



**Big Idea: To long for justice is to long for Christ.**

**1.) Be careful who you ACCUSE (v. 2:17).**

- Upset by the fact that blatantly unrighteous people seemed to be prospering, many Israelites publically doubted that God is just.
- God is wearied when His people accuse Him of injustice.
- If God is not just, then **God** is not (2 Chronicles 19:7).
- To accuse God of injustice is to say that God is acting against His essential and unchanging nature, which He cannot and will never do.

**2.) Be careful what you APPROVE (v. 2:17).**

- We disgrace God's holy name whenever we give the impression that He approves of evil.
- Politics tend to motivate people to stand up and applaud ideas and behaviors that God clearly abhors.
- Voting in this fallen world means exercising our civic responsibility in the most God-honoring manner possible given the choices set before us.

-- Do not give approval to or make excuses for what is obviously evil in God's sight.

### 3.) Rejoice that justice has **APPEARED** (v. 3:1-3).

-- This first messenger is John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Lord of the covenant, Jesus Christ.

-- Jesus' entry into the temple precincts during Passion Week is the fulfillment of this prophecy (v. 1b).

-- God's response to their cries for justice was the \_\_\_\_\_ who was to come (Isaiah 42:1-4). **MESSIAH**

-- **How can God forgive and redeem sinners and, at the same time, remain a just and righteous God?**

-- If God simply gives us justice for our sins, then no one could possibly be saved (Romans 6:23-25).

-- The **CROSS** of Christ is where God's perfect love meets God's perfect justice (Romans 3:26).

-- In Christ's death on the cross, God is our justifier who loves us (1 John 3:16, Romans 5:8).

-- In Christ's death, God carries out His righteous wrath against our sin (Romans 4:25, 2 Corinthians 5:21).

-- It is only in the cross of Christ that the justice of God can be satisfied against sinners while sinners are simultaneously set free from death.

-- To cry out for justice without calling upon Christ is to cry out for our own condemnation.

-- If we truly comprehend the weight of our sin against God, we will rejoice in the justice that Christ alone provides.

### 4.) Remember that judgment is **COMING** (v. 2-5).

-- **REDEMPTIVE** justice for God's people appeared in the first coming of Christ; **RETRIBUTIVE** judgment will come at His return.

-- Although justice on earth is often delayed, ultimate justice is inevitable for everyone.

-- Matthew 12:36, John 12:48, Rom. 14:10, 2 Peter 3:10, Hebrews 9:27

## Application

1.) Call upon **CHRIST** before condemnation comes upon you.

2.) Know that justice is coming (**Romans 12:19-21**).

3.) Live like **JUDGEMENT** is coming.