

The Fairness Issue

Does life sometimes seem unfair? This year, gospel music's premier pianist, Anthony Burger, a good friend and a native of Cleveland, Tennessee, died of a heart attack while on a cruise with the Gaither Homecoming artists. Last year, Wayne Hall, another close friend and associate, a committed Christian and outstanding vocalist, passed away with an aneurysm of the brain. Both men were in their 40s, and had young families.

And yet, I hear about men and women on death row in our nation's prisons who live long and seemingly healthy lives. We often see on television or learn from the newspaper about an incident in which two automobiles collide; the drunk driver survives, while the driver of the other car – a God-fearing, law-abiding citizen – is killed. Where is the fairness in those instances?

Job, the man of God in the Old Testament, lost his wealth, 10 children and his health, and he was confronted by three friends who wrongly accused him of rebellion against the Lord and blamed his suffering on his sin. Even as his wife urged Job to curse God and die, his faith remained resilient. In the 19th chapter of the Book of Job, he declared: "But I know my living Redeemer, and He will stand on the dust at last. Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh. I will see Him myself; my eyes will look at Him, and not as a stranger. My heart longs within me."

I read about an atheistic farmer who owned a field near a church. He announced he would prove there was no God. He plowed his field only on Sundays as a challenge to God. When the time of harvest came, his field was filled with an abundance of crops. He boasted that he had proved there was no God.

The editor of the town newspaper, however, took issue with his conclusion. The editorial simply stated that God does not settle all of his accounts in September.

Many people mistake God's patience as an indication He accepts sin. Count on it: The wicked will not miss judgment and the righteous will not fail to be rewarded. How and when God chooses to dispense His mercy and justice are bound up in His secret will.

Just be assured of this biblical truth: You can place your hope in the Lord, even when life seems unfair.

--Beecher Hunter