



new creation teaching ministry: tuesday night studies 2009

# the things we firmly believe

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## Study 7: Salvation

We have a deep need for salvation.

What is our role in salvation?

Titus 3:4-5

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

What is your picture of God and what he's like? Where does it come from?

God is a saving God. As Creator, Father, King and Redeemer saving is all about who God is.

'It is the special revelation of God through His people Israel which enables man to understand the great redemptive nature of God and His redemptive acts in history with Israel'<sup>1</sup>.

Covenant – 'I will be your God and you will be my people.' (Genesis 6:18, Exodus 6:4-5)  
God teaches Israel holiness through law, worship, sacrifices, life (see Leviticus).

In the NT we understand who God is through his Son Jesus Christ.

## The Holiness of God

1 John 4:7-11

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

'God is love' is in the context of giving his Son 'as a sacrifice to quench his wrath against human sins and so bring believers to life.'<sup>2</sup>

God's love is inseparable from his holiness and wrath.

Holiness: ethical and moral purity that is dynamic and actional.

God sees all evil but his holiness will not allow it to go unpunished. In the end God's purposes will prevail and all evil will be defeated and we will know the true character of God.

Romans 1:18-19

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

God's judgement and punishment of evil is as a result of his holiness. If God does not punish evil then He has no holiness and His laws mean nothing, they have no power.

<sup>1</sup> Geoffrey Bingham, *The Things We Firmly Believe*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., p. 89 (NCPI: Blackwood 1986)

<sup>2</sup> Editors: S.B. Ferguson and D.F. Wright, *New Dictionary of Theology*, (Leicester: IVP, 1988), p277.

## The Wrath of God

- a) God's wrath is the righteous action of God against evil.

Psalm 7:11

God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day.

- b) God's wrath is personal.

Ezekiel 7:8-9

8 I am about to pour out my wrath on you and spend my anger against you; I will judge you according to your conduct and repay you for all your detestable practices. 9 I will not look on you with pity or spare you; I will repay you in accordance with your conduct and the detestable practices among you. Then you will know that it is I the LORD who strikes the blow.

- c) Nothing escapes God's wrath

2 Peter 3:11-13

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Revelation 21:27

27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

It is not a fear of God's wrath that brings us to repentance but God's long suffering and kindness, his action (love) towards us.

- d) **Love + wrath** versus **no love + wrath**

- e) God's wrath is not sin. Sin is God's wrath.

- f) God gives us over to the desires of our hearts.

We feel sin in our very hearts and beings and affects us terribly.

Rom 1:21-32

We feel the wrath of God in our consciences as guilt, fear, loneliness, alienation, pollution, defilement, separation, frustration, confusion, pain, shame and wounding.<sup>3</sup>

Ps 32:1-5

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.

**3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.**

**4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"--and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

- g) No wrath = no salvation.

'Only when we take seriously the wrath of God against sinners do we put real meaning into the salvation that Christ wrought on Calvary.'<sup>4</sup>

True salvation is the destruction of our evil. We, both personally and as a race, need desperately to be saved from this. This has happened in the work of the cross where God's holiness and wrath is poured out on the sins of the world in the person of Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> The Things We Firmly Believe, p95.

<sup>4</sup> New Dictionary of Theology, p732.