

God's Not Angry at You – Understanding God's Wrath

“God's not mad at you!”

A quote from William Barclay's commentary, *The Letter to the Romans*, pages 25-26.

“Although [Paul] speaks of the wrath of God, he never speaks of God being angry. He speaks of God's love, and he speaks of God loving. He speaks of God's grace and of God graciously giving. He speaks of God's fidelity, and of God being faithful to his people. But, very strangely, although he speaks of the wrath of God, he never speaks about God being angry.”

Wrath means “anger, temper, indignation, anger exhibited by punishment.” With regard to God, wrath means punishment for sin.

- Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and unrighteousness (wickedness) of men.
 - It is not being revealed against men (it is not being revealed against you), but rather against godlessness and unrighteousness (wickedness).
 - God hates wickedness because it destroys those He loves.
- There is a difference between remaining under wrath and the wrath actively being poured out. There is a difference in knowing that discipline awaits you and receiving discipline.
- Because every person is born in sin, every person is born under God's wrath. How do you come out from being under wrath?
 - John 3:36 God's wrath remains on whoever rejects God's Son, but whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.
 - Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- There is a day when God's wrath (punishment for sin) is poured out on the person who remains in their sin.
 - Matthew 3:7 "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Also, Luke 3:7)
 - Romans 2:5 But 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,
 - Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Disobedience means “*obstinate opposition* to the divine will.” It is a stubborn refusal to be persuaded or to believe that results in God's wrath.
 - Wrath accumulates based not upon our sins/failures, but upon our *stubbornness* and lack of repentance.
 - What does repentance do? Removes God's wrath from us.
 - Revelation 6:17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?
 - Revelation 11:18 The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has

come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who severance your name – both small and great – and for destroying those who destroy the earth.

- There is also the principle of reaping what you sow to consider.
- There are still consequences (sometime severe) of sin.
- Sin carries in its act its own punishment.

Freedom Points –

- **At this time, God’s wrath is not directed against man, but against wickedness/sin?**
- **There is a time when God’s wrath will be poured out and those who remain in their sin will receive punishment for their sins.**
- **By believing and trusting in Jesus as Savior, God moves us from being in sin to being in Christ.**
- **Jesus saves us and delivers us from God’s wrath that is directed at sin.**

Walk it Out

- God is safe to be around. He is safe to hang out with.
- God is angry at every sin that is harming you or harming your relationships.
- It is a powerful thing to agree with God. Be willing to become angry with regard to sin in your life rather than tolerating sin or excusing sin.

