

## “THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED”

**16 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.** (Romans 1:18)

For Paul, fear of eternal condemnation was the first motivation he offered for coming to Christ, the first pressure he applied to evil men.

He was determined that they understand the reality of being under God’s wrath before he offered them the way of escape from it.

God’s attributes are balanced in divine perfection. If He had no righteous anger and wrath, He would not be God, just as surely as He would not be God without His gracious love. He perfectly hates just as He perfectly loves, perfectly loving righteousness and perfectly hating evil.

(Psalm 45:7, Hebrews 1:9, Psalm 2:5, 12, Psalm 76:6-7, Psalm 78:49-51, Psalm 90:7-11, Isaiah 9:19, Jeremiah 7:20, Ezekiel 7:19, 2 Peter 2, John 3:16, 18, 36, Romans 9:22-24, 1 Corinthians 16:22, Ephesians 5:6, Colossians 3:6, 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8, Romans 3:9, 23, Ephesians 2:1-3)

### **I. THE QUALITY OF GOD’S WRATH (of God)**

First, the quality of this wrath is seen in the fact that it is divine; it is of God. It is therefore unlike anything we know of in the present world. God’s wrath is not like human anger, which is always tainted by sin. God’s wrath has always been revealed to fallen mankind and is repeatedly illustrated throughout Scripture. (Habakkuk 1:13, 1 Corinthians 13:6, John 2:14-16, Matthew 21:12-13)

### **II. THE TIMING OF GOD’S WRATH (is revealed)**

Second, the timing of God’s wrath is seen in the fact that it is revealed, a better rendering being “constantly revealed.” God’s wrath is continually being revealed, perpetually being manifested. *Apokaluptō* (revealed) has the basic meaning of uncovering, bringing to light, or making known. (Romans 2:5)

### **III. THE SOURCE OF GOD'S WRATH (from heaven)**

God's wrath is rendered from heaven. Despite Satan's present power as prince of the air and of this world, the earth is ultimately dominated by heaven, the throne of God, from which His wrath is constantly and dynamically manifested in the world of men. (Romans 3:5, Romans 5:9, Romans 12:19, Romans 13:5, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, Psalm 7:11)

### **IV. THE EXTENT OF GOD'S WRATH (against all)**

The fourth feature of God's wrath concerns its extent. God's wrath is universal, being discharged against all who deserve it. No amount of goodwill, giving to the poor, helpfulness to others, or even service to God can exclude a person from the all that Paul mentions here. (Romans 3:9, 23)

### **V. THE NATURE OF GOD'S WRATH (against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men)**

The second emphasis of this phrase is on the nature of God's wrath. It is not like the wrath of a madman who strikes out indiscriminately, not caring who is injured or killed. Nor is it like the sin-tainted anger of a person who seeks to avenge a wrong done to him. God's wrath is reserved for and justly directed at sin. (Romans 5:10, Ephesians 2:3, Jude 14, 15)

### **VI. THE CAUSE OF GOD'S WRATH (who suppress the truth in unrighteousness)**

"But how is it," we ask, "that God can hold everyone responsible for moral and spiritual failure, and be so angry when some people have so much less opportunity than others for hearing the gospel and coming to know God?" The answer is that, because of his sinful disposition, every person is naturally inclined to follow sin and resist God. This phrase could be rendered, "who are constantly attempting to suppress the truth by steadfastly holding to their sin." (Romans 1:19, 20, Jeremiah 29:13, John 3:19, 20, Psalm 14:1, 17:11)

### **CLOSING**

Mark 1:15, Matthew 12:30, 7:13, 14, Romans 6:17, 18, Revelation 12:10, 1 John 2:1, 2, John 3:16