

GOD DOES NOT THREATEN AND PUNISH IN THE SAME WAY THAT MEN DO

We must show forth the character of God from an eternal and heavenly perspective and not from an earthly perspective. God is not like man. We should not think about God in the same way that we consider men who threaten and punish.

It is not as though God was surprised or was in rage when Israel experienced the consequences of rebellion and sin. Historic defeats of Israel by their enemies was a self-determined consequence, but God allowed and used their defeat to orchestrate a good outcome which has blessed all humanity. God used Israel in bringing redemption through the sacrifice of Jesus.

God is orchestrating a redemption of individual people. Redeemed saints of God, children of God, are made into new creations ultimately changed into totally sinless and totally righteous individuals. God has no need to appease justice or act in retributive anger. God does not change in His attitude toward us. God changes our attitude toward Him for all those who cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction. God is not clearing the guilty. God is making a new creation which is not guilty. Justice is served because new creations are sinless and righteous in their eternal state.

The righteous should not be condemned. Jesus died sinless with all sin cast upon and against Him. Therefore sin is condemned to execution for doing this most atrocious thing and Jesus arose in defeat of sin, death, and Satan. Jesus, as Last Adam, has the authority and power to change cooperating sinners into new creations and ultimately free them from sin and death.

Penal Substitution Theory is ordinarily described in such a way that God had need of change in Himself to appease His wrath, satisfy justice, and be able to forgive sin. These descriptions are false concerning God's character.

Scripture plainly teaches that God has no need to change in Himself. The whole point of redemption is that sinners can be changed by the power of God to become righteous and holy and will experience complete change in this regard in their glorification after physical death. People, who think that God changed, tend to overlook the fact that Jesus died to rescue us from sin instead of to rescue us from God. They tend to excuse their sin thinking their sin has been paid for. Christians still pay for their sin in the present and in eternity. All will be judged according to their works. Those "in Christ" are judged for distribution of rewards. Those not "in Christ" are judged and perish because they chose not to cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction. John 3:16

Jesus did not die to pay for our guilt. Jesus did not die to pay for our sin. Jesus did not die to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus did not die in our place so that God could forgive us of sin. Jesus died to rescue us from sin and make us into new creations "in Christ". God always freely forgives without payment. The Bible never says that Jesus died to pay a debt. Jesus died to clear the way for release from bondage to sin. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Scripture always emphasizes the need for change in the individual sinner.

John 1,2,3

Romans 4,5,6,7,8

Romans 7 personifies "sin" as a force within the human will that can degrade the character of even a believer. There is a war within the believer against sin and can only be successfully

waged by personal cooperation with the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul says that I find a law, that, when I want to do good, sin is present with me. For in my inner being, I love the law of God. But I see another powerful law within me that is at war with my mind. This law brings me into the captivity of sin that is still within me. With my mind I serve the law of God but in my flesh the law of sin. Thank God that through Jesus I am rescued through this war and from this life which is dominated by sin and death.

God says that Jesus rescues believers from sin in the flesh by making us free from the law of sin and death. We no longer have to sin due to the power of the Spirit who indwells us. The battle with sin continues until the believer is released from this physical body and is given a new body made in heaven. God has freed the believer through the sinless physical death of Jesus by which sin is condemned to eventual extinction from all creation. Romans 8:1-39