

Colossians Complement #10

What Is the Wrath of God?

A. Wrath, broadly defined:

- English: *wrath* – anger; hot displeasure;
disposition to cause harm in response to something abhorrent
- Two primary NT Greek terms translated as *wrath*:
 - 1) *orgē*: excitement of the mind; ire, or abhorrence; by implication punishment
 - Romans 12:19 – Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath (*orgē*); for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.
 - 2) *thumos*: passion (as if breathing hard):—fierceness, indignation, wrath
 - Acts 19:28 – And when they heard *these sayings*, they were full of wrath (*thumos*) and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.
- Two primary ways Scripture teaches about wrath:
 - 1) Wrath does not belong to the saints of God. (Col. 3:8, Eph. 4:25-32, Rom. 12:17-21)
 - Colossians 3:8 - ⁸But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger (*orgē*), wrath (*thumos*), malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.
 - 2) Wrath does belong to God.
 - Administratively, wrath is needed for God-ordained government (Rom. 13:1-7)
 - Cosmically, wrath is needed for eternal justice (Isaiah 13:11-13; Nahum 1:2-6)

B. The Wrath of God, technically defined:

- The Wrath of God is....
 - that reaction of the divine nature against sin which in anthropomorphic language is called *anger*. (*Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*)
 - that in God which stands opposed to man's disobedience, obduracy (especially in resisting the gospel) and sin, and manifests itself in punishing the same. (*Thayer's Greek Lexicon*)
- Romans 1:18-3:21 develops the reason all people are subject to God's wrath:
 - Rom. 1:18
 - Rom. 2:3-5
 - Rom. 2:11

C. Warning for the unsaved – ‘You are in danger!’

1) The default eternal destiny of all sinners is to be subject to the wrath of God in an eternal Hell.

- Matthew 3:7 – But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”
- John 3:36 – He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

2) The way to be saved from the wrath of God is to believe the gospel.

- Romans 2:16 – in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.
- Romans 5:9 – Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

D. Application for the saved – ‘You know better!’

The New Testament epistles bring up the wrath of God as a reminder of the consequences of sin. (Rom. 6:15-23; Eph. 2:1-3, 4:17-24, 5:3-7; Col. 3:5-11)

The wrath of God teaches us to ask:

- a. What does God think of this sin?
- b. What benefits come from sin?
- c. What am I communicating to the lost when I sin?

Discussion Questions

1. Which verse stood out to you tonight? Why?
2. Have you ever heard someone talk about being uncomfortable with the anger of God?
3. How can meditating on the wrath of God bring you closer to Him?