

# The Wrath of God

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Few people today seem to fear the wrath of God. They ignore the Bible teaching on hell. They believe the instructions of the Bible are inaccurate or not binding on modern man. They question the existence of God altogether. But mostly; people are so focused on physical concerns that they give no thought to any eternal consequence for their actions. God, Heaven, and Hell are not in their thoughts throughout their hectic lives.

Paul warns us of a final judgment and the reality of God's wrath: 2 Cor 5:10-11 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

He further goes on to tell us in Rom 11:22 *Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, **if thou continue** in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

Those who believe in God and the judgment day still find ways to disregard the wrath of God. There are four ways that come to mind how men can avoid the wrath of God.

**1. Deny such a thing exists.** Many religious people refuse to believe in God's wrath. God is love. God is merciful. God is forgiving. All these statements are true. But so are the ones above that mention the terror and severity of God. People who believe God is so tolerant that He will not condemn anyone for anything deny the wrath of God exists and are wrong.

**2. It exists for the few.** A second way men avoid the wrath of God is to accept it as a reality, but it is only aimed at the very

few. Surely God will punish Pharaoh, Herod, Jezebel, Hitler, and Osama Bin Laden. But the majority of the people do not have to consider God's anger. They have a speck of good in them. They have done some worthwhile things in life. God would never punish them like he does the horribly wicked people.

**3. I have been excused.** Perhaps a person sees God's wrath as something that will be dished out to the majority of people on earth. They see the way the country's morals decrease. They hear about the many mass shootings. They see filth on TV, in magazines, and on the web. They can accept that God is angry, and He will be dealing with vengeance toward most of the world. However, they think the Lord will not punish me, because I prayed Jesus into my heart. Or I attend a church. Or I am a moral person who has done very little sin in my life.

If you have not guessed by now, these three ways will not avoid the wrath of God at judgment. They will remove the wrath of God from men's thinking. It will allow them to live at ease while on this earth. The anger of the Lord is something that is put out of their minds and their lives until Jesus appears or they die. Then the truth they have been dodging will hit them in the face.

In Joshua 22 we read that two and one half tribes of Israel constructed an altar. The rest of the nation assumed this altar would be used to offer unauthorized sacrifices. They prepared to battle their brethren and kill them all. Before the battle was engaged, messengers were sent to the two and a half tribes to question them about their apparent departure from the faith. Josh 22:18 records the words of one of these messengers:..*and it will be, seeing ye rebel to day against the LORD, that to morrow he will be wroth with the whole congregation of Israel.* The nation recognized God would punish all if sin was permitted in a few.

The Jews at Pentecost did not take the anger of the Lord lightly. When Peter revealed to them that they had murdered the Messiah they were in a panic. What would God do to them for such a horrendous deed? Acts 2:36-37 records, "*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, **Men and brethren, what shall we do?***"

We struggle to get Bible studies with unbelievers. We cannot get our own members to attend worship services. We find more and more lukewarm fluff being taught in the pulpit year after year. The churches of men are growing because they offer a religious feeling with no commitment required. This is all happening because people do not fear the wrath of God. They have found a way to dismiss it from their minds and their behavior shows it. People are not asking if God approves of same sex marriage, abortion, or sex change operations. This is our life and God will not punish us for anything we choose to do with it.

**4. Obey the Gospel.** The only way to actually avoid the wrath of God is to obey the Gospel. That is what the Jews were instructed to do in Acts 2:38. God's anger was intensely on their minds. Peter did not admonish them to "Just don't think about it." His teaching was to obey the Gospel to obtain the remission of sins. This alone will avoid God's punishment of men.

In 2 Thess 1:8-9 Paul describes the consequences of those who were tormenting Christians. When Jesus comes back we are told He will reward these people "*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that **know not God**, and that **obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ**: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*" The wrath of God will not be avoided by anyone who refuses to obey the Gospel.