God is Righteous
(The Justice of God)

DEFINITION:

See: Deuteronomy 32:4 -

> *He is* the Rock, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he.

"Righteousness" (or Justice) = a legal term that describes a conformity to a standard.

Righteousness is an extension of holiness, and actually describes holiness in action.
Often called "transitive holiness."

God's treatment of His creatures conforms perfectly to the holiness (purity) of His nature.

God's righteousness (justice) is an extended expression of His holiness.

NOTE: Righteousness is tied to holiness in the following passages of Scripture:

1)	Ps. 145:17 -	"The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all his works."
2)	Lk. 1:75 -	Zacharias prayed that he might serve God in "holiness and righteousness"
3)	Mk. 6:20 -	"John the Baptist had a reputation of being "a just man and holy."
4)	Acts 3:14 -	Jesus is called "the Holy One and the Just." A name for God (and particularly Jesus Christ) is the "Just One" cp. Acts 3:14, 7:52, 22:14.
5)	Rom. 7:12 -	God's Word (O.T. Law) is said to be "holy and just."
6)	I Thess. 2:10 -	Paul said that he behaved himself "holily and justly"

*IN ALL GOD'S DEALINGS (WHETHER WITH ANGELS OR MANKIND) HE IS RIGHTEOUS!

5 Demonstrations of God's Righteousness:

a. HIS RIGHTEOUS ACTS IN HUMAN HISTORY

Judges 5:11- there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the LORD, *even* the righteous acts *toward the inhabitants* of his villages in Israel:
I Sam. 12:7)- Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.

His choosing of Jacob was righteous (Rom. 9)

His deliverance of Israel was righteous.
In keeping with His promise to Abraham (Gen.50:24)

His conquest of Canaan was righteous.
Lev.18:25 - And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.

His judgment of Israel was righteous.
He gave warning through the Law & Prophets. Deut.28:25 - The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

b. HIS CONDEMNATION OF SIN (Rom. 3:1-8)
Ps. 51:4 -Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.

c. HIS SACRIFICE OF HIS SON (Rom. 3:25-26; II Cor. 5:21)
Rom.3:25-26 - Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

v. 26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Cor. 5:21)

Christ's death shows that God is "neither indifferent to sin nor regards it lightly" (Vines, p. 298).

SEE Rom. 8:3 - God "condemned sin in the flesh" of His Son.

"The Just [died] for the unjust" (I Pet. 3:18).

d. HIS GRACIOUS OFFER OF ETERNAL LIFE (Gal. 2:16-17; 3:11, 24)

Job 15:14-16
14 What *is* man, that he should be clean? and *he which is* born of a woman, that he should be righteous?
15 Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.
16 How much more abominable and filthy *is* man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

God could not be righteous and offer us eternal life any other way than by grace. Why? Because none of us could do enough to earn Heaven. None of us could undo our sin.

In light of the fact that "there is not a just man upon earth..." (Ecc.7:20),

Job asked: "How should a man be just with God?" (Job 9:2, 25:4)

The Answer: Is. 53:11 - "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant (Jesus Christ) justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."

Note what God says about those who try to establish their own righteousness (Rom. 10:3)

For us to offer God our righteousness to gain His Heaven & all that comes "in Christ" is like someone offering a car dealer $5.00 for a new Rolls Royce. Actually it is more like offering "filthy rags" (Is. 64:6)

Because of Christ, God's righteousness is balanced with His mercy, grace, and peace (Ps. 112:4; 116:5; cp. Jer. 9:24).

Ps. 85:10 - "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other."

e. HIS JUDGMENT

1) Present Judgment - "sowing and reaping" (Gal. 6:7)

The consistent, unalterable, law of "sowing and reaping" shows that no one can do good or bad without being rewarded accordingly for what is done. No one gets away with sin (not even the greatest of the Bible's Heroes - David; Moses)

If you want to reap a good harvest in your future, begin planting new seed today!

2) Future Judgment (see: Romans 2)

Because He is righteous, His judgment will be:

a) Righteous (cp. Acts 17:31; v. 2)

Many to deceive themselves into thinking that they are "OK" but at the judgement, the real truth (according to God's standards) will be known.

b) Inescapable (v. 3)

The believer can praise God that the judgement for his sin has been paid for at Calvary. However, our sin will prevent us from doing good works that will earn eternal reward. We will be examined on judgement day for the quality of our works.

c) Deserved (v. 4, 5)

God will not pay back anyone anything that has not been earned. The judgement received will be deserved.

d) Universal (v. 6)

e) According to works (v. 7-10)

For the believer (I Cor.3; II Cor.5) - Our good works will determine the degree of rewards to be enjoyed for eternity.

For the unbeliever (Rev. 20:11-f) - Their evil works will determine the degree of suffering to be endured for eternity.

f) Severe (v. 8-9)

The judgement will be no joking matter!
(cp. Heb. 10:30,31 - "the Lord shall judge His people...It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God")

g) Impartial (v. 11)

Today, If people have enough money, prestige, popularity, influence etc. they might be let off the hook and shown preferential treatment for wrong doing -- God, however, will show no such partiality.

h) Fair (v. 12)

1) God's judgment for believers will be just
(II Tim. 4:8; I Cor. 3:13-15; II Cor. 5:10)

2) God's judgment for unbelievers will be just
(Rev. 11:18; Rev. 20:11-15)

3) God's judgment in the Tribulation will be just
(Rev. 15:1-4)

4) God's judgment in the Millennium will be just
(Jer. 23:5-6)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Because our Heavenly Father is righteous, we must be:

1. Honest in regards to money (Lev. 19:36; Prov. 11:1, 16:11; Col. 4:1)
   Prov. 11:1 -A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight.
   (Never cheat on you income tax; bills; loans; tests etc.)

2. Fair in dealing with people (Dt. 16:18; II Sam. 23:3)
   Dt.16:18 -Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment.
   (Don't take bribes or show partiality or favoritism)

3. Sincere in our acts of righteousness (Mt. 6:1ff)
   (NASV = "acts of righteousness")

4. Pure in relation to sin (I Cor. 15:34)
   ("Awake to righteousness and sin not…"

5. Truthful in our speech (Eph. 4:24,25)
   24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
   25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.
   (Don't tell lies, "half lies", "white lies", etc.)

6. Obedient to His Word (Eph. 6:1)
   ("Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right")

"For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness;
his countenance doth behold the upright." Ps. 11:7

Jas 5:16 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.