

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 10-25-09 PM NOTES
"THE WRATH OF GOD AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAN"
ROMANS 1:18-20
#8 in Series, "Verse by Verse through Romans"

I. The Wrath of God (V18)

Romans 2:5 (NKJV) "But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself **wrath** in the day of **wrath** and revelation of the righteous judgment of God".

Romans 2:8 (NKJV) "but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and **wrath**".

Romans 3:5 (NKJV) "But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? *Is God unjust who inflicts **wrath**?*"

Romans 4:15a (NKJV) "because the law brings about **wrath**..."

Romans 5:9 (NKJV) "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from **wrath** through Him."

Romans 9:22 (NKJV) "*What* if God, wanting to show *His* **wrath** and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction".

Romans 12:19 (NKJV) "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to **wrath**; for it is written, '*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*' says the Lord."

Romans 13:4 (NKJV) "For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* **wrath** on him who practices evil."

Romans 13:5 (NKJV) "Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of **wrath** but also for conscience' sake."

"My friends, this idea has gone out of our churches, has it not? Not only is it not found amongst the unbelievers or the modernists, but it has gone out of evangelical churches. We are bright and breezy. Come and join us and have a good time! We crack our jokes to put people at ease as we begin to evangelize! 'The terror of the Lord' says Paul, the knowledge that he will have to stand before the judgment seat! Have we not departed rather far from this man and his method? You see what happens when you do not start where Paul starts – your whole method becomes wrong. You are interested in attracting people and entertaining them instead of confronting them with this thing with which we must all start – or else we are in terrible danger."

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

A. The Qualities of God's Wrath (V18a)

"His wrath is His holy hostility to evil, His refusal to condone it or come to terms with it, His just judgment upon it."

- John Stott

"Wrath is the holy revulsion of God's being against that which is the contradiction of His holiness."

- John Murray

"Wrath is the reaction of divine righteousness when it comes into collision with sin."

"Wrath is the expression of God's holy hatred of sin."

B. The Revelation of God's Wrath (V18b)

"...the cross, the death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is nothing – there is nothing in history anywhere – which in any way approximates to this as a revelation of the wrath of God against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men."

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Romans 5:9 (ESV) "Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."

C. The Extent of God's Wrath (V18c)

D. The Cause of God's Wrath (V18d)

II. The Responsibility of Man (V19-21)

A. The Universal Internal Revelation of God (V19)

Psalms 14:1 (NKJV) "The fool has said in his heart, '*There is no God.*' They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good."

"The New Testament maintains that unbelief is generated not so much by intellectual causes as by moral and psychological ones. The problem is not that there is insufficient evidence to convince rational beings that there is a God, but that rational beings have a natural antipathy to the being of God. In a word, the nature of God (at least the Christian God) is *repugnant* to man and is not the focus of desire or wish projection. Man's desire is not that [God] exists, but that He doesn't."

- R. C. Sproul

B. The Universal External Revelation by God (V20a)

Psalms 19:1 (ESV) "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."

B. The Inevitable Conclusion (V20b)

"For what Paul says here is that through general revelation people can know God's power, deity and glory (not His saving grace through Christ), and that this knowledge is enough not to save them but rather to condemn them, because they do not live up to it. Instead, they *suppress the truth by their wickedness* (18), so that they *are without excuse* (20). It is against this willful human rebellion that God's wrath is revealed."

- John Stott