

Dear Friends and Family,

“Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.”  
*In Christ Alone* -Lyrics by Stuart Townend

This past Sunday, I opened my message by reciting the lines of the song, *In Christ Alone*. My message was on knowing the true Gospel as it is contained in scripture and the need to sing theologically correct worship songs.

As we walked through Exodus 19, it is the Gospel message that stands out! The Gospel message is present throughout all of scripture! On a number of occasions, the above mentioned stanza of that song has been brought into question.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) desired to print the hymn in their hymnal but wanted to change the aforementioned line. When the authors of the song did not grant permission for the change, the hymn committee wrote the following:

“The view that the cross is primarily about God’s need to assuage God’s anger would have a negative effect on the hymnal’s ability to form the faith of coming generations.”

In response, the authors of the hymn replied,

“The main thread of what we see revealed throughout the Old and New Testament is the need for man to be made right with God. The provided path toward reconciliation came through Christ’s predetermined and perfect sacrifice on the cross, satisfying God’s wrath once and for all.”

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/keith-getty-on-what-makes-in-christ-alone-beloved-and-contested/>

“Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.” - Ephesians 2:3

### **Pastor’s Point of View**

The big question: **What does it mean that we are children of wrath?**

**Day 1** - READ Romans 1:18-20

1. What do these verses tell us about the importance of the created order?
2. What does creation tell us about God?
3. What does creation tell us about ourselves, and our sin nature?
4. What is God's wrath revealed against?

**Day 2** - READ Romans 1:21-23

1. What does Paul say people gave up about God?
2. What did they instead choose for themselves? (READ Exodus 32:1-6)
3. Do you know/see people who believe they are wise but instead are truly foolish?
4. Do you know people you need to pray for that they would come to know the truth of the gospel?

**Day 3** - READ Romans 1:24-27

1. Note here the increasing nature of sin.
2. Lust begets impurity, impurity-bodily dishonor, dishonor-idolatry, idolatry-homosexuality, homosexuality-due penalty.
3. READ Ephesians 4:25-32. Sin can and will quickly spiral out of control if we allow Satan to have a foothold in our lives. This is precisely why we are called to hold one another accountable. Christians must confront the sin they see in their brothers or sin will have its conclusion.
4. Have you been in a situation where you confronted a brother sin? How did it go?
5. Have you been personally confronted about your own sin by a brother? How did it go?
6. The Bible clearly addresses how to confront a sinning brother, but it is often difficult and must be bathed in prayer and humility.

**Day 4** - READ Romans 1:28-32

1. Pay close attention to verse 28. What do you notice?
2. Do you see how "they" are not acknowledging God any longer? This means that "they" once **did** acknowledge God.
3. List out all of the things which God will give "them" over to.
4. Who do you need to pray for right now? Make a list. Pray that they will be reconciled to God before they are given over.
5. Study verse 32. How many "churches" and "pastors" are coming out today approving of sin and sinful lifestyles, even though they know the ordinances of God?
6. What effect does this have on the body of Christ?

Reading these words from Paul, it is clear that the author of Scripture is the Holy Spirit. Certainly, human authors were used to write down the words, but the inspiration came from God alone. This type of prophetic writing could not have been achieved any other way. For Scripture to stand the test of time, it must be God's own word.

As sinful creatures, the wrath of God abides upon us. But, because Jesus paid our sin penalty on the cross, "The wrath of God is satisfied". We no longer have to live under the weight of God's wrath. Instead, we have been adopted as sons, as joint heirs with Christ, saved from an eternity of separation from God.

**You can be free of God's wrath TODAY!**

We are all sinners - Romans 3:10 & 23

The JUST punishment for sin is death - Romans 6:23

God loved us enough to send His son, even though we were sinners - Romans 5:8

How then can you be saved?

“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” - Romans 10:9-10

Peace be with you all!

Pastor Matt

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<https://mplong.wordpress.com/pastors-point-of-view/>

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*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*