

Hebrews 6:7-8

Leaving Room for Wrath

The wrath of God is a terrifying reality. So much so that many refuse to even think about it, and hate anyone who does. But not only is it terrifying, it is also an important reality. One that rightly understood both warns and comforts us. And this is the intent of the author of Hebrews when he alludes to the wrath to come. This morning we will be thinking about God's wrath, what it means for us and what it means for those who hate God.

Proverbs 11:23 says:

²³ The desire of the righteous is only good, But the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

This is not just poetic dialogue, this is the very truth of God. Those who walk in evil have no expectation of receiving anything from God

except wrath and terrible justice... and this fact should cause them to repent and should cause those who love God to examine their own lives and repent of their indwelling sin. Wrath is a two edged sword, but it can bring a blessing to those who rightly understand and use its presence as powerful motivation to fly to the cross of Christ!

I. PUNISHMENT IS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO HATE GOD

- a. They will be among us

Matthew 13.26-40; 36-43

- b. They will be drawn by the general call of the gospel

Matthew 13.47-50

c.They will live lives that seem righteous but are only self-serving

Matthew 25.31-46

II. THERE ARE ALSO TEMPORAL PUNISHMENTS

- a. These do not satisfy the wrath of God
- b. They can be specific to an individual and are designed
 - i. To warn
 - ii. To execute justice
 - iii. To add to the full measure of God's wrath
- c.They are by nature temporary
- d. They can also be more general and the innocent righteous may also be affected by

these (drought, plagues, general unrest and economic difficulties, war etc...)

- e. When the righteous are punished God is executing mercy for them

Isaiah 54:4–8

- f. He can also preserve us from these things

2 Peter 2:4–11

- g. God's righteous indignation can only be satisfied by something more

III. IT IS HIS RIGHT TO PUNISH THE WICKED

- a. He deserves to be loved by all of His creation
- b. He gives His law to guide us

c. He gives good gifts to men, which we neither understand nor do we give thanks and praise for them.

d. Our actions are worthy of punishment for our wickedness is reprehensible

Jeremiah 5:7–9
Jeremiah 5:26–29
Jeremiah 9:7–9

IV. THE WRATH OF GOD IS TERRIBLE

a. None will endure it

Jeremiah 10:10 (NKJV)
10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

- b. It abides on all those who are not found in Christ

John 3:34–36 (NKJV)

34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. 35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. 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.”

- c. These are already condemned, while those who ARE found in Christ are already saved

Romans 9.22-24

- d. It is God's own vengeance

Revelation 11.15-18

Revelation 14.17-20

Revelation 15.1

e. The full measure of sin will be punished

Matthew 18:6-11

f. The evil works of man have also subjected the earth to wrath, and God will avenge that as well

Romans 8:19-21

Revelation 11:16-18

V. THE WRATH OF GOD BELONGS TO THE SON

a. His mission is the righteousness of God

Matthew 3:7-12

b. He will take His vengeance on the rebel nations

Psalm 2

c. His vengeance is terrible

Revelation 6.12-17

d. The final victory is His

Revelation 19.11-16

e. This is God's Righteousness

2 Thessalonians 1:3–10

VI. HELL IS ETERNAL

a. No one escapes the judgement of God

Revelation 20.10-15

b. This fire is not ever to be quenched

Remember in Matthew 25, Jesus calls it everlasting fire...

c. Prepared for the devil and his angels

- i. Those of the rebellion of heaven
- ii. But also, perhaps those of this world who have been agents of Satan, knowingly or unknowingly. Perhaps those who serve only themselves, seeking only their own way can be rightly thought of as the angels of Satan...

d. Righteous fire and Holy indignation

Isaiah 66.14-16

Isaiah 66.22-24

- e. Hell honors the righteousness of God. Those who hate God OUGHT to be punished forever. For God is the greatest good and best of beings. There is not one thing about Him which is not perfect and worthy of praise... even His wrath.

VII. MERCY IS STILL AVAILABLE

- a. God remembers His mercy towards us

Habakkuk 3:2 (NKJV)

2 O LORD, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

- b. We are not appointed to wrath - God saves His own

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

- c. The same Son who executes wrath is our advocate who delivers us FROM that same wrath

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)

*10 and to wait for His Son from heaven,
whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus
who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

- d. Today is the day of escape, Today is the day of mercy. There is NO promise of another. Flee the coming wrath and fly to Christ. Seek mercy you will NOT be rejected if you cry for mercy.

2 Corinthians 5.21-6.2