

UPWARD CALL

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God

IN KING JESUS.

(Philippians 3:13-14)

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by – Stuart H. Pouliot

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King Jesus Loves Righteousness & Justice

For Yahweh's word is right. All his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice [judgment]. The earth is full of the loving kindness of Yahweh. (Psalms 33:4-5 WEB [added])

(This translation is used because, as pointed out elsewhere, Yahweh of the old covenant is Jesus-Yeshua of the new. See *Yahweh Has Become My Yeshua* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art53.pdf>)

Over the years there have been several marches in the streets of America over what are seen as injustices. These marches demand *equal justice now*. Whether these demands are justified or not, equal justice seems to be driven more by what a person *perceives, feels* or *thinks* is equal justice (man's relative justice) and less about facts or especially God's absolute justice. It should not surprise us that in today's world of relativism, humanism, secularism, and even spiritualism, in which man is placed at the center of the universe, most people do not truly want equal justice for all; they want justice for themselves or their cause, whatever it might be. Consequently, people see things differently, even when faced with the same set of facts. Simply, they see it through their prism, based on a variety of factors such as one's culture, religion, race, sex, world view or life experiences, to name a few.

It is very interesting that in our day there is virtually no cry for righteousness. In fact, in our modern day of enlightenment, the word *righteousness* is almost never used, except perhaps by some Christians. In our everyday language, especially what comes through the news media, *righteousness* is a forgotten word, and yet, righteousness is the only way to true and equal justice. We could say that righteousness is what defines justice. It is the moral foundation for justice. Although righteousness is not talked about nor demanded much in our day, it appears that deep within the heart of man there is a longing for true righteousness and justice, and a knowing that only God can satisfy this longing. And yet, many reject God's way, preferring to do what is right in their own eyes and not in the eyes of God.

What is *righteousness*? According to *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* by W.E. Vine, *righteousness* is "the character or quality of being right or just; it was formerly spelled '*rightwiseness*,' which clearly expresses the meaning." An old version (1956) of *Webster's Dictionary* defines *righteousness* as "moral integrity"; meaning what is the morally right way to think or act in accord with God's character, will, and law. Stated another way; it means what is right in accord with the judgment of God.

So, what is justice? Some translations use the word *judgment* instead of *justice*, for good reason. The Hebrew word, translated either way, is *mishpat* (H4941), meaning a "verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially." Only the Lord truly knows how to judge rightly or righteously. For this reason, the words *righteousness* and *justice* or *judgment* are often paired together. What matters is absolute justice and righteousness that comes from only one source, and that is God, who shows no bias or partiality (e.g., Deuteronomy 10.17; 2 Chronicles 19.7; Job 34.19; Acts 10.34; Romans 2.11; Galatians 2.6).

There is good news to report for all who seriously desire true justice and righteousness. A new day is coming when all the injustice and unrighteousness of this fallen world will be judged, and a kingdom of absolute righteousness, justice, peace, and lovingkindness will overtake all the kingdoms (nations) of the earth. A marvelous, wonderful change is coming to this world. Great voices in heaven confirm with a mighty declaration that which was inaugurated at the cross: *The kingdoms of the world did become those of our Lord and of His Christ, and he shall reign to the ages of the ages!* (Revelation 11:15 YLT).

The kingdoms (nations) of this world are about to be overtaken by a new kingdom, the kingdom of righteousness. No longer will this world be divided by many kingdoms with many views. No longer will lawlessness be accepted or excused. No longer will injustice and unrighteousness rule the day. The day is coming when there will be one kingdom and one king. This day is when *the reign of the heavens* comes to this earth. It is the kingdom of God, the kingdom of the heavens, the kingdom of the Son of God's love that is coming to this earth, for the King of kings and the Lord of lords is coming, and **His name is JESUS and His title is King Jesus**. The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world is coming to manifestly reign and rule over this earth, to consummate all that He began at the cross and three days later.

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all it contains; let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the LORD, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness. (Psalm 96:10-13 NASB)

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout joyfully before the King, the LORD. Let the sea roar and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. (Psalm 98:6-9 NASB)

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You. How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Your countenance. In Your name they rejoice all the day, and by Your righteousness they are exalted. (Psalm 89:14-16 NASB)

Today, the nations of the world think they are better off without God ruling in the affairs of men, but it is only when the Lord establishes His throne of righteousness and justice on this earth that mankind will come into true joy and gladness. There will no longer be a need for marches to protest injustice, for the Lord will judge with equity and in His faithfulness. Righteousness and justice will bring peace on earth, and the earth will be full of the lovingkindness of the Lord; something that man has not known since Adam brought death into his race. But mankind will not be alone in knowing joy and gladness, for all creation will come into it as well. Can you imagine what it will be like when creation itself is set free to rejoice? The trees will sing. You might wonder how the trees sing for joy, the mountains sing together and the rivers clap their hands. Interestingly, I recently read an article about sand dunes that sing. Scientists are just now unraveling this mystery and discovering that part of it has to do with the wind blowing over the dunes. In the day of the Lord, all creation will sing a harmonious tune as the spirit of God, the wind, blows across the earth. The spirit blowing through the trees and the mountains will create a beautiful, joyous sound.

Beloved, this is only a taste of what the righteousness, justice, peace, and lovingkindness of the Lord will bring to this earth. **King Jesus loves righteousness and justice**. May the cry of your heart be for the king to come soon to establish His throne of righteousness and justice upon this earth!