

# The Wrath is Coming

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*Rom 1:18-23*

## INTRODUCTION

- A. Occasionally, we see individuals on the side of the road with signs saying: “The Judgment is coming!”
  - 1. We rightly think they could use their energy elsewhere.
  - 2. Yet, their message is true.
- B. We don’t like to think about God’s wrath.
  - 1. We’d rather not think about this wrath because it shows how horrible sin is—sin no longer is something fun & harmless.
  - 2. We’d rather not think about this wrath because it convicts us of sin—it’s not just that everyone else is committing sin; we are as well.
- C. Yet, this morning, we must think about God’s wrath.

## REVELATION OF GOD’S WRATH, v 18

- A. Paul has just affirmed that God’s righteousness is revealed in the Gospel, v 17.
  - 1. Because God is righteous, there isn’t any sin in him (Ps 92:15).
  - 2. Because God is righteous, he cannot tolerate sin; therefore, he punishes sin with his wrath.
- B. God’s wrath is revealed from heaven.
  - 1. God’s wrath is his judgment.
  - 2. Some want us to believe that God is so loving that he would never punish sin, yet God does punish sin.
- C. God’s wrath is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness.
  - 1. This wrath is revealed against “all” sin.
    - a. There isn’t any sin that is going to escape God’s judgment.
    - b. Any sin that you continue to commit will come under God’s judgment.
  - 2. Ungodliness is rebellion toward God.
  - 3. Unrighteousness is acting opposite from righteousness.
- D. Men suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
  - 1. “Suppress” means to “hold down,” “keep from getting out.”
  - 2. These individuals suppress the truth by their unrighteousness; they know how they ought to live but they don’t live that way.
- E. God’s wrath really is coming against the world (2 Thess 1:7-9).

## REASON FOR GOD’S WRATH, vv 19–20

- A. God has shown them what can be known of him, v 19.
- B. God’s invisible attributes are clearly seen, v 20.
  - 1. God’s attributes have been seen since the Creation—There has never been a time that man could not know about God.
  - 2. His attributes are understood by the things that are made.
    - a. We can learn much about God from the Creation.
    - b. We can learn that God is orderly, intelligent, etc.
  - 3. His attributes mentioned here are his eternal power & Godhead.

- a. God is powerful—an impotent god could not have created what is.
  - b. God is divine, deity—only God could create the world.
- C. Therefore, men are without excuse.
- 1. Men have no excuse for rejecting Christ—God no longer overlooks ignorance (Acts 17:30).
  - 2. Excuses are foolish—Illustration about farmer in *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, p 131.
  - 3. What excuses do we use?

## THE RIGHTNESS OF GOD’S WRATH, vv 21–33

- A. Those who receive God’s wrath rightly deserve to receive it.
- B. They knew God, v 21.
- 1. They knew who God was & what God expected.
  - 2. Although they knew God,
    - a. They did not glorify him—they did not honor him as God.
    - b. They weren’t grateful—they showed no appreciation to God.
- C. They became foolish, vv 21-22.
- 1. Their hearts were darkened—the lines of right & wrong had become obscured.
  - 2. They became fools.
    - a. These individuals thought they were being wise.
    - b. But, in leaving God out of the picture, they became fools.
- D. They changed God’s glory, v 23.
- 1. These individuals chose not to worship God.
  - 2. Instead, they worshipped:
    - a. Man.
      - 1) When Paul wrote this, emperor worship was common throughout the Roman Empire.
      - 2) Instead of honoring the true God, Romans honored the emperor.
    - b. Animals.
      - 1) The Romans honored idols of different animals.
      - 2) Instead of honoring the true God, the Romans were honoring the creation of God.
- E. Do we deserve God’s wrath?
- 1. Are we honoring God in our daily lives?
  - 2. Are we grateful for what God has done?
  - 3. Are we putting God first in our lives?

## CONCLUSION

- A. This story ends rather sadly.
- 1. God gave these Gentiles up to temple prostitution, v 24.
  - 2. God gave these Gentiles up to homosexuality, v 26.
  - 3. God gave these Gentiles up to a multitude of sin, vv 28-32.
- B. Sin begets sin.
- 1. We may commit “small” sins, yet if those sins go unchecked, they will rapidly multiply.
  - 2. We must therefore make sure we keep sin out of our lives.
- C. Do you have sin in your life?