

## November 22

**Jeremiah 30:11 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> For I *am* with you,' says the Lord, 'to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.' **Psalm 103:9-10 (NIV)** <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; <sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

Two intriguing cases dominate the news. In one, a man faces the death penalty. One side insists he is innocent, and his death sentence should be set aside. Instead, he should be allowed to live with the possibility of parole. The other side insists he is guilty and deserves to die. Over 6 million people have signed a petition stating he is innocent. In the other case, a young man shot and killed three persons during a riot. One side claims it was self-defense, and the young man deserves to be set free. Others claim he is a vigilante and deserves the death penalty. In one case crowds gather to proclaim one man innocent. In the other case, crowds gather to see the other man is found guilty. We pray for justice, but justice seems to be hiding somewhere in the multitude of words.

True justice is something we all seek. In every aspect of our lives, we seek to be viewed without prejudice. As we can see in these two cases, justice will be rendered. However, will it truly be justice? One side will say, "Yes;" the other, "No." When we look at Jesus' life, we know He was not treated justly. However, we can rest in the knowledge that the Lord is with us to save us, and His justice is pure. To help keep us on that narrow path, He will correct us in justice, which means when He does chastise us, we know we deserve it. We know He does it to correct us in order to save us. When we run from His correction, we run from His justice into a world that struggles with the truth. When we submit to His justice, we submit to His love. Then, David tells us that God will not repay us according to our sins. This is mercy! However, in that mercy, God will not abandon His justice. The wages of any sin is death. To fulfill God's justice and the righteous requirements of the law, Jesus took our place and died for us. God extended mercy to us because Christ paid our penalty. We will not find such justice and mercy in this world. We will only encounter it in the Kingdom of God through Christ Jesus.