

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

God of the Old Testament has the exact same character as Jesus in the New Testament. God never changes. God does not need anything. God does not need to have His anger appeased toward us. Forgiveness from the heart of God is always freely given. However, forgiveness (release) from our bondage of sin must be freely received by us. We are responsible to receive forgiveness by calling upon God believing in the power of Christ to release us from sin's power, guilt, and shame. God has no need to punish anyone. Sin has its own punishment. The wages of sin is death. Sin has produced a world environment conducive to war, crime, destructive forces in nature, disease, health crises, and accidents. Satan is the god of this world. But Satan and sin are defeated enemies of humanity because of the Cross of Jesus.

God does move His protective hand aside from believers at times for testing and disciplining us, but always with loving motives. God loves His new creations in Christ too much to let us remain unchanged. God does take away His protective hand from unbelievers at times because they have consistently said "no" to God. The sinful effects upon our environment plays havoc when God takes away His protective hand. When the Flood came upon the earth because of man's wickedness, God just removed His protective hand from earth resulting in catastrophic upheaval.

God moved His protective hand aside from Jesus allowing Him to be bruised and killed by sin. Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice for the condemnation of sin. Sin killed sinless Jesus proving itself worthy of extermination. The hosts of Heaven agree that sin and Satan should be removed from creation because of sin's atrocious deed. Jesus arose from the dead with power and authority to defeat sin and Satan.

God allowed Jesus to be bruised and killed by sin. God makes Himself ultimately responsible for the results of granting humanity the freedom to receive Him or reject Him, to love Him or hate Him. The benefit of the Cross was to prove God's justice in condemning sin and Satan and His justice in giving eternal life to those who believe and receive Jesus as Savior. For this purpose God says that it pleased Him to bruise Jesus. Isaiah 53:10 Romans 8:3 Romans 3:24-26

God's wrath in all circumstances is His removal of protection releasing sin and the power of the destroyer, Satan. God released Jesus to the power of sin to kill His physical body, yet God oversaw Jesus' death not allowing even one bone to be broken.

THE CROSS BRINGS GLORY TO GOD AS HE PRODUCES TROPHIES OF GRACE

Exodus 34:7 God by no means clears the guilty. Romans 6:23 The wages of sin (the guilty) is death. In Christ, God makes the guilty guiltless. In His mercy and grace, God has chosen that all those who cooperate with Spirit conviction and come to saving faith will be made guiltless. Ephesians 1:4

John 17:1 The hour has come. The Cross will magnify (lift up) Jesus and bring glory to God.

The Cross demonstrates the love of God. Romans 5:8

The Cross makes God righteous in giving eternal life to those "in Christ." Romans 3:26

Those "in Christ" become guiltless new creations through glorification. Romans 8:18

The sinless death of the physical body of Jesus condemns sin to ultimate extinction. Romans 8:3

John 17:2 Power over all flesh is given to Jesus. John 5:22 All judgment is in His hands.

The death and resurrection of Jesus makes Him Last Adam and gives Him power over all flesh.

Jesus gives new birth, a new creation, eternal life, and the indwelling Holy Spirit to believers.

The Father has given His Son authority to win us by love, not to force us to love Him.

We are to embrace His love and feel our responsibility.

Work out your salvation with diligence and watchfulness against temptations. Philippians 2:12

John 17:3 Eternal life is a relationship with God. Eternal life is to know God and Jesus Christ.

Eternal life describes the quality of our life.

When we abide in Christ, His joy fills us to overflowing (John 15:7-11) and His peace guards our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:6,7).

Jesus was diligent in teaching His disciples about God's character and leading them to their own personal relationship with God.

John 17:4 Jesus finished the work He was sent to do by dying sinless on the Cross.

By dying sinless, thus condemning sin for killing Him, Jesus defeated sin and death. Colossians 1:20

There is future work of Jesus (this side of the Cross) which is still ongoing.

John 17:5 The Trinity is Eternal. The Son possessed the glory of God before creation.

John 17:6-19 Jesus prays for His disciples.

Jesus knows that He is leaving His disciples and returning to the Father.

