

***Romans***  
***Message 17***  
***Not Ashamed 04***  
***Rom 1:13-19***

- 13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.
- 14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.
- 15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.
- 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
- 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
- 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;
- 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. KJV

**Introduction:**

In our last message we looked at the last half of v.17 concerning the words, “from faith to faith,” and “The just shall live by faith.” We saw Paul borrow the point from Habakkuk that the just man lives out his faith and through him the righteousness of God is revealed to those whose hearts are stirred by Him and enabled to believe.

Today we want to look in detail at the issue of v.18 that in the gospel “The Wrath of God is revealed.”

I fear that we live in a world that has given itself over to fantasy.

In this fantasy world there is a so-called ‘God’ that has been invented by lying preachers and false religionists.

This fantasy God in this fantasy world is “all about Love” but even the idea of ‘love’ in this day is also a fantasy.

You see, this “God of Love” in this fantasy world that men have invented, this God does not care if men are holy or not. They can reject His Moral Law and still be very confident, reassured by those who lie for money, that everyone is OK, that there is no Judgment for wickedness, in fact, there is no wickedness at all except for that which says that some things are wicked.

This Fantasy God in this Fantasy World is perfectly pleased with His creatures however they choose to live.... well, almost ‘however,’ for this Fantasy God does not want anyone being

criticized or made to feel ashamed for violating codes of conduct that have been affirmed in Christianity for centuries, even millenia.

More and more these Fantasy addicts are becoming convinced that their Fantasy God has one group of people He does not like, and they will tell you so....

Their Fantasy God does not like people who take their Bibles seriously and humbly undertake to live by its teachings and command. He really doesn't like when they tell others about what they see in scripture.

These Fantasy Addicts are more and more convinced that those people are hated by their 'God' and should be hated by everyone.

The God declared by Paul, Who burns in Wrath against ungodly and unrighteous men has become a foreign and hated Personage in our Fantasy World.

Have you ever considered that there is actually a spiritual entity, a being, who loves to pretend that he is God and works to have men pretend so as well?

He has something interesting in common with the Fantasy God of modern man.

He also hates those who love the God of the Bible.

Consider Paul's comments from 2 Cor 11 (AMP)

- 2 For I am zealous for you with a godly eagerness and a divine jealousy, for I have betrothed you to one Husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
- 3 But [now] I am fearful, lest that even as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted and seduced from wholehearted and sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- 4 For [you seem readily to endure it] if a man comes and preaches another Jesus than the One we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the [Spirit] you [once] received or a different gospel from the one you [then] received and welcomed; you tolerate [all that] well enough!

People (preachers) were coming to Corinth with a different message than the one that Paul was preaching and these Corinthian (presumably) Christians were readily accepting and allowing them to speak.

But these were not just guys with other opinions. They had one whom they served as God and treated him as such.

Still 2 Cor 11 (AMP)

- 13 For such men are false apostles [spurious, counterfeits], deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles (special messengers) of Christ (the Messiah).
- 14 And it is no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light;

- 15 So it is not surprising if his servants also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. [But] their end will correspond with their deeds.

They were servants of Satan masquerading as “apostles of Christ.”

And... they were infiltrating the true churches of Jesus Christ.

Do you ever wonder what Paul would say about many of the ‘ministers’ of our day?

But consider this, Satan who masquerades as ‘God,’ does not have a problem with men living in ungodliness. In fact, that is what he promotes. He ‘loves’ those who practice wickedness and entice others to do so.

I would submit to you that the Fantasy God of modern America is none other than Satan himself.

But the Real God, the One Who actually created the heavens, the earth and all that is in them, is Actually Holy and really is angry with man in his natural state.

Ps 7:11-17

- 11 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.  
12 If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready.  
13 He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors.  
14 Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood.  
15 He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made.  
16 His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.  
17 I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high. KJV

Psa 7 (AMP)

- 11 God is a righteous Judge, yes, **a God Who is indignant every day.**  
12 If a man does not turn and repent, **[God] will whet His sword**; He has strung and bent His [huge] bow and made it ready [by treading it with His foot].  
13 He has also prepared for him deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.  
14 Behold, [the wicked man] conceives iniquity and is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies.  
15 He made a pit and hollowed it out and has fallen into the hole which he made [before the trap was completed].  
16 His mischief shall fall back in return upon his own head, and his violence come down [with the loose dirt] upon his own scalp.  
17 **I will give to the Lord the thanks due to His rightness and justice**, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

Notice that David saw no conflict between God’s Righteousness (Holiness) and His Anger,

contrary to those in our day who cannot reconcile God's Goodness with His Wrath.

### **Can you imagine what the New Jerusalem would be like with the Fantasy God in charge?**

Rev 22:10-16

- 10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.
- 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.
- 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
- 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
- 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
- 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.
- 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. KJV

To hear many in our day tell it, those in v.15 would be inside rather than outside the city...

We wonder if Paul, Peter and John would even be welcome.

And, what would the city even be like?

Downtown New York City?

Or San Francisco?

Or Las Vegas?

Now, I know that there are some imagining Heaven to be just such a place... but that is a Fantasy as well.

Rev 21:22-27

- 22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.
- 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.
- 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.
- 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.
- 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.
- 27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. KJV

Don't like those accommodations? There is an alternative, you know.

We have been bombarded for 70 years or more with "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life if you will just let Him save you, if you will exercise your free will and ask Jesus into your heart."

But I will tell you what the Apostle Paul told the Athenians.

"God has commanded all men everywhere to repent of their sins because He has appointed a Day in which He will judge the whole world in Absolute Righteousness (by a perfect and holy standard of His Own Invention) through that Perfect Savior, Jesus Christ, Who rose from the Dead and will be seated at the Judges Bench."

**But, can this really be true? Is God indeed a Character Who Judges and visit Wrath upon those with whom He is displeased?**

Is God so displeased with some that they are in danger from Him?

Is there really going to be a Day of Wrath?

Is such a view of God consistent with the revelation He has given us concerning Himself?

Let us look again at the scriptures. Maybe we have misunderstood Paul.

Maybe Paul misspoke and then corrected himself later,

Maybe he is in disagreement with what the Lord Jesus taught... (?)

Matthew 3:7

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? KJV

Luke 3:7

7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? KJV

This is the ministry of John Baptist and the backstory is that John was having many come to him to be baptized to signify that they had embraced his message which called for repentance from all violations of God's Law and a dedication of the self to God in faith and obedience.

Scribes and Pharisees were coming to him to also be baptized but John saw that it was in pretense, that their actions were not motivated by faith and repentance and, so, he harshly question them concerning their intentions and their reasons for coming to him. In doing so, he alluded to a piece of his message, the reality that those who did not repent of their sins were subject to the wrath of God. Coming to him, confessing their sins, receiving baptism and going forward to walk in faith were very much associated with the idea of escaping the "Wrath" that was going to fall on those who did not.

So, in this message of John, this gospel of the kingdom, (the same one, by the way that Jesus preached) there was a “revelation” of the Wrath of God. So, Paul was at least in agreement with John Baptist on the matter of Wrath being revealed in the gospel.

But, what about Jesus? Surely there was no wrath in Him, right?

Mark told an account of Jesus visiting the synagogue at Capernaum fairly early in His ministry, just after He had called Matthew to be one of the 12. There in the meeting was a man with what was called ‘a withered hand’ and Jesus asked a question to those who were watching to see if He would heal the man. It could be that they had arranged for the poor fellow to be present on that day that Jesus was there. “Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?”

But they refused to answer anything at all and this provoked Jesus very badly. Here is how Mark described the event.

Mark 3:5

5 **And when he had looked round about on them with anger** (wrath), being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. KJV

As difficult as it is for some to imagine Jesus being angry on this level with hypocritical and unbelieving men, He was.

Near the end of His ministry, maybe on His very last day of freedom, the day before He was crucified, He spoke of coming events including the destruction of Jerusalem. A real case might be made for this being Judgment from God for their treatment of His Son. He spoke of the need for people to escape the total desecration of Jerusalem that was going to occur.

Luke 21:23

23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. KJV

Even when Jesus spoke to Nicodemus concerning the New Birth and the necessity of it, He spoke of the fact that saving faith delivers one from the **Wrath** of God and said that it is directed against every one who refuses to believe on the Son.

John 3:36

36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. KJV

The scriptures speak of people being ‘saved’ and many have taken that term to mean salvation but I wonder what many in our day think they are being saved from? To hear some preachers they are ‘saved’ from being unhappy while others speak of being ‘saved’ from poverty or illness or loneliness. The saint is **saved** from the **Wrath of God**. Salvation really makes no sense unless God’s determination to visit Wrath upon sinners is taken into account.

Our text indeed does use the word, but does Paul use it in any other places?

Romans 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; KJV

Consider chapter two where he addresses a specific type of person, probably having the Jews in mind mostly. This person is very severe toward people who commit acts of evil and condemns them but he does not apply his religious/moral principles to himself. He practices the very things he condemns. We have all known such people. Paul clearly made the point that condemning sin in others without repenting of it personally only increases the difficulty for one's self on the Last Day.

Romans 2:5

5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself **wrath** against **the day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; KJV

Then, he furthered his case, broadening it to all men generally. Those who faithfully practice obedience to God and seek after Him are promised, "glory and honor and immortality... eternal life..."

Rom 2:8-9

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,  
9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; KJV

And, apparently, there were some waxing philosophical at Rome concerning this very issue. "If our sins serve to demonstrated how righteous and gracious God is, why would He visit us in wrath? Isn't that illogical?" Paul's answer was unequivocal.

Romans 3:5,6

5 But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who **taketh vengeance**? (I speak as a man) KJV

Rom 3:5

5 But if our righteousness commendeth the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who visiteth with wrath? (I speak after the manner of men.) ASV (*good rendering*)

6 God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world? KJV

Notice also that in his mind God's judgment of the world and His wrath were inseparably connected. If there is going to be a judgment then the Wrath of God is most certainly a reality.

As Paul developed his case of Justification by Faith, it was necessary for him to dismiss and prove to be erroneous the idea that one can be made just before God by his own deeds or works. To make that case he had to comment on the way that the law functions in this who

sin/righteous/justification thing.

Romans 4:15

15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.  
KJV

The 'law' it turns out creates wrath because it defines what transgression is. Law without consequences is pointless and the consequences of broken law is the wrath of God.

If God forbids a thing then and one does it or if He commands a thing and one refuses to do it, He is angry, filled with wrath, and likely to eternally destroy the one who breaks His Law unless Someone makes a remedy for the problem. Those who are in Christ are safe from His Wrath.

Which is what he will go on to say...

Romans 5:9

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. KJV

If men cannot defeat the argument proving the existence of God's Wrath, they try to argue that He must exercise it consistently with their views of right and wrong. But He does all things according to the good pleasure of His Own Will, including the dispensing of Wrath.

Romans 9:22

22 What if God, willing to shew **his wrath**, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the **vessels of wrath** fitted to destruction: KJV

Sometimes He will put up with wrong behavior for a long time and then suddenly visit judgment in devastating Wrath... as He did with Sodom and Gomorrha... or as He did with the Canaanites.

Gen 15:13-16

13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;  
14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.  
15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.  
16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: **for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.** KJV

For many years, from Abraham to Moses, God withheld judgment upon the Amorites until He had prepared Israel to take the land He had promised to Abraham. Then, by the swords and spears of His people He visited harsh judgment upon the descendants of Canaan in this life and eternal wrath in the hereafter.

As Paul made the case, God measures out His Wrath in His Sovereign Good Will and man has



no right to question Him at all nor to arrogantly 'judge' His Plan as flawed and 'unjust.'

He also considered the idea that some would try to help God with His Wrath or decide that since God visits wrath upon wrong-doers it is OK for us to do so as well.

Romans 12:19

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. KJV (*vengeance a different word here*)

Rom 12:19

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." RSV

Man is to know that God's Wrath is certain and that it is always Just. Therefore, He needs no help from us.

James 1:20

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. KJV

Paul reminded us that before God brought us to Himself we were in a condition subject to eternal destruction by His Wrath.

Ephesians 2:3

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. KJV

He also envisioned a time when people would undertake to deceive the people of God and deny that God's wrath burns against iniquity.

Eph 5:1-6

- 1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;
- 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.
- 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;
- 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.
- 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- 6 **Let no man deceive you with vain words:** for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. KJV

Words to the contrary, words that deny the wrath of God against sin, are 'vain words,' empty words, useless and profitless words, and a profound lie. But such is the so-called 'Christianity'

of our time. *The Wrath of God is coming upon the 'children of disobedience' because they have live in ungodliness and have refused to repent of it.*

1 Thessalonians 1:10

10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. KJV

Some have forgotten, if they ever knew, that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years because of the Wrath of God.

Heb 3:8-12

8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. KJV

You should also realize, as every believer should, that the Wrath of God is our great warning to not depart from Him. There is no shelter from it anywhere but in Christ.

**Then, there IS that Awful Day of Wrath from which the Gospel warns us and would save us if we truly believe.**

Rev 6:12-17

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? KJV

But still there are those who simply cannot imagine Wrath associated with Jesus. Consider this.

Rev 19:11-16

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

- 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.
- 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.
- 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.
- 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
- 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. KJV

**I do not think we are hearing Paul in some kind of wrong way when he says that the Gospel which reveals the Holiness of God also reveals His Wrath.**

His Wrath is the reason that the Gospel is needed, the Reason that Christ came, the Reason that the Cross was necessary. Do you not see that?

It is the reason that the suffering of the Cross for Jesus was so incredibly awful.

It is the Wrath of God that mandates the eternal torment of those who rebel against Him.

It was that very Wrath which was poured out upon Jesus Christ as He bore our sins in His Own Body on the cross!

God did not decide to stop being angry concerning our sins... Jesus decided to take that wrath to Himself on our behalf.

If you remove Wrath from the message, you have no message. There is no reason to repent of sin or live a holy life if it makes not difference, if God is not Angry and if He is not Holy. Thus, the denial of the Wrath of God is the denial of the Gospel itself.

If there is no Wrath there is no gospel. Jesus died for nothing... we were going to be safe anyway.

But we are not going to all automatically be saved.

God's Love does not negate His Justice and His Wrath.

The Work of Christ was not for nothing.

The Wrath of God was visited upon Him so that all who repent of their sins and believe on Him will be saved from the Awful Day of the Visitation of Judgment and Anger by the Living God.