

**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

~C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), British writer, academic and Christian apologist

“Deep in our timid hearts is a desire to be loved mildly, nothing more. That way, we retain control, we set the terms, we avoid risk. Our loving God, in His ferocious intensity, will have none of it.”

~Ray Ortlund, contemporary pastor and author

“‘Aslan is a lion - the Lion, the great Lion.’ ‘Ooh’ said Susan. ‘I’d thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion’... ‘Safe?’ said Mr Beaver ... ‘Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.’”

~C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), an excerpt from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

“The gospel of justifying faith means that while Christians are, in themselves still sinful and sinning, yet in Christ, in God’s sight, they are accepted and righteous. So we can say that we are more wicked than we ever dared believe, but more loved and accepted in Christ than we ever dared hope — at the very same time. This creates a radical new dynamic for personal growth. It means that the more you see your own flaws and sins, the more precious, electrifying, and amazing God’s grace appears to you. But on the other hand, the more aware you are of God’s grace and acceptance in Christ, the more able you are to drop your denials and self-defenses and admit the true dimensions and character of your sin.”

~Timothy Keller

“Let us wonder; grace and justice  
Join and point to mercy’s store;  
When through grace in Christ our trust is,  
Justice smiles and asks no more.”

~John Newton (1725-1807), Anglican pastor

---

## *Worship through the Word*

---

### **SERMON** – “The Goodness and Severity of God”

– *Pastor Doug Cooper, Campus Pastor at Christ Restoration Church in New London, NH*

### **SERMON PASSAGE** – *selected passages (NASB)*

#### *Exodus 34*

<sup>5</sup>The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with [Moses] as he called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; <sup>7</sup>who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” <sup>8</sup>Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.

#### *Acts 2*

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### *Acts 9*

<sup>1</sup>Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, <sup>2</sup>and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; <sup>4</sup>and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” <sup>5</sup>And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, <sup>6</sup>but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.” <sup>7</sup>The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.