

# ROMANS

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL  
ROMANS 2:1–5

## THE WRATH OF GOD AND THE GIFT OF FAITH (ROM. 2:1–5)

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Last week we looked at Romans 1:16–17 which talked about the revelation of the righteousness of God. Moving forward in this letter, we learn that a part of God's righteousness being revealed in his wrath.

Wrath is not a popular concept. It makes us uncomfortable. We are much more comfortable talking about the love, mercy, and grace of God. However, inherent in the very notion of the goodness of God is his justice, and therefore wrath. In order for God to be good and just, he must punish evil.

God's wrath, then is: (1) a testimony to his goodness, (2) serves as a warning about the seriousness of sin, (3) and calls us to repentance.

We must respond to God's wrath with (1) reverence, (2) repentance, and (3) by sharing the gospel.

### 2.0 ROMANS 1:18–23

#### 2.1 THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD REVEALED

God's purpose for the creation to begin with was for humankind to fill the creation with the glory of God by bearing his resemblance and governing over the creation the way that he would. Then the fall happened. As a result, God promised Adam and Eve that he would take care of the serpent (Gen. 3:15); God also promised Abraham that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him. Until Jesus, none of those promises were fulfilled. Now, because of

Jesus, God has fulfilled his promised and—by extension—revealed his righteousness. Secondly, God's purposes for the creation to be filled with his goodness. This hasn't happened. Evil runs amuck in the world. As people are reconciled to God through Jesus, and the life of Jesus is born in the world through the church, God's purposes for the creation are fulfilled and God's righteousness is revealed.

#### 2.2 THE WRATH OF GOD REVEALED

A part of God's goodness and righteousness is his wrath. God's wrath is not selfish or arbitrary. His personal anger against wickedness serves the good of the beloved. It is his loving and holy response to evil. To understand God's wrath, we must recognize His holiness. God is separate from sin, and because He is perfectly just, He cannot overlook wrongdoing. His wrath is a reflection of His justice. In Habakkuk 1:13, we see that God cannot look upon evil and allow it to go unchecked. His wrath serves to uphold His righteousness in the universe.

#### 2.3 THE WRATH OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament has its fair share of teaching on final judgment, hell, and the wrath of God (see Matt. 5:3, 7:22–23, and 10:33). The strongest pronouncements of wrath in the New Testament are towards false teachers (Gal. 1:8–9), and those who fail to care for people in the greatest need (Matt. 25:31–46). We must be very careful before judging others that we are obedient to God's call to care for those in need, or else we will face punishment.

#### 2.5 THE GIFT OF FAITH

We must run from spiritual arrogance (i.e., self-righteousness). We must remember—before judging others—that we are only saved by grace as a gift. God has rescued us from his wrath by giving us the gift of faith and enabling us by his grace to accept that gift. Our escape from God's wrath is not earned. There is nothing for us to boast in but Jesus and the gift of faith.

### 3.0 CONCLUSION

1. **Reverence.** We must approach God with reverence and awe, understanding his holiness and the seriousness of sin. Just because God may be gentle in convicting us of sin does not mean that the sin is not serious.

2. **Repentance.** If we find ourselves straying, let us not shy away from confessing our faults before him. As 1 John 1:9 assures us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
3. **Share the Gospel.** Being reminded of the wrath of God should inspire us to share the good news of forgiveness in Jesus Christ. We hold the key to revealing God's mercy to those living under the weight of his wrath. Our mission is to point others to Jesus who reconciles us offers us life and freedom.