



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

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IS IT LOVE OR IS IT JUSTICE?

I no longer attend an organized church as I believe God led me out of that. However, Elkanah has not taken that step and still attends, though he has been banned from teaching or preaching because he refuses to stop teaching the truth about God's character. That truth is that God is a being of love, not retribution. He loves us and is actively working to save us, not trying to find ways to torture and kill us.

Today is the Sabbath of the Bible and we are Sabbatharians. Do I believe that only Sabbatharians will be in heaven? No. That is what I was taught but it is one of the many teachings I have rejected. We were taught that the Sabbath is an arbitrary test of loyalty of obedience to God. But God is not arbitrary. He does not say "Keep this day holy or else I'll kill you." It isn't the observance of a "day" that saves a person's soul. The ancient Jews kept the Sabbath yet they killed the One who created that day. The key to salvation is to know, in the Biblical sense, Jesus and his Father. For if you know them you will love them.

I know the lady who works at the veterinarian's office. I know her name and by her appearance I have a good clue what her religious preference is. I also know that she does a good job. But I don't know her in the Biblical sense. I'm not intimate with her. Besides Jesus, the only human that I'm truly intimate with is Elkanah.

Jesus told the story of the bridegroom who tarried in coming to his wedding. When he finally came, not all the virgins were there and waiting for him. Some had gone off to purchase more oil because they hadn't brought enough with them and their lights had burned out. When they returned they found that the

bridegroom had come and entered into the celebration with the virgins who had brought enough oil and were ready for him. Those who had gone shopping pounded on the door, asking to be let in but the bridegroom responded that he didn't know them, and they weren't admitted to the party.

What kind of relationship is it that Jesus is wanting to have with us anyway? Since the story of the wise and foolish virgins is a representation of those who follow Jesus and those who only think they follow Jesus, and what will happen when he finally does return to collect his bride, then we can know from this story that what he is wanting is to have the relationship where he “knows” us, or even where we “know” him.

So what is the Biblical definition of “know?” Look to Adam and Eve. Adam knew his wife Eve (they were intimate) and she bore him a son. But this Biblical definition of intimacy is not the sexual act between husband and wife. It can't be. If the Bible definition of “know” is to have sex with someone and Jesus is wanting to “know” us, and if he doesn't “know” us we can't go to heaven, then I can see a couple problems with this.

This would mean that Jesus is either homosexual, or men won't be allowed into Heaven because Jesus is coming to collect his bride that he “knows.”

There is an explanation other than the sexual union. How about that feeling of bonding and utter trust you experience right after having savored the sexual bonding with your spouse, the one you love and have chosen to share your life with? During this euphoria you feel free to say things to the one you love without hesitation because you feel complete and total trust. The word for that is “pillowtalk.”

The Jews once tried to trap Jesus and sent someone to ask a tricky question which was about a widow who had been married to a bunch of different brothers. All the brothers died and she remained childless. So, in the resurrection, whose wife would she be? Jesus responded that they were incorrect in that they did not know the Scriptures. In heaven there would be neither marrying nor giving in marriage.

So Jesus says we won't be married in Heaven? That used to bother me until I began to experience a different knowledge of God than what the church had presented to me. The reason that it doesn't bother me is that God will be our spouse. But it gets even better. He wants to really “know” us. He wants to be so close to us that our relationship is constantly as close as when we are experiencing “pillowtalk” with our spouse here on earth. Personally, I want that

relationship with him. That is a treasure to be highly sought after. Eternally in the throws of euphoric pillowtalk with the Creator of the universe, what a fortune that would be!

And about our earthly bonds? We can still have them in heaven. I won't lose Elkanah. We will still be as close there as we are here. And the neat thing about that is that we will be as close to every other person who makes it there as we are with our earthly spouse. So, I will be as attached to my neighbor as I am to Elkanah and Elkanah won't mind because he is also as attached to him as I am. And I won't care if Elkanah is attached to another woman because I will also be as attached to that other woman as Elkanah is. And it's not a sexual thing, it's simply living a life of love and devotion to another person. And that's how we were created to be. Our most intimate moments will be with our creator.

I seem to be rambling. My intention was to write on what Elkanah told me was the topic of the sermon this morning. It grieves me to hear what is happening in the church I used to attend. Those people are my family and friends, and I even include the pastor and his wife in my list of friends. Yet they are dying for lack of knowledge about God. The church has presented a false picture of God and taught its members that if they believe a different doctrine or waver in the belief of their false doctrine then they will burn in hell.

So people are afraid to stop and think about what they are being taught. They are being led to fear the one that wants to "know" them. And if they fear him, they don't really know him at all for there is no reason to fear. My heart aches for those who are still caught in this trap and are unwilling to see or experience trepidation when faced with a better picture of God. It's so sad. If they would only turn, He would heal them.

Simply put, the sermon today was the message that any gospel that presents God's character as love but leaves out his justice is an incorrect teaching.

The pastor who spoke this doesn't seem to have a correct knowledge of the language because there is more than the legal sense when using the word just. According to Merriam-Webster the word "justice" was first used in the 12th century. That was AFTER the Bible had been written.

Take a look at the following screenshot taken from the merriam-webster website. You'll see in the synonyms that there is another meaning for the word justice than what our modern legal system denotes it to be. Those words are equity, fair shake, and right. Think of your word processor. There is an option to justify your margins. When you do that you are setting the margins right. If you will accept

that retribution is not an act of love, and the act of healing is an act of love, then you have to know that God's justice is the act of setting things right, or his work to bring things back in harmony with the way he created them to work. It's not an act of punishment.

The screenshot shows the Merriam-Webster website interface for the word "justice". At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "JOIN MWU", "GAMES", "BROWSE THESAURUS", "WORD OF THE DAY", "VIDEO", and "WORDS AT PLAY". The Merriam-Webster logo and "SINCE 1828" are on the left. The search bar contains the word "justice", and the "THESAURUS" tab is selected. Below the search bar, there is a section for example sentences with a dropdown arrow. A note states: "These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'justice'. Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)"

On the left side, there are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and a "CITE" button. Below these are two main content sections:

- Origin and Etymology of JUSTICE**
Middle English, from Anglo-French *justise*, from Latin *justitia*, from *justus* —see ¹JUST
First Known Use: 12th century
- JUSTICE Synonyms**
Synonyms
equity, fair shake, right
Antonyms (with a dropdown arrow)

At the bottom, there is a section for **Other Legal Terms** with the following terms: *actionable, alienable, carceral, chattel, complicity, decedent, larceny, malfeasance, modus operandi*.

Do you know where the concept of punishment came from? Mrs. White had something to say about it. If you value her writing then this might interest you:

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from

God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner. – *Desire of Ages*, 761

So what is the pastor of that church teaching? He's saying that if God doesn't punish then he isn't a god of justice. According to Mrs. White, it is Satan who insists on punishment, not God. It hurts to say this but that pastor is preaching a doctrine of the devil. He is teaching people to worship God in vain by teaching them the doctrines of sinful men. Doctrines these sinful men gained from places that were not of heavenly origin.

But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. – Matthew 15:9

Today my plea to all of you who have taken the time to read this will stop and take the time to earnestly seek a true knowledge of, or know, the Lord. It hurts to see my friends and family refusing to know the truth. Must I grieve over losing you too?

With much love and tears,

Hannah