

Scripture: Ps. 95

Series on God #14

Singing: 279:1-4 – 291:1-3, 7-9 – 236:1-4 – 365:1-4

Consider: Why do we respect *fire* but not *God Who is a consuming fire*?

GOD'S ANGER (2)

- I. The Definition of His Anger II. The contemplation of His anger
III. The response to His anger

I. Definition of God's attribute of anger

A. It is one of His virtues – His glory

1. His anger is His *divine and eternal detestation of all unrighteousness*
 - a. this attribute is as honorable as any other (Ps. 89:15 & 95:11)

2. Labor hard to put away *unworthy thoughts* of God's anger

3. Ps. 7:11 states clearly: *God is angry with the wicked every day*
 - a. many Scriptures amplify this: John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; 2:4-5

- b. this is His testimony *against the wicked*

- i.e. the *unbelieving – unrepentant sinners*

- c. how does God deal with the *sins* of His people?

- Rom. 5:9-10; 1 John 2:2

II. Why should we contemplate this perfection of God?

A. To be rightly impressed with God's utter abhorrence of all sin

1. Every sin is *exceedingly sinful: deeply offensive and dishonorable*
 - a. the 'suffering and death of Jesus underlines as no other fact

- b. the description of hell amplifies this likewise (Luke 12:47-48)

Think not, sinners, that you shall escape thus: the more admirable His patience and bounty now is, the more dreadful and insupportable will that fury be which arises out of His abused goodness. Nothing smoother than the sea, yet when stirred into a tempest, nothing rages more. Nothing is so sweet as the patience and goodness of God, and nothing so terrible as His wrath when it takes fire.

(Gurnall)

B. To keep God's children on the straight and narrow way that leads to live

III. OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WRATH

A. Each revealed attribute calls for an appropriate *response in worship*

B. Response in unrepentant and unbelieving:

1. FLEE (Mat. 3:7; Luke 12:5)

2. Flee where?

a. not in your own efforts of *religion – good works*

b. but into Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31)

C. Response in God's saints:

1. to walk with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12; 1 Peter 1:17b)

a. what is meant with *this fear and trembling*

- not fear of *men, devils, death, judgment, hell, damnation*
- but fear of the God Who saved you in grace at great cost

b. to fear Him is to *esteem Him and to honor His will* (Acts 9:31)

c. what happens when we don't walk with such *tender fear*?

- we experience the 'hiding of God's countenance'

2. to be followers of God and walk as Christ walked (Eph. 4:1; 5:1)

a. also applies to His anger: Eph. 4:26

- see Jesus' examples of *holy anger*: *John 2:14 – Mark 3:5*
Mark 10:13 - Matt 16:23

b. As anger against sin in God is virtue, so it is in God's people

- Chrysostom: *He who is not angry when he has reason to be, sins!*
- Trapp: *He that will be angry and not sin, let him be angry at nothing but sin*

c. We need much prayer *for grace to keep us from 'unholy anger'*

- Eph. 4:24 *Be ye angry and sin not!*
- *righteous anger can be sinfully expressed*