**The Wrath of God**

*Romans 1:18*

**Introduction**

1. Paul’s letter to the Romans begins with an expression of desire to visit Rome **(cf. 1:13-15)**.
   1. His desire was to come to them to preach the gospel.
   2. **He explains why this desire existed within him by describing the blessedness of the gospel message. 🡪**
2. The gospel is the means by which God determined to save mankind **(cf. 1:16).**
   1. This is the wonderful theme of scripture – salvation.
   2. God graciously revealed a plan to follow to reach heaven. 🡪
3. His righteousness is revealed in the gospel **(cf. 1:17)**.
   1. His righteousness in context is that which pertains to the love He has for man manifested in His eternal plan of salvation.
   2. This ***“power of God to salvation”*** is revealed from ***“faith to faith.”***
      1. A faith that reveals must be objective faith – **Romans 10:17; Jude 3**
         1. The righteousness of God cannot be revealed by man.
         2. Man does not know God unless He reveals Himself to him.
      2. The object of faith reveals the righteousness of God (power to salvation – gospel) to faith (subjective faith – man’s faith) – **Romans 3:26b (Those who are just, are those who are justified by God through faith in Christ.)**
4. This is a wonderful thing to consider. However, he also reveals something of which most men dare not speak.
   1. This is also a facet of the gospel which cannot be left out.
   2. **What is the salvation from? From what are we saved?** 🡪
5. God also reveals the very important truth of the existence of His wrath **(cf. Romans 1:18a)**.
   1. **Wrath – natural impulse, or desire, or disposition. Came to signify anger as the strongest of all passions. (Vine**)
   2. God’s wrath is not to be confused with man’s wrath – **James 1:19-20**
      1. **Man’s wrath does not amount to the keeping of law and maintaining of righteousness.**
      2. Man’s wrath leads to more ungodliness.
   3. **God’s wrath is that which pertains to His holy nature. It is the unchangeable reaction of God toward all that is ungodly and unrighteous**.
      1. God’s reaction to sin – **Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 6:23**
      2. We could rightly describe this as **“judicial wrath,”** for God is ***“not willing that any perish” (2 Peter 3:9)***, but must punish sinfulness.
6. His wrath is revealed in the gospel so as to avoid the conclusion of His wrath in the judgement.
   1. The apostles were to preach the righteousness of God as well as His wrath – **Mark 16:15-16** (saved; condemned)
   2. **An honest look at scripture will reveal the importance of God’s grace, love, and mercy – His wrath.**
7. Wrath revealed in Moral Government of the World
8. God’s desire for the nations.
   1. **Acts 17:26-27** – God’s will for all men, including whole nations, is for them to seek and follow God.
      1. Nations do not exist to promote their own way of living (**cf. Romans 13:3-5)**.
         1. **Nations actually exist in part to execute judicial wrath on evildoers.**
         2. **Submission must exist on our part because of that wrath, but also because it is God’s will for us to submit.**
      2. Nations do not exist without God allowing them to (**cf. Daniel 5:21b**).
9. God’s wrath revealed to nations.
   1. **Proverbs 14:34** – Ungodliness and unrighteousness provoke God’s wrath, even upon nations.
   2. **Isaiah 1:4** – Judah’s unrighteousness provoked the righteous indignation of God.
   3. **Jeremiah 18:7-10** – Jeremiah elaborates on God’s dealings with nations.
   4. **His wrath is recorded as executed against:**
      1. **The world – flood**
      2. **Sodom and Gomorrah**
      3. **Israel to Assyrian captivity**
      4. **Judah to Babylonian captivity**
      5. **Destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.**
      6. **And many more.**
10. Wrath revealed in Consequences of Sin
11. God giving men up/over. (Romans 1:24, 28)
    1. **Romans 1:18-23** – Men know God, but do not acknowledge Him, and suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
       1. **Instead of turning themselves over to God in response to the truth (The truth causes guilt/discomfort.) they hold down the feeling of guilt with more unrighteousness.**
       2. The result is a seared conscience allowed by God (**cf. Ephesians 4:19**).
    2. **Romans 1:24-26, 28** – God does not force obedience on us. He requires it, but gives us choice.
       1. When we choose not to obey, God allows us to do what we want.
       2. As long as we keep shutting Him out, the hole is dug deeper. (**v. 32** – *reaching the point of being unaffected by the truth of God’s righteous judgment, and eternal consequence of sin*.)
12. Suffering temporal consequences.
    1. **Proverbs 13:15** – The ungodly life produces heartache, and hardship.
    2. **Proverbs 10:27** – God’s way is the most successful way.
13. Wrath revealed in Doctrine of Hell
14. Hell is reserved for the unrighteous.
    1. **Matthew 25:41, 46** – Hell is a place prepared in God’s wrath for those who are unrighteous.
    2. **Mark 16:16** – Righteousness is attained through faith in Christ. Those who do not believe are unrighteous and are condemned.
15. Hell is eternal.
    1. **The severity of sin, and overwhelming gravity of God’s wrath, is seen in the ultimate execution of His wrath in eternal punishment.**
    2. **Revelation 14:9-11** – The torment never ends. The worm never dies. The fire is never quenched.

**Conclusion**

1. The reality of God’s wrath because of sin must be acknowledged.
2. It is something that we cannot escape on our own, but through what He offers us.
3. We must believe and obey Jesus, and we will be spared from the wrath of God!