

Doctrine of the Wrath of God

Romans 1:18-21

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

1. The wrath of God is often dismissed in modern preaching and evangelism at the expense of God is love, mercy, and grace.
2. It is a mistake to dismiss, or down play the Biblical teaching about the wrath of God, and is contrary to the apostolic example of Paul reflected in his epistle to the Romans.
3. It is instructive to note that God is the One that reveals His wrath to humanity, for this revelation is “from heaven” (Romans 1:18).
4. The stated purpose of the revelation of God’s wrath is that it might be fully known.
5. The wrath of God may be defined as the expression of His holiness toward sin.
6. The wrath of God expresses three facets of His character.
 - The wrath of God is a manifestation of His moral character.
 - The wrath of God is a manifestation of His anger.
 - The wrath of God is a manifestation of His judgment.
7. The object of God’s wrath is said to be directed, “against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men” (Romans 1:18).
8. The extent of the wrath of God is expressed to all people without exception or distinction.
9. The length of the wrath of God be is continual until there is a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.
 - *2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*
10. Tragically, and illogically, the response of the natural man to the revelation of the wrath of God is to suppress the truth. Individuals “hold the truth in unrighteousness.”

Special Note.

The Greek verb translated “hold” literally means “to hold down”. It denotes a deliberate act of suppressing the truth of God. This is done, not neutrally or innocently, but wickedly and deliberately. The unbeliever, in his unrighteousness, suppresses the truth. The present tense of this verb denotes continual action. The unregenerate are continually suppressing the truth about the existence of God, his nature and moral character. They are suppressing “the truth” that has been clearly revealed to them in creation. Truth is out in the open, but men, so to speak, put it in a box and sit on the lid, and “hold it down in unrighteousness” (*Presuppositionalism: A Biblical Approach to Apologetics*, Dr. Paul Nelson).