

God's wrath = The Deep-seated, burning anger of God against sin when held up to His perfect & intrinsic holiness".

- ❖ The Cup of DIVINE wrath (Ps 75.8)
- ❖ The Cup of JUST wrath (Jer 25.15-17; Lam 4.21-22*)
- ❖ The Cup of INEVITABLE wrath (Jer 25.28; Hab 2.16)
- ❖ The Cup of FIERY wrath (Ps 11.6)
- ❖ The Cup of INFINITE wrath (Ezek 23.31-34)
- ❖ The Cup of PAINFUL wrath (Isa 51.17-22)
- ❖ The Cup of ETERNAL wrath (Rev 14.9-11)

Background to Mark 14

- It's the *Passion Week*, Christ had the *Passover Meal* Thurs night w/ the disciples, instituted the Lord's Supper (14:22-31) and after a brief teaching time in the Upper Room Jesus got up & left with the 12 (John 14.31).

THESIS — **Jesus knew the "hour had come."** He was about to walk into the storm of God's wrath to save His people. Know this = **Jesus took the wrath of God for you. (Propitiation)**

Four Lessons For Us:

1. It was a soul-agonizing wrath. (32-34)
2. It was necessary to prepare in prayer. (35)
3. It was a wrath that Jesus willingly took for you. (36)
4. It was a lesson for you to watch & pray! (37-42)

I. IT WAS A SOUL-AGONIZING WRATH (32-34)

"distressed" —

"troubled" —

"deeply grieved" —

- Jesus knew that he would be THE CURSE (Galatians 3.13) and he would be MADE SIN for us (2 COR 5.21) and that he would be PUNISHED for us (Rom 3.25) and that he would enter into the TERROR of falling into the hands of the Living God (Hebrews 10:31). God's wrath goes forth like a fire with none to quench it (Jer 4.4) and that God's wrath is reserved for his Enemies (Nahum 1.2); and he would BEAR OUR SINS in his body (1 Pet 2.24) and the LORD WOULD CRUSH HIM (Isa 53.10)

II. IT WAS NECESSARY TO PREPARE IN PRAYER (35)

- **The Battle was won in prayer.**
- Christ prayed for 3 hours thru the night before the cross. *These 3 hours prepared him, strengthened him, fortified him for Calvary!*

Mark 14:32-42 — “Christ’s Agony in Gethsemane”

- Consider your Savior’s *prayer*:
 1. it was a lonely prayer - he was alone
 2. it was a humble prayer - he knelt (Luke)
 3. it was a filial prayer — “Abba”
 4. it was a persevering prayer - 3x (three 1-hour seasons of prayer)
 5. it was an earnest prayer - he prayed earnestly
 6. it was a submissive prayer — yet not I will but what you want

III. IT WAS A WRATH THAT JESUS WILLINGLY TOOK FOR YOU (36)

In Gethsemane, Jesus made the revolting choice to drink the cup of wrath he did not deserve. The light of the world consented to be extinguished into the deepest darkness. Christ our life stepped into the waters of death and forsakenness in order that we might pass over them as safely as passing through dry land. Our innocent Passover Lamb gave himself to be sacrificed for us. The sinless one clasped to himself the contradiction of being made sin. He entered fully the olive press of Gethsemane. He passed through death and hell that we might pass over both safely. (John Piper)

IV. IT WAS A LESSON FOR YOU TO WATCH AND PRAY (37-42)

YOU must watch and pray. You are walking on enemy’s ground — you are living in enemy’s territory. So you cannot walk too carefully. You cannot be too jealous over your own soul. The world is very ensnaring. The devil is very busy. Always be watching and always be praying (JC Ryle).

Consider...

1. The bottomless cup full of infinite wrath is terrifying to Jesus.
2. In the most soul-excruciating agony, Jesus prayed MORE.
3. In the fiercest of trials, Jesus presented his petition & submitted to God’s wise plan.
4. Jesus can relate to you in great suffering — He suffered infinitely more and he can relate to all of us, however intense, prolonged, unique or painful the suffering.
5. Jesus expects that you will fight temptation through PRAYER
6. It is more valuable to pray than to sleep.

Some pastoral observations...

1. *Be Sober!* See the Evil of Our Sin!
2. *Be Fearing!* Rightly Fear Him who can destroy both body & Soul in hell!
3. *Be Proclaiming!* Consider the divine wrath all unbelievers will everlastingly suffer.
4. *Be Trusting!* Turn to Christ who drank the cup & worship!
5. *Be Rejoicing!* Rejoice that He drank it to the dregs & its’ empty!
6. *Be Resting!* Rest in Christ’s love for you & His atonement for you.

Gethsemane is a term that means “the oil press” and it’s a very fitting name for Gethsemane for it was there that Jesus Christ was pressed. To change the figure a little bit, there were three men that night who were sifted. One was our Lord. He was sifted. You remember Jesus had said, “Simon, Satan hath desired to sift thee as wheat, but I have prayed for thee that Thy faith fail not”. So Peter was sifted that night. The other man who was sifted was Judas. Our Lord was sifted and found to be all wheat. Peter, of course, was sifted and found to be part wheat and part chaff. And Judas was sifted and found to be all chaff. (S. Lewis Johnson)

In the first garden “Not Your will but mine” [by Adam] changed Paradise to desert and brought man from Eden to Gethsemane. Now “Not My will but Yours” [by Jesus Christ] brings anguish to the Man who prays it but transforms the desert into the kingdom and brings man from Gethsemane to the gates of glory. (D.A. Carson)

Applications from Jonathan Edwards’ sermon on “Christ’s Agony in the Garden”

1. **Prayer.** This may teach us after what manner we should pray to God, not in a cold and careless manner, but with great earnestness and engagedness of spirit, and especially when we are praying to God for those things that are of infinite importance, such as spiritual and eternal blessings.
2. **Love.** These earnest prayers and strong cries of Christ to the Father in his agony, show the greatness of his love to sinners.
3. **Rest.** If Christ was thus earnest in prayer to God, that the end of his sufferings might be obtained in the salvation of sinners, then how much ought those sinners to be reproved that do not earnestly seek their own salvation!
4. **Alertness.** From what has been said under this proposition, we may learn after what manner Christians ought to go through the work that is before them. Christ had a great work before him when that took place, of which we have an account in the text.
5. **Gospel-Offer.** Hence burdened and distressed sinners, if any such are here present, may have abundant ground of encouragement to come to Christ for salvation.
6. **Christ as Priest.** The godly may take great comfort in this, that Christ has as their high priest offered up such strong cries to God. You that have good evidence of your being believers in Christ, and his true followers and servants, may comfort yourselves in this, that Christ Jesus is your high priest, that that blood, which Christ shed in his agony, fell down to the ground for you, and that those earnest cries were sent up to God for you, for the success of his labours and sufferings in all that good you stood in need of in this world, and in your everlasting happiness in the world to come.
7. **Earnest in Praying.** Hence we may learn how earnest Christians ought to be in their prayers and endeavours for the salvation of others. Christians are the followers of Christ, and they should follow him in this.

Mark 14:32-42 — “*Christ’s Agony in Gethsemane*”

- ✓ **Nahum 1:2**—A jealous and avenging God is the Lord; The Lord is avenging and wrathful. The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies.
- ✓ **John 3:36** — The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- ✓ **Romans 5:9** — Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
- ✓ **Galatians 3:13** — Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 5:20-21** — Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- ✓ **Zephaniah 2:3** — Seek the LORD All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden in the day of the LORD’S anger.

I STAND AMAZED

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be;
How marvelous! How wonderful!
Is my Savior's love for me!

For me it was in the garden
He prayed, "Not my will, but thine;"
He had no tears for his own griefs,
But sweat drops of blood for mine.

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them his very own;
He bore the burden to Calv'ry,
And suffered and died alone.

JESUS THANK YOU

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father’s wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You

By Your perfect sacrifice I’ve been brought near
Your enemy You’ve made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL!

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

It is well (it is well),
With my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well, with my soul!

Prayer Meeting Outline:

1. PRAISE AND THANK JESUS.
2. PRAY FOR PERSONAL WATCHFULNESS. [*Lord, help me; Lord, forgive me; Lord, I want to grow...*]
3. PRAY FOR CORPORATE VIGILANCE/WATCHFULNESS. [*Pray for leaders, CFBC, for churches*]
 1. New Community Church, *Rich Gregory* pastor
 2. Forest Park Bible Church, *Robert Thurman* pastor
 3. STL Chinese Christian Church, *Bo Zhou* pastor
 4. City of Joy Fellowship (East St Louis), *Kempton Turner*, pastor
 5. Rockport Baptist Church, *Scott Lee*, pastor
 6. Calvary Chapel Festus, *Scott Parker*, pastor
 7. First Baptist Church Roxana, IL, *Tim Miller*, pastor
 8. Delhi Baptist Church, *David Ice* pastor