

Our God is holy, v.4

- I. David confesses God's holiness by two negatives (Ps 1; Ex 20).
 - A. He confesses the holiness of God's nature.
 - 1. Men are pleased with wickedness, Eph 4.19; Rom 1.32, but God is not.
 - 2. Men will overlook, justify, and covet wickedness, but God will not, Hab 1.13. God *is* holy and can no more approve of sin than He can commit it.
 - B. He confesses the holiness of God's presence.
 - 1. Even light and darkness can be mingled at twilight, but God and evil can never dwell together, Rev 21.27.
- II. If God is absolutely holy, then wherever sin exists in this world, He will hate and destroy it, Job 37.23-24.
 - A. Therefore the wrath of God against everything evil is the necessary consequence of His holiness.
 - B. Thus wrath against sin is not an imperfection in God. In fact, His wrath against sin is as impeccable and glorious as His holiness, Rev 19.

Our holy God hates sinners, vv.5-6

- I. But what if sin and evil are found in man? David declares plainly that our holy God hates sinners.
 - A. Many would reword this verse to say that God hates the sin while loving the sinner. But that's not what it says. To say "God hates the sin but loves the sinner" is to speak as if sin were a plague suffered by innocent people.
 - 1. But sin is our doing, our making, our self-defiling invention, Gen 2.17. Sin is as much a part of our nature as our reason and conscience are, Eph 2.1-3; Ps 58.3.
 - 2. Man is conceived and born a sinner and therefore is an enemy of God by nature, Ps 51.5; Rom 5.8, 10.
 - 3. Sin is the willful work of a sinner and unavoidably makes a person guilty and hateful to God, Ps 11.5.
 - B. Neither can we interpret the words to mean that God merely dislikes sinners, Ps 11.5.
 - 1. God hates sin infinitely, intensely, and universally, v.6.

- 2. However, He doesn't hate them as *men*, which is what He made them (Ezk 18.23), but as *sinners*, which is what they've made themselves, Ecc 7.29.
- II. Hating them, God must and will destroy them, v.6.
 - A. Their sin makes the Lord deal with them as His enemies and not as His friends, Heb 10.31; Nah 1.2; Isa 1.20.
 - B. He'll strike the sinner with His wrath and curse, Ps 7.12-13.
 - 1. He'll judge the sinner deserving of hell and curse him with it, Gal 3.10; Mt 13.42.
- III. Is there no love of God at all, then, for the wicked? There is.
 - A. God loves all men made in His image and therefore calls them to repentance, Ezk 18.23, 31-32; Acts 17.30-31. This is the love of *benevolence*, a love for them as His creatures.
 - B. However, as long as the sinner remains in that estate, still in Adam and outside of Christ, still at home in his sins and willfully blind to his need for the saving love of God in Christ, God's wrath abides on him, Eph 2.3; Jn 3.19-20, 36.

Applications

- I. We ought to pray more fervently for the lost, that God would intervene in grace and mercy and draw them to His Son.
- II. For any who are still lost, we plead that you fly to God in repentance! God loves you as His creature and calls you to enjoy His saving love by coming to His Son today.
- III. Let every Christian praise the grace and mercy of God for saving you from the wrath to come, 1Thes 1.10. Your salvation is the fruit of His free, discriminating, electing love, given to you in spite of your sin and what you deserve, Eph 1.4; Jn 1.12-13; 1Cor 4.7.
- IV. Stand in awe of the love of this holy God who sent His Son to earth to save sinners, Jn 3.16; and let the Son's coming for you commend His love to you, Mt 20.28; Mk 2.17.
- V. Let Christ's bloody and cursed cross convince you of the evil that is in sin. Count no sin or temptation small. Christ died for the least sin and impenitent sinners will be eternally miserable for the least sin.