



Living by Faith Part 2—What to Do with the Wrath of God

Pastor Dave Patterson

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Hebrews 9:27, TPT]

27 Every human being is appointed to die once, and then to face God's judgment.

The Gospel is only Good News if you embrace the bad news.

[2 Corinthians 5:10, ESV]

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

[Romans 2:5, NIV]

5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for **the day of God's wrath**, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

[Romans 1:18]

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

[Romans 1:18-20, TPT]

18 For God in heaven unveils his holy anger breaking forth against every form of sin, both toward ungodliness that lives in hearts and evil actions. For the wickedness of humanity deliberately smothers the truth and keeps people from acknowledging the truth about God. **19** In reality, the truth of God is known instinctively, for God has embedded this knowledge inside every human heart. **20** Opposition to truth cannot be excused on the basis of ignorance, because from the creation of the world, the invisible qualities of God's nature have been made visible, such as his eternal power and transcendence. He has made his wonderful attributes easily perceived, for seeing the visible makes us understand the invisible. So then, **this leaves everyone without excuse.**

***We live in the tension of God's unconditional love and perfect justice.
Love has an expression that takes action.***

[Romans 1:21-23, NLT]

21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they **began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like.** As a result, their minds became dark and confused. **22** Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. **23** And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

We are commissioned to bring truth; we don't have the luxury of skipping over Scripture we don't like. Truth is a person, and that is Jesus Christ.

Idolatry—

Anything or person that takes the highest place of affection and honor in our life / Anything or anyone that comes before Jesus.

This is revealed through priorities, investments, and the honest evaluation of our affections.

Depravity is downplaying the authority of the Word to avoid living by it.

[Romans 1:24-32, NIV]

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. **25** They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. **27** In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. **29** They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, **30** slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; **31** they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. **32** Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

[Romans 3:23]

23 "...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Live with a certainty in life that you will stand before the throne of God because of the redemption that came by the sacrifice of Jesus.

[Romans 3:24-25]

24 And all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement**, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

[Isaiah 53:6]

6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. **Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.**

[Isaiah 53:12, AMP]

12 “He willingly poured out His life to death, And was counted among the transgressors; Yet **He Himself bore *and* took away the sin of many**, And interceded with the Father for the transgressors.

[John 1:29]

29 “Behold, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!**”

Don’t let the Cross become religious history to you!

[2 Corinthians 5:21]

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

[Galatians 3:13]

13 But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, **he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing**. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

[1 Peter 2:24]

24 “**He himself bore our sins**” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

[Hebrews 9:28]

28 Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Consider whether any pleasures you possess are approaching idolatry. Thank the Lord for both your passions and His ongoing lavish love for you.

2. Identify in your life areas where you are carrying wrath or depravity. Take any distance or negative emotions you're feeling about past sins to the Cross of Christ. Bring your burdens to Him.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What do various faith backgrounds believe about life after death? How does that line up with the Gospel and eternity?
2. Why do you think some people are not aware of the conditions they are living in? From Romans 1:18, why do some people suppress the truth?
3. For what reasons do we sometimes jump into the role of judge, when we know God's pure and holy love itself takes action?
4. What apprehension do you have about discussing or navigating the wrath of God? How does embracing that there is "bad news" in the Bible actually benefit us?
5. How does God speak to people, and what does it look like for God to "place eternity in the hearts" of His people? Through what or whom does God get our attention?
6. How can we balance passion for certain things versus idolatry? When and where should we examine our own hearts?
7. What does it look like for us to "exchange the truth of God for a lie?" [Romans 1.25] What does the all-inclusive list in the verses that follow point out about human nature?
8. What does reaching God's standard of holiness involve? Can we attain righteousness in and of ourselves?
9. How can "atonement" be viewed as "at-one-ment"? What do we do with the shame, guilt, or failure that we can sometimes carry? How do we close the gap of depravity and distance?
10. Where do you think God is developing you the most, and when you play the movie forward, what do you see resulting?