

God Our Father and Merciful Judge

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Trusting God and His Judgment

God Is More than Fair – He is Full of Mercy

God is a Good Father

- **Lk.11:9-13** – Ask and you shall receive – God is a Good Father
- God's Fair Judgment –, **Ps.119:159-160** – According to His Word ,
 - Hope in fair treatment - **Isa.33:22**

The Old Testament

- **Emphasis: God's sovereignty (in a negative sense), and justice. God is our judge**
 - God is the avenger of injustice - **Ps.58:10-11, Ps.94:1-3**
 - OT pervading **SELF-RIGHTEOUS ATTITUDE** (typical of religion)
 - God is also merciful (compassion toward an offender or enemy) – **Ps.86:15, Ps.119:64,**
- **Fairness and righteousness of God's judgment - Gen.18:25** – God will spare the righteous
- **The problem is: Who is righteous? – Rom.3:10** – No one is righteous
- **Our understanding has a major impact on our RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR FAITH and BEHAVIOUR**
 - **God can do for us only what we can believe with our heart** – (example. **Mt.9:29**)

The New Covenant Perspective

- **Mk.5:45** – A Father of mercy and compassion
 - A realization that we all miss the mark (sin) and deserve punishment – **Rom.3:23**
- **Heb.12:1-4** – **LOOKING TO JESUS** the author and finisher of our faith
 - **Our righteousness** (ability to **STAND FORGIVEN before God**) is from Jesus
 - **Our ability to overcome sin (GRACE)** is from our faith in what He has done
- **Jn.12:31-33** – **NOW** is the judgment of this world
 - Jesus' death
 - Draw all unto me - It does not say "men" –
 - It could be interpreted **ALL** sins of the world were the judgment that He took when He was lifted up
 - **Jn.12:48** – The judgment is rejecting Jesus
 - **Jn.5:25** – **WHO ACCEPTS JESUS** (what He has done) **WILL NOT BE JUDGED**

Questions to Consider

1. Why is religion based on self-righteousness?
2. How is God dealing with us "more" than fairly?
3. Why is it that many religious people cannot receive from God?
4. Please explain the difference between mercy and grace.
5. Why does what we believe about God determine our relationship with Him and what God can do for us?
6. How do we come to trust in God's judgment?
7. What is your understanding of "looking unto Jesus" in Heb.12:2?