other to a life of justice and good. The more one friend did crime, the more he felt guilty and pushed away from his best friend.**
 - **So the one good friend becomes a judge. The most powerful and fair judge in all the land. He ALWAYS judges fairly.**

- But there is a dilemma: one day, the most notorious criminal in all the land comes into his courtroom, the only problem is it was his old best friend!
- There is a decision this judge has to make. He deeply loves his friend but also he is deeply dedicated to justice and fair judgement. So what does he do?
- This good judge steps up to the stand and does what must be done. He must carry out justice. He gives his friend the full penalty and his friend is left with an unpayable, insurmountable debt. The judge wept knowing his friend can't pay it.
- But then the good judge does something unthinkable that leaves everyone in attendance in shock and awe...
- The good judge steps down from his position of power, he takes off his robes of authority, takes his friend's sentence of great debt, and writes a check fully paying off all debt.
- He tells his old friend I love you, I want more for your life than this. Would you accept this check, start a new life, and be my friend again?

The good news is that God's perfect justice (His powerful ability and nature to make all things right) includes in his mercy and grace taking our offense and penalty on himself through the cross. Jesus pays the debt of our sin with His blood. Now when we are judged, it is not a judgement of heaven or hell. THAT judgement and wrath was fully taken on by Jesus on the cross.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

We will still stand before Jesus, not awaiting heaven or hell, but awaiting the judgement of our effectiveness in following Jesus. Did we do all we could in this life to glorify and love Jesus?

CHALLENGE / RESPONSE:

- How does knowing that you will have to stand before the one who paid it all for you affect your life right now?
- Who do you need to share Jesus with so they can be judged in the same way.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live for Jesus and give you the opportunity to tell other about Jesus.