

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Romans 5:1-9 “...But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be *saved from wrath through Him.*”

Quote: “His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange! Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered ‘neath God’s rage. Draped in His righteousness, I’m justified. In Christ I live, for in my place He died. His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread? God’s daunting Law Christ mastered in my stead. Faultless I stand, with righteousness works not mine, Saved by my Lord’s vicarious death and life.” Chris Andersen

God’s wrath is not an attribute that can be “tacked on” at the end of a long list of “positive things” about Him. God’s holy wrath is an integral part of His character; it magnifies His righteousness and justice like darkness magnifies the star-studded splendor of the night sky. God’s grace and mercy exhausted His wrath at Calvary enabling Him to remain holy and righteous while dealing justly with those whose saving faith is in Christ alone. “The wrath of God is the holiness of God stirred into activity against sin.”¹ “It is the settled opposition of God’s nature against evil, His holy displeasure against sinners, and the punishment He justly metes out to them on account of their sins.”²

Addressing wickedness in his day, Paul asked those in Rome, “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to *repentance*? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart *you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God*, who ‘will render to each one according to his deeds’: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—*indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil....*”³ Saving faith perseveres in the

pursuit of holiness in gratitude for God’s grace expressed in the sacrifice of His Son. The wrath that God will pour out on the callused and the careless who reject Christ will be magnified by what it took to secure His pardon without violating His justice.⁴ God knows the condescension of Christ from glory to Galilee. God knows the agony of soul that gripped Christ in Gethsemane as He pondered the cup of wrath that awaited Him. God knows the brutality that Christ suffered at Gabbatha. God knows the sense of forsakenness that swept over Christ on Golgotha. God will repay those who spurn His grace and “despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance and long-suffering.” Yet, in His wrath, He will remember mercy for all who flee to Christ—the instrument of His “amazing grace!” What cause for rejoicing!

Only in the context of God’s holiness can we begin to know the magnitude of, and the motivation for, His wrath that was exhausted upon Christ to atone for the sins of all who place their faith solely and entirely in Him. That same wrath awaits all who are not clothed in Christ’s righteousness when He returns for His own! It is that same wrath that causes the demons to tremble.⁵ To persecuted Christians in Thessalonica, Paul wrote,

God is Wrathful!

“It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire *taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.* These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe....”⁶ May God give all who are entrusting their souls to Christ the compassion and courage to echo Paul, “We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: *we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.* For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”⁷

1 A.W. Pink 2 A. Cairns 3 Rom.2:4-9 4 Isa.50:6; 53; Psa.22; Matt.27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19 5 Matt 8:29; Mark 1:24; 5:7; Luke 3:7; 4:34; John 3:36; Col.3:6 6 II Thess.1:6-10 7 II Cor.5:20-21