**Understanding the Wrath of God**

*Romans 1:18*

**Introduction**

1. **Romans 1:18** says that God’s wrath is revealed. This is not a subject taken into consideration by many in the religious world today.
2. Many would deny that God could even be truly characterized by wrath. However, the Bible speaks clearly concerning a ***“wrath of God.”***
3. What is the wrath of God? How does it relate to man?
4. **In order to know God fully, please Him, and get to heaven we must understand God’s wrath.**
5. The Wrath of God is Real
6. What about His Love, Grace, and Mercy?
   1. **John 3:16** – God loved the world, so He sent Jesus.
   2. **1 John 3:16; 4:9** – Jesus loved us, and died for us. This was a manifestation of God’s love.
   3. **Ephesians 2:4, 8** – God is rich in mercy, and saved us by grace.
   4. ***“Grace, mercy, and peace [come] from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Timothy 1:2).***
   5. **Psalm 145:9** – God is good to all, and merciful.
   6. How does wrath fit into the character of a Being described in these ways? Does God possess wrath?
7. Connected with His Wrath
   1. **God’s love, grace, and mercy are all connected with His wrath. These are so important, and made manifest to us BECAUSE of His wrath.**
   2. **John 3:16** – lest we perish.
   3. **1 John 4:9-10** – propitiation (appeasement of God’s wrath) for our sins.
   4. **Ephesians 2:4-8** – dead in trespasses, and in need of salvation.
   5. The perishing we are saved from by God through Jesus is the product of God’s wrath.
   6. **God cannot be understood without His wrath being understood. 🡪**
8. The Wrath of God
9. Distinct from the Wrath of Man
   1. **James 1:20** – Man is to lay aside wrath. It is unbecoming, and has no place with God.
   2. **Man’s wrath:**
      1. **Proverbs 14:17** – foolish.
      2. **Proverbs 16:32** – needs to be handled.
      3. **Romans 12:19** – Must be denied, and let God handle the situation.
         1. ***“Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God” (NASB)***
         2. ***“never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God” (ESV).***
         3. **James 1:20** – God’s wrath DOES produce, or manifest the righteous judgement of God 🡪
         4. **Romans 2:5-6** – God’s judgment is always righteous – when punishment is given, i.e. wrath is projected from God, SUCH IS JUST, OR RIGHTEOUS. 🡪
10. Judicial Wrath
    1. **2 Peter 3:9** – God does not want any to perish.
       1. **God’s wrath is not emotional. If it were, ALL men would perish.**
       2. God’s wrath is judicial 🡪
    2. **Consequences of sin:**
       1. **Genesis 2:16-17** – when God gave the first law, He made known that those who break it will die.
       2. **Romans 6:23** – the wages of sin is death.
       3. **Isaiah 59:1-2** – This death is SPIRITUAL in nature.
          1. **God is holy** – **cf. 1 John 1:5** – light, no darkness (sin) at all.
          2. Cannot be in fellowship with sin 🡪we sinned 🡪 separated from God 🡪 **spiritual death (product of God’s wrath**).
          3. He does not want such to be the case, but sin must be handled accordingly.
       4. **The wages of sin MUST be paid** – **Romans 3:1-6** (*Speaking of the rejection of the Jews due to their disobedience. Is God just in doing so?*):
          1. **(v. 4)** – Everything God says, or does is justified.
          2. **(vv. 5-6)** – God’s infliction of wrath is just. It is part of His NECESSARY judgment.
       5. **However, even though God’s wrath MUST be satisfied, He does not want us to perish.**
       6. **Necessary question: How can God maintain His justice (satisfy His wrath) and still justify us – sinners? 🡪**
11. The Wrath of God Appeased
12. The Appeasement
    1. **Romans 1:16-17** – God has given us a way to be saved, i.e. from His wrath – death. ***(“righteousness of God”*** – His plan for us to be righteous, and avoid death.)
       1. The Gospel reveals this plan of righteousness – IT IS this plan of righteousness – and must be believed/obeyed.
       2. **(vv. 1-2)** – This plan was promised and prophesied in the OT.
    2. **The Foreshadowing of the Gospel (cf. Hebrews 9):**
       1. **Pattern of the tabernacle** – **vv. 3-5** – Holiest of all, MERCY SEAT:
          1. **(vv. 6-7)** – Holiest of All entered ONCE a year, NOT WITHOUT BLOOD 🡪
          2. **Leviticus 16:15; 17:11** – expiatory victim’s blood sprinkled for atonement – LIFE IN BLOOD – LIFE GIVEN – I.E. DEATH. (**Satisfaction of God’s wrath**.)
          3. **(vv. 8-10)** – SYMBOLIC, and CANNOT make perfect regarding conscience. ***(“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins” – 10:4)***
       2. **Fulfillment in Christ:**
          1. **(vv. 11-14)** – Christ’s blood is greater, and cleanses the conscience – Christ entered Holiest of All with such blood 🡪
          2. **(vv. 23-26)** – TRUE Holiest of All – heaven itself.
             1. ***“appear in the presence of God for us”***
             2. ***“to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself”***
             3. Christ presented His blood before God in heave TO APPEASE GOD’S WRATH.
          3. **This was done FOR US, but THE CONDITIONS MUST BE MET IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF SUCH 🡪**
13. The Condition
    1. **Romans 1:16** – this salvation from death, i.e. God’s wrath, is only for those who believe.
    2. **Romans 3:21-26** – Righteousness of God in pardoning sin is revealed THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS:
       1. **(v. 25)** – Jesus was set forth as the ***“propitiation”*** – **SAME WORD TRANSLATED *“MERCY SEAT”* IN HEBREWS 9:5.**
       2. ***“by His blood”*** – blood put for life – life given – atonement made – WRATH OF GOD APPEASED.
       3. **(v. 26)** – God is JUST and the JUSTIFIER – only of one who has faith in Jesus.
       4. **Romans 5:9** – saved from wrath through Jesus.
       5. **Romans 6:23** – Gift of God is life through Jesus.
    3. **What of those who do not have faith in Jesus?:**
       1. God cannot justify them!
       2. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** – God will send His Son, this time to FULLY REVEAL HIS WRATH.
       3. **Revelation 14:9-11** – wrath of God poured out FULL STRENGTH.

**Conclusion**

1. God cannot be understood unless we take His wrath into consideration.
2. The whole concept of our need for salvation is because of the existence of God’s wrath.
3. Jesus’ death was to appease God’s wrath.
4. **If we believe in Jesus, and obey His word, WE WILL BE SAVED FROM THE WRATH OF GOD.**