

A CHARACTER OF GOD DELUSION

# SATAN'S BIG TRICK

**TWO STEPS**  
ON THE DOWNWARD  
MARCH TO PERDITION

HOW SATAN CAUSES MEN TO  
DOUBT GOD'S WORD,  
REJECT GOD'S JUDGMENTS,  
AND MISREPRESENT  
GOD'S CHARACTER

**STEP 1:**  
QUESTION GOD'S  
PLAIN STATEMENTS.

**STEP 2:**  
ATTACK GOD'S  
JUDGMENTS AS EVIL.



"For true and  
righteous are  
his judgments."

REVELATION 19:2

SATAN HAS NOT CHANGED.  
**BUT THE TRUTH HAS PREVAILED.**

*"Yea, let God be true, but every man a liar."*

ROMANS 3:4

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**SATAN'S BIG TRICK - STEPS Downward to Perdition**  
**How Satan Causes Men to Doubt God's Word, Reject God's**  
**Judgments, and Misrepresent God's Character and Reject His**  
**Testimonies?**

Satan's first sermon was only a few words long:

1. **"Yea, hath God said?" (Genesis 3:1)**
2. **"Ye shall not surely die." (Genesis 3:4)**

Notice the method.

God speaks plainly. Satan does not openly declare war on God. Instead, he questions, reinterprets, and explains away what God has said. He substitutes another explanation.

**STEP 1. -Question God's plain statements.**

Ellen White identifies the very foundation of spiritualism:

**"But none need be deceived by the lying claims of spiritualism. God has given the world sufficient light to enable them to discover the snare. As already shown, the theory which forms the very foundation of spiritualism is at war with the plainest statements of Scripture." {GC 556}**

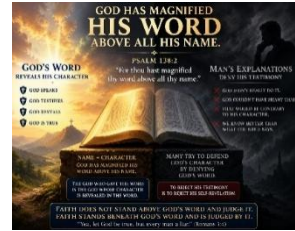
Notice carefully what is being said. Spiritualism is not merely communication with the dead. Its very foundation is war against the plain statements of Scripture. However, she also says "none need be deceived by it"

That was Satan's method in Eden.  
God spoke plainly. Satan offered another explanation.

## STEP 2. -Attack God's judgments as evil.

"Thou shalt surely die" becomes cruel, harsh, unjust, and contrary to love.

That same method is still being used today.  
When God says He judged, destroyed, smote, consumed, executed justice, sent His angel, or commanded judgment to be carried out, Satan's first move is to say:  
"God didn't really do what He said He did."



Spiritualism does not usually appear in its most obvious form.

Ellen White warned:

"Spiritualism is now changing its form, veiling some of its more objectionable and immoral features, and assuming a Christian guise. Formerly it denounced Christ and the Bible; now it professes to accept both." {4SP 405}

This is exactly how deception works. The Bible is quoted. Christ is professed. God's love is emphasized. Yet the plain testimony of Scripture is reinterpreted until it no longer means what it says.

Ellen White continues:

"The Bible is interpreted in a manner that is attractive to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect." {4SP 405}

Satan does not always attack the Bible directly. Sometimes he leaves the words in place while removing their meaning.

Who said it first? **"God didn't really do what He said He did."**

Not Moses. Not the prophets. Not Christ. Not the apostles.  
**Satan did.**

Many today would phrase it differently:

"How can a loving God do such a thing?"

"Do you really believe a loving God would destroy people?"

"Do you really think God killed those people?"

"That doesn't sound like Jesus."

Notice the subtle manipulation. The discussion is no longer about **what God said**. The discussion has been shifted to **how we feel about what God said**. Satan is a master at moving the mind away from evidence and toward emotion.

Before the Bible can even be examined, the conclusion has already been planted: **"A loving God would never do that."**

But where did that conclusion come from? Has Satan not spent thousands of years preparing the human mind to think this way?

Through books, through movies, through philosophy, through false religion, through endless portrayals of man as fundamentally good and innocent. Sin is presented as a mistake, a weakness, a personality trait, and we are all sinners. Its part of our nature we are told.

The Bible describes sin as rebellion against God, a deadly leprosy, a destroyer of worlds, the cause of every sorrow, every grave, every tear, and ultimately the death of the Son of God. Something that is to be forsaken.

Yet Satan trains men to view sin sympathetically and God's judgments critically.

The sinner becomes the victim.  
The rebel becomes misunderstood.  
The transgressor becomes the innocent party.  
And God becomes the one whose actions must be explained and defended.

"The theory which forms the very foundation of spiritualism is at war with the plainest statements

Isaiah warned:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil." (Isaiah 5:20)

Satan's rebellion has always depended upon reversing moral distinctions. Sin is excused, rebellion is sympathized with, and God's judgments are placed on trial.

But Calvary tells a different story. If sin were a small thing, why did Christ have to die. If sin were harmless, why did the Son of God suffer such a sacrifice to save us from it? If sin were not exceedingly sinful, why did heaven pay such an infinite price?

The cross reveals two truths that Satan desperately wants separated:

**God is infinitely loving.**

**Sin is exceedingly evil.**

Modern Christianity often emphasizes the first while forgetting the second.

Satan is pleased whenever men speak of God's love while minimizing the horror of sin. For the less sinful sin appears, the more unreasonable God's judgments appear. And the more unreasonable God's judgments appear, the easier it becomes to accuse God of injustice.

This is one of Satan's greatest tricks:

1. First, make sin appear innocent.
2. Then make judgment appear unnecessary.
3. Then make God appear cruel for opposing it.

This is one of Satan's oldest psychological tricks.

In this way, men gradually learn to sympathize with the very rebellion that has brought misery upon the universe. And most Christians today have no idea that this is what they are accepting as a fundamental belief. The mind has been conditioned to reject the testimony before it is even heard.

Once that assumption is accepted, every text that contradicts it must be reinterpreted, explained away, or transferred to another source.

He first causes men to judge God's words by their feelings rather than judge their feelings by God's words.

Then he causes them to sit in judgment upon God Himself.

Instead of asking:

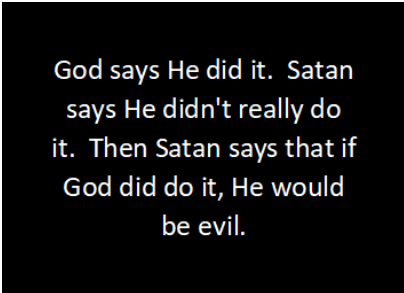
"What does God say?"

Men begin asking:

"Do I like what God says?"

"Does this fit my concept of love?"

"Would I do this if I were God?"



God says He did it. Satan says He didn't really do it. Then Satan says that if God did do it, He would be evil.

The creature begins judging the Creator. The sinner begins judging the Judge. The accused begins judging the Lawgiver. This was the very essence of Satan's rebellion in heaven. Lucifer did not merely break God's law. He placed himself above God's law

and above God's judgments and presumed to evaluate whether God was acting fairly.

The moment we begin saying:

"God could not have done what He said He did because I don't think it would be loving," we have stepped onto the same ground upon which Lucifer stood.

The question is not:

"Would I do this if I were God?"

The question is:

"Has God spoken?"

## **God Has Magnified His Word Above His Name**

At the heart of this controversy lies a question many have never considered: Can we defend God's character while denying God's testimony?

David wrote: "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." (Psalm 138:2)

In Scripture, a person's **name** represents their character, reputation, and identity.

Yet God declares that He has magnified His **Word** above all His name. Think carefully about the implications. Many today claim they are defending God's character.

They tell us:

"A loving God would never do that."

"That would be contrary to God's character."

"God could not have meant what He said."

But in attempting to defend what they believe God's character must be, they end up contradicting what God has actually spoken.

God says:

"I judged."

They reply:

"You didn't really do that."

God says:

"I destroyed."

They reply:

"You couldn't have meant that."

God says:

"I executed justice."

They reply:

"That would be contrary to Your character."

Do we see what has happened? God has magnified His Word above His name. Yet men attempt to defend His name by denying His Word. The God who gave the Word is the God whose character is revealed in the Word. His testimony about Himself is not separate from His character. It is part of His character.

To reject His testimony is to reject His self-revelation. To explain away His words is to place human reasoning above divine revelation. This was the very sin introduced in Eden. God spoke. Satan suggested another interpretation. The issue was never merely the meaning of the words. The issue was whether God's testimony would be trusted. The same issue remains today.

Faith does not stand above God's Word and judge it. Faith stands beneath God's Word and is judged by it. Faith does not attempt to protect God from His own testimony. Faith believes God's testimony concerning Himself.

As Paul declared:

"Yea, let God be true, but every man a liar." (Romans 3:4)

The vindication of God's character is not accomplished by correcting God, reinterpreting God, or explaining away God. The vindication of God's character begins by believing what God has said about Himself.

Once men can be persuaded that God did not really do what He plainly says He did, Satan introduces the next step:

"If God did do those things, He would be cruel."

Now God's judgments become murder.

God's justice becomes tyranny.

God's wrath becomes Satanic.

God's government becomes something to be feared rather than trusted.

In other words:

God says He did it.

Satan says He didn't really do it.

Then Satan says that if God did do it, He would be evil.

Then men begin repeating Satan's accusations against God. This is how Satan tricks people into blaspheming the character of God while thinking they are defending it.

Yet Moses declared:

"He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."

(Deuteronomy 32:4)

Notice that Scripture does not apologize for God's judgments. It declares that all His ways are judgment, and yet He remains without iniquity, just and right.

But the deception goes even further.

Throughout history, some have sincerely believed they were vindicating God's character by denying His judgments.

They have reasoned that because God is love, He cannot destroy. Because God is merciful, He cannot execute justice. Because God is kind, He cannot take life.

Yet consider where this reasoning leads. If it is contrary to God's character to destroy the wicked, then every time Scripture says He did so, God must either be misunderstood, misrepresented, or acting contrary to His own character.

If it is contrary to God's character to execute judgment, then the Judge of all the earth stands accused whenever He judges.

If it is contrary to God's character to punish sin, then the law itself becomes suspect, and justice itself becomes a defect rather than a perfection.

In attempting to defend God from His judgments, men can end up accusing Him of wrongdoing.

They say:

"God would never do that."

But God says:

"I did it."

They say:

"That would be cruel."

But heaven declares:

"True and righteous are His judgments." (Rev. 19:2)

They say:

"That would be contrary to God's character."

"Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?" (Job 40:8)

Yet Scripture repeatedly presents God's judgments as revelations of His righteousness, justice, holiness, and government.

Heaven's final verdict concerning God's government is:  
"Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments."  
(Revelation 19:1-2)

The redeemed do not apologize for God's judgments. They praise Him for them.

The result is a strange reversal:  
God is declared innocent only if He is acquitted of doing what He plainly says He did.  
His character is defended by denying His testimony.  
His justice is upheld by declaring His judgments unjust.  
His righteousness is protected by suggesting that, if the biblical record were true, He would be unrighteous.

This is not the vindication of God's character. The vindication of God's character is believing what He says about Himself and recognizing that the Judge of all the earth will always do right, even when fallen man does not fully understand His ways.

Abraham asked:  
"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25)

That is the question every soul must answer.  
Will we trust God's testimony about Himself?  
Will we believe His Word even when it challenges our feelings, traditions, or assumptions?  
Or will we accept Satan's explanation instead?

Satan's first sermon began with:  
"Yea, hath God said?"

God's faithful people will answer:  
"Let God be true, but every man a liar." (Romans 3:4)

## Question the Inspired Messenger

If God plainly says He judged, and the Bible repeatedly says He judged, then Satan faces a problem. The Scriptures continue to testify against him. The prophets continue to testify against him. The inspired messenger continues to testify against him.

Therefore the next obstacle must be removed.

Not physically. But in the minds of God's people.

Ellen White wrote:

"The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God." (1 Selected Messages page 48)

Notice the progression.

**Step 1 - First God's words are questioned.** -"Did God really say that?"

**Step 2 - Then God's judgments are questioned.**-"God would never do that."

**Step 3 - Then the messenger who confirms those judgments is questioned.**

"She didn't really mean that."

"That was her opinion."

"She was using accommodation language."

"That was her limited understanding."

"She was merely reflecting the culture of her day."

The method never changes. The goal is always the same:

### **Make the testimony of God of none effect.**

Satan understands something that many Christians do not. If he can destroy confidence in the messenger, he can destroy confidence in the message. The history of Israel repeatedly demonstrates this principle.

The people rejected Moses.  
They rejected the prophets.  
They rejected John the Baptist.  
They rejected Christ.

The issue was never merely the messenger. The messenger stood in the way of rebellion. The messenger testified against cherished sin. The messenger exposed false ideas. Therefore the messenger had to be discredited. This same warfare continues today.

Whenever inspired testimony confirms something that men do not wish to believe, pressure immediately arises to explain it away.

Not because the statement is unclear. Not because the evidence is lacking. But because the conclusion is unwelcome.

The testimony becomes inconvenient. And inconvenient truth is often the first truth to be questioned.

The prophet Isaiah wrote: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isaiah 8:20)

Notice that God joins the law and the testimony together. Satan seeks to separate what God has joined together. He first attacks the law. Then he attacks the testimony. STEP 1, then STEP 2.

Then he attacks the authority behind both.

This is why Ellen White warned:  
"The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God."

Not to openly burn the Testimonies. Not necessarily to openly reject them. But to make them ineffective. To leave them quoted but not believed. Referenced but not trusted. Respected but not

obeyed. Read but explained away.

The question is not whether the messenger is popular. The question is whether God has spoken through the messenger. For when men reject God's testimony because it contradicts their cherished opinions, they are not merely rejecting the messenger. They are rejecting the One who sent the messenger.

Once confidence in the messenger is weakened, the next target is the message itself.

Ellen White reveals Satan's strategy:

"It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies." {5T 672}

Notice carefully what follows. Satan rarely leads a person into open rebellion in a single step. He leads them gradually. One doubt. One question. One reinterpretation. One explanation after another. Until the foundation is gone.

Ellen White continues:

"Satan knows how to make his attacks. He works upon minds to excite jealousy and dissatisfaction toward those at the head of the work. The gifts are next questioned; then, of course, they have but little weight, and instruction given through vision is disregarded." {5T 672}

Notice the progression.

Question the messenger.

Question the gift.

Disregard the instruction.

Once the authority of the testimony has been weakened, its warnings lose their force.

Its counsels lose their force.  
Its corrections lose their force.  
Its reproofs lose their force.  
The testimony has been made of none effect.

But Satan is not finished.

Ellen White continues:

"Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition." {5T 672}

Notice that Satan does not begin by attacking the Bible. He begins much earlier. He attacks confidence in God's voice wherever it is found. The process is remarkably similar to what happened in Eden.

God speaks. The testimony is given. The warning is clear. Then comes the question:  
"Yea, hath God said?"

The method has never changed. And neither has the result.

For this reason Ellen White gave another solemn warning:  
"When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable, and ends in destruction." {5T 672}

The issue is not merely whether a person accepts or rejects a particular statement.

The issue is whether they will trust the voice of God when it contradicts their own ideas, feelings, traditions, or assumptions.

For whenever God speaks, Satan's first response is still the same: "Yea, hath God said?"

## **Why Satan Must Attack God's Judgments**

Because God's judgments reveal something Satan hates.

They reveal that God is Judge.

They reveal that God is King.

They reveal that God's law is just.

They reveal that rebellion deserves condemnation.

Satan's entire rebellion was built upon the claim that God's government is unfair. From the beginning he has sought to represent God as arbitrary, severe, and unjust. Every righteous judgment of God exposes that lie.

This is why Satan cannot leave God's judgments alone. Every judgment of God stands as a testimony against Satan's accusations. Every judgment declares that God is righteous. Every judgment declares that God's law is holy. Every judgment declares that sin is exceedingly sinful. Every judgment declares that rebellion against God is not justified. Therefore Satan must attack the judgments themselves.

Ellen White wrote:

"To sustain his charge of God's injustice toward him, he resorted to misrepresentation of the words and acts of the Creator." {12MR 208-209}

Notice Satan's method. He misrepresents God's words. Then he misrepresents God's acts. Then he accuses God of injustice. The method has not changed.

That is why Ellen White also warned:

"But none need be deceived by the lying claims of spiritualism..."

the theory which forms the very foundation of spiritualism is at war with the plainest statements of Scripture." {GC 556}

God says one thing. Satan offers another explanation. God testifies concerning His judgments. Satan argues that God could not possibly have meant what He said. But Satan's attack does not stop there. If he cannot deny the judgment, he attacks the character of the Judge.

Ellen White warned:

"God's love is represented in our day as being of such a character as would forbid His destroying the sinner." {12MR 208}

Think carefully about what is happening.

God says He judged.

God says He destroyed.

God says He executed justice.

Yet men are taught that if God actually did those things, He would be acting contrary to His own character.

Thus Satan places God on trial before the human mind.

He must either:

**1. Deny that God performed the judgment.**

"God didn't really do what He said He did."

**2. Convince people that if God did perform the judgment, it was evil.**

"That would be cruel."

"That would be murder."

"A loving God would never do that."

Either way, God's testimony is made of none effect. The judgment is either denied or condemned. The words remain in Scripture, but their meaning is removed.

This is precisely what Ellen White warned would happen:

"The Bible is interpreted in a manner that is attractive to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect." {4SP 405}

And why is this so important to Satan? Because if God's judgments can be portrayed as unjust, then God's government can be portrayed as unjust. If God's government is unjust, then God's law becomes suspect. If God's law becomes suspect, then rebellion begins to appear reasonable.

This has always been Satan's goal. Not merely to excuse sin. Not merely to attack judgment. But to justify rebellion against the government of God itself.

The final question is not whether we approve of God's judgments. The final question is whether we will believe God's testimony about them.

## **How Satan Really Deceives**

Many people imagine that Satan appears with horns, a pitchfork, open blasphemy, and obvious rebellion against God. But that is not how he deceives. If Satan came openly declaring hatred for God, few would listen. If he openly attacked Christ, many would reject him. If he openly denied Scripture, his deception would be easily detected.

Instead, Satan comes as an angel of light. He speaks of love. He speaks of compassion. He speaks of mercy. He speaks of kindness. He speaks of defending God's character.

Yet beneath these attractive words, he is often accomplishing the very thing he set out to do in heaven: misrepresenting the character and government of God.

Ellen White warned:

"Spiritualism is now changing its form, veiling some of its more objectionable and immoral features, and assuming a Christian guise. Formerly it denounced Christ and the Bible; now it professes to accept both." {4SP 405}

Notice that carefully.

Spiritualism no longer comes saying:

"Reject Christ."

It says:

"Accept Christ."

It no longer says:

"Reject the Bible."

It says:

"We believe the Bible."

The deception is much more subtle. The Bible is quoted. Christ is professed.

Love is emphasized. Mercy is exalted. But the plain testimony of Scripture is quietly explained away.

Ellen White continues:

"The Bible is interpreted in a manner that is attractive to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect." {4SP 405}

This is one of Satan's greatest masterpieces. He persuades people that they are defending God while they are actually contradicting Him. He persuades people that they are exalting God's love while they are attacking God's justice. He persuades people that they are honoring God's character while they are denying God's testimony about Himself.

This is why the deception is so dangerous. It does not appear as rebellion. It appears as compassion. It does not appear as unbelief. It appears as enlightenment. It does not appear as an attack on God. It appears as a defense of God.

Yet Satan's accusations are simply repeated in a more sophisticated form.

Instead of saying:

"God is unjust."

The language becomes:

"A loving God would never do that."

Instead of saying:

"God's judgments are wrong."

The language becomes:

"That doesn't sound like Jesus."

Instead of saying:

"God cannot be trusted."

The language becomes:

"We need a higher understanding of God's character."

The result is the same. God's judgments are denied. God's justice is questioned. God's government is placed on trial.

And God's own testimony is rejected. The most dangerous deception is not the one that openly opposes God. The most dangerous deception is the one that claims to defend God while teaching men not to believe what He says. This is why Satan must attack God's judgments.

Because every judgment exposes his lie. Every judgment reveals that sin is deadly. Every judgment reveals that rebellion is unjustified. Every judgment reveals that God's law is righteous. Every judgment reveals that God is the rightful King of the

universe. And that is precisely what Satan has been fighting against from the beginning.

## **When "How" God Destroys Becomes a Distraction From the Real Issue**

Some insist that the fundamental question is always:

**"How did God destroy?"**

But notice what Ellen White emphasizes:

Regarding the Amelkites when Saul was commanded to destroy them we read:

"In order to save some He must cut off those who have become hardened in sin." {PP 628}

Regarding the Golden Calf when the Levites were commanded to gird on their swords and destroy the rebels she writes:

"It was in love to the world, in love to Israel, and even to the transgressors, that crime was punished with swift and terrible severity." {PP 325}

The HOW is not difficult to find. Some make it as though it is all about HOW God destroys when it comes to the execution of judgments.

In these accounts God used people. God used swords. Judgment was executed. The HOW is already present in the immediate context. Yet Ellen White spends very little time discussing the mechanics of judgment and a great deal of time explaining its necessity.

Why?

Because the greater issue is not HOW judgment occurred, but WHY it became necessary.

She addresses the very objection often raised today:

"The Lord is regarded as cruel, by many, in requiring his people to make war with other nations. They say that it is contrary to his benevolent character..." {1SP 328.1}

Then she explains God's longsuffering, His mercy, the corruption of the wicked, the danger to the faithful, and the preservation of those who could still be saved.

And then she gives the principle:

"Some can see only the destruction of God's enemies, which looks to them unmerciful and severe. They do not look upon the other side." {1SP 330.2}

What is the other side?

Love. Mercy. Justice. Protection. Deliverance. The salvation of those who can still be saved.

This is Satan's great distraction. If he can keep our attention fixed on the act of destruction while hiding the reasons behind it, God's judgments will appear cruel. The years of mercy will be forgotten. The danger of sin will be minimized. The protection of the faithful will be ignored. And God Himself will be placed on trial.

The real issue is not whether we can explain every detail of HOW God judges. The real issue is whether we will allow inspiration to explain WHY His judgments are righteous. Heaven does not apologize for God's judgments.

Heaven declares:

"For true and righteous are his judgments." (Revelation 19:2)

Faith does not sit in judgment upon the Judge. Faith says with Abraham:

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25)

## **The Cross: Satan's Greatest Defeat**

At the heart of this controversy lies a simple question:

### **What does the cross reveal about God?**

Many speak of the cross as though it proves that God would never execute judgment. The Bible teaches the opposite. The cross reveals both the immeasurable love of God and the terrible reality of sin. If sin were a small matter, Christ need not have died. If God's law could simply be set aside, Calvary would have been unnecessary. If rebellion did not deserve condemnation, the Son of God would never have borne its penalty. The cross reveals what Satan has sought to hide from the beginning:

Sin is not harmless.

Sin is not a weakness.

Sin is not merely a mistake.

Sin is deadly.

Its wages are death.

The price required to save man was nothing less than the life of the Son of God.

At Calvary, mercy and justice met together. Love did not destroy justice. Justice did not destroy love. The cross reveals both. The very people who insist that judgment is contrary to God's character must answer a solemn question:

"Some can see only the destruction of God's enemies... They do not look upon the other side." {1SP 330.2}

## **Why did Christ die?**

If justice is contrary to God's character, why was justice satisfied at Calvary?

If punishment for sin is contrary to God's character, why did Christ bear the curse of the law?

If judgment is unloving, why did Heaven permit the Innocent One to suffer in the place of the guilty?

Ellen White wrote:

"Justice demanded that sin be not merely pardoned, but the death penalty must be executed." {YI, Apr. 16, 1903}

And again:

"The death of God's beloved Son was necessary in order that justice might be satisfied." {12LtMs, Lt 123, 1897}

The cross does not teach that justice is unnecessary. The cross teaches that justice is so sacred, so unchangeable, and so righteous that Christ Himself stepped forward to satisfy its claims.

Satan has spent six thousand years attempting to portray God as severe, arbitrary, and unjust. Yet at the cross the universe witnessed something Satan never could have imagined.

The Judge took the place of the guilty. The Lawgiver bore the penalty of His own law. The King suffered for His rebels. The Creator died for His creatures. No greater revelation of love could ever be given. But neither could there be a greater revelation of the evil of sin. The cross forever answers both questions:

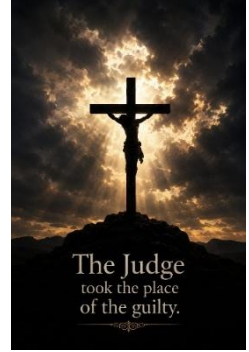
**How much does God love sinners?**

Calvary answers.

**How much does God hate sin?**

Calvary answers.

Those who look only at God's love while ignoring His justice do not understand the cross. Those who look only at God's justice while ignoring His love do not understand the cross. At Calvary both shine with equal brightness.



The final testimony of Scripture is not that God's judgments are cruel.

The final testimony of heaven is:

"True and righteous are his judgments." (Revelation 19:2)

And the greatest proof that those judgments are righteous stands forever at the center of history:

**The cross of Jesus Christ.**

There the love of God was revealed. There the justice of God was revealed. There the true nature of sin was revealed.

And there Satan's accusations against God's government were forever answered.

## **The Final Question**

Will we believe God's testimony about Himself?

Will we trust His Word even when it challenges our assumptions?

Will we allow heaven to define God's character?

Or will we accept Satan's explanation instead?

"Let God be true, but every man a liar." (Romans 3:4)

"For true and righteous are his judgments." (Revelation 19:2)

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