

BAD NEWS: DENY OR DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

September 10, 2023

WORSHIP

All Because Of Jesus,
Love So Great, Man
Of Sorrow, King of
Kings, In Christ Alone

WELCOME

What is the first thing
you do when you hear
bad news?

WORD

ROMANS 1:18-19,24-25

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them... ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

We discussed the Good News last week— now we'll talk about the BAD NEWS. Even though nobody likes bad news, it is important to know it. We can do two things in response: DENY, OR DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. CS Lewis said "if you want a religion to make you feel comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity". Christianity acknowledges the WRATH OF GOD. Many people are reluctant to discuss this. Some think that it is like a moral blemish to a God who is loving, and just. But that is wrong theology! We may want a God who is only loving, caring, and forgiving, but there are more Bible verses on His wrath than His mercy!

Romans 1:18 begins talking about the **WRATH OF GOD** against unrighteousness and ungodliness. Suppressing the truth in unrighteousness is a conscious neglect of the undeniable truth, and we risk being weakened by this and falling into deeper sin. The following describe the kind of wrath that God has:

1. RIGHTEOUS

The wrath of God is the indignation and anger of God against evil. It is the holiness of God stirred up against sin. God is perfect, and part of that perfection involves wrath. There will be blemish or defect in that perfection if wrath against evil is absent. As it was said, he who is indifferent to sin, injustice, and evil cannot be called good. God's wrath is very predictable – He tells us what He would be angry at. For example, **Romans 12:19** forbids taking our own revenge, because the wrath of God is real, and divine vengeance is in His will. There will be a day of reckoning. You can rest in the justice of God.

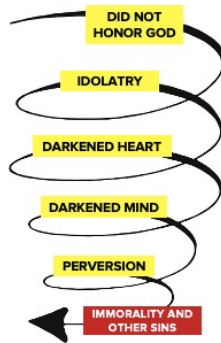
Romans 1:18-19 tells us why God is angry at unrighteousness – because He has made it evident for the entire world that a righteous God exists. How did God reveal Himself? **Romans 1:20** points us creation, and if we just look at all these things in nature, "there is no excuse" for anyone to deny the existence of God. **Psalm 19:1** tells us that the heavens declare God's glory and the works of His hands. Everything that exists in nature, including oxygen, gravity forces, biogenesis, DNA, etc. exhibit a precision in function and design which some scientists refer to as an "intelligent design". The problem is this – we do not honor God even when we know from what we see around us, that He exists (**Romans 1:21-23**). Ingratitude against God is a great sin, and this foolishness has taken over many of us.

George Wald, an atheist, admitted that it is scientifically impossible for non-life to begin life, but because he did not want to believe in God, he chose to believe evolution over creation to explain how life came to be. R.C. Sproul rightly pointed out that "Man's problem about the existence of God is not an intellectual problem...it is a moral problem". Therefore, GOD GAVE THEM OVER (**Romans 1:24-25**) to impurity. Our root sin is not honoring God, and it results to idolatry. We were designed to worship something. Whatever we put our trust, hope, and confidence in becomes our idol. This began the moral downward spiral of man, where man makes his own rules and end up sinning more.

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2. REAL

John 3:36 and **Luke 12:4-5** point out that the wrath of God abides in the one who does not obey Him. The wrath of God is real! **Revelation 6:16-17** captures what could possibly be the last prayer of people who do not believe God. No one can stand under the future wrath of God! You can deny this bad news, or you can do something about it. Three times, Paul used “**GOD GAVE THEM OVER**” (**1:24, 1:26, 1:28**) – to the **lusts of their hearts, to degrading passions, and to a depraved mind. We may call it the “divine non-intervention”** of God! We are called to love the person – but a life of sin leads to the penalty of their errors (**v.27-v.28**). Have your eyes been opened to this reality? The consequences must be shared to others, so that they may have the chance to turn away from these sins (**vv.29-32**), and we must always speak the truth in love.

3. REDEMPTIVE

This means that God wants to do something about our problem. **Romans 2:1-3** emphasizes that we “have no excuse”, even people who don’t know the Bible can know what is right and wrong. The reality is: we **ARE ALL GUILTY**. we cannot escape God’s judgment. The Bad News – we have turned away from God, we are sinful, and we continue to do wrong. But **Romans 2:4-5** shares a glimpse of hope – the riches of God’s kindness, patience, and grace, rather than His wrath, should lead us to **REPENTANCE** (change in direction). God has been very kind and patient to all of us. If we look at our past, we will clearly see His perfection covers our imperfection. God’s patience motivates us to draw closer to Him. If we refuse to change, we store up wrath for ourselves when the appointed time comes.

Believers are reminded in **Hebrews 10:26-27, 30-31** – we should not keep on sinning. We need to take sin and God seriously, because it is really “**terrifying to fall in the hands of the living God!**” **1 Thessalonians 1:10** tells us that JESUS is the one who “rescues us from the wrath to come”. The story of the Prodigal Son (**Luke 15:14-20**), shows that God does not force us to change. The wrath of God came on the son in the problems he encountered (famine, poverty), and that woke him up to the truth that it would be better to come to his father and appeal for grace and forgiveness. We have the same benefit – **Romans 5:9** points to Jesus and the justification we can have in Him, saving us from the wrath of God!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Self-Check.**
What struck you most about the wrath of God?
- 2. Setting It Right.**
What action do you need to take in light of this truth?
- 3. Living It Out.**
How will you share this truth to others and point them to Jesus?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who are distant towards God to be drawn near to Him. Share the gospel clearly so that they would see their sinfulness and that it would lead them to repentance. Find opportunities to encourage them to worship Him. Invite them to join a Dgroup that will help them experience more of God’s love for them.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of newly-elected and incumbent public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines and Canada
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

III. Church

- That CCFE Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 2:4

4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?