The Wrath of God
Romans 1:18-32

Read Scripture Text: Romans 1:18-32 (NIV at Christian Hope)
(NKJV at New Hope and Eunice Chapel)

P R A Y E R

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

Illustration: On July 8, 1741, in Enfield, Connecticut, a Puritan Preacher by the name of Jonathan Edwards preached a gospel sermon created a “ripple effect” all around the world.

The title of Edward’s sermon was, “Sinners In The Hands of An Angry God.” Though Edwards preached in a high squeaky voice and held his manuscript directly in front of his face where no one could see his eyes, the Holy Spirit used that powerful message on the wrathful judgment of God to convert hundreds of thousands of souls to Jesus Christ.

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Preachers like Jonathan Edwards would not be welcome in many of today’s “sophisticated Churches.” Although many preachers claim “in theory” to believe in THE WRATH OF GOD, they refuse to preach it for fear they will drive people away from their Churches.

Many of today’s preachers actually take surveys among the members of their congregations to find out what kind of sermons they want to hear. People typically respond, “We want to hear messages on “How To Be Happy”.....”How to Be Successful”.... “How to Be Prosperous,”........and “How To Overcome Bad Habits and Addictions.” People want to be told that God loves them and will bless them no matter what lifestyle choices they make.

It is no coincidence that IMMORALITY has sharply risen in this
country over the past 30-40 years as preaching on SIN, REPENTANCE, AND THE WRATHFUL JUDGMENT OF GOD has declined.

This (morning/evening) I would like for us to spend a few minutes exploring this rarely mentioned subject of GOD’S WRATH.

First of all, I would have you to consider.......... 

I. THE REALITY OF GOD’S WRATH

1. Many Christians are almost apologetic when anyone mentions the wrath of God as though it is a “blemish” on His divine nature.

2. But brothers and sisters, there is no reason to be embarrassed, ashamed or apologetic, because GOD makes no attempt to hide this aspect of His Perfect, Divine nature in the scriptures.

3. In fact, if you were to do a thorough search of an exhaustive Bible Concordance, you would discover there are more references to the anger and wrath of God than to the love and tenderness of God.

Let me share just a few of these scriptures with you.

Psalm 7:11 (NIV)  God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses His wrath every day.”

God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day. (New King James Version )

Jeremiah 10:10 (NIV)  But the LORD is the true God; He is the Living God, the eternal King. When He is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure His wrath.

But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation. (NKJV)

Nahum 1:2 (NIV )  The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.
God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies. (New King James Version)

Jesus said in JOHN 3:36 (NIV) “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for GOD’S WRATH REMAINS ON HIM.

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (New King James Version)

The apostle Paul writes in COLOSSIANS 3:5, 6 (NIV)

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the WRATH OF GOD IS COMING.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, (New King James Version)

4. God’s wrath is every bit as much a part of His eternal, Divine, Holy Nature as His love, His mercy and His grace.

For our Holy, Righteous God not to have wrath and anger toward all that is unholy and unrighteous would diminish His Divine Nature.

Well now that we have considered THE REALITY OF GOD’S WRATH, secondly I would like for us to consider............

II. THE REVELATION OF GOD’S WRATH
Read----Verse 18 again

(NIV)  The wrath of God is being REVEALED from heaven against all godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

(NKJV) For the wrath of GOD is REVEALED from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

1. Notice those words, “The wrath of God is being revealed.” Let’s consider: How God revealed His wrath in the PAST, How God is revealing His wrath in the PRESENT, and How God will reveal His wrath in the FUTURE.

(A) How God Revealed His Wrath In The Past

1. GOD first revealed His wrath against SIN when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.

Remember GOD had specifically commanded Adam and Eve NOT to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Genesis 16,17) And GOD even warned them that if they ate from that tree they would surely die.

Because of their disobedience, GOD banished Adam and Eve from the Garden paradise. Eve and all women who came after her would suffer the pain of childbirth. Adam and all men who came after him would have to work by the sweat of the brow. And sickness.....disease.....pain.....suffering....sorrow .......hardship and death came upon all humanity.

The seriousness of these consequences reveals the righteous wrath of GOD toward SIN.

2. Just a few chapters over in GENESIS chapters six and seven, we learn that the wickedness of man greatly increased in the days of Noah.

Genesis 6:5-7a says, “The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become and that every inclination of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that He had made man on the earth and His heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth.......” (New International Version 1984)

(NEW KING JAMES VERSION BELOW)

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil
continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth.”

Of course we know GOD revealed His righteous wrath in the form of a catastrophic flood that deluged the entire world, wiping out all of humanity and all the animals, except for Noah’s family and the animals aboard the ark.

3. After the flood, God again revealed His righteous wrath when He destroyed the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone. (Genesis 19:1-29)

4. Moving over to the Book of Exodus we read where GOD displayed His righteous wrath against the Egyptians and their proud Pharaoh, by sending plagues upon their land, killing their first born, and drowning the Egyptian army in the Red Sea.

5. In Numbers 14, GOD displayed His righteous wrath upon the Israelites who rebelled against Moses’ leadership by barring them from the Promised Land and allowing them to wander in the wilderness for forty years until every one who was twenty years or older when they left Egypt had died. And God also sent a plague upon the ten spies who had brought back a bad report from Canaan so that they all died as well.

6. In the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah we see God display His righteous wrath once again when He allowed the unfaithful Israelites to be delivered into the hands of the Babylonians and taken out of their homeland.

7. The greatest display of God’s righteous wrath toward sin occurred when Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins.

   Romans 5:9 (NIV) Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through Him?

   (Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. NKJV)

I JOHN 4:10 in the New King James Version tells us God sent His Son to be “the propitiation” for our sins.

What is a “propitiation?” A propitiation is “an offering or gift given to one who has been offended to appease their wrath.”

We were the ones who had offended God by our sinful disobedience. We were the ones deserving of the wrath of God. But Christ,
who knew no sin became sin for our sakes and offered Himself as a “propitiation” in order to appease His Father’s wrath toward us.

These are just a few of the ways God revealed His wrath in the past.

(B) How God Is Revealing His Wrath in The Present

Remember that verse I read earlier from Psalm 7:11 which says, “God reveals His wrath every day?” The evidence of God’s wrath is all around us and many of us aren’t even aware of it.

Our scripture text here in Romans 1, reveals how God is displaying His wrath in our day and time.

Here is the jest of what Paul is saying: God has lovingly revealed Himself to man in every way possible. He has revealed Himself to man in the beauty of His creation. He has revealed Himself to man through the preaching of His prophets and preachers. He has revealed Himself through His written word, the Bible. He has revealed Himself through the presence of His Church in this world. And most importantly He has revealed Himself by sending His only begotten Son here in the flesh to be crucified for the sins of the world.

And after all God has done, what has sinful man done? He has rejected God’s love. He has rejected God’s Son. He has rejected God’s salvation. He has persecuted God’s people. He has violated God’s laws and disobeyed God’s commands.

Three times in our scripture text, Paul tells us how God is presently revealing His wrath.

Read: Verses 21-28 again

(Emphasize verses 24......26......28 )

Those words, “God gave them over” is God’s
wrathful indictment against sinful man. In essence, what God is saying is this:

“Sinful man, since you think you don’t need me, since you think you are wiser than Me and can run this world just fine without Me, I will give you over to your sinful ways......I will let your sin run its course.......I will allow you to suffer the terrible consequences of your wickedness.”

We look around us and see all the perversion....all the violence......all the addiction......all the corruption......all the greed......all the lust ......all the hatred........and all the sexual perversion and we wonder, “God, how long will You allow this to go? Why don’t You do something?”

Oh brothers and sisters, GOD IS DOING SOMETHING! He has “Given sinful man over!” He is allowing sin to run its course! He is allowing us to see this world crumble right before our very eyes!

And even in the midst of all this wickedness, GOD IS STILL OFFERING MAN HIS GRACE BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!

(C) How God Will Reveal His Wrath In The Future

Is God going to just let this go on forever? Absolutely NOT! According to the scriptures, God has already appointed a day when He will say “Enough is enough!”
The Old Testament Prophets call it “The Day of The LORD.”

Zephaniah 1:14-18 (NIV)  “The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers. I will bring distress on the people and they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like filth. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD’s wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth.”

ISAIAH.....JEREMIAH.....EZEKIEL.....DANIEL.....JOEL.....AMOS......MICAH.....
AND ZEPHANIAH.......THEY ALL WARN OF THIS “GREAT DAY OF THE LORD” THAT IS COMING!

(New King James Version:  The great day of the LORD is near;
It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter;
There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath,
A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation,
A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,
A day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. “I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse.” Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land.)

In Matthew 24:21 Jesus refers to this same “Day of the LORD” as “The Great Tribulation.”

(NKJV) “For then there will be GREAT TRIBULATION such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

Listen how John describes the day of God’s wrath in Revelation 6:12-17:

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every
free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

* BE WarnED all Hollywood actors and actresses who mock God and Christianity, THE DAY OF GOD’S WRATH IS COMING!

* BE WarnED all self-serving, corrupt politicians! THE DAY OF GOD’S WRATH IS COMING!

* BE WarnED all crooked lawyers and judges who undermine justice! THE DAY OF GOD’S WRATH IS COMING!

* BE WarnED Ghadaffi.....Chavez.....Castro.....Ahmadinejad and all evil tyrants! THE DAY OF GOD’S WRATH IS COMING!

* BE WarnED all unrepentant homosexuals and lesbians! BE WarnED all unrepentant pedophiles and perverts! BE WarnED all unrepentant drug dealers, pimps, prostitutes peddlers of pornography! THE DAY OF GOD’S WRATH IS COMING

* AND BE WARNED every unrepentant man and woman who has heard the gospel yet continues to reject Jesus Christ! THE DAY OF GOD’S WRATH IS COMING!

Oh what a dreadful day that will be for every lost soul when they stand in the presence of AN ANGRY GOD and realize they can do nothing to appease His wrath. GOD will accept NO apology..... NO excuse.....NO explanation....NO remorse.....and NO repentance! God will SLAM the door of salvation shut forever!

We have considered THE REALITY OF GOD’S WRATH
We have considered THE REVELATION OF GOD’S WRATH

Finally and briefly, let’s consider……...

III. The Reprieve From God’s Wrath
1. **God’s word makes it crystal clear that the only way one can a reprieve from God’s wrath is by accepting Jesus Christ as LORD and SAVIOR.**

   **I THESSALONIANS 5:9 (NKJV)** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

   **JOHN 3:36 (NIV)** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.

   **ROMANS 6:23 (NIV)** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

   **ROMANS 8:1 (NIV)** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. **JESUS CHRIST endured UNDESERVED SUFFERING on the cross so you and I might have the UNDESERVED BLESSING of eternal life.**

   When Christ gave His life on the cross He took the full brunt of God’s wrath upon Himself and moved God to be gracious toward us.

3. **While God offers eternal life as a free gift to all men, man has a choice to ACCEPT or REJECT the gift. Those who accept God’s gift of eternal life through His Son alone, will be saved and find reprieve from God’s wrath. But those who reject Jesus Christ, will be eternally condemned to hell and suffer the wrath of God for all eternity.**

**CONCLUSION**

As we close, let me share one final thought with you.

When a sheriff is opposed to crime in his community and sets out to get every criminal off the streets, we admire his character don’t we?
When a judge is tough on criminals and gives criminals their
due punishment we admire his character don’t we?

When an elected official determines to clean up all the political
corruption in the government we admire his character don’t we?

Should we not be equally pleased with our Almighty Heavenly Father,
who will one day clean up all the filth….all the immorality…..all the
injustice….all the corruption….all the perversion….and all the
wickedness that now exists on earth when He vents His righteous
wrath upon all evil doers?

To every lost sinner here this (MORNING/EVENING) I say…..

   While there is still time
   While you still have breath in your body.
   While the LORD tarries His coming.
   While the DOOR OF SALVATION is still open.........

Accept Jesus Christ as your LORD AND SAVIOR so that you
may be spared from THE WRATH OF GOD!