

God's Wrath

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For Discussion: Winking At Sin: To Deny God's Wrath Is To Reject His Holiness – David Reagan
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<https://harbingersdaily.com/winking-at-sin-to-deny-gods-wrath-is-to-reject-his-holiness/>

When was the last time you've heard a "fire & brimstone" sermon?

Not very often in our day... it has fallen out of vogue. And it is not consistent with the trendy perception of Jesus... Most people, both Christian and non-Christian, tend to view God as being a sort of Cosmic Teddy Bear.

- They see Him as big and warm and soft, full of infinite love and forgiveness.
- He couldn't hurt a fly, and He certainly wouldn't be so cruel as to condemn or harm any beings created in His own image.
- On the Day of Judgment, God will simply give everyone a big hug and wink at their sins.
- (Universalism)

What is wrath?

Wrath is defined as "the emotional response to perceived wrong and injustice," often translated as "anger," "indignation," "vexation," or "irritation."

How is the wrath of God different from human wrath?

There is vast difference between the wrath of God and the wrath of man. God's wrath is holy and always justified; man's is never holy and rarely justified.

Why don't we hear much about God's wrath from the pulpits today?

2 Timothy 4:3-4 – *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn*

their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

The Laodicean Church culture has watered down the good news of Christ by not giving people the full story about God... in an effort to be "seeker sensitive" they mostly tell people what they want to hear and consequently grossly compromise with the world.

- Today's culture has more influence on the church than vice versa.
- Not teaching about God's wrath is directly related to not teaching Bible prophecy because God's wrath is a big part of Bible prophecy.

How do those avoiding bring up God's wrath justify their neglect?

They emphasize the loving, patient, caring, and forgiving aspects of God. And He is, but this alone is not the complete picture of who He is.

What aspect of God is neglected by those who only focus on "God is love" (1 John 4:8)?

The Bible also teaches that God is perfectly holy. Because of this attribute of His character, He cannot tolerate sin (Numbers 14:18). The Bible says God must deal with sin, and He does so in one of two ways — either grace or wrath...

- All of us know John 3:16, a very comforting verse about God's love for us. But few of us seem to be aware of the words recorded a few verses later:

John 3:36 — *He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

- The apostle Paul emphasized this point in his preaching and teaching. In Ephesians 5 he warns against immorality, covetousness, and idolatry, and then he adds this observation:

Ephesians 5:6 — *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things, the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*

How do we come under God's grace?

By placing our faith in Jesus and appropriating His atoning sacrifice for our lives...

1 John 1:7 – *if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin*

How should we deal with those who claim the God of wrath is the Old Testament God and not the God of the New Testament?

We should point out that the Bible clearly teaches that our Creator is a God of both love and wrath. And there is also this:

Malachi 3:6 – *“I, the LORD do not change...”*

The New Testament confirms this important point...

Hebrews 13:8 – *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.”*

Are there different types of God's wrath?

The Bible reveals several different aspects of the wrath of God:

- **Consequential Wrath** — This is what might be called “sowing and reaping wrath.” It is the wrath we bring upon ourselves when we reap what we sow through sinful living.
- **Cataclysmic Wrath** — As evidenced in disasters, either natural or man-made, like the 9/11 attacks. God allows these as a way of calling people and nations to repentance.
- **Abandonment Wrath** — The wrath exhibited by God when He turns His back on a person or a society, allowing self-destruction.
- **Eschatological Wrath** — The wrath God will unleash on all the world during the Great Tribulation.
- **Eternal Wrath** — The ultimate punishment God will inflict upon those who are consigned to Hell.

Are we experiencing the wrath of God in the USA today?

Yes, we are: inflation, crime, migrant invasion, feckless governmental leadership, corruption, debased minds are all manifestations of God's wrath.

Which of the five different types of God's wrath apply to the USA today?

God's wrath of abandonment is what our nation is experiencing today. Again, this type of wrath can fall on an individual as well as a society.

Romans 1:18 – *the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness*

How have we seen the Romans 1 abandonment wrath in our country?

- First, God steps back and lowers the hedge of protection around the nation, allowing evil to multiply. The result is an outbreak of sexual sin (Romans 1:24-25), which is what happened in the nation in the 1960s.
- If the nation refuses to repent, God takes a second step back and lowers the hedge even further (Romans 1:26-27), producing a plague of homosexuality. Again, this nation has experienced this second phase ever since the 1990s, but it gained momentum in 2003 when our Supreme Court struck down all sodomy laws.

If the nation persists in its rebellion, God will take a third step back and abandon the nation to “*a depraved mind*” (Romans 1:28).

- This depravity was manifested in this nation when our Supreme Court sanctioned same-sex marriage in June of 2015, and our President celebrated the decision by having the White House lit up in the rainbow colors of the Sexual Perversion Movement.

Does the fact that God pours out His wrath on us make Him a “monster”?

No! On the contrary, it proves His goodness, for how could a good God ignore the evil of sin and allow it to go unpunished? His wrath against evil demonstrates His righteousness.

Nahum 1:2-3 – *The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies; The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked.*

What is the purpose of God's wrath?

God's wrath is never motivated primarily by a desire to punish. Rather, it is designed to bring people to repentance so that they might be saved. Even in His wrath, God remembers mercy.

How does God demonstrate His mercy in His wrath?

By never pouring out His wrath without warning.

- He tried to warn Sodom and Gomorrah through Lot.
- He warned Noah's world through the preaching of Noah for 120 years.
- He sent both Jonah and Nahum to warn the pagan city of Nineveh.

Amos 3:7 – *Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.*

God's mercy in wrath is also manifested in the fact that He always leads up to His final outpouring of wrath through a series of progressive judgments.

How is God's mercy seen in the Tribulation?

Rather than simply pouring out His wrath on the rebellious nations of the world, destroying them in one instant of overwhelming catastrophe, He subjects the world to a series of judgments that sequentially increase in scope and intensity (Revelation 6,8-9,16).

- Although most people refuse to repent in response to these judgments (Revelation 9:20-21), there is...
Revelation 7:9 – *a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues*

How do you explain why there are so many who do not respond to the wrath of God?

These radically different responses to the wrath of God illustrate the point that is often made by Billy Graham:

“The same sun that melts the butter also hardens the clay.”

The wrath of God melts some hearts in repentance, but it has the effect of hardening the hearts of many others.

How should we respond to those who avoid Bible prophecy because “it’s too full of gloom and doom”?

Well, there is a lot of gloom and doom for those who refuse to respond to God's gift of love in Jesus. But there is only good news for the Redeemed.

- The bad news:
Malachi 4:1 – *For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up*
- But consider the good news:
Malachi 4:2 – *But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; And you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves*

Why shouldn't the Christian fear the wrath of God?

There is no reason for any child of God to fear the wrath of God. Paul wrote that since we have been justified by the blood of Christ, *“we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him”* (Romans 5:9).

- And in a most comforting verse, Paul told the Thessalonians that Jesus will *“deliver”* the Redeemed *“from the wrath to come”* (1 Thess 1:10).
- The reason, Paul explained, is that *“God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Thess 5:9).

What is the most important question everyone should have settled in their mind?

Are you under grace or wrath? The choice is yours. Jesus is coming soon.

- When He appears, will He be your Blessed Hope or your Holy Terror?
- Will you cry for the mountains to fall upon you? ...Or, will you go forth leaping with joy like a calf released from a stall?

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- God's abandonment wrath applies to the USA today; we need to re-double our efforts to grow closer to Him.
- God's mercy is even seen in His wrath; no one should misinterpret that mercy as God not caring.
- God's purpose for His wrath is to cause His people to repent; the wheat and chaff is being divided!