

God is Wrath and Judgment

God Is Message Series Week 3

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

August 21, 2022

A. What is God's wrath?

"The wrath of God is God's holy, righteous, absolutely moral pure opposition to and punishment of unrighteousness."

Stephen Altrogge,
<https://theblazingcenter.com/2019/01/the-wrath-of-god>.

"And in the same way, God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. God is only angry where anger is called for. Even among humans, there is such a thing as *righteous* indignation, though it is, perhaps, rarely found. But all God's indignation is righteous. Would a God who took as much pleasure in evil as he did in good be a good God? Would a God who did not react adversely to evil in his world be morally perfect? Surely not. But it is precisely this adverse reaction to evil, which is a necessary part of moral perfection, that the Bible has in view when it speaks of God's wrath."

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, InterVarsity Press,
Downers Grove, IL, 1973, p. 151.

B. What is the biblical basis for God's wrath?

(Nahum 1:2-7; John 3:36; Romans 1:18-20, 2:5, 12:19, 13:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 6:16-17)

"A study of the concordance will show that there are *more* references in Scripture to the anger, fury, and wrath of God, than there are to his love and tenderness."

Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, Baker Book House Company,
Grand Rapids, MI, 1975, p. 106.

C. Why is it important to understand God's wrath?

1. It helps us see sin is a big deal.

"We are ever prone to regard sin lightly, to gloss over its hideousness, to make excuses for sin. But the more we study and ponder God's abhorrence of sin and His frightful vengeance upon it, the more likely are we to realize its heinousness.

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1973, pp. 156-157.

2. It helps us forgive and deal with injustices and abuse.

"The wrath of God is a beautiful thing because it means that justice will be fully executed. Eventually, either in this life or the next, the wrath of God will be poured out on every form of injustice and wickedness and ungodliness. No sin will be left unpunished, no wicked deed ignored."

Stephen Altrogge,
<https://theblazingcenter.com/2019/01/the-wrath-of-god>.

3. It helps motivate us to be bold in sharing the gospel.

"The wrath of God applies to you if there will be people in hell you and I knew and loved and worked beside, but who never heard how they could flee His wrath because we never opened our mouths to be a witness. Our job is to tell a lost world about Jesus Christ so their blood won't be on our hands."

Tony Evans, *Our God is Awesome*, Moody Press, Chicago, IL, 1994, p. 249.

4. It helps us see our need to be rescued by Jesus.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Romans 5:9, NIV

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:2, ESV

"A propitiation is a sacrifice that turns away wrath. When he hung upon the cross, pulling ragged breaths into his tortured lungs, Jesus was experiencing the wrath of God for our sins.

The full fury of God's judgment was hitting Christ like a freight train, eventually causing him to scream out, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Because Christ was swallowed by the wrath of God, there is no wrath left for any who hope in Christ. He is our propitiation, our wrath-bearing sacrifice, our rescuer and savior."

Stephen Altrogge,

<https://theblazingcenter.com/2019/01/the-wrath-of-god>.

5. It helps us have a greater appreciation for Jesus. Our response is worship and praise.

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:9, NIV