

Worthy is the Lamb

Church Listening Guide
By Stephen Robert Cass



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Use this guide with prayer to help insert this song in a service, a small group session, or a Bible study. There is a song placement suggestion, Bible verses, and a Discuss and Pray section with questions.

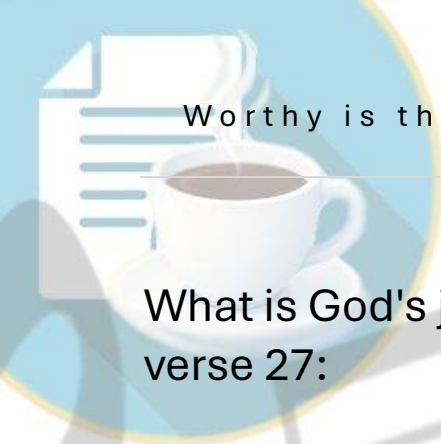
Oceans of Justice

Song placement suggestion: Special engagement such as reflection time or worship participation.

Bible verses: James 1:27, Amos 5:21 – 24.

God's justice is not often our understanding of it. What religious organizations have done over the years has been to interpret His justice to fit financial "not in my back yard" justifications that fit within local agreed-upon moral standards.

God says *more* than once in the Old Testament and *many* times with the entire message of Jesus in the New Testament that he is *very* tired of our *mis*interpretation of His justice.



What is God's justice? James says it this way in chapter 1 and verse 27:

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

The book of Amos in chapter 5:21 through verse 24 says:

²¹ *“I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me.*
²² *Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,*
I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
²³ *Away with the noise of your songs!*
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
²⁴ *But let justice roll on like a river,*
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

These passages are clear that our attempts to define God’s true intentions miss the mark—are sinful.

Although we are only human and often fall short of God’s design for our lives and *need* to draw boundaries, that doesn’t give us the

right to try to redefine what scripture has portrayed as God's desire for justice.

When will we *stop* misrepresenting God's plan? When will we *stop* trying to justify *our* greed on moral and religious grounds? Let us *recognize, admire, acknowledge and serve* a God who calls us to be righteous according to *His* justice, not *ours*.

Discuss and Pray

Pray for a better understanding of who I am and what I can do in this life. Lord, what do You want me to hear about Your justice? What would You like me to do about carrying out this righteousness?

How can I ignite my heart to follow God's way of justice in the administration of my home and church?

How can I be an instrument of change in my community to help better reflect God's justice?

How has Christ's victory over sin and death changed you, or will change you?