



Romans

Right With God

Bad News - Part One

Lesson Ten

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Bad News—Part One

Today we begin a series of lessons on God's wrath. This is a very serious teaching. It is, for some, very bad news. It would be more pleasant not to have to teach on this subject. But, if we are to be true to the Gospel, we must consider everything God says to us.

The announcement in verse 18 introduces two chapters which reveal that all humans are, that every individual is, under the wrath of God.* (Read Romans 1:18) This verse begins with four words which should strike ultimate fear in...should chill the blood of...anyone and everyone: "The wrath of God..." When you think that the God who created everything, the God who understands the force of giant hurricanes; the God who knows the real force of gravity and designed it just exactly right to keep the tiniest gnat and the biggest elephant from being thrown off into space; the God who provided fuel and set the Sun on fire; the God who stood the mountains tall and carved the valleys deep; the God who measures the height, depth, width and content of the universe; that God, that all powerful, all knowing God is a God of wrath.

Now, let's remember that Paul is using human words to describe God, who is above and significantly different from humans. Don't picture God's wrath as someone throwing a temper tantrum...red faced, eyes blazing fire, body shaking, fists thrashing in the air, and screaming at the top of their voice. Nor would you think of it as someone about to explode with anger, gritting their teeth, rigid with wrath, barely containing themselves. Maybe one way of seeing it is the way the foreman of the jury announces a guilty verdict, or a compassionate judge passes sentence on the defendant. The guilty verdict and the sentence are the result of the crime, justice must be done. The sentence is announced with compassion.

That which raises the anger of the all powerful God is the rejection of His most gracious gift, His Son. (See Hebrews 10:28-30) Some people are frustrated with the idea of a God of love possessing wrath. That would make God a monster, they say. Let's think about that. God is perfect in His love, but He is also perfect in His holiness and His justice. It is perfectly and very happily true that God is love, but it is just as true that God is hate. God is love toward the sinner, but God is hate toward sin. Could we really respect a god who did not hate sin? Could we really respect a god who didn't punish sin?

It is most important that we spread the glorious news that God is love. What a wonderful hopeful message. God loves! However, we must balance that with the awful news that this loving God hates evil. God loves us, but hates our behavior.

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When this perfect human, the Son of God, came to die, a new light was cast on the reality of God's wrath. God took out His wrath on His own Son... God put on Him the sins of all people of all time. His sacrifice, and only the sacrifice of God's only Son, satisfied God's wrath. That gives us understanding of how big God's wrath really is.

The next two verses tell us that every person who has ever lived, if they just looked around, would see God. (Read verses 19, 20) God is obvious in all of creation. He can be seen in the beauty, the size and the organization of creation; as well as the way creation keeps moving forward, and in so many other ways. Paul saw it as "bad news" that people don't look deeply enough into what God made to see Him and to believe in Him.

The next chapters contain other verses that confirm these things. Read 1:21; 1:25; 2:1, 2; and 2:5. God's wrath and His judgment are real and in effect today. This is bad news for some, and in the next lesson, we will look at the specifics.

Scripture Memory: "The wrath of God is being revealed from Heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

Romans 1:18

*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To help students to understand that God hates sin.

1. This lesson begins a series of lessons that will be difficult to teach. We will be dealing with subjects that most of us would rather not have to deal with. However, scripture is clear. What if someone applied for a job inputting news on an internet website? What if that person said to the interviewer, "I have a strong aversion to bad news. So when a bad news item comes up I will not be putting that on the web." What do you think the person interviewing would say? Maybe, "Well, that's OK, we will just hire someone else to input the bad news." Not likely!
2. Could we really respect a God who did not hate sin? Habakkuk sets forth the truth in his great investigation of the problem of evil: "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; You cannot tolerate wrong." Habakkuk 1:13
3. Hebrews 1:9 speaks to Jesus, "You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness..." So, all the members of the Godhead are involved in this hatred for sin. Though Jesus came as an offering, a love offering of God, He hated the behaviors of sinners. He castigated the Pharisees, He cast doubt on the righteousness of the two church leaders who passed by the man on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell among thieves, he drove out greedy money-changers who desecrated the Temple.
4. God loves us, but hates our behavior. That is easily understood by parents whose children they love with all their hearts, but who detest the things that those children do when they are caught up in wrong-doing...in sin...in criminal behavior...when they make the wrong choices.
5. "God is love" means that He is committed to justice which requires the punishment of His enemy, sin. God's wrath is certain. There are two words in Greek for wrath. The first is *thumos*, which pictures a panting rage...it literally means "to breathe violently." The second is *orga*, used here in verse 18, which is indignation that has risen gradually and has settled in.

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Student Worksheet

Bad News—Part One

=All _____ are under the _____ of God. God, who is all _____, all _____ is a God of wrath

=That which raises the _____ of the all powerful God is the _____ of His most gracious gift, His _____.

=God is perfect in His _____, but He is also perfect in His holiness and His _____.

=God put on Jesus the _____ of all people of all time. His _____ satisfied God's wrath. That gives us understanding of how _____ God's wrath really is.

=Every person who has ever lived, if they just looked around, would see _____. _____ is obvious in all of _____.

=God's _____ and His judgment are real and in effect _____.

Scripture Memory: "The wrath of God is being revealed from Heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness." Romans 1:18

A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, and that payment is death.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The debt for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, paid that debt and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 10:9, 10 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with all that you are.

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.