

***Because God Loves Justice  
and Hates Wrongdoing  
International Bible Lesson  
Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11  
Sunday, September 25, 2016  
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*“For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them” (Isaiah 61:8).*

Even at the highest levels of business, government, and religion, some make decisions without considering God or sound ethics. Sometimes they only ask, “What are my chances of getting caught? If I get caught, who can I blame?” No matter what they think or how long they have escaped just punishment, God still hates robbery and wrongdoing. Perhaps one reason some have escaped detection and punishment for many years is because God is patient with them, “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). Yet, some will always refuse to repent and they will perish; Paul explained, “They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved” (2 Thessalonians 2:10). The Lord

loves justice; therefore, wrongdoers are either punished or escape God's just punishment by accepting the fact that Jesus died on the cross in their place as a sacrifice for their wrongdoing. Because God is just and merciful, God took upon himself the suffering that repentant sinners deserve. When Jesus died, He absorbed the punishment that those who trust in Him deserve for their wrongdoing. Because they love the truth, repentant sinners accept Jesus Christ as Savior and are saved. These few words of good news describe the new and everlasting covenant that God promised to make when He foretold through Isaiah what the Messiah would do when He came. At His last supper, Jesus announced and explained, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:20). God demonstrated His faithfulness through Jesus, and God will reward His people with eternal life.

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## Thinking Further

1. Name one way that Jesus helps the oppressed today?
2. Name one way that Jesus helps those who mourn today?
3. What does the LORD love and hate? What is He going to do because of what He loves and hate?
4. What are some of the ways the prophecy of Isaiah in these verses have been fulfilled?
5. As a Christian, how has the Lord clothed you?