QUESTION:

What is the meaning of Proverbs 21:3?

> *Proverbs 21:3 (KJV)*
> “To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.”

ANSWER:

This verse teaches us about what truly pleases God.
God values righteous living, justice, compassion, and moral integrity more than religious rituals or offerings. When we live righteously, treat others fairly, and walk according to His spiritual standards on earth, this is far more pleasing to Him than merely offering sacrifices or participating in outward religious ceremonies.

In other words, God is more interested in our hearts and our behavior than in our religious activities. Sacrifices symbolize

outward religious acts — such as church attendance, giving money, singing, praying, fasting, and preaching. While these practices are important, God first desires our obedience, righteousness, and justice in how we live and treat others.

It does not mean that God rejects worship, offerings, or religious service. Rather, these acts should flow from a life already surrendered in obedience to His will. Without justice and righteousness, religious acts lose their value before God.

This truth is emphasized throughout Scripture. Consider what God said through the prophet Samuel to King Saul:

> *1 Samuel 15:22 (KJV)*
> “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

The prophet Micah also makes this point very clear:

> *Micah 6:6-8 (KJV)*
> “Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?
> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
> He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

Furthermore, Isaiah strongly rebukes those who continue offering sacrifices while living in sin:

> *Isaiah 1:11-17 (KJV)*
> “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.
> When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?
> Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto

> me…
> Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;
> Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.”

Self-Examination:

Therefore, we should honestly ask ourselves:

- Am I living justly and treating others fairly?
- Do I walk humbly with God?
- Do I prioritize obeying God over religious performances?
- Am I compassionate toward others?

These are the things that carry the most weight before God.

Conclusion:

Let us focus on what pleases the Lord — a life of righteousness, mercy, humility, and justice. Only then will our religious acts be acceptable before Him.

The Lord bless you.
Please share this teaching with others so they too may be encouraged.

If you want help receiving Jesus Christ into your life, please feel free to contact us at the numbers below. It is completely free.

You can also receive daily Bible teachings through WhatsApp by joining our channel via this link:

https://chat.whatsapp.com/L3ysoFZcz058XCX9oLvKL1?s=cl&p=a&mlu=4&ilr=4

Contact Us: +255693036618 or +255789001312

May the Lord bless you richly.

Share on:
WhatsApp