

JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER

WEEK ONE

**THE SOUL THAT
SINS SHALL DIE**

MARCH 7 2021

EZEKIEL 18:1-4
PASTOR PHIL WARD

SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

I. EZEKIEL IN REDEMPTIVE HISTORY

- A. Pre-exilic history of Judah (Jeremiah 7:1-15)
- B. Exilic period in Babylon (Jeremiah 29:4-14)
- C. Ezekiel's context is the middle years of the exile (Ezekiel 1:1-3)

II. THE SOUR GRAPES PROVERB COMES TO AN END (EZEKIEL 18:1-3)

- A. What is the meaning of this proverb? (Ezekiel 18:1-2)
 - 1. It is rooted in the warning of the second commandment (Exodus 20:4-6)
 - 2. Failure to keep the covenant brings curse (Jeremiah 11:8)
 - 3. A popular proverb expressing the injustice of their situation (Jeremiah 31:29; Ezekiel 18:25)
- B. This proverb will come to an end when God atones for sin (Ezekiel 16:62-63) and enacts a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:29-35)

III. BEHOLD, ALL SOULS ARE GOD'S (EZEKIEL 18:4)

- A. We are God's since He is Creator and we are creatures (Ezekiel 18:4a-b)
 - 1. God gives to all humanity (Acts 17:24-26)
 - 2. God is jealous for us since we are rightfully His (James 4:5; Exodus 20:4-5)
- B. Our idolatry stirs God's jealousy, which results in judgment (James 4:4, 6-8; Acts 17:16, 22-23, 29-31)
- C. God renders the judgement that the soul who sins shall die (Ezekiel 18:4)
 - 1. We will give an account of ourselves to God (Romans 14:12)
 - 2. We will stand before the judgement seat of Christ and only those who are hidden in Christ will live (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 6:23)

IV. COMMUNION REMINDS US THAT GOD HAS SO LOVED US HE SENT JESUS TO SAVE US FROM DEATH BECAUSE OF OUR SIN (JOHN 3:16-18)

EZEKIEL 18:1-4

The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? 3 As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4 Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. What is Ezekiel's context? How does knowing the context help interpret the proverb being talked about?
2. What is the relationship between the "sour grapes" proverb and the second commandment? Why did this proverb become so popular?
3. God promises to end the use of the proverb. How would He do that? How does this foreshadow the person and work of Jesus?
4. What comes to mind as you think about God being "a jealous God?" Why does God reveal to us that He is a jealous God?
5. As you think about having to give an account to God, how does that make you feel? Why do you feel that way?
6. From this sermon, in what ways can you see Jesus as praiseworthy?