

Observations in Relation to the Wrath of God, Pt. 2
Romans 1:18, 2017-02-05A, #51

Introduction: In our last study, we begin to make some observations in relation to the wrath of God. We observed some references to the current and coming wrath of God. We also looked at God's rescue from His wrath through Jesus Christ. Today we will make some observations in relation to the Revelation of the wrath of God.

- I. The Revelation of the Wrath of God (Romans 1:18).
 - A. There are two Greek noun that are translated wrath:
 1. *Thumos* (θυμός) is sudden but soon subsides.
 - a. *Thumos* is impulsive and passionate...
 - b. We get our English word thermometer from thumos.
 2. *Orgē* (ὀργή) is God's constant displeasure or anger against sin (Romans 1:18; cf. Psalm 7:11).
 - a. *Orgē* is the Greek noun that is translated "wrath" in Romans 1:18.
 - b. God's wrath is always against sin (Romans 1:18).
 - c. God's wrath is always controlled, holy, perfect, and righteous (Genesis 18:25; Psalm 72:2; 85:13; 96:13; 97:2; 111:3).
 - d. God's wrath is not like human anger (James 1:20).
 - B. "Revealed" translates the Greek present, passive verb *apokaluptō* (ἀποκαλύπτω), which means "uncover, bring to light, make known, disclose."
 1. The wrath of God is being revealed (v. 18a).
 2. "From heaven" means divine origin (v. 18b).
- II. The Reasons for the Revelation of the Wrath of God (Romans 1:18):
 - A. "Ungodliness" translates the Greek noun *asebeia* (ἀσέβεια).
 1. According to Kenneth Wuest, "ungodliness is a lack of reverence toward God."
 2. Ungodliness refers to one's vertical relationship with God – sin against God.
 - B. "Unrighteousness" translates the Greek noun *adikia* (ἀδικία), which refers to sin against others.
 1. A wrong relationship with God will result in a wrong relationship with others...
 2. When seeking a business partner or a spouse, pay close attention to their relationship with God (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).
 - C. "Holding the truth in unrighteousness."
 1. "Hold" translates the present, active, Greek verb *katechō* (κατέχω), which means "prevent, hinder, restraint, suppress."
 2. "Truth" translates the Greek noun *alētheia* (ἀλήθεια).
 - a. From the context of Romans 1:18, we can determine that truth here refers to is truth about God (Romans 1:19-23).
 - b. God has revealed Himself to everyone in conscience and in creation (Psalm 19:1-2; cf. Romans 1:19-20).
 - c. The idea here is holding down the truth about God revealed in conscience and in creation.

- d. **Assignment: Meditate on at least one of God's creations that amazes you, such as the distance of the sun from the earth 92.96 million miles...**
- e. **A great deal of faith is required to be an atheist...**

D. The Revelation of the wrath of God is the reason for the Revelation of the righteousness of God. Note Romans 1:16, 17, 18:

- 1. **"For" translates the Greek conjunction *gar* (γάρ), which expresses cause or reason...**
- 2. **The righteousness of God is an action rather than an attribute in Romans 1:17 ...**
- 3. **God provided a righteousness because all of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6; cf. Romans 10:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:7-9).**

III. The Past Revelations of the Wrath of God:

- A. **God's wrath was revealed when Adam and Eve were driven from the garden and a curse was placed upon the ground (Genesis 3:8-24).**
- B. **The flood was a revelation of the wrath of God (Genesis 6 - 8).**
- C. **God's wrath was revealed when Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed (Genesis 19:24-25; cf. Ezekiel 16:49-50).**
- D. **God's wrath was revealed when the 10 plagues were brought against the Egyptians (Exodus 7 - 12).**
- E. **God's wrath was revealed when Pharaoh's army was drowned in the Red Sea (Exodus 14 & 15).**
- F. **The Babylonian captivity was a revelation of the wrath of God (Jeremiah 25:1-38; Daniel 1:1-2; Habakkuk 1:1-16).**
- G. **The Assyrian captivity was a revelation of the wrath of God (Isaiah 10:5-6).**
- H. **The Revelation of the wrath of God against rulers:**
 - 1. **Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4),**
 - 2. **Belshazzar (Daniel 5),**
 - 3. **Sennacherib (2 Kings 18 & 19).**
 - 4. **Herod (Acts 12:20-23).**
- I. **The greatest revelation of the wrath of God was on the cross on Calvary...**
 - 1. **If God were not a God of wrath, the cross would not have been necessary (Romans 5:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; cf. Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21).**
 - 2. **If God were not a God of love, grace, and mercy, the cross would not have been provided (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).**
 - 3. **On display on the cross, we see God's wisdom, love, grace, mercy, justice, holiness, righteousness, and wrath.**
- J. **As we saw last Sunday, God the Father took the initiative in sending God the Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from His wrath (John 3:16, 36; Romans 5:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:10)...**
- K. **Many today are storing up wrath which will one day be poured out without measure (Romans 2:5)...**

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