

# Sovereign Grace Series

## Lesson #5 - God's Righteous Wrath Toward Sinners <sup>2005</sup>

### Amplifying Attachments for Lesson #5 Applicable Sections of Confessions

<u>File #</u>	<u>Title</u>	
1259	Does God Hate Anyone?	• <b>LBC of 1689</b> Ch 2, Item 1; Ch 3, Item 3; Ch 5, Item 6; Ch 6, Item 1, 2, 3, 4; Ch 8, Item 9; Ch 31, Item 1, 3;
0804	Does God Bring Calamity?	Ch 32, Item 1, 2, • <b>AoP of 1858</b> VI. The Fall of Man; XIX. The Resurrection; XX. The Judgment;

### I. What is God's Wrath?

- A. Dictionary Definition of Wrath:** 1. Violent, resentful anger; rage; fury.  
2. Divine retribution for sin.

**B. Theological Definition:** "a necessary part of moral character is to abhor evil as well as to love good. God is actively and strongly opposed to all forms of evil; and the biblical writers express this opposition, in part at least, by speaking of the wrath of God." - - - In modern times, this is rarely emphasized. Indeed attempts have been made to eliminate the concept altogether, by suggesting that God is not personally angry with sinners. An impersonal process is operating, it is argued by which sin is inevitably followed by unpleasant consequences, and the ancients called this process 'the wrath of God'.

*New Dictionary of Theology; Editors- Sinclair Ferguson, David Wright & J. I. Packer; IVP; p.732*

**C. Modern Theological Weaknesses:** In modern church practice, theologians and preachers/teachers tend to de-emphasize the wrath of God either by:

1. Ignoring what Scripture says;
2. Saying that God's love is so infinite and complete that He couldn't possibly be wrathful towards men and women,
3. Saying that sin has natural consequences and that God is not angry with our sin and is not involved with evil in the world.

**NOTE:** Many Evangelicals and most non-church goers today actually make fun of the "fire and brimstone" preachers of the past. They also make fun of the Puritans! Evangelicalism has largely lost its way in matters pertaining to God and the Gospel of Christ.

**D. The "Trilemma"** (The three horned dilemma) What's so right about a world gone so wrong?

The Greek philosopher Epicurus' version:

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| 1. Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? | Then He is impotent. (not all powerful)    |
| 2. Is God able to prevent evil, but not willing? | Then He is malevolent. (not all good)      |
| 3. Is God both able and willing to prevent evil? | Then why does evil exist? - the "dilemma". |

### II. What Does Scripture Say? All Scripture is quoted from the New American Standard – Updated. (NASU)

**Lev 20:22-23** *You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and to do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew them out. <sup>23</sup>Moreover, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them.*

**Dt 32:39-43** *See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand. <sup>40</sup>Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, and say, as I live forever, <sup>41</sup>if I sharpen My flashing sword, and My hand takes hold on justice, I will render vengeance on My adversaries, and I will repay those who hate Me. <sup>42</sup>I will make My arrows drunk with blood, and My sword will devour flesh, with blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired leaders of the enemy. <sup>43</sup>Rejoice, O nations, with His people; for he will avenge the blood of His servants, and will render vengeance on His adversaries, and will atone for His land and His people.*

**Ps 2:7-12** *I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. <sup>8</sup>Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. <sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware. <sup>10</sup>Now*

therefore, O kings, show discernment; **Take warning, O judges of the earth.** <sup>11</sup>Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>**Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled.** How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

**Ps 5:4-6** For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with You. <sup>5</sup>The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity. <sup>6</sup>You destroy those who speak falsehood; the LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

**Ps 7:11-12** God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day. <sup>12</sup>If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.

**Ps 11:5-6** The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. <sup>6</sup>Upon the wicked He will rain snares; fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.

**Prov 6:16-19** There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup>Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup>a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, <sup>19</sup>a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.

**Is 1:14-15** I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, they have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them. <sup>15</sup>So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood.

**Is 8:13-14** It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread. <sup>14</sup>Then He shall become a sanctuary; but to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, and a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

**Jer 18:6-10** Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; <sup>8</sup>if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. <sup>9</sup>Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; <sup>10</sup>if it does evil in my sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.

**Ez 20:33-34** As I live, declares the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. <sup>34</sup>I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; - - God will then judge Israel.

**Hos 9:15** All their evil is at Gilgal; indeed, I came to hate them there! Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of My house! I will love them no more; all their princes are rebels.

**Nah 1:2-3 & 6** A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; the LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies. <sup>3</sup>The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In the whirlwind and storm is His way, and clouds are the dust beneath His feet. - - <sup>6</sup>Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire and the rocks are broken up by Him.

**Mal 4:1** For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

**Mt 25:41 & 46** Then He will also say to those on His left, depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; - - <sup>46</sup>These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

**Jn 3:18-20 & 36** He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup>This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be

*exposed. - - <sup>36</sup>He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

**Rom 1:18; 24; 26; 28;** <sup>18</sup>*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, - - - <sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, - - - <sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; - - - <sup>28</sup>And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind,*

**Rom 2:5** *But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, - - -*

**Eph 5:6-10** *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partakers with them; <sup>8</sup>for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), <sup>10</sup>trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*

**Heb 12:29** *- - for our God is a consuming fire.*

### III. What Are the Consequences of God's Wrath?

- God hates all sin and He hates the perpetrator of any sin.
- There is a vast gulf that formed when Adam sinned between all men and God.
- No man can cross that gulf because all men are at enmity with God and deserving of His wrath.
- God has redeemed men for Himself by bridging that vast gulf with the cross of Christ.
- In the cross of Christ, men have access to God as sons and daughters because the enmity of man is removed with a new heart indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. This is the "new birth".

**2 Cor 5:17-21** *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. <sup>18</sup>Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup>namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- Men whom God has not redeemed are still on the other side of that vast gulf living in enmity toward God.

**Jn 17:6, 9, & 11b** *<sup>6</sup>I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. - - <sup>9</sup>I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; - - <sup>11b</sup>Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.*

- Perfect justice is coming and the wrath of God will be poured out on men who are separated from God by the vast gulf of their sin.

**Rev 6:15-17** *Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand? See Rev 19:10-16 to see Christ revealed in His true nature.*

### IV. Meaning and Impact of God's Wrath

In avoiding preaching, teaching, studying, seeking and understanding this attribute of God, we are cheapening the gospel message. Without the wrath of God, what are men saved from?

If we teach another gospel of only God's love at the exclusion of His wrath, will the Holy Spirit honor our version of the gospel and initiate the new heart in the lost person because we have presented a more attractive message? Aren't we trying to improve on the gospel of God with this practice?

Let's not make a new God in our own understanding, in our worship, and in our evangelism. Let's stick with the God revealed by Scripture, worship Him, and leave the results to His sovereign grace.

## V. Conclusion

- God hates sin.
- God hates those who commit sin, apart from those under the blood of Christ.
- God is going to pour out His wrath on those who are not covered by the blood of Christ.
- In Christ we are saved from the Wrath of God.
- In Christ we are justified and made righteous before our God.
- We are transformed from enemy combatants toward God to sons and daughters of God.
- If God is not wrathful, then we wouldn't really need salvation.

### Some Important Quotes

Let us beware lest we in our pride accept the erroneous notion that idolatry consists only in kneeling before visible objects of adoration, and that civilized peoples are therefore free from it. The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him. It begins in the mind and may be present where no overt act of worship has taken place. "When they knew God," wrote Paul, "they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Then followed the worship of idols fashioned after the likeness of men and birds and beasts and creeping things. But this series of degrading acts began in the mind. Wrong ideas about God are not only the fountain from which the polluted waters of idolatry flow; they are themselves idolatrous. The idolater simply imagines things about God and acts as if they were true.

**A. W. Tozer;** *The Knowledge of the Holy*; p. 3-4

We must recapture some of the holy terror that comes with a right understanding of God's righteous anger. We need to remember that God's wrath does burn against impenitent sinners (Ps 38:1-3). That reality is the very thing that makes His love so amazing. We must therefore proclaim these truths with the same sense of conviction and fervency we employ when we declare the love of God. It is only against this backdrop of divine wrath that the full significance of God's love can be truly understood. That is precisely the message of the cross of Christ. After all, it was on the cross that God's love and His wrath converged in all their majestic fullness.

**John MacArthur;** *The God Who Loves*; p. 11

For my part, I believe we ought to work not only at spreading the gospel (that certainly) but also at a certain preparation for the gospel. It is necessary to recall many to the Laws of Nature before we talk about God. For Christ promises forgiveness of sins: But what is that to those who since they do not know the Law of nature, do not know that they have sinned? Who will take medicine unless he knows he is in the grip of disease? Moral relativity is the enemy we have to overcome before we tackle atheism.

**C. S. LEWIS,** *Letters to Calabria*

Found on: [Lewis on Absolutes \(Lindsley\).indd \(cslewisinstitute.org\)](http://Lewis on Absolutes (Lindsley).indd (cslewisinstitute.org))

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**Rom 9:22-24** *What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup>And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup>even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.*