

Series: Hot Potatoes

Does God Punish People?

November 25, 2018

1. *The wages of sin is death...*
2. *...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ro. 6:23).*
3. Does God punish people?
4. *I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging (Ps. 89:32).*
5. *See, the day of the Lord is coming – a cruel day with wrath and fierce anger – to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless (Isa. 13:9-11).*
6. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son (Jn. 3:16-18).*
7. *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him (Jn. 3:36).*
8. Here's what we seem to know so far:
 - a. That God punishes sin and evil and wickedness.
 - b. That this is a cause-and-effect reality.
 - c. That this is an act of love and justice.
9. *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise (that sin will be punished in the end), as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Pt. 3:9).*
10. What's the difference between *punishment* and *discipline*?
 - a. In punishment – God acts as Judge. In discipline – God acts as Father.
 - b. The aim of God's punishment is His enemies. The focus of God's discipline is His kids.
 - c. Punishment is in effect to honor God's law. Discipline is meant for the well-being of God's children.

11. *Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as son. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been strengthened by it (Heb. 12:7-11).*

12. Does God produce hardship in our lives or does He just allow it?

13. *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness... For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened... Therefore **God gave them over** in the sinful desires of their hearts, and worshipped created things rather than the Creator... Because of this, **God gave them over** to shameful lusts... Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, **he gave them over** to a depraved mind... (Ro. 1:18-28).*

15. What am I going to do with the hardships in my life?

16. 4 things to consider:

- a. Be reminded (Col. 2:14; Ro. 8:1; Heb. 10:10).
- b. Stay calm.
- c. Look to learn.
- d. Be encouraged.