

The Place Where a Righteous God Meets Sinners Psalm 11, 14

Introduction:

1. There are people who will verbally say, "There is no God." We call them atheists. But then there are those who would never say that verbally, but in their heart they believe there is no God.
2. Then there are those who verbally affirm that there **is** a God, but they **live** their life like there is no God. So in reality, they believe there is no God.
 - **Psalm 14:1** declares, "*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*"
3. The Bible never tries to defend the existence of God; it simply assumes it. People have an innate understanding that there is a God. In order to believe that there is no God, people must be taught otherwise.
4. There is clearly a great gulf that separates God and mankind.
 - The Bible says, "*God is not a man, that he should lie...*" **Numbers 23:19**
 - The Bible says that God is a Spirit and no man hath seen God at any time.
 - The Bible says that God cannot be tempted with evil. **James 1:13**
5. In nature, character, and essence, God and mankind are like light and darkness. The Bible says, "*What communion hath light with darkness?*" There is nothing in common.
6. So is there any hope for mankind to be able to dwell in God's presence and live with Him eternally? Yes, there is, and God's Word will explain how it is possible. As we delve into these psalms there are four facts we must understand and come to grips with.

First, God's very nature is one of righteousness.

1. Let's read **Psalm 11:7**. God's nature is what? Righteous. Therefore, what does God love and delight in? Righteousness.
2. Righteousness literally means "doing right in action and character." So we could say that righteousness is right actions that proceed from right character.
3. Because God is thoroughly righteous and therefore always does right, God's character is the definition and source of all righteousness. **Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 119:137**
4. The Bible declares that there is no unrighteousness with God (**Romans 9:14**), and that God loves righteousness and hates wickedness (**Psalm 45:7**).
5. God cannot fellowship with unrighteousness. The Bible declares, "... *for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?*" **2 Corinthians 6:14**
6. This creates a serious problem for all of us, doesn't it? Why is this? Let's look at our second point.

Second, man's nature is one of unrighteousness.

1. Let's read **Psalm 14:1-3**. The apostle Paul uses this passage in Romans 3 when he proves that all people (Jews and Gentiles) stand guilty before God. vs. 10-12, 23
2. God gave His law (including the Ten Commandments) to show mankind their guilt and unrighteousness. **Romans 3:19**

3. Nobody can look up at God and truthfully say, "God, I am righteous like You. There is no unrighteousness in me. I have kept Your commandments perfectly, therefore I am righteous and I deserve to be in your presence and fellowship forever."
4. There is a wide gap between God and mankind. What must the righteous God do?

Third, God must pour out the cup of His wrath on all unrighteousness.

1. God's righteous nature abhors sin, wickedness, and unrighteousness. God despises it and loathes it. His righteous nature demands that He must judge all unrighteousness.
2. Notice **Psalm 11:4-6**. You may think, "This is mean and spiteful." To the contrary, mankind is the one who has sinned against God's laws of righteousness.
 - **Illustration:** Kid is behaving like a total brat and the parents discipline him.
 - **Illustration:** A man commits a heinous crime and the judge sentences him.
3. If God allowed wickedness and sin to go unpunished, and if His wrath was not kindled against unrighteousness, He would not be a holy, righteous, perfect God. He would be a sinner like us. If God had a ho-hum attitude towards sin, what would this say about him?
4. **Romans 6:23** states *"For the wages of sin is death..."* **Romans 1:18** declares, *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."*
5. Notice **Psalm 11:6**, *"...this shall be the portion of their cup."*
 - Sinful mankind fully deserves to have the cup of God's wrath poured upon them.

Fourth, Jesus Christ took the cup of God's wrath for the unrighteous.

1. Just before Jesus Christ went to the cross, He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and His prayer likened His imminent cross-work to a cup. **Matthew 26:39, 42**
2. What cup did Christ drink of when He gave Himself to die upon the cross? It was the cup of God's wrath against sin.
3. It was not the physical pain and torture that bothered Christ; it was the fact that He knew He would have to be fully identified with the sins of mankind. He was perfectly holy, but would bear all of our sins, identify with them and make a full payment for them. **2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:2, 4:10**
 - To propitiate means that Christ took the full wrath of God against sin so that we would not have to incur it. **Romans 5:8-9**
4. Can you imagine the spiritual agony that Christ went through as He became sin on the cross and drank of that cup of wrath that we deserve?
 - As I said earlier, a righteous God cannot fellowship with sin, so the fellowship between God the Father and God the Son was broken for several hours on that cross and that is why He cried, *"...my God why hast thou forsaken me..."*
5. This is why when you read the Psalms you must remember that they were written under the old covenant, and you must read them in light of the further revelation that we have today through the New Testament and through the apostle Paul.
6. In **Psalm 11:5** we read that God's soul hates the wicked. You don't read this sort of thing in Paul's writings. Here is what you read: **Romans 5:6, 8; Ephesians 5:2**

- They accused Jesus of being a friend of sinners. Was He a friend to sinners?
John 15:13
7. Jesus Christ allowed the cup of God's wrath to be poured out upon Him so that you wouldn't have to have it poured out upon you. Have you ever trusted Him to be your Savior? The moment your heart trusts Him, all of your sins are completely forgiven and the righteousness of Christ is put on your account. **Romans 3:22;**
Psalm 11:1

The cross of Christ is the place where a righteous God can meet sinners. It is the only place! Trust Christ today.