

Scripture: Romans 1

Singing: 206:1-5 – 146:1-6 – 231:1-3 – 3:1, 4

Intro: How lopsided are we in thinking about God's attribute of *anger*?

A. Silence about His anger is God dishonoring (Ps. 50:21; 76:7)

GOD'S ANGER (1)

1) Defining His anger 2) Contemplating His anger

3) Responding to His anger

I. SCRIPTURE'S DEFINITION OF GOD'S ANGER

A. All Scripture is God's self-revelation

1. He never made any attempt to 'hide His **fierce** anger'

a. Deut. 32:39-41 – Ps. 2:5; 7:11; 76:7 – Job 21:17 – Rom. 2:5

2. God isn't hiding His anger because it His glory to be angry

3. Ps. 7:11 is solemn fact: ***God is angry with the wicked every day!***

B. How must we understand God's wrath?

1. Divorce your definition from how **we** think – feel about our anger!

a. God accommodates Himself to our *level of understanding* and uses *terms – words – expressions* we can relate to

b. when God speaks about His *affection of anger*, He accommodates Himself to us

2. Divorce your definition of anger from *how we often express anger*

a. most of our anger is *unrighteous in cause or sinful in expression*

b. God's anger is *always holy and judicial* (Ex. 34:7)

C. God reveals His anger by His acts of anger

1. **temporal judgments:** Nahum 1:3-6

2. **personal desertion:** Is. 54:8

a. poets of Ps. 74:1, Ps. 85:4-5 feel it *keenly*

3. social spiritual desertion: Rom. 1:18ff

4. eternal total desertion: 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Zeph. 1:14-18; Rev. 6:16-17)

a. each detail of hell is a fierce message of warning

- Name
- Fire
- Worm
- Gnashing of teeth
- Bottomless pit
- Outer darkness
- No rest

b. no moment or place did more vividly display God's anger than the forsaken Lord Jesus on the cross

II. Why should we contemplate this perfection of God?

A. *Not to simply terrify us but to lead us to repentance and faith*

1. We minimize sin so easily

2. Take heed to Jesus' words: *He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.* (John 3:36b)

a. dream not that we will escape God's wrath

b. there is either *heaven* or *hell* and no in between

c. today the door of the NT Ark is still open

B. Also to keep God's children on the straight & narrow

1. for God hides His face – withholds the sense of love – when walk in the ways of sin: Is. 54:7; Ps. 88

**At every door where sin sets its foot,
there the wrath of God meets us. (Gurnall)**

**Even though God's mercies are new every morning,
He still is angry with each of the sins we commit.**

God's wrath is His righteousness reacting against unrighteousness.

God's wrath is the expression of His holy displeasure with sin.