

God Judges with the Flood but Favors Noah

Genesis 5-7

Read Genesis 5.

Adam's descendants from Seth to Noah are summarized.

- List verses with the phrase, “then he died.”
- What do you learn from Genesis 5 about the importance of having a relationship with God?

Principle: God delays judgment, but each generation dies.

Read Genesis 6:1-7:10.

The Lord decreed judgment for evil and commanded Noah, who was favored, to build and fill the ark.

- What did God see, feel and say that He would do about evil in Noah's day?
- How do people today respond to what God says about judgment and the way of salvation?

Principle: God responds to evil by setting a time for judgment.

Read Genesis 7:11-24.

Every living thing died except those in the ark.

- What does the Flood teach you about God's faithfulness to His Word?
- What does the Flood teach you about God's patience, judgment and grace that you want to share with someone you love?

Principle: God justly judges all wickedness but also extends saving grace.

Review Genesis 5-7.

- What does your heart really desire: life in His presence or apart from His presence?

Main truth: God justly judges all wickedness but also extends saving grace.

Scripture Memory Verse

“So God said to Noah, ‘I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.’ ” – Genesis 6:13

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Just

God's justice is perfect. His decisions are always based on His righteous character. God cannot ignore sin because He is holy. It would be unjust to ignore wickedness, rebellion and sin. God is just and does not show favoritism. Every penalty will be fair and right. God does not treat His children as their sins deserve because Jesus suffered the full punishment for our sins. Because God is just, He will never punish His children for the sin for which Jesus paid on the cross.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

What does justification mean?

Justification means God declares a sinner righteous because of the perfect life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.¹ It means that Jesus Christ paid the price for all the sin of His children, saved them from God's wrath and adopted them into His family.² Justification means believers are in Christ and declared righteous;³ therefore, God will never condemn His children.⁴

Romans 5:1-2, 9¹; Ephesians 1:4-5²; 2 Corinthians 5:21³; Romans 8:1⁴

Think About It

How can Jesus pay the price for another person's sin?

Only Jesus, God's Son, could take the punishment for all the sin of all mankind. The eternal, all-powerful Son of God became a man, truly human. While on earth, Jesus obeyed God's law perfectly. He never sinned. On the cross, Jesus offered the perfect sacrifice for sin. He took the full punishment for the past, present and future sins of His children. Jesus totally satisfied God's justice on behalf of those who believe in Him.

If God does not condemn Christians for their sin, does their sin still have consequences?

All actions, good or bad, have consequences. Those who believe in Jesus continue to sin in this life. However, because Jesus fully paid for all His children's sin, God promises they are no longer condemned. There will not be even one word of condemnation in heaven. When His children sin, the loving Heavenly Father graciously disciplines them for their good. Often, the consequences of sin are used by God to teach important lessons.

If Christians have Christ's righteousness, does that mean I am "just as if I had never sinned"?

Justification does not mean that I am "just as if I had never sinned." God's children have something better than a blank, clean slate – they have been credited with Christ's perfect righteousness! God declares His children righteous when they trust Christ as Savior. This means they are welcomed into His presence just as He welcomes His sinless Son. Christians will struggle with their sin nature as long as they are in this life; but their guilt is removed, and they are covered by the righteousness of Christ (Romans 4:7). When believers sin, they can run to God and know they will receive His love and forgiveness.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.