

# God's Laws Governing Changes in Individual Behaviour

## Ezekiel 18:21–32

### 1. *The law governing repentance*

#### a. The case:

A wicked man who repents

- He will live, not die
- He is forgiven all sin:  
No sin is remembered because of his righteous behaviour

#### b. The loving heart of God

- He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked
- He longs for people to repent

### 2. *The law governing apostasy*

#### a. The case:

The righteous man who turns away and continues in his sin

#### b. The sad fact:

None of his righteous deeds will be remembered

#### c. The result:

The man will die — because his profession was proven false due to continued sin and lack of repentance

### 3. *The charge that God is not just*

#### a. God's thoughtful question:

Are God's ways or man's ways unjust?

21 “But if a wicked person turns away from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die.

22 None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live.

23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

24 “But if a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked person does, will they live? None of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness they are guilty of and because of the sins they have committed, they will die.

25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the LORD is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

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| <p>b. God's law governing apostasy is just, fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A righteous person turns away from God and lives in sin</li> <li>• This person will die</li> </ul> <p>c. God's law governing repentance is just, fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wicked person repents and lives righteously</li> <li>• This person will save his life and live abundantly, both now and eternally: He will not die</li> </ul> <p>d. God's way is just and man's ways are unjust: The fact re-emphasized</p> <p>4. <i>The plea of God</i></p> <p>a. Know that He is going to judge each one according to his behaviour</p> <p>b. Repent — turn away from sin</p> <p>c. Cast away all sin to receive a new heart and a new spirit. 11:26-27; 36:19-20</p> <p>d. Ask why you should die when you can live</p> <p>e. Know God's heart: He takes no pleasure in the death of anyone</p> <p>f. Repent and live</p> | <p>26 If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die.</p> <p>27 But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life.</p> <p>28 Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die.</p> <p>29 Yet the Israelites say, 'The way of the LORD is not just.' Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?</p> <p>30 "Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.</p> <p>31 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel?</p> <p>32 For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!</p> |
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