

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



Who is God? What is He like? Can He be known? These are the most important questions in the universe. The good news is God has answered these questions by revealing Himself through His attributes. The most important thing we can do in the universe is grow in our knowledge of God. We have been created by God to know God. For the season of Lent our devotions will be on knowing God through His attributes.

Wrath

On this Good Friday it is appropriate to consider God's wrath, as it was poured out on Jesus on the cross for the sins of the whole world. God's wrath is his love in action against sin. God loves the good and hates the evil.

J.I. Packer summarizes: "God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil" (Knowing God, 151).

"Would a God who did not react adversely to evil in His world be morally perfect? Surely not. But it is precisely this adverse reaction to evil, which is a necessary part of moral perfection, that the Bible has in view when it speaks of God's wrath" (Knowing God, 136-37).

The Lord's Table we come to on Good Friday is a picture of God's justice and wrath. So great is God's wrath toward sin, this is the only possible remedy, this is the only way God could turn aside from his wrath. This is the only satisfactory satisfaction, the only way His wrath toward sin could be appropriated or atoned for. Look how much He has done for us, look at the cost. He has made salvation possible for us, He has revealed His glory. The good news is this way is sufficient and effective, this way is the way held out to all who will repent and believe and come.

Scripture on God's Wrath

Exodus 34:6-7 Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Proverbs 11:4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

Nahum 1:2-3, 6-8 The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.

The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

⁶ *Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger?*

His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

John 3:36 *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.*

Romans 5:6-10 *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

Ephesians 5:5-6 *For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no 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.*

II Thessalonians 1:8-10 *dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day.*

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

To Avert From Men God's Wrath

(To tune of Go To Dark Gethsemane)

To avert from men God's wrath,
Jesus suffered in our stead;
by an ignominious death
He a full atonement made;
and by His most precious blood
brought us, sinners, nigh to God.

Christ bids each afflicted soul,
"Come that I may soothe your grief.
No one who is strong and whole
needs a doctor for relief;
therefore have no fear, draw nigh,
that your want I may supply."

But examine first your case,
whether you be in the faith;
do you long for pard'ning grace?
Is your only hope His death?
Then, how e'er your soul's oppressed,
come, you are a worthy guest.

They who Jesus' mercy knows
are from wrath and envy freed;
love unto our neighbor shows
that we are His flock indeed;
thus we may in all our ways
show forth our Redeemer's praise.

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Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Holy Father, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things and Judge of all men, our great and many sins are a great offense to your holiness and an affront to your righteousness. We have grievously sinned against your divine majesty and have provoked most justly your wrath and indignation against us. Our sin deserves your just judgment, we are worthy of nothing but your righteous wrath. We most earnestly confess and acknowledge our sin and agree with you concerning its seriousness. We most earnestly repent and ask you by the blood of Jesus to deliver us from our sin for the sake of your steadfast love and cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. Have mercy on us and remember our sins no more, for if you remember our iniquities, who could stand in your presence. Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, and by your Spirit in us conform us to His image and likeness.

Holy and righteous Father, we worship you and love you for your justice and that you are a jealous God and a God of wrath. We love you that you are the perfect God and that all your attributes are worthy of worship and praise and honor. You are glorified in all that you are. We humble ourselves before you. Our lives are secure in the knowledge your wrath and justice are satisfied for us in the life and death of Jesus Christ our Savior. In His name we humbly pray, Amen.