

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Wrath Of God

(Jerry Fite)

Did you know the wrath of God has been revealed? Have you noticed the wrath of God abides?

Were you aware the wrath of God is to come? Paul and John affirm yes to all three questions. We may gravitate to God’s love, mercy and grace, but spending a little time examining the reality of God’s wrath is beneficial to our eternal well-being.

Paul writes, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness. . .*” (Romans 1:18). Man is put on notice from the highest authority of heaven that God’s wrath is directed toward suppressing the truth of God (ungodliness) and the consequent conduct (unrighteousness) of those who have not the truth of God in their heart. The context of Romans 1 certainly bears these two points out.

The reality of God’s wisdom and power can be seen by looking at the heavens and earth, and observing the massive and intricate characteristics of things “made”. Man is without excuse to ignore God (Romans 1:20). When man refuses to have God in his knowledge, he carries out the

lusts of his own selfish heart in all forms of unrighteous living including homosexuality and murder (Romans 1:21-32).

Every time the college professor refuses to allow God into the discussion of the origin of all things, he is the object of God’s wrath. Whenever Hollywood actors and actresses or people in congress uphold and defend the homosexual lifestyle, they are put on notice of God’s wrath against such unrighteousness. Who puts them on notice? God from Heaven has put them on notice. Suppressing the truth of God and living unrighteously arouses the anger of God!

John in preparing people for the Son of God said, “*He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth upon him.*” (John 3:36). John reminds us that God’s wrath continues to abide upon us until we believe in and obey the Son of God. The wrath of God revealed against all unrighteousness continues to abide identifying us as “*children of wrath*” instead of children of God (Ephesians 2:3). It is sobering to think if I do not believe and obey the Son of God I will not only for-

feit eternal life, but will personally experience the wrath of God. The “wrath of God” does not just abide, it abides upon “me”.

The wrath of God not only has been revealed and continues to abide, it will come. John questions those coming to be baptized of him by asking, “*who warned you to flee from the wrath to come*?” (Matthew 3:7)? Men will experience this wrath in the form of eternal torment in the unquenchable fires of Hell (Matthew 3:11, Mk. 9:43, Revelation 14:9-11). I believe everyone who seriously considers the horrors that lie ahead for those experiencing God’s wrath in Hell, will certainly want to “flee”. Like many tragedies, the sad reality is that those unprepared will wait too long when it will be impossible to escape (cf. Luke 13:24-25).

These facts of God’s wrath should drive us to focus upon our obedience to the gospel of Christ. The good news of Christ creates faith in us which moves us to obey and live according to the Gospel (Romans 10:17, Mark 16:15-16, Romans 1:17). Continuing to be sobered by the reality of God’s revealed wrath, true believers rejoice having escaped God’s abiding and coming wrath.