

## Romans 1:18

Intro: Unfolding the Details of the Gospel. First, an extended discussion of the condemnation of man starting here and going through chapter 3:20.

## IV. The Wrath of God – vs 18

## A. Wrath

1. the idea of a wrathful God
  - a. goes against the wishful thinking of the fallen nature
  - b. is a stumbling block to many Christians
2. For Paul, fear of the wrath of God is the first motivational factor when offering salvation to evil men -
  - a. he wanted them to understand that they were under God's wrath and was offering a way of escape
  - b. **orge** - desire (as a reaching forth or excitement of the mind), violent passion, ire, justifiable abhorrence; punishment:--anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath.
    - i. refers to settled, determined indignation
    - ii. Not like **thumos** - passion (as if breathing hard):--fierceness, indignation, wrath - which refers to momentary, emotional, often uncontrolled anger to which we are prone
3. God's divine attributes are perfectly balanced - Ps 45:7; Heb 1:9
4. Scripture emphasizes God's wrath
  - a. OT
    - i. Psalms 2:5,12; 76:6-7; 78:49-51; Ps 90:79
    - ii. Prophets - Isa 9:19; Jer 7:20; Eze 7:19
  - b. NT
    - i. Gospels - Jo 3:36
    - ii. Epistles - Ro 9:22; 1Co 16:22; Eph 5:6; Col 3:5-6; 2Th 1:7-8
    - iii. The Book of Revelation
5. Examples of God's poured out wrath
  - a. Noah's Flood - Ge 6-7
  - b. Tower of Babel - Ge 11:1-9
  - c. Sodom and Gomorrah - Ge 18-19
  - d. On Pharaoh and Egypt - Ex 14
  - e. Pagan Kings
    - i. Sennacherib - 2 Kgs 18-19
    - ii. Nebuchadnezzar - Da 4
    - iii. Belshazzar - Dan 5
  - f. His own people
    - i. King Nadab - 1 Kgs 15:25-26
    - ii. Aaron and Miriam - Num 12:1-10

## B. Its Quality

1. It is Divine - of God
  - a. always and completely righteous
  - b. never displayed in a temper tantrum
  - c. not capricious, irrational rage
  - d. the only response that a Holy God could have toward evil - Hab 1:13
  - e. God is Love and love doesn't tolerate unholiness - 1 Co 13:6
2. Jesus demonstrates God's wrath in the
  - a. twice cleansed temple - Jo 2:14-16; Mt 21:12-13
    - i. God's temple treated with dishonor
    - ii. People's hearts of worship being hardened by religious leaders rules
  - b. woes upon the scribes and pharisees - Mt 23:13-16, 23,25,27,29

### C. Its Timing

1. is revealed
  - a. better - revealed constantly
  - b. **apokalupto** - to take off the cover, disclose:--reveal.
2. Ways in which it is constantly being revealed
  - a. the sentence of death passed down from Adam and Eve
  - b. the Flood
  - c. Sodom and Gomorrah
  - d. the drowning of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea
  - e. The Judgment of God on Christ while on the Cross - 2 Co 5:21

### D. Its Source

1. from heaven
  - a. though Satan is presently the prince of the power of the air of this world
  - b. heaven still rules over him - Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6
2. The definite article "the"
  - a. Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? - Ro 3:5
  - b. we shall be saved from wrath through Him. - Ro 5:9
  - c. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath - Ro 12:19
  - d. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. - Ro 13:5
  - e. even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. - 1 Th 1:10
3. Wrath is revealed in two ways
  - a. through His moral order
    - i. A built in moral and physical laws that govern its operation
    - ii. The law of gravity applies as well as the law of judgment that comes on anyone who deviates from God's moral standard - Ro 1:27
    - iii. When one sins, they are subject to a built in consequence - Gal 6:8
    - iv. God is not intervening, letting the law of moral cause and effect work
  - b. through His direct and personal intervention
    - i. **hara** - 91 times - refers to becoming heated, to burning with fury
    - ii. **haron** - 41 Xs - refers to divine anger, burning fierce wrath - Ex 15:7
    - iii. **qatsaph** - use 34 times, most referring to God - means bitter - De 1:34
    - iv. **hemah** - venom/poison, refers to jealousy most often of God - 2 Kgs 22:13
    - v. **zaam** - 20 times - indignation, to foam at mouth, most referring to God

### E. Its Extent and Nature

1. it is universal - against all b/c all have sinned 3:23
2. ungodliness - **asebeia** - impiety, wickedness:--ungodly(-liness). Jd 14-15
  - a. Stresses a faulty relationship with God
  - b. men are God's enemies - 5:9; and children of wrath - Eph 2:3
3. unrighteousness of men, - **adikia** - (legal) injustice (quality, the act); wrongfulness, (character, life or act):--iniquity, unjust, unrighteousness, wrong.
  - a. focuses on results of ungodliness - behavior
  - b. sin first attacks God's majesty (ungodliness) and then His law
4. every problem is a theological problem

### F. Its Cause

1. who suppress or oppose
  - a. **katecho** - to hold down (fast), have, hold (fast), keep (in memory), let, possess, retain, seize on, stay, take, withhold.
  - b. being dead in sin - Eph 2:1, man does not seek God - 3:11, thinks the Gospel is foolishness - 1Co 1:18,
2. the truth in unrighteousness,
  - a. the truth was proved conclusively in earthly ministry of Jesus Christ
  - b. Men love darkness - Jo 3:19; Ro 3:10; Ps 14:1