


The Truthful Revelation of God and the Response of Unrighteous Man

2026-05-03 – Romans 1:18-20

	<p>What does God reveal from heaven about Himself? Most Christians would rightly say God reveals His glory, His power, and His creativity. All of these are correct, and we could certainly add others that would also be correct. In Romans 1:18-20, the Lord through the Apostle Paul also reveals something else from heaven: the wrath of God. This is an unpopular, sobering, yet absolutely vital truth. Every true Christian must deeply believe what the Bible truly teaches and be willing to share this precious and convicting truth with lost and dying neighbors in our world. Romans 1:18-20 is a text from the God of heaven that powerfully and clearly reorients us around what God has revealed about Himself, the purpose of creation, and humanity's future. May Christ be praised as we gather and grow! Soli Deo Gloria</p>
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For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:18-20

Well, grace and peace to you from God our Father, through Jesus Christ, our risen, ruling, one day soon returning Lord and the only Savior. Brothers and sisters in Christ and friends, it is good to be with you again on this Lord's Day as we are able to gather and sit under the preaching of the Word and sing praises to our worthy God and also remember His death and proclaim that death and also in anticipation of His return.

This morning I am reading from Romans 1:18-20. And if you are able, would you please stand for the reading of God's word? 18-20 are the verses that I will be reading. And after I read these words, I will offer a short prayer entrusting our time to our worthy God.

Hear now the word of the living and almighty Creator God of heaven and earth from Romans 1:18-20: ***"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*** (Romans 1:18-20).

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. You may be seated.

Almighty God and merciful Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we do come before You now in humble awe at Your awesome worth, the magnitude, God, of who You are as the Creator—the eternal Creator who always has been. We recognize, God, that You are the Lord who has spoken. And we are sorry, God, for times this week where we have

lived as if You have not spoken, as if You are not there. Forgive us, God, for these great sins and trespasses, and strengthen each one gathered, each brother, each sister today, through the preaching of Your Word.

We pray, God, for Christ Jesus to be exalted. And we thank You, Lord, for being the holy, holy, holy God of heaven and earth. We pray that if any are here today who have not sought refuge in Christ Jesus, have not fled to Christ Jesus, that today—as was already said and prayed and mentioned—today would be the day of salvation.

And so, God, strengthen the faith of these brothers and sisters, saints. Encourage the hearts of those who are discouraged. Renew us, God, and reorient our hearts around Your lordship and around Your glory and around Your kingdom and around Your gospel. God, we entrust our time to You now and pray this all in Jesus' name. And all God's people said, "Amen."

It is not fair. It is not fair. How many parents have heard this phrase, not once, not twice, but hundreds upon hundreds of times from their sons and daughters? And how many of us have voiced that to others or in our own hearts about a circumstance that we find ourselves in? It is not fair. Though often, is it not the case that when we look around, we want, as someone once put it, justice for thee but mercy for me? That is what we want. It is not fair, it is not fair.

In our home, with our children, we often look them in the eyes and say, "You do not want fairness. You do not want fairness." And the truth of the matter is, none of us wants fairness, even if we say we do. As we will see in our text today, we see in Holy Scripture the firm reality consistently taught, consistently a message of not only the apostles and the prophets and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, but we see the character of God on display. We see something true of God, something that He has revealed about Himself. And so today, with the Lord's help, we are going to walk through and look at what God has revealed, at mankind's response to that revelation and then at your response as well, because, my friends, I want you to hear me on this. You should not distance yourself from this. You should not think this is for someone else and not for you. This is for you and me; this is for all of humanity. And it is something that we must all personally respond to.

And so let us walk through now with the Lord's help, what God has revealed—three aspects of what God has revealed—followed by mankind's general response. And then with the Lord's help, press home some personal questions for you.

First, **what has God revealed?** Last week we saw this: **God reveals His righteousness in the gospel.** God reveals His righteousness in the gospel. If you look back at just one verse prior to the one we just read, verse 17: **"For in it [the Gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, just as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith'"** (Romans 1:17). What does God reveal in the gospel? In this good news concerning His Son, He has revealed that He, the Lord, is righteous. He is just, and He is perfectly so. The gospel is the good news of God's powerful work in Jesus Christ. It was promised in the Old Testament and was fulfilled in Christ Jesus through His sin-atonement death on the cross, taking our penalty and shame that we just celebrated and remembered today, and also a reminder to us that now we have the undeserved grace and mercy of Almighty God.

The gospel tells us this. The gospel says it is to be received by faith. And this was clear last week. We will not elaborate too much on it now, but understand this: the gospel is good news. It is good news that God saved sinners by His grace in Christ. That is the good news of the gospel.

Understand the context of Romans. In the ancient world, this is how Jewish people often thought. They divided up the world like this: Jew and Gentile, Jew and Gentile. And so you had Jewish people over here, and everyone else over here clustered together. That is why we saw last week in Romans 1:16, ***“The gospel is the power of God to salvation for all who believe, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile”*** (Romans 1:16). That is meant to say not an order of preference or primacy, but rather everyone. It is for everyone.

This is a quote, by the way, in Romans 1:17 from Habakkuk—or better pronounced Habakkuk, as some have said. But we do not say that because it is distracting in our context, obviously.

Habakkuk 2:4 is a reminder of what Paul does all throughout his letter here to the Romans. He is constantly going back to the Scripture. And you will see this all throughout Romans, where he goes back again and again and again by direct quote to the Scriptures or by an implication or an allusion. He goes back to the Scriptures some 60 times, directly quoting the Bible in these 16 chapters of the book of Romans.

Habakkuk is known as one of the 12 minor prophets, which simply has to do with the length. So you have major prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel—just because they are longer. And then you have the minor prophets, those 12, including Habakkuk. And he wrote and he ministered and prophesied in the late seventh century, some 750 or so years prior to when the Apostle Paul wrote here in Romans.

Why am I belaboring this? Well, a few reasons. One, whenever you read the Bible, including the book of Romans, and there is a direct quote, it is a helpful exercise to go back to where that quote was mentioned, to read the context previously because Paul is building on an argument there and it becomes even more alive and more clear in your minds whenever you do that. Great exercise on this Lord’s Day would be to go back and read through Habakkuk. It is very helpful to do that. When you see a direct quote from the Bible, go back to that passage and read through it. Habakkuk actually is a very short book. It only takes about nine minutes to read straight through it.

The Apostle Paul quotes from it directly in Romans 1:17, ***“As it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith’”*** (Romans 1:17). Why does he say that? Why does he drive home that truth? Well, it is because the Apostle Paul was gripped and governed by the Scripture’s authority. He constantly was searching them. He constantly was going to the Bible, and he constantly wanted to understand how we should live.

When you look at the book of Habakkuk, it is very fascinating for a few different reasons. The book of Habakkuk reminds us, among other things, that there is a judgment of God. Habakkuk writes in a time when there is a lot of woe. The Chaldeans are taking over the people of God. There is tyranny and plunder. They are decimating the people of God. And Habakkuk cries out and says, ***“Why does a people who is unrighteous and more wicked than we are dominate us and decimate us?”*** And right in the middle of that when he is going through that is Habakkuk and he is saying, “Lord, what is going on? What is going on here?” He says with a clear declaration, ***“The righteous shall live by faith”*** (Habakkuk 2:4). “I will trust in Your sovereign hand even whenever I cannot understand what is happening all around me with this domination from these evil doers.”

The gospel reveals God’s righteousness. The gospel is revealed by God, and it is consistently then appropriated by the Apostle Paul to be pressed home upon the people of God. This is something that we

should not lose sight of. God has revealed, that is, He has spoken, He has given a message to the world: "I will reconcile you through My Son." This is good news for sinners.

But then, we have a shift, we have an interesting shift here. Because you would expect, what? Paul to maybe go on and talk more about the implications of this gospel and how good it is. But that is not what the Apostle Paul does. No, the second aspect of what God has revealed very clearly is this: **God reveals His wrath from heaven against all evil in humanity.** It is almost a shift, a pivot. You are wondering why would God, through the Apostle Paul, be talking here about this good news, this message for sinners of hope and reconciliation and forgiveness and faith, and then all of a sudden shift to wrath. What is going on here?

One of the things we should note about this concept of wrath is we need to clear up a few misconceptions. This is not some uncontrolled anger, some fit of rage or fury that you and I might find ourselves in, where we act out of proportion to the evil and the wrong that is before us. That is not what the Lord is like, and He is not governed by passions outside of Himself. That is not how the Lord is clearly displayed in Scripture, not by a long shot. Rather, this idea of wrath is the word "orge". When you look at this consistently in the Bible, it speaks of this just vengeance of the Holy God against that which He hates, that which is evil, that which harms His creation and defames His glory. It has nothing to do with God being in a fit of rage over in the corner, just sulking. That is not at all the picture of the wrath of God. We cannot have such a human-centered, a man-centered view of the wrath of God.

And in our day, we should understand, too, that people are tempted to deny outright the wrath of God. People do not like this doctrine. My seminary professor, Dr. D.A. Carson, once said the following:

"The first doctrine to be denied, according to the Bible, is the doctrine of judgment. In many disputes about God and religion, this pattern often repeats itself because if you can get rid of that one teaching"—judgment, wrath—"then rebellion has no adverse consequences, and so you are free to do anything."

The first doctrine to be denied is the doctrine of judgment, the doctrine of God's righteous and holy wrath against that which is evil and sinful. Look again in your Bible and see this so clearly in Romans 1:18: "**The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth**" (Romans 1:18). This is something that God has revealed and He has graciously done so. He has said, "I am a righteous God. I am a holy God. I am a good God. This is what I am like."

If you are wondering, where does Dr. D.A. Carson get off saying something like this, that it is the first doctrine to be denied? Well, it is straight from the Bible. If you look in Genesis 3:2-4. Look what it says there: "**The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"**" : "**'No! you will certainly not die,' the serpent said to the woman.**" (Genesis 3:2-4)

The first doctrine to be denied is the doctrine of judgment. It is a doctrine of the idea that God is in a position of authority, that He can and should call the shots of what is good and evil. And mankind, as we will dwell on in a little bit, finds himself, finds ourselves in a position of being confronted by this revelation, this revelation from Almighty God. And He has revealed His righteous and holy wrath against that which is evil, against that which opposes His rule and reign, and against that which opposes His creation and the proper intention of those whom God has created.

God has revealed His wrath from heaven against all evil in humanity. We should also say something else about this. It is so important to understand that when we look at a text like this, and we see God reveals the righteousness of what He is like through the gospel, and that He is not compromising truth or grace as He punishes Christ on the cross, and He extends mercy to sinners. God is righteous. He reveals that in the gospel. And God reveals from heaven His wrath against humanity's evil.

You might be wondering, how does that manifest itself? How does that work itself out? I am so glad you asked. And guess what? The Apostle Paul unpacks that. He unpacks that in the next few weeks. There are specific examples of how this is manifested coming later on in Romans that will be looked at later this month, God willing. Precise examples, specific kinds of ways that the manifestation of God's wrath comes gradually, but is always a reminder that there is a future judgment to come. The calamities we see in the world, the moments when an injustice does happen and all of humanity—even those who you have nothing in common with, it seems like from a worldview level—are screaming out, "That is wrong, that is evil, who will punish that?" This is the cry, this is the cry that God has revealed, that He is a righteous God and that He is a God whose righteous wrath is opposed to evil.

But consider this as well, consider what the Scripture's testimony continually teaches us. Habakkuk 1:13, the same prophet we quoted from earlier, says the following: **"Your eyes are too pure to approve evil. You cannot look on wickedness with favor" Why do you look with favor on those who deal treacherously? Why are you silent when the wicked swallow up those more righteous than they?** (Habakkuk 1:13). Consider the psalmist. We see this in Psalm 5 and also Psalm 11. These are just a few examples because you need to see the consistent way that the Scripture says God has revealed that He is a righteous God, full of anger and wrath against those who oppose Him in His ways and His truth: **"For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with You"** (Psalm 5:4). **"You destroy those who speak falsehood. The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit"** (Psalm 5:6, approximate). **"The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates"** (Psalm 11:5).

God stands opposed and God stands with great wrath against those who oppose His lordship and His rule. There are many texts we could add to this. **"The Lord is slow to anger, great in power. The Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, and clouds are dust beneath His feet"** (Nahum 1:3).

My friends, the burden of proof is squarely on those who would reject God's clear testimony about Himself concerning His wrath, concerning that He is a God who is righteous and holy and who hates evil and who hates those who practice evil doing. We need to understand this, that the Lord of heaven and earth does have a righteous and a holy anger against all evil and against all evildoers. That does not, as we will see later, mean that God is not a God of love. Not at all. And in point of fact, if God were not a God of love, He would not have this righteous and holy wrath. We need to see that. We need to realize this. You cannot

be the one who edits what God says about Himself. God does not need a public relations manager. He does not need someone who is out there cleaning up His image. We do not need to be those who are with the Scriptures, with the Word of God, ashamed of any of this. Paul just said this two verses earlier: ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel”*** (Romans 1:16). Understand, part of the gospel is that God has revealed His wrath from heaven against all evil doing. He does not need us to improve His image. He needs us to proclaim the truth. That is what we do.

God has revealed His righteousness in this gospel message. God has revealed His wrath from heaven against all humanity’s evil. And the third aspect of what God has revealed is this: **God reveals His character in and since the creation of the world.**

One thing you should know that is very interesting is this is an old heresy, this idea of denying the wrath of God. It is an old, old ancient heresy. Marcion, the second century heretic, omitted the wrath of God. He did not want there to be a personal, holy God of heaven and earth who had wrath, who had anger. And so Marcion did what? He edited that. He decided to be God’s editor. And there are many such today in our world. Many religions, many philosophies are out there trying to almost improve the image of Almighty God.

But how do we know? How do we know that not only is God a righteous God, a God of wrath, but also that He is a God who has made this plain? Well, God reveals His character in and since the creation of the world. Look in your Bible at Romans 1. In Romans 1 verse 19: ***“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been made”*** (Romans 1:19-20).

The Lord of heaven and earth has made His character known, specifically His power. He is a powerful God who has created all things, and He is a worthy God, an eternal God who has always been. You might be wondering, Pastor Brandon, what about the person who has never heard about the Lord? You sometimes hear about these examples. What about the person who has never heard of the Lord?

I want you to understand something about that question. Number one is this: that person does not exist. That person does not exist. There is no noble savage, no noble native of a distant, far-off country who is walking in innocence, in harmony with nature. That is not what the Scriptures teach us. The Scriptures teach us God has revealed His character in and since the creation of the world, namely His power, that He is the Creator, that He is the Lord, that He is the King, He is supreme, and that He is eternal.

It does not mean that we are those who do not take the gospel, publish the good news, proclaim Christ, raise up and pray for missionaries to go to learn different languages, to translate the Bible into that native language, to give them a copy of God-breathed Scripture. Not at all. Those who are faithful missionaries doing that good gospel kingdom work are often those of whom the world is not worthy. We should remember that. We should support them in every way. The gospel is for the nations. Those men and women, boys and girls are going to perish. But understand this. They are going to perish rejecting the God who they do know exists. They are going to reject the God of heaven and earth in their rebellion, in their defiance, who said no to the fact that He is, that He exists, that He is the Creator, that He is eternal.

The Scriptures teach us that God has revealed His character in and since the creation of the world, in the garden as God created and blessed abundantly those who did not deserve any of those blessings. The Lord of heaven and earth said, "This is who I am, this is what I am like." And all of us, every man, every woman, every boy, every girl, from every culture, every nation, no matter who you are, knows that this God exists.

Consider Psalm 19, where we read the following: **"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of His hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. There is no speech; there are no words. Their voice is not heard. Their message has gone out to the whole earth and their words to the ends of the world"** (Psalm 19:1-4).

This is what the Scriptures teach us concerning God's character. This is what is on display and that all humanity understands. By the way, whenever you see this phrase, "since the creation of the world," that takes us back where? To Genesis 1, 2, and 3. Once again, the Apostle Paul is saying, go back, read Genesis, go back, read Habakkuk. Just want to note that. We should pause and go back and see the reliable account, the God-breathed account of the Scripture. Paul is pushing us deeper and deeper into the Bible, into God's truth.

So God is righteous. He has revealed that. God is a God who has revealed His wrath from heaven against all evil in humanity. He has revealed that. And God has revealed His character in and since the creation of the world. And this doctrine, the doctrine of wrath, as we noted from that D.A. Carson quote, is that first doctrine to be denied. So many people will deny this doctrine.

What is mankind's response? Here are some different ways that humanity has clearly responded from this text. First, I want to note a quote, though, from an old Anglican from a few hundred years ago. Here is what he said concerning what the Apostle Paul is doing in Romans 1:18-20. This is a very important comment. He says

"The Apostle gives a Christian philosophy of history; he is not narrating the growth of idolatry and vice in this or that nation;

He's not saying this is only true for that nation or this nation. No, this is what Edwin says. Edwin Hamilton Gifford says this.

He is showing a broad generalized view of the condition of the heathen world and the causes of its corruption.

This is universalizing wickedness. This is something that everyone does. God has revealed this and yet humanity rejects this.

And so the first thing to know is **mankind responds by wickedly suppressing the truth of the only God.** That is what happens. Mankind wickedly suppresses the truth of God. It is language of suppressing that reminds us of in the summertime, whenever we are in the pool and we have that big blown up beach ball, right? We are trying to push it down with our weight or that inflatable toy; we are trying to push it down

with our weight and it keeps popping up again and again. We cannot hold it down. I want you to remember every time you see that or try to do that this spring and summer, that that is what humanity is doing with the revelation of God's wrath against sin, with the character and the testimony of God's wisdom and power in creation, trying to shove it down. "I do not want to see it. Get beneath me. Out of sight, out of mind." That is what is happening here.

Mankind responds generally, universally, by **wickedly suppressing the truth of the only God**. That is what happens. That is the universal response everywhere. And there is another universal response as well.

Mankind **universally rejects the clear truth that God continually shows**. What is interesting about these verses is that when you look in the Bible, it is actually in the present tense. And so God is not just once showing a glimpse of what He is like. And then it is like, "Psst, there I am. I am here, psst, I exist." It is a constant ongoing outpouring of God saying, "I am God, I am the Creator, I am powerful." This is what is happening and yet universally humanity rejects this clear truth.

Not only is there suppression of wickedly saying, "God, I defy You. I defy the God that You are." There is also this constant sense of saying, "No, I reject this." And you know what we do? We look around and then we see others doing the same and then we start to justify it ourselves. "Well, it seems like other people reject this as well." Of course the answer is, the reason that is the case is because the Bible is true.

Mankind responds **by universally rejecting the clear truth God continually shows**, and He graciously shows. Every human being, every man, every woman, every boy, every girl knows that God is, knows that God is the Creator, that God is powerful, that God is eternal, that God exists. There is not a single person who has no knowledge of this God.

My friends, understand that and believe that even as we still press home, as mentioned earlier, to raise up and send out missionaries to those who have not heard of the gospel of Jesus Christ and who we want to bring that hope to. But understand, they are not innocent. They are wicked and in their rebellion and on their way to hell because of the God whom they have rejected. That is what is going on there.

The third response of humanity in general is this: Humanity, mankind, responds **by inexcusably standing condemned before God**. *"For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse"* (Romans 1:20).

No one, no one can say, on that great day of judgment, when they stand before God Almighty, "I did not know. There was not enough evidence. I was not sure that You existed." It is a sobering thing for us to consider. And yes, there are many with sophisticated arguments who will claim that they do not believe in God, there is not enough evidence, they will get all sorts of doctorates, they will accumulate all sorts of peer-reviewed academic research around them to try to prove, "See, God does not exist," but all of those arguments are nothing but smoke. God exists. God is eternal. God is powerful. God is the Creator and humanity, mankind. According to this passage, the authority of the Word of God through the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:18-20, mankind responds to the knowledge that there is a righteous God, that He has revealed His wrath in the following ways. Mankind, this is true for all of us. Mankind is rejecting. Mankind is

condemned. Mankind is suppressing. That is what is happening in the heart of every man, every woman, every boy, every girl who does not come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

This brings us to the third and final part of today's message, and it is simply this: **your response**, your response.

I want to note that Robert Haldane, who is a Presbyterian pastor from another generation, helpfully commented on this text and said the following:

The same creation which declares there is a God and publishes His glory also proves that He is the enemy of sin and the avenger of crimes of man, so that this revelation of wrath is universal throughout the world and none can plead ignorance of it.

My friend, you are here today and you cannot claim ignorance of the fact that God exists, that He is Lord, that He is the Creator and the King. You cannot claim that. And so three points to press home as we close our time this morning.

Your Response:

Is either: humble repentance of hardened rejection

Is either: God-glorifying gratitude or God-defying ingratitude

Is either: proclaim the truth of God's wrath or lie about God.

The first is this: you need to realize you either **humbly repent**—you humbly repent and say to this God, “I am sorry, I have sinned against You and Your holiness”—you either humbly repent and acknowledge that, or you have a **hardened rejection** in your heart towards this God. Those are the two ways. There is no neutrality here. If you are here today and you are apathetic towards Christ, if you do not bow the knee to Him, in submission to Him, you are in rebellion and hardened towards Him. We want you to realize that because time is urgent. God is worthy of all glory and honor in your life and you will stand before this King and give an account of your life. So my friends, understand that this God of heaven, this God of earth, this God of all glory, who is righteous and has revealed His gospel and has revealed that He is a God who opposes all sin, not some of it, all of it. You either humbly repent and cry out and say, “God, I am a sinner. Please forgive me,” and cast yourself on the mercy of God, or you are hardening your heart and you are storing up wrath from God towards you. But also understand you stand right now under His righteous and holy wrath. That is sobering.

The second personal point to press home to you is this: Here is how you respond. It is either **with a God-glorifying gratitude or a God-defying ingratitude**. See this, God willing, next week and more depth and more length, but understand that you either respond with a thankfulness to God. “Thank You, Lord. I want to live for Your glory because of the mercy You have so graciously given to me.” Or you reject God with an arrogance that matches Satan himself, that serpent who said what? **“You will not die”** (Genesis 3:4). My friends, do not embrace the God-defying ingratitude that marks so many lives today. It is either a God-glorifying gratitude, a humble repentance, or a hardened rejection and a God-defying ingratitude.

Third and final point: you, not someone else, you. This is for you. Personal response for everyone—your mother, your father, your sister, your brother—no one, your best friend cannot do believing for you, cannot do trusting for you, cannot do repenting for you. That is personal; that is for you. My friend, you **either proclaim the truth of God’s wrath or you lie about God**. Understand this: too many people, self-professing Christians, go out and talk about Christianity, even Jesus, and they omit the wrath of God.

They want to sell someone—a Jesus—and they do not want to talk about God’s just and holy hatred against sin. That is not Christianity. That is another religion. That is another gospel. We have to understand that and realize that. You either proclaim the truth of God’s awesome rescue in Jesus Christ for sinners who don’t deserve it, and who can be rescued by His grace alone and forgiven and received by faith alone. You either proclaim that message—that God is holy, that He is righteous, and He will punish all sin, including yours and mine, if we don’t repent and trust in Christ—you either publish that news, proclaim that news, or you promote and pass on to others around you a lie.

My friends, you and I cannot be those who claim the name of Christ and reject the truth of God’s righteous wrath. We cannot be like that. And so I would plead with you today to say, “Do not blaspheme the God of heaven and earth. Do not slander His character.” Certainly, some have wrongly only emphasized wrath, wrath, wrath, wrath, and never pointed to the rescue found in Christ. That can happen. But understand that in our day, the tendency is to be very nice—very nice—and to gloss over the wrath of God, to not want to go deep into the righteous holiness and fury that God Almighty has—a personal anger toward those who oppose His rule and reign. We want to skip past that so quickly: “Get me to the good news. Get me to the gospel.” But understand this: the wrath of God is a part—a core part—of the gospel of Christ. It is a core part of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

R.C. Sproul says this:

“Until we understand the prior revelation of the wrath of God, we will never get excited about the revelation of the grace of God.”

You won’t. You think God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life, and yet you have not bowed the knee and said, “Lord, I have sinned against You, and those sins deserve Your righteous penalty and punishment. And thank You, Lord—thank You, Lord—for Your forgiveness and mercy, fully given in Christ. Thank You, Lord, for this. Thank You for this. And I receive this, and I want to publish this and share this to a world that once was so desperately enslaved in sin, just like I, too, was once desperately enslaved in this sin.”

Thomas Watson, the Puritan, once beautifully said it this way:

“Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet.”

Is Christ sweet to you today? If Christ is sweet to you today, it is because you’ve known the bitterness of sin. You’ve known, that is what my sins deserve, and woe to me if I did not have the grace of God—the Spirit-wrought conviction and guidance, the Lord leading me and guiding me and protecting me over all these years, and bringing me to eternal life in Christ Jesus.

For those of us who are in Christ, this is a message with the utmost seriousness. You are called, if you are in Christ Jesus, to herald the truth of God—His righteousness, His wrath—to a world in need. It's part of the good news. But for those of us who are in Christ, we can rest assured with the confidence of God-breathed Scripture that the wrath of God will never fall upon us. It will not.

Here are just two verses to encourage your hearts as we close:

“The one who believes in the Son has, has—not will have, someday off way in the future—has, has eternal life. But the one who rejects the Son will not see life. Instead, the wrath of God remains on him.” (John 3:36)

Sobering reminder, but also precious truth.

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep, we might live with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up just as you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:9–11)

We look each other in the eyes and we say, “I was rescued from the wrath of Almighty God. I don't need to be His editor. I can publish this good news without shame, and I will not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. I will not be ashamed of telling the world there is a righteous and holy Judge of heaven and earth.” He hates sin. He will punish sin because He is good, because He is loving, and He will not let it stand. My friend, you can find refuge and full forgiveness and freedom in Christ Jesus alone. Flee to Him today. Come to Him today.

We all have friends, family, loved ones. You might be here today, and you've never personally trusted in Christ Jesus, repented of your sins, and said, “Lord, forgive me. I know who You are, and I know who I am, and I'm trusting in Christ alone.” May there be salvation not only here today, but throughout our neighborhoods, throughout the nations, to the glory of God.

Let us pray.

Almighty God and merciful Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, oh God, how good it is to be at peace with You through Your Son, Jesus Christ. We marvel that You, the righteous God of heaven and earth, who would have been perfectly justified in taking us and punishing us forever, that You extended mercy and grace and forgiveness to us at the cross in Jesus. We thank You, God, for Your grace, and we thank You, God, for Your wrath. And we pray that we would publish and declare the truth about who You are without shame, because we know, Lord, that the rescue found in Christ Jesus will be sweeter and better as we proclaim the truth of exactly what You are like and exactly what You have rescued us from. Thank You, Lord, for who You are. Be glorified in us, we pray, in Jesus' name.”

And all God's people said, “Amen. Amen. Amen.”
