

# Summer Quarter 2018

## Justice in the New Testament

### Our Just and Merciful God

June 3	<b>Justice and Sabbath Laws</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 12:1-14</i>
June 10	<b>Parables of God's Just Kingdom</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 13:24-33</i>
June 17	<b>Teachings on Justice</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 15:1-9</i>
June 24	<b>Reaping God's Justice</b> . . . . .	<i>Luke 16:19-31</i>

### Calls for Justice and Mercy

July 1	<b>Parable of the Unforgiving Servant</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>
July 8	<b>Unjust Leaders</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 23:1-8, 23-26</i>
July 15	<b>The Widow and the Unjust Judge</b> . . . . .	<i>Luke 18:1-8</i>
July 22	<b>Entering God's Kingdom</b> . . . . .	<i>Luke 13:22-30</i>
July 29	<b>Parable of the Great Dinner</b> . . . . .	<i>Luke 14:15-24</i>

### New Life in Christ

August 5	<b>God's Justice</b> . . . . .	<i>Romans 2:1-12</i>
August 12	<b>Sharing with Those in Need</b> . . . . .	<i>II Corinthians 8:7-15</i>
August 19	<b>Practicing Genuine Love</b> . . . . .	<i>Romans 12:9-21</i>
August 26	<b>Practicing Godly Virtues</b> . . . . .	<i>Colossians 3:5-17</i>

It has been widely recognized by Bible students and teachers that justice is a major theme in the Old Testament. This is especially true in the Mosaic Law and in the Hebrew prophets. What is not as widely recognized is that the theme of justice is also significant in the New Testament, albeit not in the same manner as in the Old.

By definition, justice has to do with what is right, especially in the eyes of God. It also refers to that which occurs when wrongdoers are held accountable for their evil deeds. But as we know, justice is sometimes meted out in this world, and at other times, it is not. There will be a future day of reckoning, however.

Five of the lessons this quarter come from the Gospel of Matthew; four are from the Gospel of Luke. The remaining four lessons come from three of Paul's epistles.

Several of the lessons from the Gospels revolve around parables of Jesus. Among those studied will be the parables of the tares, the mustard seed, and the leaven, all illustrating something about God's kingdom. Another parable studied will be the story of the unforgiving servant, highlighting the importance of extending to others the pardon we have received from above. The vivid account of the rich man and Lazarus will show that justice is not always realized in this world. The parable dealing with an unjust judge and a widow who persistently sought vindication will also be considered, as well as the parable of the great dinner.

Three lessons revolve around conflicts Christ had with the Pharisees, the respected religious leaders of His day. These men thought their position in God's kingdom was secure. Jesus, however, made it clear that their unjust actions and attitudes were evidence that they did not really know God.

Finally, from Paul's letters we will study what new life in Christ entails. Of course, we will just scratch the surface in this regard. We will nevertheless consider such topics as sharing with those in need and how to practice Christian love. In the end, we know that God's justice will be fair and flawless. But if God dealt with us only on the basis of justice, we would all be eternally doomed. It is only because God's wrath was poured out on Jesus Christ on the cross that we have the hope of eternal life.