

Can We Know God? Pt 4 God is Gracious, Righteous & Merciful

Psa 116:5 ESV **Gracious** is the LORD, and **righteous**; our God is **merciful**.

If God were only righteous → strict punishment no hope of forgiveness or redemption

If God were only merciful → sin would go unchecked, no pursuit of, no regard toward holiness

If God were only gracious → sense of entitlement - God exists solely to bless me

God is Righteous → **righteousness** (reflects his moral perfection → it demands justice for sin)

- Psa 7:11 ESV **God is a righteous judge**, and a God who feels indignation every day.
- Psa 51:4 GNB I have sinned against you---only against you--- and done what you consider evil. So **you are right in judging me**; you are **justified in condemning me**.

God is Gracious → bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior → opens door for mercy/salvation

- Rom 2:4-6 ESV Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's **kindness is meant to lead you to repentance**? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on **the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed**. 6 He will render to each one according to his works:

God is Merciful -to love/be compassionate → **mercy** extends forgiveness...no mercy w/out justice

They repented at the preaching of Jonah's message about the righteous judgment of God

- Jonah 4:1-2 ESV But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 2 And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a **gracious God and merciful**, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.
- Rom 5:8-9 ESV but **God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be **saved by him from the wrath of God**.

How Can a God Who is Truly Righteous, Extend Mercy and Remain Righteous?

Righteousness Revealed Christ the Propitiation → Just and Justifier

- Rom 3:21-26 ESV But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- 22 the **righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ** for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a **propitiation by his blood**, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be **just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.

PROPITIATION → satisfying divine justice or wrath → spared from the punishment our sins deserve

Either/Or → Both/And

He could be simply JUST - demand punishment for the sins of all - and maintain his holy character

He could be simply the JUSTIFIER - and say all are forgiven - and in a sense true justice is forfeited

But he made a way to be BOTH - through the sacrifice of Jesus - **the one who is judge paid penalty**