

The Wrath of God

DEFINITION:

- ◆ A response by a Holy God to the sinful nature and actions of those He created.
- ◆ It is the righteous or just actions of God towards all that offends Him and violated His Holiness and authority.
- ◆ His wrath is just, perfect, holy, deserved and expected.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” ROMANS 1:18

His wrath is sometimes in the scriptures called “His anger”, but it is one and the same. God is wrath like He is all the other attributes: infinite, eternal, and unchangeable.

GOD’S WRATH IS A DEMAND OF HIS HOLINESS

- ◆ God can only be God if He maintains His basic preeminent nature of Holiness.
- ◆ His wrath is a response to anything with He created (ie. angels, man, creation) that violates His nature and the innocence with which He created it.
- ◆ Jesus revealed this attribute during His ministry on earth.
- ◆ God’s wrath often seems to be a response to man’s hard heart (Psalm 95:10,11).
- ◆ God’s wrath is also seen as the act of bringing justice to the redeemed and to the persecuted (Deuteronomy 32:43).
- ◆ God’s wrath is an attributed that causes the believer to rejoice for we serve a victorious God who will once and for all remove all sin and all that has been tainted by sin.

GOD’S WRATH REVEALS THE HOLINESS OF GOD

Since God is just and never over punishes, nor under punish, then what seems harsh and even cruel to man is actually perfect and deserving.

Since we are unholy and only understand what we see or hear we are not capable to act in any just way. That is why the Lord says, *“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’”* (Romans 12:19)

Only a Holy God can be just and merciful. Only a Holy God can be both the perfect source of love and wrath. Anything or anyone else would be either a tyrant or a push over.

If Hell is just for the unrepentant then how holy is our God?
If Heaven is just for the redeemed then how holy is our God?

GOD'S WRATH IS EXTENSIVE AND COMPLETE

Notice how the Lord can be both a place of refuge for the righteous and at the same time a source of wrath for those who continue to sin.

- ◆ Nahum 1:1-8
- ◆ Deuteronomy 32: 39-43
- ◆ Psalm 7:10,11

GOD'S WRATH HAS BEEN SATISFIED FOR THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST

The term "propitiation" means the satisfier of the righteous wrath of God. The righteous anger of God was justified in Christ as He became our propitiator bearing the wrath of God the father to such an extent that my sin was fully paid for and God's wrath was satisfied. The result is "*since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (Romans 5:1)

"whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins." ROMANS 3:25

"Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people." HEBREWS 2:17

"He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 JOHN 2:2

"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 JOHN 4:10

Jesus' atonement had the purpose of presenting you holy before the Father. Since we are "*by nature objects of Gods wrath*" (Ephesians 2:3) being holy could only occur if we had a blood sacrifice which was in itself holy so as to bear the just wrath that I deserve and should expect.

Christ became my sin bearer and my wrath bearer. He became the source of my holiness and the fountain of grace.

GOD'S WRATH IS TO BE FEARED BY THE UNREPENTANT

It is interesting to observe the method of evangelism the Apostles used in the book of Acts. They did not use a "seeker sensitive" style or "friendship evangelism" rather they declared repentance. Repentance from what? God wrath.

- ◆ Acts 2:38; 3:19; 8:22

Peter even pleaded with the crowds to repent and turn to God. The pleading was due to the understanding and the TEACHING of the wrath of God even to the unsaved. We have become so scared to tell the unsaved what they are heading too, yet, if they are heading to face God's wrath should they not repent?

One writer uses this illustration..

"The wrath of God is like a great water impounded behind a dam. He said, I can remember the first time I ever saw Hoover Dam, one of the greatest of all dams on earth. It has been thrown across the waters of the Colorado River and these waters have backed up for miles and penetrated into every little cove and valley. And thus it has been with the wrath of God. The first time there was ever a sin committed; the wrath of God was stored up against that sin. And as men lived upon the earth and as their hearts grew more wicked and the outbreak of their sin more violent, the store of wrath grew greater and greater, held back by the patience of God which lies across the valley of His judgment like a great dam across the river. And in His eternal foreknowledge God the Father foresaw all of the sin that would be committed after the time of Christ, your sin and my sin, and He stored His wrath against it behind the dam of His patience. And the wrath of God against sin that even today has not yet been committed is also stored up waiting for the day when His patience shall burst into its holy end. For thousands of years that dam has held and God has held back His wrath. Occasionally throughout human history He stooped to dip His hand into the pent up flood and pour a few drops of wrath on some, especially vicious outbreak of rebellion. But for the most part God seemed to overlook the sins of man in the centuries before the cross. It looked maybe as if sin was tolerated, but it was just piling up."

- ◆ As believers are we telling our unsaved family and friends the truth?
- ◆ Are we loving them into the wrath of God?
- ◆ Should they not be warned?

Look what the bible says about the urgency to warn our unsaved friends

- ◆ II Chronicles 36:15-16
- ◆ John 3:36

The movement away from the teaching of the wrath of God is evidence of the decay of the church from biblical teaching and a true love for the lost.

APPARENT PROBLEMS

- ◆ Some would say “this is an archaic view of God”
- ◆ How can God’s wrath be reconciled with God’s love?
- ◆ Jesus came to offer salvation not to reveal wrath
- ◆ How can an eternal God be angry with humans He made so fragile?
- ◆ How can angels experience the wrath of God when they have no opportunity to repent?
Does this not go against God’s attribute of Mercy?
- ◆ Teaching wrath will only scare people into conversions



APPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIVES

- ◆ The Word of God still applies today and we need to warn the unsaved
- ◆ We have confidence in the finished work of Christ, therefore we have peace with God
- ◆ We have assurance that God will and does deal with injustice and evil (Romans 1:18)
- ◆ When we understand God’s wrath we better understand God’s holiness
- ◆ We are able to better worship Christ who is our propitiation
- ◆ Christ is able to keep us secure from what I deserve (mercy)