

*James Crawford – “The Goodness & Severity of God” Pt 1
“The Justice of God Series” - Preached on 5-15-21*

“The Goodness & The Severity of God”

1. The World Needs to Know Our Good God

The people of the world need to know there is a good God in heaven who has a good people on the earth who will help them and serve them. So many people in every nation feel confused, sick & tired and they need to encounter God’s gentleness and power right now.

Our church vision is to help relieve the suffering and guide people to our good, gentle God. We never want to pile more weight on people, we want to help them carry their burdens. We are compelled by God to be good to people, because God is good to people.

I am never comfortable talking about the weightier personality traits of God until I have clarified the goodness of God. I have learned over the years that most people have a natural distrust of God.

So we will start this 7-week series by explaining the goodness of God, then we will explain the severity of God. The Bible is clear that God is both good and severe.

Now I truly believe He is more good than He is severe. That is why we are still alive. He is patient, kind and naturally good to the rankest of sinners. This is the “good” news of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

So, what does this have to do with justice? The simplest definition of justice is “to be treated fairly.” But who defines fair? Thank God that God

*James Crawford – “The Goodness & Severity of God” Pt 1
“The Justice of God Series” - Preached on 5-15-21*

does. God’s definition of justice, or fairness is much more kind, patient and understanding than any man’s.

However, many are refusing to accept God on God’s terms. They only receive the goodness of God and they reject the severe side of God and that keeps them sick and confused.

In this generation we cannot stand by and let people continue in their blindness. We want to help all men in love!

Romans 11:22

Consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness.

2. Why We Need to Understand God’s Goodness & Severity

The world has shifted, and God is responsible. Our uncreated God rules over me, you, and everyone else who has ever lived. He is visiting the entire earth & every man is receiving what he deserves.

To the humble God is showing goodness & revival. The proud man will receive God’s severity & judgment. God calls this justice, and we must learn about the mystery of “His” justice in our generation.

If it were up to me, I would show goodness to everyone. But I am not God, and my opinion does not count in heaven.

*James Crawford – “The Goodness & Severity of God” Pt 1
“The Justice of God Series” - Preached on 5-15-21*

Psalm 115:3

Our God is in heaven; He does as He pleases.

There have been several transitional generations in which it has been imperative that “that” generation knows the justice of God. We are in one right now!

These anointed men were deliverers in their transitional generations:

Noah, Moses, Jeremiah, Jesus, and Martin Luther. The people on the earth in their day experienced remarkably similar pressure as we are in our day. They were required to relate to God differently than other generations, and so are we.

One important note. Satan attempted to murder Moses and Jesus because he knew they were destined to deliver God’s people during the crisis in their day. Did you know that Satan is trying to murder this generation of deliverers as well? Through global abortion, murder and lust?

There are 2 primary personality traits associated with the justice of God. His goodness and His severity. These 2 traits are on full display right now in every nation.

God is revealing His Fatherly kindness and power in unprecedented ways as He simultaneously shakes every nation with His fury. If you are walking in the Spirit, you will encounter the goodness of God, be healthy and fit for

*James Crawford – “The Goodness & Severity of God” Pt 1
“The Justice of God Series” - Preached on 5-15-21*

the Kingdom and the Master’s use.

If you are proud and careless you will be disoriented & you will probably not survive the terrible days that lie ahead for all who resist the gracious wooing of the Father.

Luke 21:34-35

But **take heed to yourselves**, lest your hearts be weighed down with **carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life**, and **that Day** come on you **unexpectedly**. For it will come as a **snare** on **all** those who dwell on the face of **the whole earth**.

Many are offended at God and His anointed leaders as they define God’s justice. They simply do not want to hear that God is judging the world and that He requires a correct response from His creation. They have formed a carnal opinion of God and they cannot be awakened from their prideful slumber.

Acts 17:31

He has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness...

Conversely, many are yielding to the whisper of God to fully surrender their selfish motives and thus they are being anointed to explain the justice of God and to make clear from the Bible, what God is doing in the earth.

*James Crawford – “The Goodness & Severity of God” Pt 1
“The Justice of God Series” - Preached on 5-15-21*

The most important decision we will ever make is to learn who God is. To the degree that we lay aside our pride & prejudice, it is that very degree that we can receive Divine revelation of the wisdom, majesty, and justice of God.

The Spirit of God instructed me to preach on “The Justice of God” for the next 7 weeks. I Believe that this is the most important topic we can search out right now! But then again, I say that every week don't I?

3. God Sits on A Throne of Grace

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to **the throne of grace**, that we may receive **mercy** and find **grace** to **help** in time of **need**.

What an amazing reality. I can be confident as I approach God. I will find mercy, grace and help. Not pressure, shame and discouragement. It's easy to submit to a judge like God.

4. God's Goodness Leads Us to Repentance

...the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Goodness is a stronger motivator than fear.

*James Crawford – “The Goodness & Severity of God” Pt 1
“The Justice of God Series” - Preached on 5-15-21*

5. **God’s Judgment Will Surprise Us**

Luke 16

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

²⁵ “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷ “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

²⁹ “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

*James Crawford – “The Goodness & Severity of God” Pt 1
“The Justice of God Series” - Preached on 5-15-21*

³⁰ “No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

6. God’s Judgment Is Here, Most People Are Unaware

"[God] Who removes the mountains, and **they know it not when He overturns them in His anger**; Who shakes the earth out of its place, and the pillars of it tremble" (Job 9:5-6 AMP)

1 Corinthians 2:15

But the spiritual man [the spiritually mature Christian] judges all things [questions, examines and applies what the Holy Spirit reveals] ...

7. Let God Be the Judge, Life Is Better That Way

Romans 12:19

Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but **give place unto the wrath of God**: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord.

8. God’s Judgment Is Still Merciful

*James Crawford – “The Goodness & Severity of God” Pt 1
“The Justice of God Series” - Preached on 5-15-21*

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in place after place." All this is but the beginning [the early pains] of the birth pangs [of the intolerable anguish]. **(Matthew 24:7-8 AMP)**

9. The Fullness of God’s Wrath Is Coming

Revelation 14

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the **wrath of God**, which is poured out **full strength** into the cup of His indignation.

He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

10. We Will Live Forever with No More Sorrow or Sickness

Revelation 14

¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

*James Crawford – “The Goodness & Severity of God” Pt 1
“The Justice of God Series” - Preached on 5-15-21*

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”