

How Do You See God?

By Bro. J. Robinson

Opening Scripture: Romans 11:22-24

“Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe to those who disobeyed, but kind to you as you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off. And if the Jews turn from their unbelief, God will graft them back again into the tree again. He has the power to do it. For if God was willing to take you who were, by nature, branches from a wild olive tree and graft you into his own good tree— a very unusual thing to do—he will be far more eager to graft the Jews back into the tree where they belong.”

Before we get to the title of this lesson, I have a couple of questions for us today:

1. **If you see a half of a bottle of water on the counter; is it half full or half empty to you?** Do you have thoughts like Asaph did? Everyday brings you troubles, every morning brings you pains. Are you reckless with your actions because you say: “ I’ll ask for forgiveness later.”
2. **Do you pray only when things seem “too hard” for you?** Are you looking for God to say “Well done” after everything you do for him, or is it enough to hear it once when you stand before him in glory?

These and many other scenarios can shape the way we see God especially if we aren’t checking our thoughts and motives every day. So, by the end of this message we should all ask themselves “how do I see God?”

Do you see him kind to me but severe to everyone else? Do you see him as too hard to please? Or do you see him as both kind and severe.

Don’t be surprised if you hear snippets from what we have been hearing from Pastor and Bro. Sean over the last month because the warning of backsliding and mercy is a perfect example of God being both kind and severe at the same time. God was being kind in praising what the churches were doing correctly and in showing them what they were doing wrong. His kindness is always shown in the new mercies He shows us everyday. But the severity of His punishment is Him showing us that He is also a God not to be trifled with.

So, let’s get started....

1. Why do some people see God as only kind?

A. They don’t understand what sin really is or how God views it. **1 John 5:17** The bible says every wrong is sin, and yes not all sins lead to death, but if one stays in that sin long enough it will lead you to the path of backsliding which will eventually lead to destruction. **Matt 3: 1-10** John the Baptist told the people to turn from their sins and

turn to God, but denounced Pharisees and Sadducees telling them to prove by the way they lived that they have turned from sin and turned to God.

B. They don't see their sin as bad as others. Luke 7: 36-50

Notice the Pharisee never knew or understood that Jesus answered his thoughts. He was so caught up in the woman's sins that he didn't even notice that Jesus was talking about him and others like him. No one should ever think they have only been forgiven a little. We have all been forgiven a huge debt that we could not repay! **Romans 1: 28-32, Romans 2: 1-11**

C. They can't imagine "good people" going to hell. Romans 3:9-23 Matt 7:21-23

Some people are banking on God's kindness to let them skate into heaven without ever getting to know him.

2. Why do some people see God as only severe?

A. Fear. Romans 8: 1-17 Those who have an unhealthy fear of God can never really understand him or please him because the fears they have paralyzes them into producing good fruit for him.

B. Wicked and lazy. Matthew 25 The foolish bridesmaids weren't ready because of their laziness. The servant that was called wicked and lazy because he had an unhealthy view of the Lord. He only saw His lord as a task master and not a loving father.

C. No respect for authority. Romans 13:1-5

3. What are the dangers in seeing God incorrectly?

A. Making this walk harder than it has to be. Hebrews 12: 1-13

B. Not getting to know how perfect his ways are. Romans 12, 2 Peter 1: 3-9

C. Missing out on heaven. Just like the wicked and lazy servant, our misconception of the Lord can lead him to casting us out in outer darkness.

4. Examples of seeing Him as He really is.

A. Psalm 73. Asaph. Even though Asaph had thoughts that were not right he went in and got before the Lord before acting on what was in his heart.

B. 2 Samuel 24: 10-14 Even after sinning, David knew of God's mercy even in punishment.

C. We can truly understand why we must forgive others as He says in Colossians 3!

In closing

Do you have amnesia when it comes to what the Lord has forgiven you of?

Do you think about what the Lord has done for you when it comes to how you deal with people?

Do you scoff at the homeless person you see on a daily basis?

Do your thoughts automatically refer to them as bothersome?

Do you ever think that could have been you? The way you answer these questions could tell you the way you see God.