Biblical Christians in Culture. *Looking at the world through the lens of The Word.*Discovering, applying biblical Truth,confronting untruth with Truth.

**Ep. 8: Pay Back**

Justice is impossible if it’s left up to just us.

Law is based on a righteous standard for the benefit of all. Doing justice necessitates that we do good.

*REPEATED THEMES 1. Belief affects behavior and behavior affects belief. 2. Everyone everywhere has assumptions, pre-thinking. 3. Christian thinking is molded by Scripture’s commands, principles, & doctrine 4. Everyone has “doctrine” that forms their thinking. 5. Doctrine influences living.*

Justice or Revenge? *Boondock Saints, Extreme Measures, Night Falls on Manhattan, The Count of Monte Cristo*, Billy Graham, Dorothy Day, William Booth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer; Proverbs 28, 29

“If there is a God, why is there so much injustice in the world?” *What assumption is this question making?* [Injustice is God’s fault.] *What other options might there be?* [Humans are in total authority.] *When atheistic totalitarianism reigned in the 20th century, how many people died by the whim of dictators?* [Hundreds of millions.] *How does this option jive with human history?* [Throughout human history we have seen race after race, century after century respond to contention in the same way: war, violence, bloodshed, slavery, and genocide.] *Have there ever been any human-centered “success stories” as it relates to justice and authority?* [None.] *Are people really capable of doing justice?* [The Bible refers to our inherent corruption and how our mortality limits our success.]

Phrases that Bear Critique (1) Revenge leaves people empty (Obadiah 18); (2) Living-dying by the sword (Obadiah 10, 15); (3) Esau in Scripture is considered to be “immoral” & “godless” (Rom 9:13; Heb 11:20; 12:16); (4) Don’t stand idly by when others attack (Obadiah 10-14); (5) Double Principle: punishment-restoration (Rom 13:3-4, guilty aggressor – innocent victim).

No one likes to talk about God’s judgment UNLESS … we want God to judge our enemies. But not many want to think about the greatness of their OWN sin, and their need for God’s Judgment (Matt 18:21-35, 2 Tim 1.12). The timing of God’s Judgment is not ours (2 Thess 1:6-10, Rev 6:6-10). We may not see God’s Justice on earth, in this life (Psalm 73). Do we ever think, “What’s the sense? They won’t listen!” (Isaiah 6). I often find unbelievers more receptive to GRACE than believers (rush to judgment, retribution over redemption). We think that grace lasts forever: it doesn’t. We think God will always forgive: He won’t. We think that God’s message is all love, mercy, grace but do not emphasize God’s message of hate, anger and wrath. Cultural or Scriptural change?

What Should We Do? Understand our own unjust inclinations; Instead of expecting fairness, give it

Protest for those who cannot protest for themselves (babies, women); Thank God for your freedoms then release someone from oppression (economics). In this life we will continue to encounter injustice. A Christian worldview teaches – people with power have responsibility / People in power can be corrupt and corrupted / People suffer under corrupt leaders / People need to act against evil / Understand our own selfish inclinations and repent of them / Instead of expecting fairness, give it to others / Protect those who cannot protect themselves / Pray for Christians—and others—throughout the world who are deprived of justice by oppressive governments / Thank God for your freedoms then free someone who’s oppressed.

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| In this **life**… | But **Ethics…** | What happens **…Now** | Where it will be just **Me** |
| We want… **Justice** | Will be judged **…Afterlife** | Will be judged **…Then** | …and **Him** |

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| Hope |
| Peace |
| Justice |
| Righteousness |