

## God's Wrath

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

*Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand? **Revelation 6:16, 17***

- Who is speaking in this verse and for what are they asking?
- From whom do they wish to hide? Why?
- When does this take place?

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. **Romans 1:18, 19***

- From where does God's wrath come?
- Against whom is God's wrath directed? Why is it directed at them?

*So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality or the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. **Ephesians 4:17-19***

- To whom are these verses written?
- Against what is Paul warning? How did they get this way?
- What do you think Paul meant when he said these people "gave themselves over" to something?
- What did they give themselves over to? (i.e. what did they seek?)
- What happened to these people as a result of practicing what they sought? What do you find to be paradoxical about this?

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. **Ephesians 6:12***

- Against what do we NOT struggle? What does this mean?
- Against what do we struggle?
- What does it mean if we do not struggle against these forces, but submit to them instead? Explain.

*Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience. **Colossians 3:5, 6***

- To whom is this written? Why do you think this is written to them?
- To what should they consider themselves dead? How do they do this?
- Why does responding to these things equal idolatry? (Hint: Consider what **Ephesians 6:12** says).
- What is the ultimate consequence of responding to these things? Who experiences this ultimate consequence?

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- How did they end up in this situation? (Hint: Consider **Romans 1:18, 10**)

*For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*

### **Ephesians 5:5, 6**

- To whom is this written? Why do you think this is written to them?
- Why do these verse warn them not to be deceived?
- Who is an idolater, according to these verses?
- What do they NOT inherit as a result of their practices?
- What do they received instead of this inheritance?
- What does Paul called these people? (Hint: look at **Colossians 3:5, 6**)

*For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. **1 Corinthians 10:1-12***

- To whom are these verses written?
- What do all these people have in common?
- If the subjects of these verses were a common people, why did they experience different fates?
- What does Paul call these people? Why?
- What do you think Paul meant when he said, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall"? Explain.

*For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to await for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. **1***

### **Thessalonians 1:19, 10**

- To whom are these verses written?
- How did these people change to deserve Paul's compliments and commendation?
- What is their ultimate reward for making this change?

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*For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **1 Thessalonians 5:9***

*Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. **Romans 5:9***

- From what are we saved?
- Through whom do we receive this salvation?
- When do we begin to realize the full benefits of this salvation? Explain

## **Summary:**

- Scripture reveals that there are two kinds of people in the world; “sons of disobedience” and “sons of God”.
- Scripture characterizes the “sons of disobedience” by certain practices that idolaters hold in common. These practices are evil because they are demonically inspired and supported.
- Both the “sons of disobedience” and the “sons of God” can be found among the “professing people of God”.
- The “sons of disobedience” are deceived by dark spiritual forces of wickedness. They harden their hearts to the Living Word of Light, eventually becoming lost in this darkness.
- The “sons of God” are enlightened and transformed by the Living Word of Light, repent from evil practices, turn away from demons, and practice righteousness.
- These scripture verses, and others, are written to the Church so that the “sons of God” might hear them and heed them, thus ensuring they are saved.
- Scripture shows that these two groups of people have very different destinies. The “sons of disobedience” inherit God’s terrible wrath, but the “sons of God” inherit salvation and eternal life.
- Scripture reveals that God’s wrath has come at various times, but His ultimate wrath is in the final days, as a part of His final judgments.
- Scripture reveals that the Church is delivered from God’s wrath by the second coming of Christ, but there will be no place for sinners to hide from this wrath.

## **Final Thought Questions:**

1. Assuming that we live in a sensuous and indulgent culture, what spiritual forces do you think got us this way?
2. If we, as Christians, are conforming to the practices of our culture, what does this say about the spiritual forces that influence us the most?
3. If the witness of the church in our culture has become less effective as “salt and light”, what could this imply about our spiritual condition? What does it imply for our spiritual remedy?
4. If we are to undertake this remedy, with whom should it begin? When?
5. Specifically, what three (3) things must you change to strengthen your spiritual condition? What three (3) things must you maintain to remain spiritually healthy? How will you hold yourself accountable for these changes?

