



# Trinity's Desert Voice

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus."*

*(Romans 15:5)*

## **Is There A Loving God In Heaven?**

Disaster hits and people wonder, "If there is a loving God in heaven, why did this happen?" We don't claim to know all the reasons for every occurrence in this world. However, the question brings out the matter of God's justice.

Is God being fair with us? I asked the youth group one day, "What would you think if I told you that, the way God deals with us is not fair?" One by one they agreed that things happen which aren't good or fair. I told them that I was thinking of something completely different.

God has not dealt with us in a way that is fair. He has not punished us for the rebellious evil that lurks in our hearts and lives. Rather, He has condemned His own Son, Jesus Christ in our place. Galatians 3:13 teaches that, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'" God has not dealt with us by what's fair according to our sins, but with mercy through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Imagine you're sitting as the defendant in a courtroom. The press corps, the families and an anxious audience awaits the jury's verdict. The foreman stands up and reads, "In the case of the state vs. you...we find you guilty of murder in the first degree!" Everyone knows what will follow...a stiff sentencing and condemnation by the judge.

And now he speaks. "You have been found guilty of the crime committed. The jury has informed us of that fact. Therefore, I shall declare sentence and punishment to the fullest extent of the law." He then motions to someone standing in the wing of the room. Out comes a lone figure. The judge declares to him, "I find that, while you bear no

guilt of your own, you shall be held guilty and bear the punishment of death instead of this one that the jury has found guilty." The judge turns to you and says, "You are free to go. Your debt is paid in full." The crowd of onlookers gasps with amazement for the lone figure — the bearer of your punishment — is the judge's own son. "It's not fair," they cry out.

It's not fair. It's not just. It is merciful "that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

There is, in fact, a loving, reconciled God who cares deeply for all.

Pastor Smith