

Are You Ready For The Day Of God's Wrath?

COLOSSIANS 3:5-7

INTRODUCTION: It is stunning to see the rapid change in America as we become less Christian every day. The world is running not marching toward God's judgment. Why is there coming a day of God's wrath? In Romans 1:18, it is God's wrath is because of the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. In Colossians 3:5-7, Paul lists some of the specific sins. He does the same in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

I. WEAKNESS OF THE CHURCH

A. CONFORMITY TO THE WORLD.

The early church had the power of God. Christians influenced the whole world. They endured hatred, persecution, and death to spread the gospel around the world to the lost. The more the church was persecuted the stronger the church was in her witness. Christians in the early church lived a different lifestyle from the world around them. The gospel message had a profound impact on changing their lives. The early church focused on worship, witness, and working for God. When persecution increased and Stephen was martyred, the church did not hide but instead was scattered about the regions preaching the Word. In Acts 17:6, it was said of the apostle that they who "turned the world upside down are come hither."

The church once had authority and influence in the community and the world. Why has the church lost its power? One of the great reasons is the church's conformity to the world. The true church is made up of twice-born people. Their lives are different from the people in the world.

If you were to stand outside of the average church today, you would never know from the music coming from within that it was a Christian place of worship. The dress of Christians has continued to embrace the immodest styles of the world. The activities in churches appeal to the fleshly nature of man rather than the spiritual nature. Most Christians are so spiritually immature they cannot discern that there is anything wrong with what is taking place in the church. After all, you do not suppose to judge. God looks on the heart, right.

We are changing from a world where right and wrong mattered to a world where right and wrong are relative. As someone has said, "We are not all on the same page when it comes to morality."

B. COMPRISE OF THE TRUTH.

As the church continued to conform to the world, comprise became the norm. While adopting the ways of the world is wrong, the greatest reason the church is weak is the comprising or abandoning the truth of God's Word. The spiritual strength of an individual Christian or church is determined by the commitment to God's truth.

A Bible-believing church will teach that Christ is the head of the church. (Ephesians 1:22) It will teach that the Bible is the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15-17) The Bible-believing church emphasizes that salvation is through Christ alone. (Galatians 1:6-9) There is a change that shows up on the inside and outside of a person. God's church is made up of born-again individuals. To go to heaven, you must be saved.

Any church, denomination, or religious movement that does not hold to the fundamental truths of the Bible must be rejected. When the church rejects or distorts the truth, it has nothing to offer a sinner nor answers for the world's problems.

John MacArthur said, "SATAN CONTINUES HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE SIN LESS OFFENSIVE, HEAVEN LESS APPEALING, HELL LESS HORRIFIC, AND THE GOSPEL LESS URGENT."

Deception is the major evidence of the last days. Many professing Christians have already brought the lies of Satan and the world's system. They have no clue what truth is. They have no discernment about what is right or wrong, good or evil. In our postmodern world, many argue there is no absolute truth of any kind. For them, whatever is right for your life or works best for you is the only truth you can know. In one survey among adults, 32% of those who were born again said they believe in moral absolutes. What about the 68% who have doubts or reject absolute truth? By a 3-to-1 margin (64% vs. 22%) adults said truth is always relative to the person and their situation.

II. WICKEDNESS OF THE CULTURE

A. DECLINE OF MORALS.

In a recent survey, a majority of American adults across age group, gender, society, and political persuasion expressed concern about the nation's moral condition. In my lifetime I have witness Christian morality being pushed out of American society and out of culture leaving a void. This void is attempting to be filled with postmodern culture ideas.

B. DEPRAVITY IS EVIDENT.

We have seen an increase in crime and violence across America. The police are hated and murders are increasing every day. Some of our leaders in cities and counties do not promote Law and order. Life is regarded as disposable. This is seen in the 50 million abortions plus that have been performed since 1973. Marriages are failing and teenagers are running the home. Schools are like a war zone. Perversion is accepted as normal. Lying is just a way of life. Women and children have become targets for sex addicts. People use filthy language like the lives they are living in. The recent news about Jerry Falwell Jr. and his wife reveals the depravity of the times we are living.

III. WRATH THAT IS COMING

A. REASON FOR WRATH.

Just as there is goodness there is evil. Just as there is a heaven there is a hell. Just as there is the love of God there is the wrath of God. The wrath of God is just like there are heaven and hell. The Bible warns us repeatedly of the wrath of God. God's wrath is not the discipline of a wayward believer. God disciplines those He loves for their good. The reason for God's wrath is stated plainly in the Bible. ☐

The seraphim repeated "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts" emphasizes the absoluteness of God's perfection. God's holiness is seen in His hatred for sin and His judgment of both sin and sinners. God abhors sin. God neither takes part in sin nor does He approve it in others.

The Bible states, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." (Rom 1:18) Ungodliness is all that is "anti-God." Men and women who live without any regard for God are ungodly. Unrighteousness describes people whose attitude and action fall short to God's standard of what is right and godly. They are not right with God. When people are ungodly, it is seen in their unrighteous deeds.

God's wrath is the judgment of the righteous Judge. God's wrath is His holy hatred of all that is unholy. His wrath is His righteous indignation at everything that is unrighteous.

Paul states in 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, "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." (2Thessaloinis 1:8-9)

Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:7, "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

J. I. Packer: "The fact is that the subject of divine wrath has become taboo in modern society, and Christians by and large have accepted the taboo and conditioned themselves never to raise the matter." (Knowing God, p. 149).

Arthur W. Pink: "It is sad indeed to find so many professing Christians who appear to regard the wrath of God as something for which they need to make an apology, or who at least wish there were no such thing."

Christians today only want to hear and talk about the love and goodness of God. They are offended if a preacher declares the holiness of God and His wrath against sin. It makes Christians feel uncomfortable. It is understandable that a sinner feeling that way but makes no sense for a Christian to be offended. God's divine hatred of sin is just as much part of His perfect nature as is His love for sinners.

A W Tozer: "There is something basically wrong with our Christianity and our spirituality if we can carelessly presume that if we do not like a Biblical doctrine and choose not to buy it, there is no harm done."

B. RESULT OF WRATH.

Few people in the world have any real fear of God or His wrath. The Bible tells us of the result of God's wrath. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15) The only fitting judgment for those who rejected God and refused His offer of grace is hell. The doctrine of hell will never be recovered unless we discover the holiness of God and His hatred for sin. The Bible tells us, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31)

Hell is eternal punishment. It is not a smack on the hand or stand in a corner type punishment. One can only cringe at the thought of the "wrath of God" experienced by those in hell. With the discarding moral and absolute truth, hell was thrown out too. So many think and wish!

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. The weakness of the church and the wickedness of culture should awaken us to the urgency of the times we are living.
2. Holy God will execute His wrath against sin and unrighteousness.
3. God has provided a way of escape from His judgment and wrath, which is come. We have Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life.