

WRATH OF GOD

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the wrath of God is something we must understand and therefore obey our God.
2. 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;"
3. Wrath of God
 - a. Not a pleasant subject - most would rather talk about the Love of God and Heaven
 - b. But the wrath of God is a very real thing and we must understand it and appreciate it if we are going to avoid His wrath.
4. God is not only a God of love but also a God of Holiness.
 - a. His holiness expresses itself in two ways: Law and Wrath
 - b. His law gives directions to man on how to live
 - c. God's Wrath is what He does to man when he violates the laws given.
5. God's wrath has been revealed in the past - an example is the great flood in Noah's time
 - a. God warned man to repent or else.
 - b. For 120 years He warned them. But they would not repent.
 - c. God kept His word and destroyed the wicked men from the face of the earth and saved Noah and his family.
 - d. God poured out His wrath on the evil world.
6. The wrath of God is a subject we need to discuss and understand because we want to avoid His wrath.

Discussion

I. DEFINITION'S

A. Meaning of the word Wrath in the O.T.

1. There are at least 20 different words that express the concept of God's wrath and they are found over 580 times.
2. The most common word for Wrath or Anger is "Ap". (170 times)
 - a. It basically refers to the nose or nostrils.
 - b. It comes from the verb anap which means "to snort, to be angry".
 - c. In the O.T. the nose is more the organ of wrath than smell.
 - d. **Psalm 18:6-8** NKJV "In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, because He was angry. Smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; coals were kindled by it."
3. Two other O.T. Words come from verbs that mean "to be hot, to burn, to kindle"
 - a. **Chemah** - Hot displeasure, indignation, wrath, rage, fury. It is used for God's wrath 90 times. **Deuteronomy 9:19** NKJV "For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure (chemah) with which the Lord was angry with you, to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at that time also."
 - b. **Charon** - "heat, inward burning of anger". **Numbers 11:1** ASV "And the people were as murmurers, speaking evil in the ears of Jehovah: and when Jehovah heard it, his anger was kindled; and the fire of Jehovah burnt among them, and devoured in the uttermost part of the camp."

B. N.T. uses of the words for the Wrath of God

1. Thumos - "The turbulent commotion and boiling agitation of the feelings".
 - a. **Romans 2:8** NKJV "but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness -- indignation and wrath,"
 - b. **Revelation 14:10** NKJV "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."
2. Orge - An abiding and settled habit of mind.
 - a. **John 3:36** NKJV "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
 - b. **Romans 1:18** "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, "
3. God's wrath is not an uncontrolled fit of temper such as is common with mankind.
 - a. It is not just a flaring up of passion which is soon over but is a strong and settled opposition to all that is evil that rises out of God's very nature.
 - b. Wrath of God against sin is not just an occasional event but a constant part of His very essence, namely His Holiness.
 - c. The Holiness of God always burns against the very thought of sin but is not obvious and observed until sin actually comes into existence.
 - d. At that point the holiness of God is unveiled as a consuming fire that must by nature destroy the offending evil, just as a hot stove instantly vaporizes drops of water that fall on it.

II. WHY DOES GOD HAVE WRATH ?

A. God warned mankind that if they disobeyed they would be punished

1. Isaiah 5:20-25 V. 25 "Therefore the anger of the LORD is aroused against His people; He has stretched out His hand against them And stricken them, And the hills trembled. Their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still."
2. Deuteronomy 8:11, 19-20 V. 19 "Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish."
3. Deut. 28:1, 15 V. 15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:"
4. Deut. 29:24-28 V. 27-28 "Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book. 28 'And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.'"

B. There is only one reason why sin evokes wrath: By violating the law, sin is a direct challenge to the holiness of God.

1. Wrath is the reaction of Holiness defied.
2. God's wrath against sin is described in the Bible in violent and ferocious, even brutal terms.
3. **Hebrews 10:31** "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

C. This is what it means to be under God's wrath.

1. It Means to be Marked for Punishment of the Most Dreaded Sort.
2. Wrath of God is punishment given to sinners because they deserve it.
3. The person who freely chooses to break the commandments of the Lord of the universe, thereby dishonoring and defiling His infinite holiness, deserves the wrath that destroys him.

III. THE ETERNAL PUNISHMENT IN HELL

A. The penalty of Hell is absolute eternal retribution.

1. It is impossible for Hell to be for the purpose of correcting or rehabilitating the wicked.
2. It is Complete and Irreversible Punishment on those who have sinned against the Holy Will of God.
3. **Revelation 20:10** NKJV "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."
4. **Revelation 20:15** "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

B. Many want to say God loves too much to punish in hell. They think punishment is not fitting to the God of the Bible. (JW's, 7th Day Adventists)

1. Those who want to reject the concept of a God who is capable of great wrath because the thought is not pleasant, reject the plain teaching of the Bible and as a result are rejecting God Himself.

2. He is not what they want Him to be so they make an idol of their own choosing.
 3. It is not just an idea they are rejecting, but God Himself.
 4. If there is no wrath or punishment of sin, why do we need to be forgiven?
 5. Why the urgency to teach? Why are we not only to teach in season but also out of season?
 6. We can only appreciate God's grace when we understand the condemnation we deserve because of our sins. Only then can we understand why we have "so great a salvation".
 7. When we read about the horror of hell and think about the severity of God's retributive wrath, instead of worrying about how this reflects upon His love, we should rather reflect that it shows us how much He hates sin.
- C. If we are ever to appreciate the privileges and blessings we have as Christians, we must understand God's wrath against sin and how our rebellion against the Holiness of God has made us enemies of God.
1. Because of our sin, we are under the wrath of God.
 2. If God's Holiness was His only attribute, then there would be no hope for any of us, He must cast us all off from His presence forever. God is also Love.
 3. Because of that Love, He has provided a way that we may be cleansed, purified and escape the wrath that is due.

IV. IS GOD'S WRATH NECESSARY ?

- A. Many want to deny the reality of the wrath of God and ignore it.
1. If wrath is not really necessary why cannot God simply forgive us without the necessity of the cross?
 2. Why cannot God simply forgive us without even the necessity of our own trusting response to Him?
- B. The reason is that God's wrath is part of His very nature and therefore it must necessarily be expressed - This Is What God Is
1. Nahum 1:2 "God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies;"
 2. Deuteronomy 4:24 NKJV "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."
- C. This is what He IS.
1. If God ever did stop hating sin He would cease being Holy.
 2. This does not mean God is free to do anything. Because of His nature, certain choices are impossible.
 - a. Titus 1:2 God... cannot lie
 - b. 1 Timothy 2:13 - He cannot deny Himself
 - c. James 1:13 - God cannot be tempted by evil
 3. Because of who and what God is there are things He must do and cannot do. God was still free to choose to create or not to create.

D. God does have a choice with respect to the punishment of sinners.

1. He is free to either to punish the sinner himself, or punish the sin in the person of a substitute.
2. This is what God by His Grace chosen to do
3. It was a free will choice He did not have to make!
4. It is the necessity of the Wrath of God that leads to the cross.

E. God's Wrath Alone Does Not Account For the Cross

1. God could have simply sent us all to Hell. That would have satisfied His wrath.
2. But there is another side to God's nature to which He must also be true, His love.
3. It was His Love that led him to choose the substitute, His only begotten Son.
4. If wrath did not have to be satisfied, then this choice was not necessary. But God's wrath is real, and it must be poured out as punishment for sin.

F. Why Should We Meditate on the Wrath of God?

1. It Will Help Us to Understand the Seriousness of Sin.
 - a. We should continually meditate on it in order that our hearts may be impressed by God's complete hatred of sin.
 - b. We are very prone to take sin lightly, to make excuses, not see how hideous it really is.
 - c. But the more we study and ponder God's abhorrence of sin and His terrible vengeance upon it, the more likely we are to realize the seriousness of it and thus hate it and want to avoid it.

2. It Should Increase Our Love and Gratitude Towards God.
 - a. We Realize the Magnitude of the Penalty From Which We Have Been Saved.
 - b. This is true only for the Christian.
 - c. Anyone not under the blood of the Lamb should be filled only with terror at the thought of God's wrath.
 - d. Christians should be grateful for our redemption and especially to Christ when we realize that He has suffered this wrath in our place.
3. It Will Help Us Realize The Need For Proper Service To God.
 - a. Hebrews 2:3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.
 - b. Heb. 10:25f is the strongest language in the Bible addressed to God's people)
4. It Will Instill Within Us A Greater Desire For Evangelism,
 - a. There will be A Greater Desire to See Others Accept God's Free Offer from the Wrath to Come.
 - b. It should cause us to want to save others, snatching them out of the fire. Jude 23

Conclusion

1. What God Has Done? Psalms 85:3 NKJV "You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger." How?
2. By the Blood Romans 5:9 NKJV "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

3. How do we contact the blood of Christ ?
- a. **Belief** John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
 - b. **Repentance** Luke 3:7 "Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance"
 - c. **Confession** - Rom. 10:9-10
 - d. **Baptism** - Colossians 3:1-6 "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience."
 - e. Gal. 3:27
4. If we continue in Disobedience — "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
5. Paul calls those outside the grace of God "children of wrath" - Eph. 2:3