

V.O.C. – October 2017

October 22, 2017: Who is God? His Word shows us God as He is toward us!

Dear Listeners,

During the past few weeks of October I had the privilege of speaking to you about God's Word and what it *reveals about God*. We have seen God as God who is *the one, eternal, invisible Spirit*; we've also seen Him as *the living God* who is almighty, all-knowing, and everywhere present, as some of the main *characteristics* of God and who and how He is. Last week we listened to the Word of God which shows us God in His *virtues* such as His wisdom, holiness, goodness, love and faithfulness. As we progressed in listening to God's Word revealing us God in His Being, characteristics, and virtues, we also became more and more impressed by Him as *the glorious God*, great in power and majesty! Yet, as we have noted a number of times already, we may not just observe this as *objective facts* about God, but the purpose of considering all this was the importance of knowing God, as the Lord Jesus has said already, because knowing God is eternal life! We need to realize that God is this way as revealed to us so that we would love Him, believe in Him, and trust Him! That's what should be our focal point today therefore: God as He is toward us!

It is in His grace that God has revealed Himself to us! People have been *groping* in the dark about Him, wondering how and what and who God is, without having a *clue* and without having a *source* from which to know Him. Now God in His grace has revealed this to us in *His Word* and even more clearly in *His Son*, who has shown us the *image* of God. God showed His grace that way, because He wanted to be gracious to mankind, He wanted to manifest His grace to a fallen mankind, with the intention that they should turn to God, believe in Him, know Him in His grace, mercy, justice, longsuffering, in order to have eternal life!

So dear listener, if and when we have come to know God from His Word as expounded in the previous messages, we now should come to praise and glorify God especially for His grace in coming to us to *save* us! He did not leave us in the misery into which we plunged ourselves, but in His love and grace He came to us in His only Son Jesus Christ to *save* us from sin and death and from all the misery and brokenness we see and experience in this world! We didn't deserve this! We brought it all upon ourselves, even though God had created us good and in His image. Yet, man (Adam) in deliberate disobedience upon the seduction of Satan, plunged himself into sin and death. Then we see throughout God's Word, time and time again, that God is gracious to sinners like Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, etc. and He forgives their sins! God did not leave us in our sins but He *continued* with us, *gave promises* to us, and in faithfulness kept these promises and rescued us! That's grace! We would've never done so, but *God is gracious!* He doesn't give what we deserve but He forgives!

You see, dear listener, and then immediately connected to that is *God's mercy* in coming to us from day to day with His gifts, blessings, provisions, and show Himself to us as a merciful God! In His grace and mercy God couldn't leave us in the misery but

filled with care and compassion He showed His *mercy*, His compassion, because His heart kept going out to us! He went after Adam when he trembling fled from God. Although man *deserved* death right away, a life without God, He didn't execute His judgment but gave promises of *forgiveness*, and of a *Saviour*! God is *merciful*! Yes, He is also just, and His justice requires that sin committed against His divine majesty should be punished with death and everlasting condemnation, *nevertheless* He didn't do it but gave us His only Son that *He* would bear our curse and *He* pay with death and condemnation, *cursed* as He was on the *cross*. Thus He showed His *mercy*!

Thus God showed *us* His mercy and justice, dear listener! Indeed, God is just and He *will* judge every sinner according to what he has done, without partiality. God is serious about that too! Of course, for the fall into sin grieved Him deeply and He cannot let this go unpunished. God's entire government is grounded and founded on justice and righteousness (Ps. 89:15)! Hence we never should take it for granted that God forgives, or consider that lightly. The apostle Paul, therefore, explained extensively that God's *justice* and *mercy* go together. God gave His *Son* in order that His *justice* and the *truth* of His Word would be *satisfied* in *Him*, in the punishment *He* bore in the place of everyone who *believes* in Him and seeks his life outside of himself in *Him*! Thus God showed His *justice* in the cross of Christ, and everyone could see it, hear it! Everyone can read about it in God's Word as well that God *is* just and continues to be just!

Yes, that too, God is just *still*! Whosoever *believes* in Jesus, the Son of God, will not perish under the curse of God's justice over sin. However, this means that everyone who does *not* believe, everyone who does *not* accept Jesus Christ as Mediator and Substitute, will have to pay for his *own* sins. Such a one is condemned already! Therefore, the call is going out through this Voice of the Church that *you* hear this word, and believe, and repent, and seek God's grace and mercy and compassion in His gift of love in Jesus Christ! God also is *longsuffering*! There still is *time* to repent. Indeed, God's *patience* is unlimited, *longsuffering*, because He doesn't want to see anyone be lost! However, His *longsuffering* is *not* that unlimited that there won't come a day of judgment! He may have *delayed* His judgment but He will *not* cancel it!

In God's Word we read in the epistle of Peter that he foretells that this day will come, just as it came in the days of Noah in the flood. Then too God's *longsuffering* gave time for repentance *for centuries*, while the measure of His wrath was full. In the meantime God let the seasons continue, made the sun to shine on the earth and gave rain for the crops to grow, etc. Yet, God's patience and *longsuffering* was an *appeal*: heed the warning, repent from your sins, and seek salvation in Jesus Christ! Today too, we're still living in the time of *grace*, and this call via the Voice of the Church shows *you* God's patience and *longsuffering*, because God does want *you* to hear His Word, and repent and believe! And if and when you *have* repented and are seeking your life in Jesus Christ, dear listener, then this time of God's *grace* and *mercy* and *longsuffering* is a time to *grow* in your love for God, *grow* in your obedience to His will. It gives you the opportunity to join God's people in the church and praise and glorify God, *growing* in your knowledge of Him and so grow towards an eternal life in which to praise and glorify God forever! God is *patient*, but there is a *limit* to His *longsuffering*! Then His

wrath will be poured out. Therefore, when you hear His voice today, repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!