

## KNOWING GOD

J.I. Packer

### Wrath of God - Chapter 15

Wrath is deep intense anger and indignation. It is also an attribute of God. Modern Christianity avoids this subject, yet the biblical writers engage in it constantly. Both Testaments emphasize the reality and terror of God's wrath. The bible labors to point out that God is good to those who trust Him and terrible to those who don't. (Nahum 1:2-8)

Paul describes God as a consuming fire. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10) Romans, 1 Thessalonians, Luke and Revelation speak very clearly and loudly to God's actions of wrath. In fact God's wrath starts with Adam and Eve to the great day of judgment in Revelation. Since the bible is vocal, why are we so silent? We should not be embarrassed by this characteristic of God.

The bible describes God's attributes and affections in ordinary human terms, it does not imply the limitations and imperfections of those human sinful sides.

- God's *love* never leads Him to foolish, impulsive or immoral actions like humans.
- God's *wrath* is never self-indulgent, irritable or morally wrong.
- A. God is only angry where anger is called for. We call this righteous indignation. His wrath is always judicial, it is handed out to each precisely what is deserved.
- B. His wrath is something people choose for themselves. (John 3:18-19) Man has rejected the light that has come into the world. To not answer Jesus is to say 'no' to him. Man is without excuse. By being an unbeliever a choice toward sin and self is made, so God gives them what they choose.

### Romans on wrath

1. The meaning of God's wrath - 2:5; 5:9 tells us that His wrath is an active manifestation of His hatred of irreligion and moral evil. Children of wrath (Eph. 2:3) fitted for destruction and vessels of wrath.
2. The revelation of God's wrath - 1:18 a constant universal disclosure from heaven through 'depraved minds' is imprinted on every man's conscience. The pattern of degenerative behaviors constantly working itself out of wicked hearts.
3. The deliverance from God's wrath - 3:9-10, 19 the whole world is held accountable and no one is righteous. Paul works into ch. 5:9, saved from God's wrath through Jesus.

Propitiation - a sacrifice averting God's wrath through paying for sin and canceling guilt.

We no doubt should preach God's wrath without tears in our eyes and pain in our hearts. It is vital we face this truth and share this truth. As Jude tells us in verse 23, "save some, by snatching them out of the fire" Regarding sin as heavy, we should serve acceptably and reverently.