

Daily Devotional #6 – God's Wrath

What does it mean when we say God is a God of wrath?

God's wrath describes God's complete and intense hatred of sin. His wrath burns with a righteous anger toward all sin. Read John 3:36, Col. 3:5-9, Rev. 6:15-17

We have already discussed that a just God must punish sin. We also have seen that because God is holy, He hates all sin. Sin is rebellion against Him. His wrath is ultimately displayed in His judgment He pours out on sins. It is a holy and righteous judgment. Some people do not like to think of God as possessing wrath. It seems unpleasant and inconsistent with a God of love. However, upon closer examination, you will see how wrath towards sin is one of the proofs that God is righteous.

Imagine for a moment if a stranger came into your home and physically assaulted your parents. You watched as they were battered and bruised by this man. Would your heart be cold and indifferent? Would you rejoice? I certainly hope not. Hopefully we would respond in a righteous anger at the sin of that man. In fact, any other response other than being repulsed at sin is an improper response. If you are not repulsed you are either indifferent or in favor of it. Both responses are unrighteous responses to sin. God is ALWAYS repulsed by sin. It is greatly offensive to Him. A good and righteous God will not leave sin unpunished.

What does this mean for you?

Firstly, it should be stated that God's wrath will be poured out on sin in one of two ways. He will either pour it out on the sinner on the day of judgment or on His Son, Jesus. For those who have placed their faith in Jesus, the wrath of God for their sins has already been poured out on Jesus for them. Consider that for a moment. God's complete and righteous hatred of sin was poured out on Jesus, His Son! I cannot imagine pouring out wrath on my son for someone else's sins. I couldn't possibly bring myself to do that. God, however, loves Christians so much that He willingly punished His Son, Jesus so they could be saved. If you do not have faith in Jesus then the wrath of God will be poured out on you. This is a scary thought.

Secondly, studying God's wrath and hatred of sin should cause us to praise Him for His patience. God could strike everyone down at the very moment they committed even one sin, but He doesn't. Why does God delay in pouring out His wrath? 2 Peter 3:9 says, "*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, **but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.***" God is patient towards people so that they might repent and put their faith in Christ.

Thirdly, studying the wrath of God should stir our hearts toward evangelism (sharing the Gospel with others). If God's wrath will be poured out in judgment then shouldn't we warn people about it? It is the doctor's duty to tell a patient if they have cancer so that they can try to treat it and deal with it before it is too late. It is responsibility of the believer to share with the world that judgment is coming and they must repent of their sins before it is too late.

Finally, as Christians, we should imitate the Lord in His hatred of sin. If sin is so offensive to God, it should be offensive to us. Every sin is an abomination to God and therefore we should not mess around with it or celebrate it. A consistent study of God's wrath towards sin will help our hearts not grow indifferent or favorable toward sin. Let us imitate our Lord and hate what he hates!