

SUNDAY - July 12, 2026

God's Righteousness

SERMON SUMMARY:

Psalm 145 declares that God is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works. That truth is easy to affirm in stories of victory but much harder in seasons of suffering. Yet Scripture calls believers to yield like clay in the Potter's hands, trusting that the same God who rules over creation also lovingly shapes every circumstance. Jesus modeled this perfect surrender in Gethsemane, praying, "Not my will, but yours be done."

God's righteousness cannot be accepted only when it is comfortable. The same righteous God who saves, justifies, forgives, and restores also works through trials for His purposes. His righteousness is always joined with His kindness, meeting weakness with grace and sustaining His people through every hardship. Like Paul, believers can endure with hope, confident that God's strength is made perfect in weakness and that He remains faithful in both the mountains and the valleys.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 145:17, Colossians 1:16-17, Romans 9:20-21a, Romans 1:16-17, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 1:9, Matthew 12:20, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What two attributes of God does Psalm 145:17 highlight, and how are they connected?
2. In the metaphor of the potter and clay (Romans 9:20-21), what does it mean for believers to be "yielded vessels"?
3. How does Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39) demonstrate what it looks like to submit to God's will?
4. According to the sermon, how are salvation and forgiveness linked to God's righteousness?
5. Why might it feel easier to affirm God's righteousness in stories like the Red Sea crossing but harder in personal suffering?
6. How does God's kindness (Psalm 145:17) balance His righteousness in moments of human weakness or pain?
7. What does it mean to practice "a la carte Christianity," and why does this undermine genuine discipleship?
8. How does Paul's experience with his "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:9) redefine strength in the context of suffering?
9. When have you struggled to accept God's plan in a situation that felt unfair or painful? What practical step could you take to yield control to Him this week?
10. Are there areas of your life where you're tempted to "pick and choose" which parts of God's character to trust? How can you actively surrender those areas to Him?
11. Reflect on a time when God's kindness met you in a place of weakness. How might this memory help you face current challenges?
12. What does it look like to pray "Your will, not mine" in a specific situation you're facing? How can you model Jesus' Gethsemane posture in this?
13. How can you remind yourself of God's faithfulness in salvation and forgiveness when His ways feel confusing or harsh?
14. In what practical ways can you shift from self-reliance to relying on God's strength when you feel "knocked down but not knocked out"?