



Blackfoot

Church of Christ

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Wrath of God

By Doy Moyer

The wrath of God is a significant New Testament concept, so, do we give much thought to it? Appreciating the wrath of God will help us appreciate the salvation God offers through Christ. His wrath is not capricious, arbitrary or without merit, but is justified, exacting, and understandable in the context of His holiness and glory. The Old Testament sets that stage. The New Testament shows how God ultimately is willing to set aside His wrath through Christ.

"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life" (Rom 5:8-10).

If we do not believe and respond, then we will find ourselves under God's justified wrath:

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him" (John 3:36).

I know this is in the category of a not-so-popular doctrine these days, but it is too important to ignore. The wrath of God is in contrast to His mercy. While in sin, we were "children of wrath... But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:3-6).

Give the wrath of God due place in your understanding of Scripture. Then see how He provides grace and mercy through Christ so that wrath need not remain on us.

Forgiveness and Temptation

by Doy Moyer

There is an interesting connection made between forgiveness and the problem of temptation. This should be a point all can agree on, so let it become a warning to us if 1) we fail to seek forgiveness, and 2) we fail to forgive.

In Jesus' prayer of Luke 11:4, we read: "and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

Jesus, in Luke 17:1-4 says, "'Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

Paul writes about forgiving the brother in Corinth (2 Cor 2:6-11), "For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort

him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”

In these passages, forgiveness is connected to the problem of falling prey to temptation, the schemes of the devil, and of committing further sin. How can this happen? Perhaps we can see it from both the perspective of those who are to forgive and the one who needs the forgiveness.

1. If we refuse to forgive, we put our own souls at risk (Matt 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26). We also run the risk of becoming embittered, angry, and unloving. Being unforgiving or irreconcilable is never a virtue (cf. 2 Tim 3:3). Our failure to forgive others may lead to our committing sins both against God and against that brother. We may well need to seek forgiveness for failing to forgive. Otherwise, God won't forgive us.

2. Refusal to forgive puts the brother in need at risk of being so discouraged that he falls into further sin. Our failure to forgive may cause the brother to stumble. He may lose hope and drift back to sin because he has no help or support from those who are supposed to love him.

Forgiveness, then, is necessary both to give and receive if all parties want to avoid further sin and temptation. Failing to forgive will become an aid to sin for all involved, and this will not end well for anyone.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Wards will be traveling this week to AR to visit family over the holidays.
- Eddy & Elaine, Uncle & Aunt to Ray & Tom, are experiencing health problems.
- Sylvia Ward, Ross's Mom, remains in rehab
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Signup sheet for building cleaning & communion preparation in back.

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Ray Mitchell

Lord's Table – David Porter
– Ben Palmer

Wednesday

Song Leader – Ray Mitchell

Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM

Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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