



**Series:** Standing Firm

**Sermon:** Part 3: Counterfeit Truth and God's Justice

**Date:** Sunday, June 8th, 2025

Heresies: False doctrines and beliefs that contradict or deny the Truth of Jesus

*But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of Truth will be slandered. (2 Peter 2:1-2 NLT)*

Such teachings are so deceptive because many times they sound like they could be true when in reality they are actually distortions of Scripture in order to fulfill an agenda.

False teachers would say something about God, and instead of verifying what was said against \_\_\_\_\_ and what God says, people just accepted what they heard and followed it to be true.

How do we do what God says if we don't know what God's Word says? How do we know what is true or not true with what we hear unless we test it against what God's Word says?

*"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to Hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it." (Matthew 7:13-14 NLT)*

This does not mean that it is difficult to gain eternal life, but rather that there is only One way to live eternally with God and only a \_\_\_\_\_ will want to walk that road with Jesus.

*In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed. For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into Hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. And God did not spare the ancient world - except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when He destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood. (2 Peter 2:3-5 NLT)*

Just as God's justice leads Him to punish the unrighteous, it would be His mercy that also preserves the righteous.

Even though God judges the wicked, God will also \_\_\_\_\_ the righteous.

*Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was*



*sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. (2 Peter 2:6-7 NLT)*

Instead of moving away from Sodom, Lot stayed in this city of sin as he turned a blind eye to the immoral things happening around him.

*So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue Godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment. (2 Peter 2:9 NLT)*

*He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)*

While God embodies perfect justice and judges sin and evil, He is also a God of love and mercy. These two facets of His divine nature coexist and are equally \_\_\_\_\_.

Justice from God flows from His \_\_\_\_\_.

God's perfect justice demands that He cannot ignore our rebellion and must punish sin, however His perfect love prevents Him from withdrawing despite our rebellion.

Whenever we reflect on God's justice, it brings to mind His loving Gospel, the very means of our hope and salvation.

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus saves us not because we are worthy or because we do good deeds, rather, we are saved because we respond in faith to His loving sacrifice on the cross, enabling us to receive salvation from sin and gain a relationship with Him.*

**Questions to reflect on this week or with others:**

1. *When have you faced a situation where something looked legitimate, but ended up not being true or even a counterfeit?*
2. *How does Peter demonstrate that God is both a God of love and a God of justice?*
3. *How have you experienced God's patience in your own life? In what ways did His loving patience cause you to turn back to Him?*

*Songs used in service: Believe For It (CeCe Winans), Trust In God (Elevation Worship), Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Thomas Chisholm), I Surrender All [All I Am] (Caleb + Kelsey), Build My Life (Pat Barrett)*

**Any prayer requests?**

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we be praying for you about?**