

*The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:9-10).*

A few years ago when it appeared that I would be involved in a lawsuit, it was within my power to have the case tried in a court which I knew would be prejudiced against my adversary and would virtually assure a judgment in my favor. After praying about the matter, however, I found that I could have no peace with such a judgment because I would have no basis of feeling it to be just.

Rarely indeed does the outcome of judgments in the courts of men bring peace or reconciliation to either party. More often than not the person who loses goes away bitter, and the person who wins goes away feeling guilty for having robbed or deprived the other party. This is because we know that cases are argued and won or lost, not solely because of the merit or justice of the matter, but largely because of the skill or devices of the lawyers, plaintiffs, and defendants. Then also we know that every human judge has his own peculiar personality that can be appealed to or offended.

Such is not true of the Lord’s judgments. They are true and righteous altogether. It matters not so much if the judgment of the Lord in our case brings us increase or decrease, joy or sorrow, ease or hardship. The thing that is of prime concern to us is, “does it come from the Lord? Is this the Lord’s judgment?” If so, we know that it is right, just, and we can rejoice in it regardless of the temporary adverse circumstances it might leave us in. The trusting child craves the chastisement of his parents when he knows it is right. And he can rejoice heartily and wholesomely in a special gift or reward when he has reason to believe that it was deserved.

In God’s dealings with men, we are not qualified to judge what is just or unjust from our own reasoning powers. We do not have sufficient information of the facts. We do not know what God has decreed for the future. And our own reasoning powers are defective and prejudiced in some way on every issue. We, therefore, do not engage in the foolish occupation of deciding the merits of God’s judgments. We, knowing they are His, know they are perfectly just; we desire them above monetary advantage or worldly delights. Jesus said, “My judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father that sent me.” Our own judgments would be greatly improved if we would do the same.

-C.M.