



Sermon Series: The Cross of Christ, Part 3
Sermon Title: The Satisfaction of God
Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer, March 21, 2021

We often want to focus on the love of God and his great caring and tender heart of a Shepherd for His sheep. But there is another aspect of God that is essential for us to consider. It is God's wrath. **Romans 1:18–20**

Boil it all down, and life is a choice between one of two cups.

Big Idea: You choose either a cup of wrath or a cup of grace.

I. The Cup of God's Wrath

According to the late **John Stott**, God's wrath is "*His steady, unrelenting, unremitting, uncompromising antagonism to evil in all its forms and manifestations.*" But that definition requires several clarifications.

1st, God's wrath is unlike our anger

We must view His wrath in light of what we know about God. That includes His justice, His love, and His goodness. God's wrath isn't like our anger. God's wrath is just, measured, and faultless.

2nd, God's wrath is in response to evil.

1 John 4:8 says "God is love." Love is the part of His nature that draws us to Him. Nothing causes Him to love us. **Deuteronomy 7:7**

Whereas God's love is entirely unearned, God's wrath is entirely earned. It's His response to the intrusion of evil into his world. If there were no evil in the world, there would be no wrath of God. God's anger is his settled resolve that evil will not stand.

3rd, God's wrath builds slowly.

God will wipe evil out, but first He is giving time for people to turn to Him (repentance). **2 Peter 3:9**

4th, God's wrath is visible even now.

Romans 1:18 says "**The wrath of God is being revealed...**" [present tense]

God eventually gives us over to what we serve.

- He gives us over to sexual impurity (Rom 1:24)
- He gives us over to shameful lusts (Rom 1:26)
- He gives us over to a depraved mind (Rom 1:28)

As we see the moral fabric of America unravel, we should cry to God for mercy. His wrath is visible even now.

5th, God's wrath is being stored up.

History is rushing toward a day when God will deal with evil finally, fully, and forever. It will be the day of wrath, when God will pay out what evil has earned. Romans 2:5

Many choose a cup that they think is full of excitement and freedom but it leads to death. Proverbs 14:12

II. The Cup of God's Grace

"Grace" refers to a gift you have neither deserved nor earned. This cup is life – eternal life – that God offers to you. And it cost Him. Romans 3:25–26

"Sacrifice of atonement" refers to both the sacrifice itself, and the place of the sacrifice.

- **The OT sacrificial system.** Hebrews 9:22 Every violation of God's law required a blood sacrifice.
- **The ongoing sacrifices** were temporary coverings for sin. Hebrews 10:3,4
- **The architecture of the tabernacle & Temple.** Altar, Holy place, Holy of Holies. There were no chairs in the temple because the work of the priests was never finished. Hebrews 10:11
- Then each year there was one day, the **Day of Atonement** that served as the "catch-up day" for anything that was missed over the course of an entire year of sacrifices. Hebrews 10:12

Jesus sat down because he made a sacrifice to end all sacrifices. Paul in Romans 3:25 tells us that Jesus on the cross became the "mercy seat", the place where our sins are erased; where God's wrath against my sin was poured out. And it filled another cup with grace sufficient for all who would trust in him.

And for all those who would choose it, He offers the other cup, the cup of Grace... eternal life. Revelation 22:17b But there remains a cup of wrath for all those who refuse the cup of grace.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Explain the primary difference between God's wrath and man's wrath
- **2 Peter 3:9** teaches that God doesn't just wipe evil out because He is giving time for people to turn to Him. Do you believe that God gives every person the opportunity to know Him? How does He reveal Himself to those in remote places of the world?
- Vice and decadence are in a sense, expressions of God's punishment. God eventually gives us over to what we serve. Describe how America has changed in your lifetime and list specific ways you see expressions of God's punishment as God gives us over to what we serve.
- What awakened your spirit to receive God's cup of Grace?
- How can you be an instrument of God's grace in your immediate family, friends, and workplace?

BIBLE VERSES

Romans 1:18–20 (NIV) — ¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Deuteronomy 7:7 (NIV) — The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) — ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Romans 1:18 (NIV) “The wrath of God is being revealed...”

Romans 2:5 (NIV) — But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV) — There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

Romans 3:25–26 (NIV) — God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished — ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Hebrews 9:22 “Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.”

Hebrews 10:3–4 (NIV) — ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:11 (NIV) — Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

Hebrews 10:12 (NIV) — ¹² But when this priest [Jesus] had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Revelation 22:17b (NIV) —Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.