

Argument #3 Your conscience, slavery to "present" rightness + fear of rejection

- ✓ Kathryn Schulz ... Can you relate?
 - ✓ Talented Mr. Ripley ... you right?
 - ✓ Christian ▶ "single greatest moral, intellectual + creative leap you can make" (Schulz) ▶ whole new level: "I was idolater under God's righteous wrath"
- Sufjan Stevens

How? ... Consider the joy, freedom + Hope could be yours

③ Great Deliverance of Jesus

1. On the Cross **+**, Jesus bore our sins/idolatry, took the just wrath of God our sins deserved, and experienced hell in our place. Mother Hen

See how you could finally be fully known Talented Mr. Ripley and yet fully, utterly loved?

2. At the Resurrection **Δ**, Jesus triumphed over death. Having paid the debt to death our sins deserved, we now have the hope of resurrection "Whom he raised from the dead." ... ▶ 4:13-14

Do you see how we grieve as those who have hope?

3. At His Return, Jesus will bring us into his presence forever. 4:17, 5:9-11

Do you want deliverance? Wrath ... Hell is "the freely chosen, skid row of universe." C.S. Lewis

Hell is the greatest monument to human freedom

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is troubling to your friends, peers and colleagues about the concept of the "Wrath of God"/"Wrath to come"? What is troubling to you?
2. How might the Biblical understanding of idolatry help you not only understand the wrath of God but recognize our world's/your need for it: (1) Idols are created things we make ultimate things to save us, that we worship and serve, i.e. get us the comfort, power, approval, security, control our hearts long for, (2) Our worship and service of idols suppresses the truth about God, tells others lies about God, and eventually wounds people made in God's image, (3) God has right, authority and power to call our idolatry that leads to our wounding of people to account and judgment.
3. Discuss how on the cross Jesus takes our place, bears our idolatry and the wrath of God for us, and gives us His righteousness. Rejoice together in the return of Christ and the Rescue from the coming wrath that He provides.

3 Great description of conversion + Christian
Great defeaters of Christian faith = wrath of Θ
Great deliverance of Jesus

① Greatest description of conversion / Christian faith

$\equiv \equiv$ = our self-understanding

1. Turn from idols

☑ Definition

☑ Dynamic of human condition Romans 1:18ff
"worshipped and served the creature..." vs. 25

2. Turn to serve the living and true Θ

3. Take a new orientation to the future

"Wait for his Son from heaven..."

☑ Linear vs. cyclical worldview Jürgen Moltmann

☑ Christian = person who has gone from an attachment to idols to an attachment to Jesus
1992 in Russia ▶ engaged ▶ waiting

STOP! Stuck on the Bible's wrathful, angry Θ ,
who smites us, throws us into hell...

Affirm that the "wrath of Θ " is a reason that many
reject and dislike Christianity, BUT I will make the
case that we can't live w/o wrath of Θ , at least that the
acknowledgement of it creates people of freedom, joy, hope...

"delivers us from the wrath to come." Kathryn Schulz's TED Talk

② Great Defeater... 3 Arguments for the wrath of Θ

Argument #1 The social necessity of the wrath of Θ

☑ 3 key values in our culture are equality,
fairness and justice, right?

☑ Θ 's wrath is His Personal, settled disposition to
bring about perfect justice for all people
(equality) w. utter fairness (i.e. punishment = crime).
Becky Pippert

☑ w/o ultimate justice we undermine (1) social
restraint on evil Dostoyevsky, (2) the "proximate"
justice system, (3) our moral outrage, and
(4) the practice of non-violence Miroslav Volf

Argument #2 The seriousness of idolatry

☑ idolatry + wrath tied together here + Rom 1:18-25

☑ suppression of truth re Θ , worshipping
created things ▶ service ▶ slavery Addiction

☑ step further ▶ idols come at a cost, want blood
Wounds/attacks those in Θ 's image, who He loves!

Far idol	Near idol	Problem Emotion	Price you/others pay
approval comfort power control security	\$, sex, job, relationship, kids, ideology, reputation, nation, etc.	fear, worry, rage anger, anxiety, stress, cowardice, shame, jealousy, boredom	hurt, smothered used, rejected, condemned, isolated, stressed, uncertain, etc.

➡➡➡ Θ is the Avenger! 1 Thessalonians 4:6