
Sermon Notes

July 12, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Suppressing the Truth

Proverbs 1:24-31, Romans 1:18-32

God's Wrath

- ❖ One of the most neglected of all God's attributes is His wrath
 - the subject of divine wrath seems something of a taboo in modern society
 - the Bible does not hesitate to speak about God's wrath
- ❖ God is holy and hates all sin
 - because God hates all sin, God's anger burns against sinners
 - Psalm 7:11
 - God cannot be indifferent or neutral about sin
- ❖ The Bible repeatedly emphasizes that God is good to those who trust Him and terrible to those who do not (Nahum 1:2, 5-6, 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 10)
 - why are we hesitant to address this?
 - is this a blemish on God's character?
 - is this inconsistent with God's goodness?

What Wrath Is

- ❖ God is not someone who loses control or who overreacts
 - God's wrath is calculated, right, holy, and necessary
 - "The wrath of God is His eternal detestation of all unrighteousness. It is the displeasure and indignation of divine equity against evil." (A. W. Pink)
 - God's wrath is His resolute action of punishing sin
- ❖ Bible words and word pictures
 - being heated up or burning with fury
 - venom or lethal poison
 - the flaring nostrils of an animal that is getting ready to charge
 - a fury that reaches a fever pitch
 - Zechariah 1:15
 - the flood (120-year countdown)
 - the 10 plagues (430 years in the making)
- ❖ Unlike human anger, God's wrath is never capricious, self-indulgent, irritable or immoral
 - planned, specifically timed and designed to bring God glory
 - God is only angry when God's anger is called for
- ❖ God's wrath is simply what strict justice requires

Wrath is a Choice

- ❖ God's wrath is something people choose
 - John 3:18-19
 - God does not inflict hell on anyone
 - "In the last analysis, all God does in His judicial action toward the unbeliever, whether in this life or beyond it, is to show him, and lead him into, the full implications of the choice he has made." (J. I. Packer)
 - God calls, stretches out His hand and offers counsel to those who are going astray (Proverbs 1:24-31)
- ❖ People refuse to listen, choosing instead to ignore God (Romans 1:18-23)
 - the same creation that proves there is a God also proves that God is the enemy of sin
 - our natural inclination is to *suppress the truth of God*
 - in the face of repeated rejection, God expresses His wrath by abandoning people and allowing them to pursue their sin
- ❖ Romans 1:24-31 describe the fallout that occurs when God's wrath abandons sinners to pursue life on their own terms
- ❖ When an individual, a culture, or a nation turns its back on God, it reaps what it sows (Galatians 6:7)
 - reaping judgment is an expression of God's wrath that results from flagrant disobedience
 - to those who have eyes to see, evidence of the active wrath of God is apparent all around

Wrath is Not Inevitable

- ❖ God's judicial hardening of people's hearts is NOT the way things MUST be
 - the greatest outpouring of God's wrath fell on His own Son, Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary
 - God's infinite wrath against the sin of all who belong to Christ was absorbed by our infinite Savior
 - "The wisdom of God devised a way for the love of God to deliver sinners from the wrath of God while not compromising the righteousness of God." (John Piper)
- ❖ Jesus *delivers us from the wrath to come.* (1 Thess. 1:10)
- ❖ Without an accurate understanding of the God's wrath, we cannot understand the gospel of salvation

Personal Application

1. What is your attitude toward God's wrath? Are you reluctant to think about it? talk about it? share about it? Why is that the case? After looking at the Scriptures contained in this message, is there anything about your attitude about God's wrath that needs to change?
2. Describe how God's wrath differs from human anger.
3. How would you respond to someone who maintains that it is unfair for God to release His wrath on His own creation?
4. Since believers no longer stand under the wrath of God, what is the benefit of studying about and meditating on this attribute of God?