

Romans

MADE RIGHT
WITH GOD

Why the Good News is Good

SUNDAY, November 20, 2022

Key Scripture: Romans 1:18–32

INTRODUCTION

In our fourth week of *Romans: Made Right with God*, we learn of a seemingly difficult-to-understand trait of God. This message helped us understand the wrath of God—that it's part of the very nature of God. Wrath means properly, settled anger. It's God's fixed, controlled, passionate feeling against sin. Now, there's a vast difference between the wrath of God and the wrath of man, however. God's wrath is holy and always justified; man's is never holy and rarely justified. Part of the reason for God's wrath is because He is a just God. Because He is just he must necessarily punish sin. Ironically, God's wrath is part of what makes the Good News so good! The wrath of God explains what we are being saved from. Ultimately, the wrath of God highlights the goodness of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think back to Sunday's message. What do you remember? Review your notes if you have them.
2. In what ways do you see Paul's description of unrighteousness in our world today?
3. According to vs. 18 what's the reason all people are ungodly and unrighteous?
4. Do you find it difficult to accept the wrath of God? Why or why not?
5. What is the focus of God's wrath?
6. The concept of God's wrath is the central theme of Romans 1:18-32. We might be prone to think of God's wrath in human terms—as if God's anger is on the same plane as ours. We also tend to separate God's wrath from his other attributes, such as his holiness and love. Discuss how God's wrath is connected to his love and holiness.
7. What are the consequences of disconnecting God's wrath from his love and holiness?
8. How does the wrath of God highlight God's goodness?
9. What's one thing you learned from Sunday's message and today's discussion that will help you become a better disciple of Christ, and help others do the same?

Now What?

Celebrate the goodness of God.



NOTES

Pastor Neal's message on Holy Sexuality: <https://www.cvchurch.org/messages/holy-sexuality/>

DIGGING DEEPER

The Wrath of God article from Christianity Today:

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/march-web-only/is-wrath-of-god-satisfying-good-friday-cross.html>

The Bible Project—Saved from God's wrath:

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/saved-from-gods-wrath/>

A few quotes from the book, *Forsaken: The Trinity and the Cross, and Why It Matters* by Thomas H. McCall, IVP Academic, 2012.

“God's love is the source, not the consequence, of the atonement.” (*Forsaken*, page 91)

McCall maintains the classic doctrine of divine simplicity. According to this doctrine, God is metaphysically simple; he is not made up of parts, which would make his existence dependent on some other entity. If God is simple, we cannot conceive of his love and wrath as two competing parts in his nature. **Instead, they are two expressions of the one, unified nature of God. Indeed, according to McCall, God's wrath is an expression of his love; his love demands his opposition to sin.** Ultimately, God's love was expressed in the cross of Christ, which dealt decisively with the wrath of God against sin. So, for McCall, the problem of forgiveness is not an “internal” problem for God; his love and wrath are never pitted against one another.