

Reasons for the Wrath of God, Pt. 1
Romans 1:18-23, 2017-02-12A, #52

Introduction: Today we continue in our study on the wrath of God. Wrath is an attribute of God, and God is perfect in all of his attributes. God is immutable; therefore, one attribute does not cancel another... In past studies, we looked at references to the current and coming wrath of God. We also looked at the rescue from the wrath of God. In our last study, we begin to look at some of the reasons for the revelation of the wrath of God. Today we will continue to examine some of the reasons for the wrath of God.

- I. Sin Is the Main Reason for the Revelation of the Wrath of God (v. 18a).**
 - A. “Ungodliness” and “unrighteousness.”**
 1. “Ungodliness” translates the Greek noun *asebeia* (ἀσέβεια) and refers to sin against God.
 2. “Unrighteousness” translates the Greek noun *adikia* (ἀδικία) and refers to sin against others.
 - B. Sin is doing what God said not to do or failing to do what God said do...**
 - C. Three words that describe disobedience to God:**
 1. “Sin” which translates the Greek noun *hamartia* (ἁμαρτία) and means “a missing of the mark” (1 Peter 2:22).
 - a. The verb form of the Greek noun *hamartia* is *hamartanō* (ἁμαρτάνω) and means “to miss the mark” (Romans 3:23).
 - b. Except for Jesus, all have missed the mark (Romans 3:23; 5:12; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22).
 2. “Iniquity” translates the Greek noun *anomia* (ἀνομία).
 - a. According to W. E. Vine, “Literally “lawlessness” (*a*, negative, *nomos*, “law”).
 - b. *Anomia*, “iniquity” means “lawlessness, wickedness, violation of the law, breaking of the law” (Romans 4:7; 6:19; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 10:17).
 3. “Transgression” translates the Greek noun *parabasis* (παράβασις) which means “disobedience, overstepping and established boundary, lawbreaking” (Romans 2:23; 4:15; 5:14; Galatians 3:19; 1 Timothy 2:14; Hebrews 2:2; 9:15).
 - D. “Wrath” translates the Greek noun *orgē* (ὀργή) which is God’s constant displeasure or anger against sin.**
 1. Ὁργή is not a sudden outburst like “Thumos”.
 2. God’s anger or *orgē* is not like human anger (James 1:20).
 3. God’s anger or *orgē* is always under control (Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Ezekiel 20:17; 1 Peter 3:20).

4. God's anger or *orgē* is always holy and righteous (Genesis 18:25).
 5. God's anger or *orgē* is always against sin (Romans 1:18).
- E. "Revealed" translates the Greek verb *apokaluptō* (ἀποκαλύπτω) which means "to uncover, to bring to light, to make known, to disclose."
1. *Apokaluptō* "revealed" is in the present tense in Romans 1:17, 18, which means continuous action in the present.
 2. "For" translates the Greek conjunction *gar* (γάρ) which expresses cause or reason...
 - a. "Righteousness" is being revealed because "wrath" is being revealed...
 - b. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel because it reveals the righteousness of God (Romans 1:16)...
 - 1) God has provided a righteousness to rescue us from his wrath (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9).
 - 2) All of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags in the eyes of God (Isaiah 64:6; cf. Romans 3:10-18; 10:1-4; Philippians 3:7-9).
- F. Some statements for meditation in relation to those who have never heard about Jesus Christ:
1. The Bible teaches that there are no innocent individuals in the world in the eyes of God because all are born with a sin nature except Jesus (Luke 1:35; Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; cf. Psalm 51:5; 58:3; 1 Kings 8:46; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 1 John 1:8-10)...
 2. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the only one who can deliver from sin and the wrath of God (Matthew 1:21; Luke 19:10; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:8-10; Ephesians 2:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; 1 Timothy 1:15)...
 - a. Old Testament believers were saved by grace through faith on credit (Romans 3:25; cf. Genesis 6:8-9)...
 - b. Old Testament believers look forward to the cross:
 - 1) The first prophecy regarding the Crucifixion of Jesus (Genesis 3:15).
 - 2) Noah's Ark was a prophetic picture of Jesus (Genesis 6 – 8).
 - 3) The ram that became a substitute for Isaac was a prophetic picture of the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ (Genesis 22:1-18; cf. Isaiah 53:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - 4) The Passover Lamb was a prophetic picture of Jesus (Exodus 12:1-36; cf. 1 Corinthians 5:7).
 - 5) The two goats on the Day of Atonement were prophetic pictures of Jesus (Leviticus 16:1-28).

- 6) The serpent on the pole was a prophetic picture of Jesus (Numbers 21:4-9; cf. John 3:14).
 - 7) Prophetic pictures of Jesus Christ are in every book in the Old Testament (cf. Luke 24:13-48; John 5:39).
- c. New Testament believers look back to the cross (Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:20)...
 - d. On the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for sin and satisfied the justice of God (Isaiah 53:5-6; Ezekiel 18:4, 20; Romans 3:25; 6:23)...
- 3. The Bible teaches that God has revealed Himself in conscience and in creation to everyone (Psalm 19:1-3; Romans 1:19-23)...
 - 4. The Bible teaches that when one walks in the light that God has provided, God will give more light:
 - a. The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)...
 - b. The Roman centurion Cornelius (Acts 10:1-48)...
 - c. The wealthy woman Lydia (Acts 16:13-15)...
 - 5. The Bible teaches that there will be no innocent individuals in hell (Genesis 18:25; Psalm 72:2; 85:13; 96:13; 97:2; 111:3; Revelation 20:12-13).

II. Suppression of the Truth (v. 18b).

- A. "Hold" translates the Greek verb *katechō* (κατέχω) which means "hinder, restrain, suppress."
- B. *Katechō* is a present, active Greek verb, which means continuous action in the present...
- C. From the context, we can determine that truth here refers to truth about God (Romans 1:19-23; cf. Psalm 19:1-3)...
- D. Holding down the truth revealed in conscience and in creation (Romans 1:19-20; 2:11-16; cf. John 3:19-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

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