

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

33 - My Sin Problem is a Glory Problem

Summary of Romans Ch. 1-7, part 2

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / September 21, 2014

I. Your Biggest Problem - and My Biggest Problem - Is a Sin Problem that Brings Us Face to Face with a God Problem

Romans 3:9 "What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, 'THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO NOT ONE.'"

Romans 3:22-23 "...For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

At its very essence, sin is falling short of the glory of God. We trade the glory of God for something here on earth that is created... for some manmade replica of the real thing. Whether it's money or toys or jobs or position.

Matthew 16:14 "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet loses his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Whatever you're giving to get the trinkets and baubles of this world is costing you way too much as you give away the glory of God!

II. Our Sinful Condition of Exchanging the Glory of God for Created Things Brings Down the Wrath of God on Us!

That's a serious condition, my friend. God doesn't ignore sin. God doesn't just overlook sin.

Can God be a God of love and a God of wrath at the same time? Yes, He can!

Romans 5:5 "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrated His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

Rom. 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

There's the love of God like no other love on earth! But that's not the whole story in the Bible... and that's not the entire description of God.

Our sinful condition of exchanging the glory of God for other things and our bent towards casting God aside and living and loving everything else, brings down the wrath of God on us.

Romans 1:18 "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men, who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

The present tense verb in the original Greek right there indicates a 'constant disclosure' or 'something that's going on all the time.' The wrath of God is right now being revealed.

The wrath of God being revealed right now is the process of judicial hardening that you see going on in people's lives... and it's the loss of any restraints, where people are given over, more and more, to their own corrupt preferences with no inhibitions.

Romans 1:19-31 lays it out for us.

v. 24 "Therefore God also gave them up..."

v. 26 "For this reason God gave them up..."

v. 28 "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over"

If you want proof that the wrath of God is being revealed right now today and is a working force in the world, Paul would say you just need to look around and SEE what God has given people over to.

But it's not just the wrath of God that is being revealed right now today. There is a future, greater wrath to come!

Romans 2:5 "Because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."

God makes no vain threats. His Word is filled with promises. Some of those promises are precious and comforting... and some of those promises are terrifying.

Revelation 14:10-11 "will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night."

That's a description of the wrath of God poured out on sinners who reject His glory and exchange IT for the pleasure and glory of created things here on earth.

The love of God is MOST precious and powerful and personal when it's seen in the terrifying light of God's holy and just wrath that we all deserve apart from Christ. That's when the love of God really becomes special... when you see what that love rescued you from!

III. Our Own Efforts Could Never Save Us from the Wrath of God

Religion and tradition could never save you. Jesus Christ is God's remedy for our CONDEMNATION and the wrath of God that is coming!

Romans 5:9 "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

By whose blood are we saved from God's wrath? By the blood of Jesus Christ that was poured out on the cross for you!

What does it mean to be justified? To be forgiven and accepted as righteous.

How do you get justified with God? Through faith... through self-abandoning trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

How does Jesus' blood and sacrificial death form the basis for our justification?

Romans 3:24-25 "being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth to be a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God has passed over the sins that were previously committed"

What is a 'propitiation?' It's a sacrifice that turns back wrath by removing sin and canceling guilt!

That's the message of the Gospel! That's what the Church of Jesus Christ is all about.

- Are you free from the wrath of God? Are you ready to stand before your Creator and Judge?
- Have you experienced the grace and forgiveness of God that comes through His Son, Jesus Christ?