

The Wrath Of God

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Rom. 1:18-32

The Scriptures speak of the coming day of God's wrath...

Revealing the righteous judgment of God.

Rom. 2:4-6, *“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds.”*

A day of judgment of the ungodly.

2 Pet. 3:7, *“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”*

In which the fullness of God's righteous indignation is made known.

The Scriptures also speak of how God's wrath has already come...

Revealed from heaven.

Rom. 1:18, *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”*

Against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.

In which a foretaste of God's righteous indignation is manifested.

Why does God manifest this foretaste of His wrath? How does He express His righteous indignation even now, long before the Day of Judgment? Our text (Rom. 1:18-32) provides the answers.

Why God manifests His wrath.

Because man stifles God's revealed truth...

By suppressing the truth in unrighteousness.

Rom. 1:18, *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”*

By Rejecting what is true. Justifying what is ungodly and unrighteous.

By spurning what God has revealed.

Rom. 1:19-20, “*Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*”

Things about God that are manifest in man himself to show the existence of God.

- Such as, man’s intelligence and personality, implying the same of his Creator.
- Such as, man’s sense of ought, implying a righteous Creator.

Things about God that are manifest in creation around him to prove His existence.

Psa. 19:1-2, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.*”

Invisible attributes of God, seen and understood by things that are visible. Such as, design and order of the universe imply eternal power and Deity.

When man fails to listen to the beauty and design of the universe that declares “God exists!”, God is angry!

Because man is ungrateful and foolish.

Not being thankful to God.

Rom. 1:21, “*Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful.*”

Even when they knew Him; yet failing to glorify Him as God.

Becoming futile in their thoughts and foolish in their hearts.

Rom. 1:21-23, “*Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*”

The consequence of not glorifying God.

Leading to idolatry (the worship of creation instead of the Creator).

- Making God into their own image.
- Making God into the image of other animate objects.

Modern man has his own idols:

- Such as, worshipping self.
- Such as, covetousness (worshipping money or things).
- Eph. 5:5, *“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”*
- Col. 3:5, *“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”*

When man ceases to be thankful to God, and esteems created things over Him, then God is angry!

The wrath of God at the last day will involve a fiery end.

- 2 Pet. 3:10, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”*
- 2 Thess. 1:7-9, *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”*

God’s wrath being revealed today is more subtle, but terrible nonetheless.

How God manifests His wrath.

He “gives man up” to moral uncleanness.

God “gave them up”.

Rom. 1:24, *“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.”*

No fire from heaven striking them down; but simply leaving man to his own desires.

To (moral) uncleanness.

In the lusts of their hearts (wherever their wicked hearts led them).

Mark 7:21-23, *“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”*

Dishonoring their bodies among themselves (In what way? I will cover in a moment).

Why does God give them up? Because they exchanged the truth of God for the lie.

Rom. 1:25, *“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”*

Worshipping and serving that which is created.

Rather than He who is the Creator and worthy to be blessed forever.

He “gives man up” to vile passions.

Again, God “gave them up”.

Rom. 1:26-27, *“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”*

No lightning from heaven striking one down, but simply leaving man to his vile passions.

Case in point, lesbianism and homosexuality. Women exchanging the natural use for what is against nature. Using their bodies with other women instead of the way God intended. And men leaving the natural use of women. Using their bodies with other men instead of the way God intended.

“Receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.” (Receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due (Such as, AIDS).

He “gives man up” to debased minds and unrighteousness.

Yet again, God “gave them over”.

Rom. 1:28, “*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient,*”

Since they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do things not fitting.

The result of being “given up”: being filled with all unrighteousness.

Rom. 1:29-31, “*Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.*”

They know the righteous judgment of God, that such are deserving of death.

Rom. 1:32, “*Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*”

Yet they still do it. And they approve those who do it.

Conclusion.

God’s wrath is manifested today by simply allowing man to go his own way...

- To follow the desires of his heart.
- To follow the passions of his lusts.
- Stumbling in blind ignorance to increasing degrees of depravity.

Eph. 4:17-19, “*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*”

God's mercy is manifested today for those willing to turn back to Him.

Willing to acknowledge His revelation...

That given through creation.

Even more so that given through His Son!

1 John 4:9-10, *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

Willing to be thankful to Him...

With the attitude of gratitude.

- Col. 1:12, *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light."*
- Col. 2:7, *"Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."*
- Col. 3:15, *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."*
- Col. 3:17, *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."*
- Col. 4:2, *"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving,"*

Showing gratitude through repentance.

Rom. 2:4, *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"*

Are we thankful? Do we show it by turning from our sins and turning to God? If not, we have every reason to fear the wrath of God - not just the Day of Judgment, but the consequence in this life of God simply *"giving us up"* to our own desires!

