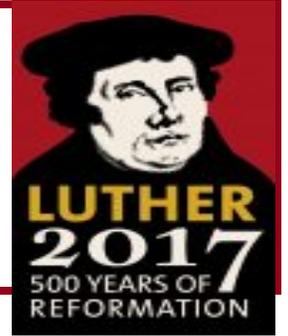


The Unrighteous will Die

Psalm 19 Romans 1:18-32 Luke 13:1-5

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Can you imagine facing the wrath of God?

God's wrath is His full fury against sin. God is holy and righteous and cannot tolerate sin in His presence. **God's wrath destroys sin and unrepentant sinners.** The wrath of God is a synonym for His **righteous anger** and His **eternal punishment** of sin. The wrath of God teaches us that sin is evil, it will be punished, and it has no place in your life as a disciple. *The wrath of God urgently calls you to repent before it's too late!*

In the book of Romans, St. Paul spends 2½ chapters teaching about the **wrath of God; he teaches us that THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL DIE. What it means is that we are all unrighteous and we all deserve to face the wrath of God.**

The **wrath of God** is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ROMANS 1:18-19

The verb “suppress” is an **active verb** that shows that people **actively hold down** the truth about God and deny Him. People are not rebellious towards God *by accident*, it is an **intentional choice**. This **active rebellion** towards God brings the wrath of God. **St Paul makes it clear that every single one of us actively rebels against God, His Word, and His will.**

This **active rebellion** denies or ignores the truth about God; Paul specifically mentions the **active and intentional denial** of God as Creator. If you deny God as your creator, as most of the world does, then **you think that you are not accountable to anyone.** You can do whatever you want: “Do what makes you happy” becomes your slogan. This kind of mindset suppresses the truth about God as Creator, it ignores His will and disregards His Word. It is easy to see in the world around us: Evolution, Abortion and Homosexuality can

GOD'S WRATH

But who believes that God is so angry, and who fears His wrath? The wicked scoff at it and look upon it as a scarecrow placed in a garden to keep birds away. But they will know better when He, at the appointed time, will come and reduce everything to powder and ashes. For God is angry indeed. Let him who does not perceive the blasts of His anger in history learn to know it from His truthful Word . . . And as Jesus took the load of sin on His shoulders in order to take it from our shoulders, even so He drew the lightning of divine wrath upon His head so that our little hut might be saved from destruction. Preuss, p. 2-3

all be traced to a rejection of God as Creator. This **active rebellion** brings the wrath of God. **St Paul makes it clear that every single one of us actively rebels against God, His Word, and His will.**

One of the ways that Paul teaches that the unrighteous will die and face the wrath of God is by creating a catalogue of sin. He lists 21 sins that **active rebellion** leads to. Here is the catalogue:

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, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ROMANS 1:29-31

That's a list of 21 sins that active rebellion leads to! Earlier in the chapter he had used sexual immorality and homosexuality as examples of active rebellion. Add those to the list, and its 23 sins that reflect active rebellion against God, His Word, and His will. If that wasn't enough, St. Paul keeps going --- not only are all these sins condemned, but also anyone **who approves, supports, or encourages others to commit them is condemned as well.**

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 1:30

In the book of Romans, St. Paul is clear: every single one of us actively rebels against God, His Word and His will. The unrighteous will die and face the wrath of God.

The word **unrighteous** is a legal term that means that you stand guilty in God's courtroom. The evidence against you is overwhelming: you **actively rebel** against God, you **intentionally sin** against God's will, and you even **approve, encourage and support** others who disobey His Word. God's verdict is true and just:

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that **every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.** ROMANS 3:19

Make no mistake about it: you are accountable to God! I know that I am heavy on the Law of God today, but St. Paul spends 2½ chapters on the theme that the unrighteous will die.

All of this is meant to show you how deep your sin is, how corrupt your sinful nature is, and how helpless you are to save yourself. We are unrighteous people who deserve to face the wrath of God.

God reveals His wrath in order to call you to repent while there is still time. God doesn't teach you about His wrath for nothing – God's wrath is real, and it is fierce. God takes sin seriously. Unrepentant sinners will die in their sins and face the full fury of God's wrath. One of the main themes of the Book of Romans is that we all are unrighteous, and we can't do anything about it. *No one will be declared righteous in His sight by their own works.*

WE NEED HELP!

Thankfully, God provides that help!

That's the Gospel: the Good News!

That's why Jesus came into the world!

We could never save ourselves --- our active rebellion and intentional sin is so great that we cannot overcome it. So God sent Jesus, His Son, to do the work of salvation for us!

Jesus is the Righteous One, unlike we who *actively rebel*, Jesus *actively obeys* God, and His will and His Word. His perfect life, and then His perfect death, set you free from your rebellion and sin. Jesus took your rebellion and sin to the cross where He faced the wrath of God for you!

Can you imagine that? Jesus faced the wrath of God FOR YOU?

Now, because of Christ you, the unrighteous one, are declared righteous in God's eyes through faith!

But now apart from the law the **RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD** has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This **RIGHTEOUSNESS** is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. ROMANS 3:21-22

You are righteous through faith in Jesus Christ! The "Righteousness of God" is a legal term that means that you are declared "not guilty!" in God's courtroom. It is an official verdict, a formal announcement. **You are declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ!**

Here is how the New Testament teaches it in other places:

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become **the righteousness of God**. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

For Christ also suffered once for sins, **the righteous for the unrighteous**, to bring you to God. 1 PETER 3:18

You are righteous through faith in Jesus Christ! Because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, you are pronounced righteous in God's eyes. The unrighteous are declared righteous through faith. The wrath of God falls on Jesus so the grace of God falls on you!

That gift of righteousness from God now motivates you to live a holy, godly, and righteous life of faith.

You live like Jesus lived.

You fear, love and trust in God above all things

You know and believe that God is your Creator and you are accountable to Him

You faithfully worship the Lord your God

You support the work of the Kingdom of God

You pray for others as if their needs are your needs

You respect and obey authority

You help others in need

You live a sexually pure and decent life

You speak words of life, hope and comfort to others.

You hate what is evil and cling to what is good

You are patient and kind with everyone in your life

The righteousness of God that you have through faith transforms you and motivates you to live holy and godly lives as God's people. ***You strive to live like Jesus lived.***

Thanks be to God, He declares you righteous through faith in Christ! Jesus faced the wrath of God so that you have the grace of God! You have escaped the wrath of God in order to live a holy and godly life of faith!

Go and live a holy and righteous life as God's righteous people!

Amen!