

# **The Wrath of God**

(Rom 1:18)

- Remember to keep every verse in the overall context of the section from 1:18 to 3:30: all are guilty and under the wrath of God by natural birth
- I. “For”- Paul is still giving the reasons why he is not ashamed of the gospel, and saves the most important for last and for expounding
  - A) There is a dire need with every single human being
  - B) Only the gospel can meet the need
    - 1. Rom 1:18- this is a universal statement against ALL ungodliness and ALL unrighteousness
      - i. Paul will go on to prove that this is true of every man in Rom 1:19-3:20
- II. Paul starts with guilt and wrath in his evangelism
  - A) He doesn’t do as the cults or modernists, and start with man and his desires and tastes, Paul starts with an offended God
    - 1. Example of Jehovah Witnesses
    - 2. Example of social gospel (with it’s billboards)
    - 3. Example of prosperity gospel
  - B) True evangelism starts with man’s relationship to God (enmity)
    - 1. We must see ourselves as God sees us
    - 2. Gospel isn’t centered on man, it is centered on God and that through the Lord Jesus Christ
  - C) We are to learn as much from what the apostles did as what they said
    - 1. Our message must be the same, but so also our method
    - 2. Every prophets message was essentially the same, from Noah on down, and that was “repent, the wrath of God is coming”
      - i. Matt 3:1-7- Repent, and “who hath warned you to flee from the wrath”
        - a) We find the same in the preaching of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, as well as Peter, the other apostles, Paul, Stephen, etc.
        - b) If our preaching is not after this manner, then it is not scriptural, and the next it might do is to produce shaky and false conversions and believisms
        - c) Man must be made accountable to God
  - D) Paul doesn’t soften this point whatsoever, he states boldly the “wrath of God is revealed...”
    - 1. The wrath of God is the single most hated doctrine in the entire world
      - i. Unbelievers- They say wrath is ridiculous, even unthinkable, and that if there is a God at all, surely He isn’t a God of wrath

- a) The highly educated says this is all just a leftover from primitive man's religious superstitions
  - b) Others say this was the stern way in which our forefathers scared their children into obedience, but they say man has evolved, similar to Dr. Spock
    - 1) "Get rid of fear and you get rid of religion" is a quote by a famous atheist
  - ii. Modernist/liberal "Christians"- Wrath is a leftover from the O/T
    - a) The God of Israel was a bloodthirsty God, requiring sacrifices and rigid compliance, but no so with Jesus, and that only Paul, a strict Pharisee talks about such things
    - b) The "universal fatherhood" movement says this is no longer true of God, that the Israelites didn't understand Him, and now through our advanced knowledge, we realize that He never did intend wrath on anyone
    - c) The dispensationalist says this was true in O/T, but that it is no longer true because all sin and law was destroyed at the cross and God doesn't see sin any longer
  - iii. Evangelical Christians- Many believe in wrath in doctrine and theory, but not in preaching and practice
    - a) "Modern" evangelism bypasses the wrath of God and hell in order to be popular and unoffensive, to fill the pews
      - 1) They often start with "God is love and peace" and never bring a soul under conviction
        - (a) But surely God's method of evangelism is best and proper, and it always starts with wrath in the scriptures
        - (b) The "modern" method is based upon much of man's planning and thinking, strategizing the best way to approach it
          - (1) But it isn't man that saves, nor is it up to man to change God's prescribed method
          - (2) Gal 1:6-9- Surely this would apply here as well
          - (3) "Wrath" has altogether left many of the churches
            - I. Use generic example of KY
            - II. Gospel is not meant to entertain, it confronts sinners
            - III. John 3:18-19- Wrath abides on natural man
- E) Paul mentions the "wrath of God" 10 times in the Roman epistle alone
- 1. Rom 1:18
  - 2. Rom 2:5
  - 3. Rom 2:8
  - 4. Rom 3:5

5. Rom 4:15
6. Rom 5:9
7. Rom 9:22
8. Rom 12:19
9. Rom 13:4
10. Rom 13:5

F) Other references in N/T epistles

1. Paul

- i. 1 Cor 3:13-15- Dy will try works by fire
- ii. 2 Cor 2:15-16- Savor of life unto life, and death unto death (preaching confirms many in the wrath)
- iii. 2 Cor 5:11- Knowing the terror of the Lord
- iv. Eph 2:1-3- Children of wrath
- v. Eph 5:6- Wrath coming on children of disobedience (Col 3:6)
- vi. 1 Thess 5:1-3- Sudden destruction
- vii. 2 Thess 1:6-9- Everlasting destruction and fire

2. Others

- i. Heb 2:1-3- How shall we escape
- ii. Heb 6:4-8- Whose end is to be burned
- iii. Heb 10:27-29- Fiery indignation
- iv. Heb 12:25-29- Consuming fire
- v. 1 Pet 4:17-18- Judgment begins at the house of God, where shall sinner appear?
- vi. 2 Pet 2:1- Swift destruction
- vii. 2 Pet 2:4-9- Reserved for judgment and day of punishment
- viii. 2 Pet 3:10-13- Fervent heat
- ix. Book of Revelation

3. Lord Jesus Christ

- i. Mark 9:42-50- Into the fire that never shall be quenched and where their worm dieth not
- ii. Matt 10:28- Fear Him which can destroy body and soul in hell
- iii. Matt 11:21-24- Woe unto thee Chorazin....
- iv. Luke 16:19-31- Rich man in torment in hell and the uncrossable gulf
- v. John 3:16 & 36- Perish and wrath of God abides on him

4. Saints of history

- i. Jonathan Edwards and “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
- ii. George Whitefield, so kind and loving preached damnation to the thousands at the coal mines and many were converted, and preached the wrath of God with tears to the aristocracy
- iii. Martin Luther warning Rome with tears about the coming doom

- a) The pattern is always the same, and the true ambassador has no right to change the kings message nor His method