

## The Revealing of God's Wrath

Romans 1:18-23 <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

### ❖ Request: Please Promise to Personalize this...

- Do not look to your neighbor or co-worker first... unbelieving world today or history
- Look to your own soul... Can you do this today?

### ❖ Recap

- **We Have Studied God's Power in the Gospel...**
  - And what the gospel is... and how we are to receive it...
- **7 Points**
  - Obligated to Preach the Gospel... Eager to Preach the Gospel
  - Unashamed to Preach the Gospel... The Gospel is the Power of God for Salvation
  - The Gospel is for Everyone Who Believes
  - The Gospel Reveals the Righteousness of God
  - Faith is the Avenue to Receiving the Gospel
- **Do You Remember our greatest danger?**
  - Do you remember why we made that point a starting place in our study?
  - It is because of what we are about to see in Romans 1:18 about God's Wrath

### ❖ Intro

- **It is Imperative for everyone here today...**
  - To come to an understanding of the Wrath of Almighty God...
- **Let's Briefly Define and illustrate what we mean by God's Wrath...**
  - so as we continue, you understand...
  - **God's Wrath is: an attribute of God...**
    - it is a characteristic of God... just like love and Eternality are attributes of God...
    - It could be defined as God's necessary and just retribution against sin...
      - ◆ it is an angry response to sin and in some ways it is currently being held back
    - **Our Response** to the wrath of God should be the same as our Response to His Grace
      - ◆ Praise and Adoration...
      - ◆ We often times praise God for his Grace and Love and Mercy
      - ◆ But the Wrath of God is as much an attribute as any other...
      - ◆ For God would not be God... without His burning hot anger against sin
  - **A Few Verses that Describe God's Wrath**
    - **"Behold the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked."** (Jeremiah 30:23)
    - **"The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies."** (Nahum 1:2)
    - **He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty."** (Rev 19:15)
    - **It is expressed** as a great/terrible storm ready to wreak havoc on those in its path
      - ◆ It is seen as being kept in storage for His enemies

- ◆ **We see another element in the verse from revelation...**
  - Where God's wrath is described as being furious...
  - As the Son of God treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God...
  - Fury is defined as a wild and violent anger...
- **Illustrated...**
  - **God's wrath could be illustrated by a great tornado...**
    - ◆ Records indicate tornadoes have travelled as fast as 73 mph
    - ◆ They have travelled on ground as far as 219 miles
    - ◆ They have lasted as long as 3.5 hours... Some can reach a width of 2.6 miles
    - ◆ They can kill a thousand people... It can have winds over 300 mph
    - ◆ Tornadoes are considered the finger of God... simply the finger...
  - **God's Wrath could be likened to a Wild Fire burning out of control**
    - ◆ Burning everything in its way
    - ◆ The heat is unbearable...
    - ◆ The fire is unquenchable destroying almost everything it comes into contact with
    - ◆ It can reach temperatures over 1200 degrees celsius
    - ◆ And the smoke from the fire can choke a person...
  - **These are wimps in comparison to Power and Might of the Wrath of God**
    - ◆ Oh... the power and the might of Almighty God...!
- **We have been so saturated with a man made idea of God...**
  - Of a God that is grandfatherly and accepting of us...
  - Man has come to a point where they have exchanged the true God
    - For one that fits snugly in their pocket...
- **Today's god in many Christian churches...**
  - Is a god overly concerned with the physical and emotional health of the person...
  - He is overly concerned with the financial wealth of his people...
  - Today's god is man centric...Not that He is unconcerned... because He is...
  - He is fine with our sins and failures and will not judge harshly ...
    - **God must be placed first... and then man because God loves man**
- **You may think... I am a Christian... and I would never make up a god for myself...**
  - Then why is it so easy for us to live in unrepentant sin?
  - Why is it so easy for you to dismiss the importance of Bible Reading and Memorization
  - Why do so few of us pray purposeful God glorifying prayers
  - Why does your god take up so little of your time?
- **It is ASSANINE to create a god in your own mind...**
  - It is ludicrous to think God is one way or another based off your feelings or emotions...
- **ONE FINAL THOUGHT:**
  - You can Never be born again without some understanding of the wrath of Almighty God
  - It is not until the Holy Spirit brings conviction to your soul
    - That God is Holy and You have sinned...
    - And you are deserving of God's eternal wrath upon your soul
    - And God is totally justified in giving it...
  - **It is not until then can one Repent and Trust in Christ...**
    - So, if that has never happened to you through the power of the Spirit...
    - Then you will have been unable to Repent unto salvation thus far...
  - **Understanding God's Anger Toward Sin: Reveals the Beauty of the Gospel**
- **My Outline Today:**
  - 1) God's Wrath is Against Man
  - 2) God's Wrath is Against all Ungodliness

- 3) God's Wrath is Against all Unrighteousness
- 4) God's Wrath is Against Men Who Suppress the Truth
- 5) God's Wrath is Revealed...

## ❖ 1) God's Wrath is Against Man

- **<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**
- **Let's Deal with to whom God's wrath is revealed...**
  - From the text we see that it is revealed... and we will get into the how...
    - and to what extent... But, let's start with who
- **It is Toward Mankind...**
  - I think it is plain that we do not want to trifle with God
    - He is not one to mess with... and we should be very aware of that...
    - The God we know of today... is the same God who burned hot against sin in the O.T.
  - **God's anger is not here spoken of against the idea of sin....**
    - The thought of sin...
    - It is indeed **against the sinning man...**
      - ◆ **Ephesians 2:3b and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**
- **Remember God's Dealing with Sinful Man...**
  - **God's wrath** burned red hot against the people of this world in the days of Noah...
    - So He sent a flood to destroy all mankind except for 8 people
    - **Genesis 6:11-13 <sup>11</sup>Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. <sup>13</sup>And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.**
  - **God's Wrath Burned Against Egypt**
    - The Land of Egypt was filled with false gods...
    - And they enslaved the people of Israel... And Pharaoh would not honor God
    - **So God** sent 10 plagues upon the people of Egypt...
      - ◆ the last one taking the lives of all the first born of the Egyptians...
  - **God's Wrath burned hot against the land of canaan...**
    - So, God uses the young nation of Israel to judge the people of Canaan
    - And they would destroy many cities and peoples
    - Because they had done detestable things for their false gods
    - Even burning their children for false gods
  - **God's Wrath Burned Against His Own People of Israel**
    - For they had forsaken God... and committed spiritual adultery
    - By worshipping false gods... and perverted justice and forsaking God's ways...
    - **So, God raised up Assyria and the Babylonians...**
      - ◆ And He destroyed the nation of Israel... and they suffered mightily
      - ◆ And were carried off into captivity...
  - **Do not Forget God's Wrath at the Fall...**
    - When Adam and Eve sinned... God cursed man to death
    - He cast Adam and Eve from the garden
    - And mankind was subjected to living with a sinful nature
  - **4 Examples against certain individuals...**
    - **When aaron's** sons Nadab and Abihu did not follow God's instruction for incense...
      - ◆ And they burned unauthorized fire before the Lord

- ◆ God sent fire down from heaven to consume them
    - **King Nebuchadnezzar's** boast that he built Babylon caused God to remove him
      - ◆ And he was like an animal for 7 years
    - **Uzzah was struck down by the Lord...**
      - ◆ Because He touched the Ark of God with his unclean hands...
      - ◆ He thought He was helping, but He was disobedient...
    - **King Herod took the praise of men as he called him a God**
      - ◆ So God struck him down and he died of worms...
    - **There are Many others from the Bible...**
      - Plus many more throughout all of History...
      - From Rome to Hitler to Napoleon
      - God will only allow sin for so long before executing judgment...
    - **God has not changed!**
  - **God's wrath is against man**
    - **John 3:36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God **remains** on him.
- ❖ **2) God's Wrath is Against all Ungodliness**
  - Now let's get specific and see what it is about man that causes God's wrath to be revealed
    - **<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**
  - **Ungodliness**
    - Here Paul is going to say ungodliness and unrighteousness...
    - And they are two different terms... obviously...
    - Although, when used by themselves... they indicate the other...
    - Meaning, if you were to see ungodliness alone in the scripture, you would assume:
      - Unrighteousness as well... and vice versa...
  - **Ungodliness is:** A Failure or refusal in any way to live to God's glory
    - Ungodliness is when men fail to honor and worship God as they ought...
    - So... ungodliness is us in relation to God
  - **This is made plain for us in the greatest commandment...**
    - **Matthew 22:37 <sup>37</sup>** And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
    - Any **failure** to do this... is ungodliness...
    - If you notice... we are not just wondering if you have told a lie...
      - Or if you have stolen something...
    - Have you lived your life in such a way as to bring honor to God at **all** times?
  - **How Are We Doing?**
    - God's Wrath is Revealed from Heaven against all Ungodliness of men
      - Against a failure to love God with their heart, soul and mind
    - **Isn't this what Paul is getting at down in verse 21**
      - **Romans 1:21 <sup>21</sup>** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him,
- ❖ **3) God's Wrath is Against all Unrighteousness**
  - **<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**
  - **God's wrath is revealed against ungodliness and unrighteousness...**
    - Ungodliness comes first... and rightly so...
    - Because any failure to put God first in your life is ungodliness...

- **And any failure to put God first in your life results in unrighteousness**
    - If ungodliness is man in relation to God...
    - Unrighteousness can be seen in man's relation to other men...
  - **Unrighteousness is any deviation** from right behavior, speech or thought
    - It is not right behavior... it is wrong behavior
    - Unrighteousness focuses on how we behave...
    - Ungodliness **leads** to unrighteousness...
  - **Again...** This is made plain for us in the second greatest commandment...
    - **Matt 22:39<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**
    - First, we see we are to love God with everything... then love our neighbor as ourself
      - That is godliness and righteousness
      - **Since...** All men fail to be godly... it means all men fail to be righteous
  - **Let's Consider together the Depth of our Unrighteous Acts**
    - Lets consider them in regards to the Sins of Children (Listen up Children)
    - **A Child will lie to their parents, siblings or friends...**
      - They will withhold the truth... Why?
        - ◆ I do not think they understand why... but... a person would lie for many reasons
      - A Child will lie because they know what they did was forbidden...
        - ◆ So they lie to not have to **face** the consequences...
      - They will commit the act they lied about... because... Sometimes
        - ◆ They do not see it is hurtful
        - ◆ They think... it isn't hurting anyone... therefore... I can do this...
      - They also lie so they can make themselves **look** better....
        - ◆ If they lie... they are not found out to be disobedient, or lazy or unkind... or whatever it would reveal...
    - **At the Center of it all is a Self Centeredness...**
      - The self is the king of the child's universe...
      - This applies to a child stealing... or saying hurtful things, or a child hurting another child... maybe they hit them, or tripped them, or played a joke on them...
      - The main thing we see is what?
        - ◆ Self Centeredness...
          - And if Self is the center of our life... Do you know who is not?
          - **God is not...**
  - **Notice: The Root of Sin even in the sweetest of Children in here today...**
    - Is to **dethrone** God in their lives...
    - And to place themselves squarely on the throne of their life...
      - I use the example of children, so that even the most innocent in here today
        - ◆ Are able to see clearly their **guilt** before Almighty God...
        - ◆ If our children do not escape guilt today... then what about the rest of us?
  - **Ok... God's Wrath is revealed against Man and his ungodliness and unrighteousness**
- ❖ **4) God's Wrath is Against Men Who Suppress the Truth**
- **<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**
  - **A quick look at the verse, and you notice...**
    - Paul is not talking about different categories of men
    - He is talking about men who are ungodly and unrighteous and suppress the truth
  - **1) Suppress the truth**
    - Notice first what they do... they suppress the truth...
    - Suppress here **means**... to hold it back or to push it down... you do not let it out

- **Paul also explains this in the next verse...**
  - **<sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.**
  - **Paul explains suppressing the truth as:**
    - ◆ Taking something that God has made plain to them...
    - ◆ Something God has made evident to them...
    - ◆ Going even further... Something God has shown to them...
      - We can go even further here... the meaning of “shown to them”
      - Is literally... “made it known” AND pushing down what is known
- **What Truth are they Suppressing?**
  - **Look to verse 20**
    - ◆ **Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.**
      - 2 things: God is God and He is an All Powerful God... **Repeat...**
- **Paul explains** suppressing the truth is taking what God has made known to them
  - ◆ **And holding it down...**
  - And in verse 21 we see what they do with that truth...
    - ◆ **Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him,**
      - ◆ They do not honor God or give him thanks...
        - They do not submit to the truth that God is God and He is powerful...
        - They do not live for Him... or express gratitude for what He has done...
- **Now... notice... saying with the mouth that God is God and He is Powerful...**
  - Does not keep man from suppressing the truth...
  - Look at how they suppress the truth...
- **2) Who... by their unrighteousness suppress the truth**
  - **Notice secondly...** how they suppress the truth...
    - By their unrighteousness...
    - In their deeds the suppress the truth...
  - **Here is the how and the why they suppress the truth all rolled into one thing...**
    - By their unrighteousness... by their deeds... with their deeds
    - **Look at what Jesus said in John 3**
      - ◆ **John 3:19-20 <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.**
        - ◆ Clearly... there is a suppression of truth because people love their sins...
          - Isn't that what is being said here rather plainly...
          - Men do not want to come to the Light... come to God...
            - Because they do not want their sins exposed...
- **How do we suppress the truth?**
  - Anytime we act in an unrighteous manner...
    - we are suppressing the truth that God is God, and He is All Powerful
    - Because... we are not living in a way that shows we believe God is God
    - We are not honoring him as God
  - **What are we doing...?**
    - We are like self centered children... Enthroning ourselves as Kings of Self
    - We know that as we grow out of childhood, we grow ever increasingly self centered

- Self glorifying...
- Unless we have help changing...
- **The unrighteousness of man**
  - Leads to a suppression of the truth about God... It leads to a failure to submit to God
- **Result: The Revealing of God's Wrath**

## ❖ 5) God's Wrath is Revealed

- **<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**
- **The Wrath of God is Revealed...**
  - Notice: In verse 17 that the righteousness of God is revealed...
    - **For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith**
  - **There are 2 things being revealed here in these two verses...**
    - 1) The righteousness of God 2) The Wrath of God...
  - **They are both in the same tense...**
    - God's righteousness is presently and continually being revealed... and
    - God's wrath is presently and continually be revealed...
  - **We explained previously...**
    - **The gospel reveals God's righteousness...**
      - ◆ It reveals it by showing us that God would not allow sin to go unpunished...
      - ◆ So, God punishes his Son on the cross...
      - ◆ **And that is at the heart of the gospel... And it is how the gospel reveals...**
        - God's righteousness...
        - He is so righteous as to be the one to bear the consequences of sin for man
- **How Is God' Wrath Being Revealed?**
  - **God's Current Revealing of Wrath is Proof and Warning of Future Wrath**
  - **1) In Our Conscience**
    - Within the person... there is an understanding of the wrath of God...
    - Because, when we see something that is terribly wrong... it causes anger inside man
    - People can not sit back and see someone blatantly taken advantage of...
      - ◆ And be morally ambiguous toward it... they have a moral response
  - **2) In Sin**
    - God's allowance of sin is a continual show of His wrath
    - Sometimes God's wrath is seen in Him giving people over to sin more and more
    - Sin is destructive and terrible for the person...
    - One of the worst things that could happen to a sinner...
      - ◆ Is that God would allow them to have their way...
    - The current rampant growth of sin is an indication of the wrath of God
  - **3) In Death**
    - Death was given as a punishment for all people when Adam sinned...
    - Paul describes it in Romans 5 as a transgression resulting in condemnation...
    - We all know of death everyday... it will happen close to us
    - Then one day we too will experience it...
    - Death is a current expression of the wrath of God
  - **4) In Nature**
    - The destructive forces of nature in: Tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, Hurricanes, wildfires, thunderstorms, droughts, floods,
      - ◆ The earth has been subjected to futility
  - **5) In History**

- The rising and fall of civilizations and empires and people groups and individuals...
  - ◆ Notice how a group of people are destroyed when they do not honor God...

#### ▪ 6) In the Cross

- God's wrath is poured out on His Son for the sins of those who would follow Him
- The cross was a great display of what seems to be opposing thoughts...
  - ◆ The wrath of God being poured out
  - ◆ The kindness and mercy of God being poured out...

#### ▪ 7) In the Future

- One Day there will be a final and more clear revealing of the wrath of God...
  - ◆ One day the books will be opened...
    - ◆ Revelation 20:11,12,15 <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened... <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

#### ▪ These are all signs that point us to one very important fact...

- God is angry with sin... and we should flee from it...
- **God's Current Revealing of Wrath is Proof and Warning of Future Wrath**

#### ➤ There is a connection between God's righteousness and God's Wrath...

- As you notice how God's wrath has been, is currently and will one day be revealed...
  - **You see God's righteousness** causes Him to be a God filled with Wrath...
    - ◆ Because men are ungodly, unrighteous suppressors of truth
  - **You will also notice that it is God's righteousness that also satisfies His wrath...**
    - ◆ The righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel...
    - ◆ The perfect righteous Jesus Christ would be offered up to God the Father
      - As an appeasement of His wrath against all sinful men...
        - Who would believe in Him...

#### ❖ God's Wrath Satisfied in the Gospel...

- Let's go back to verses 16 and 17
  - Because... you may be very concerned right now...
  - But, back a few verses... God wants us to remember what He has done for us...
- Romans 1:16-17 <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."
- To everyone who believes... (continues believing the gospel)
- They will be given salvation from the wrath of God...
- There is an escape from the wrath of God that is being revealed...
  - repeat

#### ❖ Our Response:

- Fear God and Tremble Before His Wrath
  - Matt 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell
- Believe the Gospel
- **You have two Choices before You:** You are King, or God is King
- To Believers...
  - Live in such a way as to bring glory and honor to God in all you do
  - Because **GOD** will discipline His children... and it is never any fun...