

The Truth About God's Ways

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Broadcast Dates: 8/30/23-9/1/23

Message Date: 3/26/23 ● 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures:

- Isaiah 55:8, 9
- John 8:10, 11
- Romans 12:1
- 1 John 4:18
- Romans 3:23, 24
- Mark 7:13
- Hebrews 13:9, *NLT*

Summary:

*There is a huge difference in the way God operates and the way mankind operates. Unlike us, He thinks and works on a much higher level than we are capable of. God blesses us not because **we** are good, but because **He** is good; the grace He shows us is not based on what we do, but on what He has done through Jesus Christ. By contrast, man's ways focus on the mindset that says whatever happens, good or bad, is the result of his own conduct; natural man therefore thinks that he must contribute something to earn God's favor. Our faith is critical here; if we doubt that Jesus forgave us of our sins when He went to the cross, then we will not believe that His plans for our future are good. God punished Jesus for our sins, and therefore does not punish us. Believing this gives us a peaceful conscience.*

Notes:

1. God's mindset is far above our natural, carnal minds. We must not make the mistake of assuming that He thinks like we do. We are incapable of thinking and operating on His level through our self-efforts.
2. God does not do good for us or bless us because we deserve it; neither does He expect repayment from us for the good things He does. He instead reminds us of what has already been done for us by His grace, and asks that we live according to His finished works.
3. We do not have to *earn* God's favor. *Believing* in Jesus puts us in right-standing with God. Attempts to earn God's grace to get back into right-standing with Him are a sign of self-righteousness, which is motivated by the fear of punishment.
4. God shows us mercy and grace, first, then invites us to stop sinning. Mercy is when we do not receive the bad that we deserve. Grace is the good that we do not deserve, but receive anyway; this is *God's way*. *Man's way* is to command that we stop sinning, with no mention of mercy or grace.
5. Accepting God's mercy and love gives us peace. God no longer punishes man for sin. If we draw the wrong conclusion about God, then we will see any type of hardship, adversity, or trouble as the result of sin in our lives and a sign that He is punishing us for it. Sin has consequences in the natural, but God walks us through the situation.

Category: grace

Keywords: truth, higher, blesses, good, grace, faith, believe, believing