

REVIEW – *Romans 1:16-17* – two reasons Paul was so *confident* and *bold* in proclaiming the truth...and why he was so *eager* to do so...

I. BECAUSE OF WHAT IT IS

16...for it is the power of God for salvation...

II. BECAUSE OF WHAT IT ACCOMPLISHES

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed...

1:18-32 – primarily indicts *Gentiles*

2:1-3:8 – primarily preoccupied with *Jews*

3:9-20 – summarizes the guilt of *all men*.

THE SOBERING REALITY OF GOD'S WRATH

Romans 1:18

Rom 1:18 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

The wrath of God:

- It is His **ETERNAL HATRED** of all unrighteousness
- It's an attitude of **HOLY ANGER** toward sin
- It is the settled and active **OPPOSITION** of God's holy nature to everything that is evil

Gen 19:24 – God rained judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah.

Exo 15:7 - ...in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You; You send forth Your burning anger, and it consumes them as chaff.

Deut 29:27-28 – 27...the anger of the LORD burned against that land...28 and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and in fury and in great wrath...

Psa 6:1 - O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your wrath.

Two facts about wrath:

I. IT IS A NECESSARY REALITY

Rom 1:18 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

Two facts about wrath:

I. IT IS A NECESSARY REALITY

What makes the revealing of God's wrath necessary?

A. *MAN'S AFFECTION FOR WICKEDNESS*

18...against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...

I. IT IS A NECESSARY REALITY

A. *MAN'S AFFECTION FOR WICKEDNESS*

1. *UNGODLINESS*

A pervasive lack of reverence for God.

I. IT IS A NECESSARY REALITY

A. *MAN'S AFFECTION FOR WICKEDNESS*

1. *UNGODLINESS*

2. *UNRIGHTEOUSNESS*

This term basically means *lawlessness*.

James 2:10 - For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Two facts about wrath:

I. IT IS A NECESSARY REALITY

A. *MAN'S AFFECTION FOR WICKEDNESS*

18...against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...

Sin means to 'miss the mark.'

Westminster Shorter Catechism – Question 14 – *any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.*

Two facts about wrath:

I. IT IS A NECESSARY REALITY

Due to...

A. MAN'S AFFECTION FOR WICKEDNESS

B. MAN'S REJECTION OF TRUTH

18...who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

I. IT IS A NECESSARY REALITY

II. IT IS A PRESENT REALITY

18...is revealed from heaven...

FIRST – God's wrath is a **FUTURE** event.

Acts 17:31 - He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world.

Rom 2:5 - ...because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God...

I. IT IS A NECESSARY REALITY

II. IT IS A PRESENT REALITY

18...is revealed from heaven...

FIRST – God's wrath is a **FUTURE** event.

Rev 20:11–13 - 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it...12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne...and the dead were judged...according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

II. IT IS A PRESENT REALITY

SECOND – God's wrath is a **PRESENT** event.

is revealed = present tense

Rom 3:5 - ...The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He?...

Rom 4:15 - for the Law brings about wrath...

Schiller – *The history of the world is the judgment of the world.*

Implications for BELIEVERS:

#1 – Thinking about the wrath of God is beneficial for believers in the PRESENT.

1. So that our hearts may be continually IMPRESSED by God's hatred of sin.

Maurice Roberts – *It is the besetting sin of our age to trivialize sin.*

#1 – Thinking about the wrath of God is beneficial for believers in the PRESENT.

2. So that true REVERENCE for God is stimulated in our souls.

1 Pet 1:17 - ... if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth.

#1 – Thinking about the wrath of God is beneficial for believers in the PRESENT.

3. So that our souls are full of fervent GRATITUDE for having been delivered from the ‘wrath to come.’

Implications for BELIEVERS:

#2 – We should think rightly about how we will view God's wrath in the FUTURE.

An implication FOR UNBELIEVERS:

Psa 7:11-14 – 11 God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day. 12 If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready. 13 He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.

WILLIAM GURNALL (1660) – Think not, sinners, that you shall escape thus; God's mill goes slow, but grinds small; the more admirable His patience and bounty now is, the more dreadful and insupportable will that fury be which ariseth out of His abused goodness. Nothing smoother than the sea, yet when stirred into a tempest, nothing rageth more. Nothing so sweet as the patience and goodness of God, and nothing so terrible as His wrath when it takes fire.

An implication FOR UNBELIEVERS:

1 Thes 1:10 - ... Jesus...rescues us from the wrath to come.

John 3:36 - He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.