

John 276 “All This So That The World May Believe” *John 17:1-7*

It's God's desire that His human creatures get to know Him personally and come to know about Him in great detail, so much so that He sent His Son to us to explain His Father's purpose in creation.

The Lord Jesus tells us in John 17 that His Father has not only declared His plan to man through His Son but also that He provided an instruction manual so that the world may believe that He is intimately interested in having fellowship with His creation.

God is not only ever vigilant but FAITHFUL to the point of perfection in His quest to see to it that the gift of the Church which He gave to His Son remains intact throughout its time on earth and on into eternity.

God's faithfulness is the consistency of His character to do the same thing every time on the basis of Who the Lord Jesus is and what He has done and promises to do!

God's consistency is obviously seen in the fact that every promise He makes, He keeps; there never was a time when God was unfaithful, that thought is ridiculous and blasphemous.

The very existence, function, provision and blessing of the Royal Family now and forever, depends on the faithfulness of God, so it depends on the character of God Who remains unbending forever!

This is why our gracious Heavenly Father has gone to all this trouble to provide for and protect His gift that He gave to His Son; YOU!

Divine viewpoint thinking stands on a simple premise: God has integrity which includes His Righteousness and His Justice and He gave half of His integrity to every Church Age believer. But in our generation, as in past generations in other nations whose apostasy finally required divine judgment, this premise of grace is neglected or rejected because it's just too simple for the selfishly arrogant.

Wherever we look in Christianity today, we find people building their lives upon the sand of human righteousness instead of on the solid rock of God's righteousness gifted to them by God and placed in them for the reference point for their blessings from the Justice of God.

We can see in the lives of believers that one of the major reasons for doing this is that they're trying to orient to God through His love instead of His Justice.

Relying on the pride that's natural to fallen man, too many believers feel they must do something to deserve God's love.

We as believers in Jesus Christ set an example in spiritual matters not by imposing our prejudices, trends or projecting our frailties on others; we do it by making the integrity of God clear to those we come in contact with.

Too many believers today have set up their own selective standard of righteousness and by keeping that standard, they become erroneously satisfied with their self-fulfilling lives.

But they're living a lie; a blasphemous lie by being content with their own righteousness while disregarding God's absolute perfect righteousness.

God's standard is that we must leave all judging to Him and also there's no place for mutual admiration societies, in which we flatter those who share our strengths and ridicule those in authority or those whose weaknesses we don't share.

It's easy to compare ourselves favorably with the obvious failures of others and to be critical of them and impatient with them but not one of us is perfect, are we?

We all will sin as long as we live and although sin is never excused, sin is not the main issue in life, God and His free gift of His righteousness is!

The truth of the mind of Christ is our only hope; we're hopeless and helpless without it; God's truth is our contact with ultimate reality and man's genius is no help; it's more likely a hindrance. If biblical truth does not reside in our souls, falsehood will fill the vacuum and when it does, a high IQ becomes a liability not an asset, having the power to draw in much evil.

This is the story of many who have brilliant minds yet whose souls are blinded to the truth in spiritual matters.

How can we recognize our own attempts to establish our self-righteousness?

The unmistakable sign is when we find ourselves critical of some real or imagined failure in someone else.

We find ourselves nitpicking them often in subtle ways to get them to do certain things and abstain from other things, implying that they can't do such things and glorify the Lord God. It's easy to forget that we too have sinful natures which we must handle in the privacy of our own priesthood.

So, how can we be obedient to the righteousness of God? We must learn that we have His freely gifted righteousness in us and that we have had it since the moment we believed in His Son.

We must understand that we cannot improve our standing by ourselves and that the problem of nagging God inappropriately to pay attention to us is only resolved by indoctrinating our souls with the mind of Christ in us which is the framework for an expanding, systematic abiding fellowship with Him.

Grace is the total fairness of God's blessings freely distributed but when grace is improperly taught as being some wonderful divine sentiment, the reputation of the teacher might be established but the reputation of God will be ignored.

The grace of God is clearly understood by the humble and our complicated opinions are worthless when it comes to understanding God and His plan.

We must remember to adjust to God's opinion and what's that?

Why it's as simple as it is awesome: there's a perfectly irresistible connection between God's righteousness in us and the tremendous blessings of His justice toward us.