

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

God's Wrath And God's Salvation, Pt 3

Ephesians 2:1-10

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PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: We have read and seen the reality of God's wrath—a veritable river flowing down toward that ocean of wrath known as hell. And it is this pure and holy wrath that is from what God saves us. In this message we explore how God saves sinners from wrath.

I. Introduction.

- A. Today we come back to the subject of God's wrath.
 - 1. Last week we traced the journey of God's wrath through the Bible from its source to its end.
 - 2. Wrath is part of God's essence. And that is the very fountainhead of this whole issue. It flows from His being. In fact, God desires to make manifest His wrath according to Romans 9:22. It is part of His glory.
 - 3. The beginnings of the display of wrath is bound up in the sin of Adam which brought the Fall.
 - 4. From Genesis 3 to the end of the bible we see countless examples of various streams of God's wrath on display. Each of them powerful and sobering and yet all of them put together are but a shadow of the day of wrath to come.
 - 5. The river of wrath ends as it pours out into the ocean of eternity. God's great day of wrath. And the question is, who can stand before it?
- B. This is where Jesus Christ comes into view. His death and resurrection are not merely points of interest or examples for us. Without Jesus Christ there is no hope of escaping wrath—for it is ours to bear and it shall be borne for eternity.
- C. This salvation from the wrath to come is the focus of today's sermon. The question I want to ask and then answer is, "How does God save us from His wrath?"

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II. How Does God Save?

A. A Triune work.

1. A common misconception that creeps into our thinking is that Jesus is the nice guy who somehow saves us from the angry God. But this fails to understand the Trinity and the nature of God.
2. But each of the persons, the Father, Son and Spirit, have a different role in salvation.
 - a. Gospel of John:
 - (1) Spirit: John 3:1-8.
 - (2) Father & Son: John 3:16.
 - (3) Father & Son: John 6:37-40.
 - b. Book of Ephesians:
 - (1) Father: Ephesians 1:3-6.
 - (2) Son: 1:7-12.
 - (3) Spirit: 1:13-14.
3. Summary:

B. It is a work of pure grace.

1. Utter inability and universal guilt of man.
 - a. This is also known as “total depravity” but it is also misunderstood by many. Not that each person is as bad as they can be. Rather, it is that each person is totally affected by the presence and power of sin. No aspect of a person remains free from its taint.

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- b. *“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man” (Mark 11:21-23).*
2. The gift of a new heart.
 - a. If the heart represents the essence of a person—intellect, will and emotions. And if the heart is, as Jeremiah 17:9 says, desperately wicked. And if the heart is from where our sins flow. Then where is hope?
 - b. John 3:1-8.
 3. A substitute for a specific people.
 - a. Prepositions are little words with a big impact. They help answer important questions that might come to mind. They tell us the relationship between the other words. They help carry the subtle meanings that are in every language.
 - b. In Greek prepositions are also very important. And one is particularly important regarding salvation. *Huper* is the term but so often it is translated as “for” and the significance gets lost to many. Its meaning is “on behalf of” or “in the place of.”
 - c. How it is used regarding salvation:
 - (1) *All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out” (John 6:37).*
 - (2) John 10:11, 15.

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(3) Romans 5:6, 8.

(4) Romans 8:32.

4. A work of perseverance for the saved.
 - a. If it is God who saves us then it is God who keeps us saved. If we must contribute to either of these aspects of salvation then we have no hope for we would fail in every way.
 - b. John 10:25-30.
5. Ephesians 2:1-10.
 - a. Vss 1-3 is our reality apart from grace.
 - b. Vss 4-9 is God's gracious intervention.
 - c. Vs 10 is God's plan for those He saves.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Saved from the wrath to come. This is the grand promise of the good news of Jesus Christ.
- B. It is the one and only way out. It is a sovereign work of God on behalf of poor, rightly condemned sinners. As it is written in Revelation 6:17 regarding that coming day fixed by God, that great day of His wrath: "who is able to stand?"

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C. The answer is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11.

Benediction

May our God cause you all to not stumble and to make you stand one day in His presence filled with joy. May God's Spirit hold you in His mighty hand until that day of redemption. And may you find your hope, joy and life in His Son, Jesus Christ the Lord. To Him be the glory and majesty and dominion for all time. Amen