

① The Goodness of God - Thanksgiving

(Rom. 11:22)

Paul talks about the kindness and the severity of God -
What does this mean?

As the Bible presents us with the character of God we are shown his attributes
① no one of them detracting from the perfection of another one of them **Justice vs Love**

② God is presented as a Person -
the One who created us and "with whom we have to do"

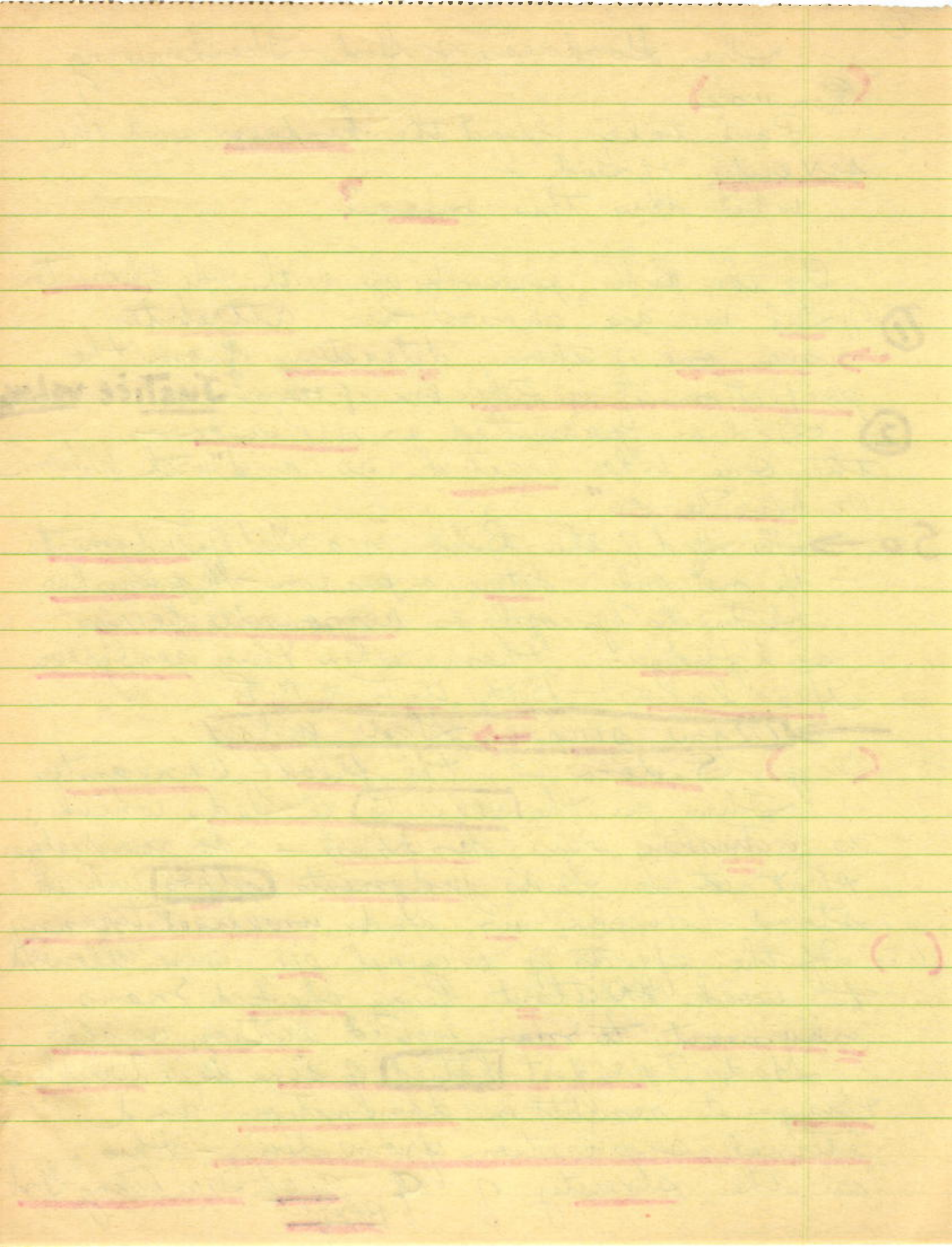
So → The God of the Bible is a God of Judgments -
He not only deters a person - He punishes
He treats people as responsible beings
and judges them when they transgress
His laws. - Both O.T. + N.T.

Man sins → God judges

(e.g.) Sodom - The flood - Canaanites
This is the severity of God, which is actually His kindness - do you realize that it is God's judgments alone which stand between us and universal tyranny

(i.e.) If the effects of original sin were allowed to work without being checked man's inhumanity to man would destroy us all.

God's perfect hatred of sin is a terrible thing - it results in damnation and eternal separation from Him - This is the severity of a good sin-hating God



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The incomprehensible marvel is that such a sin-hating God should love sinners with an unspeakable love - and that He Himself prepared to make Satisfaction for our sins. - **This is the KINDNESS**

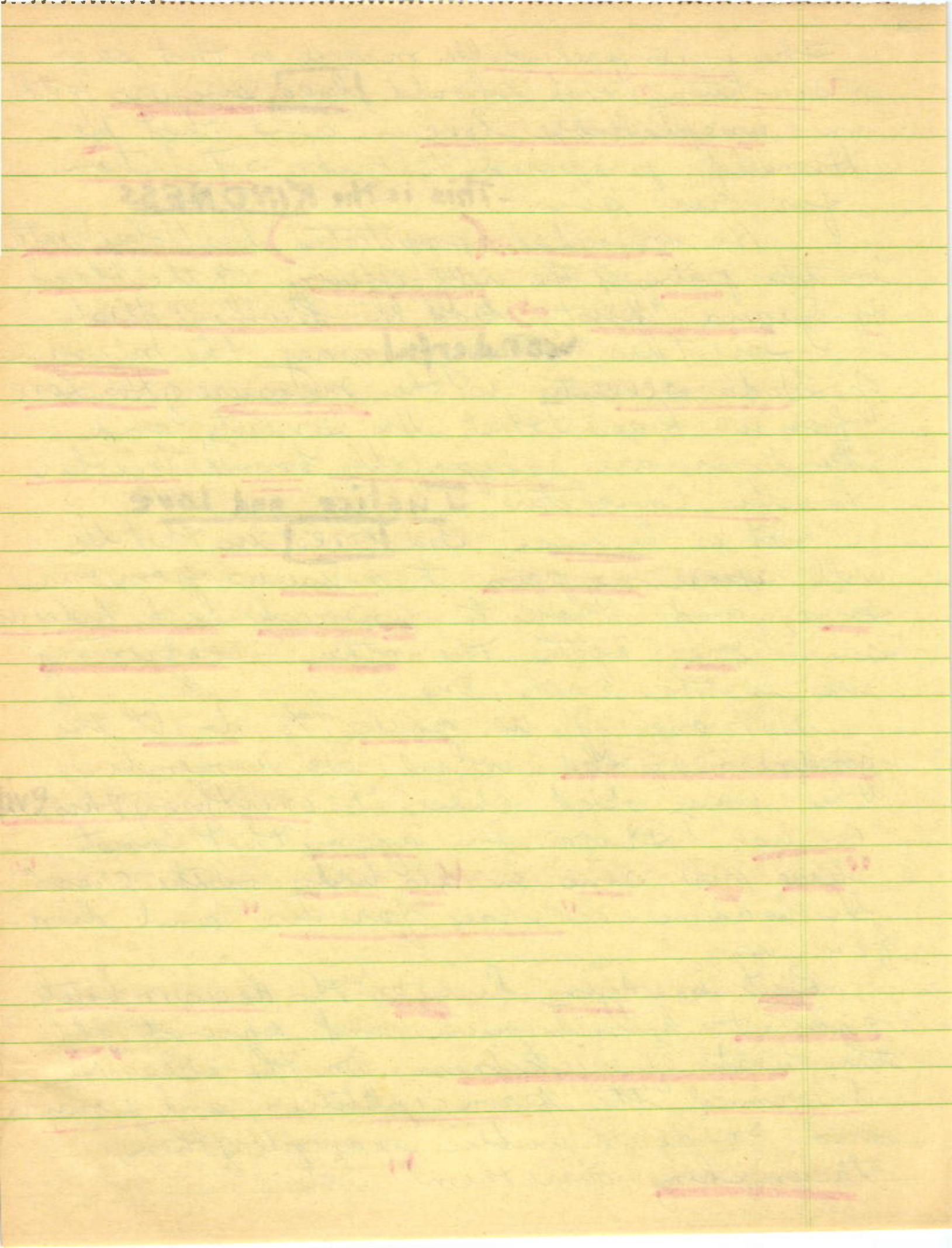
He quenched (propitiated) His Holy Wrath in the pains of the self-offering of the blood of Jesus Christ, → God in human flesh.

In this wonderful way the measure of God's severity is the measure of His Love for we know that His severity and kindness are inseparably bound together in His Character **Justice and Love**

It is because God loves us that He will spare no pains to rouse us from our sins, and then to unmask each hideous sin one after the other - confronting us with each one.

Not one of us dares to doubt the goodness of God when we remember the way God chose to overthrow this **Evil** in us. It was in agony that Christ "bore our sins in His body on the cross" He became a "curse for us" and died for us.

But in dying he won the decisive battle against human sin and against all the hosts of wickedness. On the cross "He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them" Col.



③ What a glorious expression of His Goodness that God chose our little planet as the scene of His final conflict with evil. His severity and kindness demonstrated before us all.

These facts of God's acts can help us understand more clearly the loving wisdom of God's ways.

With this introduction to God's Goodness let's turn to a psalm of David, Ps. 34. We see here the severity & kindness of God.

(v. 1-3) To "bless the Lord" in Hebrew is not a light thing. The word bliss is taken from the word for "knee" and means literally to bend the knee.

In other words David is saying: I will acknowledge Him as Lord, I will yield to His authority in my life and His right to rule me.

The overall message of this Psalm and the key to deliverance from God's judgment is to acknowledge the lordship of Jehovah God in our lives - He expects us to acknowledge His right to do as He pleases in our lives. This is where we have to begin. To say:

I say "Jesus is Lord" - He is sovereign in my life. Why? Because He is not only God but all powerful - able to do He is not inhibited by any circumstances. So if I turn away from myself & my own attempts to be something before God - and I call out to Him I discover He is there & will deliver me.

