

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
AUGUST 17, 2022
GENESIS 18:25

INTRODUCTION:

1. **GENESIS 18.25:** *“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*
 - a) The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was an act of judgment. (Luke 17.26-29)
 - b) Judgement is distinguishing and separating the righteous from the wicked. (Matt. 25.32)
 - c) Abraham was concerned about God not making the distinction *“so that the righteous should be as the wicked”* (Gen. 18.25).
2. It can be challenging for us to see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, but God always makes a distinction. (Ps. 11.5-7)

I. BLURRING THE LINES

- A. Anecdotal evidence: Evidence based on personal experience rather than facts.
 1. The wicked prospers while the righteous suffer leading many to wonder if there is a distinction between right and wrong. (Jer. 12.1; Ecc. 7.15; Job 21.7-15)
 2. Are our words harsh against God? (Mal. 3.13-18)
 - a) **MALACHI 3.13-15:** It is useless to serve God because the wicked are blessed.
 - b) **MALACHI 3.17,18:** Yet the righteous are God’s special treasure.
 3. The wicked interpret God’s inaction as approval. (Ps. 50.21; Isa. 57.11)
- B. Inaccurate definition: Righteousness and wickedness defined by personal beliefs.
 1. Inaccurate definition #1: I am righteous because I worship God. (Isa. 1.11-17)
 2. Inaccurate definition #2: I am righteous because my works are good. (Matt. 7.21-23)
 3. Inaccurate definition #3: I am righteous because of who I am. (Luke 18.9)

II. BEING RIGHTEOUS IN THE EYES OF GOD

- A. What is the definition of righteousness?
 1. Righteousness [(Greek – “dikaisune”), (Hebrew – “saddik”): The word is a judicial term in describing your state of being in reference to the law. Innocence.
 2. To do what is right is to speak, judge, act, and relate to others in a way that is consistent with the laws of God. (Heb. 1.9; 1 John 3.7)
 3. Righteousness is to be pursued. (2 Tim. 2.22; John 6.27)
- B. There are three ways to become righteous.
 1. Ignore the laws of God and declare yourself righteous by your own definition.
 - a) Job annulled the judgment of God to justify himself. (Job 40.8)
 - b) Many will change who God to justify their own ways. (Rom. 1.22,23)
 - c) Rejecting God, many seek to establish their own righteousness. (Rom. 10.1-3)
 2. Living by perfect conformance to the laws of God.
 - a) Only one man has ever been successful. (2 Cor. 5.21; Heb. 4.15)
 - b) Everyone else? (Rom. 3.9,10,19,20; Gal. 3.10-12)
 - c) If we were successful, salvation would be a debt owed rather than a gift. (Rom. 4.4)
 3. Being made right by Jesus.
 - a) **ROMANS 3.21,22:** Not righteous through the law but through faith in Christ.
 - b) **ROMANS 5.17-19:** Through the sacrifice of Christ, *“many will be made righteous”*
 - c) **ROMANS 6.16,17:** Yet righteousness is obtained through obedience to the gospel.