

THE ROMAN REVEALING
Theme: The Reign of Righteousness
From the Sermon Notebook of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan

SUBJECT: THE WRATH OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 1:18

Sermon No. 3

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Introduction

There are some people who become so angry that they will turn red faced. They allow this anger to build up inside of them to such a degree that one day they explode! This is violent anger.

In Scripture God's wrath is described as His holy and just anger against sin! In Romans it refers to the just punishment that will come to someone who continues to live a sinful lifestyle.

We are going to observe three facts concerning God's wrath:

1. The Fact of God's Wrath. 18a
2. The Focus of God's Wrath. 18b
3. The Foundation of God's Wrath. 18c

I. THE FACT OF GOD'S WRATH. (18a) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven..

1. The Character Of God's Wrath.

God's nature is holiness, truth and justice, so it stands to reason that God must punish sin. No one should be surprised that sin makes God angry. To deny God's anger is to reject the necessity of Christ's dying on the cross for the forgiveness of man's sin. One day God's wrath will be unleashed in hell against those who refuse

to accept the fact that He gave His Son to die on that cross for the sins of the whole world. The unquenchable fires of Hell, where the soul never dies!

A dam has an overflow pipe that the backed up water flows through at a certain depth. If that overflow pipe becomes clogged up the waters are being backed up until there is great pressure behind that dam. Then, one day, that dam bursts and all the force of that water comes forth and destroys everything in its path. This is a picture of God's wrath building up against you for your rejection of His Son! *Biblical examples of God's wrath being executed..*

a) At the flood. Gen. 6-8. Man refused to listen to the warning of the flood preached by Noah, God's preacher. They made fun of Noah for building the Ark, while God's wrath was building up against them. God restrained His wrath for a long time, but then the day came when it burst forth in fury.

b) Sodom and Gomorrah. Gen. 19. The immoral capitol of the world, the very center of homosexuality, the very core of sinful depravity. God's wrath built up and was restrained until the day came when it burst forth in fury. God used a meteorite shower that literally burned up the whole area.

c) At the Red Sea. Ex. 14. Pharaoh and his people had been dealt with by God through the plagues and God had restrained His anger. Now, the dam bursts and the entire Egyptian army is drowned in the sea.

2. The Caliber Of God's Wrath.

When you and I get angry and display our wrath, at best, it is tainted by sin. We respond after the flesh and usually our outbursts

are selfish and foolish. On the other hand, God's wrath is always balanced, fair and perfectly just. You can be sure that when the wrath of God falls on a life, it was deserved and it was executed in perfect, divine justice!

Folks, we need to understand that there is no possible way for God to react against sin but in judgment!

3. The Consistency Of God's Wrath.

The wrath of God is constantly active. If this is true, then why do we see the wicked prospering? Shouldn't their lives be filled with pain and suffering? It would seem so from a human perspective.

However, when we look into the Word of God, it becomes clear that God, in His longsuffering, gives the wicked many chances to repent. He wants them to come to know Him. This is the problem Asaph struggled with in Psalm 73. He saw the prosperity of the wicked and the struggles of the children of God and it caused him much anxiety and confusion.

However, his perspective was cleared up when he considered the end of those without the Lord, Psa. 73:17-19. **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst tyhem down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terror.**

When he considered that they were going to experience the undiluted wrath of God in Hell forever, he began to understand that God doesn't always pay off each week!

4. The Course Of God's Wrath.

Mankind may think that he has obtained some measure of control and domination in this world, however, men needs to remember

that God is still in control and that He will have the last word in this matter.

II. THE FOCUS OF GOD'S WRATH.

1. Focused Against Ungodliness. This refers to man's relationship to the Lord, because men are the enemies of God, **Rom. 8:7** *The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* They are the focus of His anger and are therefore the "children of wrath. The absence of a genuine relationship with God will result in some form of man made religion which is at its best a false religion. The lost person will worship the idol god, or they will set themselves up as their own god bringing God's wrath into their lives.

2. Focused Against Unrighteousness. This focuses on the results of ungodliness in the life of the unbeliever. It basically refers to man's relationship with his fellow man. Every problem man has with man reflects man's relationship with God! When we treat God badly, we will treat man badly. When we love God, we will love other people too!

God hates sin! He does not hate the sinner, but He hates the sinner's sins! God is against sin and cannot allow it to go unpunished! He is a good God, but He is also a just God! He will react in wrath against the sins of humanity and those who fail to repent and get in a right relationship with Him. Those who refuse will feel the fury of God's wrath in Hell!

III. THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S WRATH.

1. Men Have Rebelled Against God's Truth. The phrase *"hold the truth in unrighteousness"* means that people know the truth, but

they refuse to accept it and hold onto their sins instead of the Lord. **If you read verse 19, Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.** There is something built into man that causes him to know that there is a God! Yet, men love their sin more than they love God.

The Bible says in Psa. 14:1, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." The fool is that person who says "No" to God. He wants his way over God's way and is living in open rebellion, against the truth of God. He is holding onto his sins!

2. Men Have Rejected God's Truth. Not only do they rebel against the truth of God, but they also reject the truth of God. Those who know about God, but refuse to walk with God are guilty of rejecting the truth of God and are subject to the wrath of God!

Conclusion

Millions of people are under the wrath of God. It is obvious that this is true by the way they live and by the things that they do.

All those who are saved by the grace of God are under the umbrella of that grace, forever sheltered and protected from the terrible wrath of Almighty God. That, in itself, is a reason for praise and glory to be given to the Lord!