

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God's Wrath And God's Salvation, Pt 2

Selected Passages

PowerPoint Presentation: None

Keywords: wrath of God; Salvation; judgment, patience of God, Day of the Lord

SermonAudio blurb: In this second part of a series on God's wrath and salvation we explore the reality of His wrath toward all who reject Him. We see its beginnings and follow this wrath throughout the bible to the end when it roars forth in fulness. And we are then reminded of the way of escape.

I. Introduction.

- A. I introduced this series last week. I basically made two points:
 1. First, there is no fear of God in the hearts of people.
 - a. Not just with those who are doing bad things or what we would call a non-Christian.
 - b. But within visible Church as well. Death by a thousand cuts—starts small but it adds up.
 - c. The costs becomes great. The visible Church—the witness to this world of the glory of God and His saving work ends up becoming dim and even lost because of small theological compromises that add up.
 - d. This results in the wrath of God, something not appreciated, nor feared as we ought. It is an abiding, ever-increasing wrath upon all mankind.
 - e. And the only answer and escape is through Jesus Christ, God in flesh, as our substitute. His death and resurrection are two inseparable actions that accomplish all that is needed for salvation from that wrath. It is called the “gospel.”
 - f. This is where we often mess up. “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for you.” Not wrong, but incomplete.
 2. The second point was that there are many false, replacement gospels.
 - a. The gospel is something we must get right. Too many will say to Jesus on the final day, a day of judgment, that they should be saved from His wrath and yet He will state He never knew them.

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- b. Unfortunately the heart of mankind manufactures many false gospels. They are deadly. We considered just four: Ask Jesus into Your Heart, Grace + something else, Prosperity and Social Justice.
- B. All of this was an introduction to a short series on God's wrath and His salvation from that wrath.
 - 1. Today we will consider the serious doctrine of the wrath of God.
 - 2. The approach is tracing it in the bible like you would the beginning of a river.

II. A River Called 'Wrath'.

- A. The fountainhead is God Himself.
 - 1. Predates time and history.
 - 2. Bound up in the person of God, who and what He is.
 - a. Doctrine of divine simplicity.
 - 3. God, in His essence, His being, is triune. Father, Son and Spirit. Each person is fully and truly God. Yet the Father is not the Son and the Spirit is not the Father. A key creed developed by the Church centuries ago says this about the persons of the Trinity:
 - a. "The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. . . . The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet they are not three eternals; but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated; nor three infinites, but one uncreated; and one infinite. So likewise the Father is Almighty; the Son Almighty; and the Holy Spirit Almighty. And yet they are not three Almightyies; but one Almighty."
 - 4. So the true fountainhead of understanding God's wrath is simply God Himself.
- B. The beginning of this river is known as the Fall.
 - 1. Genesis 3.

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- C. These streams become a river.
1. Many different streams, all flowing from that first great sin, begin to flow downward.
 2. Chapter 6 of Genesis.
 - a. In 6:7 we hear the words of God saying, *“I will blot out man whom I have created. . . .”*
 - b. In 6:13 He say, *“The end of all flesh has come before me.”*
 - c. 6:17, *“I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish.”*
 3. The firstborn of all of Egypt were killed by God.
 4. Israel complained that they didn't have meat and had to only eat manna which was miraculously provided by God in Numbers 11.
 5. Sodom and Gomorrah.
 6. Time and again people, cities and nations find that as powerful as they might be in the eyes of all others, they become a puff of smoke when God's wrath comes. The earth opens up and swallows them and they are no more. They are trapped by their hair in a tree and easily killed. A seemingly random shot of an arrow pierces a tiny spot on a man armor or a siege becomes so horrible that the people resort to cannibalism until the wall finally fall and they are destroyed themselves.
 7. And these many little and big streams of God's wrath continue throughout history moving and merging into a bigger river.
 8. And in it all their Creator and God says, “Turn from your evil ways and find refuge in me.”

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9. In the New Testament we find the promise of the coming wrath of God and the need to turn and come to Jesus Christ. That there is no escape except in Jesus Christ.
 - a. Wrath is described differently in much of the New Testament. The reason is it covers a much shorter time period.
 - b. We see it in Romans 1 where it is described as flowing endlessly down out of heaven.
 - c. Romans 2 where it is being stored up to be unleashed on the day of wrath.
 - d. In Romans 4 we learn that even the Law of God, the 10 commandments, cannot save; rather, it brings the wrath of God upon us.
 - e. In Romans 12 we are told as Christians that we are not to be a people seeking our own vengeance, but to instead leave room for the wrath of God.
 - f. In Ephesians 5 we are warned that no immoral, impure or covetous person—the idolater has a place with God; for because of these things the wrath of God comes. So again the command is to turn from these things and turn to Jesus Christ.
10. But these streams ultimately meet together into one massive river of wrath. Sometimes the river is deep and calm, but it is there. Other times it is a raging, boiling cauldron of immediate wrath.
 - D. The river ends in a great waterfall into the ocean
 1. This will occur in the end. It is eschatological.
 2. Repeatedly the bible talks of a coming time described as a ‘day’ and it is called the great day of His wrath.
 3. Listen to the prophet Zephaniah, *“Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and battle cry, Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers. And I will bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will be poured out like dust, And their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold Will be*

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able to deliver them On the day of the LORD's wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.” (Zeph. 1:14-18)

4. Revelation 6:12.
5. Revelation 12:12.
6. Revelation 14:9-11, 17-18.
7. Revelation 15:7 - 16:1.
8. Revelation 19:15-16.

III. Conclusion.

- A. The wrath of God must be satisfied.
- B. But there is a fork in this river that you must understand.

- C. Lord willing, next week it is this great salvation that we will consider together.

Benediction

May the Lord answer you in your day of trouble. May the name of YHWH set you in a secure place on high. May He remember your faithfulness and prayers and may He grant you the true desires of your heart. Amen