

Dear Friends and Family,

Easter this year was different. Perhaps, because it was so different, it will be the one most remembered for a long time. Perhaps you had fallen into a mundane view of Easter. Perhaps you had forgotten why it is so essential. Perhaps you had disregarded, over time and routine, the essence of Easter and how it sets Christianity apart from all other religions. Perhaps the resurrection of Christ is something you had mitigated to a known fact, but one not of extreme importance. I am willing to guess that you don't really remember what you did last Easter. But I am guessing you won't soon forget this year.

Throughout Scripture, God used human tragedies, devastating events, and yes, even plagues, to remind. This week we will be reminded of something we often forget. God's wrath. God often revealed his wrath in tangible ways, urging the people to remember. Yet, humanity is stubborn and selfish and completely sinful. How is there any escape from the wrath of God when it should be heaped upon us so freely?

It is by grace that we are not consumed by God's wrath for the sins in which we indulge! And this grace is manifest in the sacrificial life of Jesus Christ, the event which changed all of history, which we just celebrated just two days ago, in the most unusual of ways. I urge you this week to remember!

Pastor's Point of View

The big idea: **Remember**

*“Therefore, having been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”*

Day 1 - READ Romans 5

1. Why do we need peace with a loving God?
 - a. We need peace with God because by nature His wrath abides on us (John 3:36)
 - b. Paul has said much already about the wrath of God in his letter to the Romans.
 - c. Reflect about what you know about peace already and how you would define it.

2. How do we understand God's wrath? Look up the passages below and fill in the blanks.
 - a. God's wrath is revealed against un-_____ and un_____ (Romans 1:18)
 - b. We store up wrath for ourselves due to our stubbornness and un_____ (Romans 2:5)
 - c. _____ renders wrath to those who are selfishly ambitious (Romans 2:6-8)

- d. God's wrath is _____ (Romans 3:5-6)
- e. Our _____ bring about God's wrath (Romans 3:19-23)

John Piper said, "*The greatest peril facing every person, in every ethnic group, in every place on earth, and at every time in history, is the righteous wrath of God against guilty sinners, leading to everlasting suffering — unless God himself rescues us from his own judgment.*"

Day 2 - READ Romans 5:1-8

1. By what means are we introduced to God's grace?
2. What might the hope of the glory of God mean?
3. Paul instructs us to exult in our tribulation and gives a specific progression of character traits that tribulation brings about.
 - a. READ and compare this with James 1:2-4.
 - b. Write out the character traits that tribulation brings.
4. Romans 5:6-8 is likely very familiar. Within the context of what Paul is writing, how significant is the manner by which Christ died for us?
5. Read Peter's sermon in Acts 2:22-24. Now compare this passage in Romans to the Acts passage. What new insight is there?

Day 3 - READ Romans 5:9-14

1. We are promised that we are saved from something now that we are justified by Christ's blood. What is it?
2. Given the significance of God's wrath you learned about in the preceding chapters, Paul is making a bold statement. What is it?
 - a. What response should that illicit from us?
 - b. Should this be the ultimate reason for which we exalt God?
3. What was our status before Christ?
4. The term *reconcile* means to '*cause to coexist in harmony*'.
5. Paul draws a comparison between Adam and Jesus.
 - a. Adam was a type or foreshadowing of the savior to come.
 - b. Paul explains that through Adam's sin, sin and death entered into the world.
 - c. However, while we are all tainted by sin, we all personally sin. Romans 5:12.
 - d. Likewise, through Christ, salvation and reconciliation entered into the world, but we must all be personally saved.
 - e. Have you ever considered the parallelism of these two subjects, sin and salvation?

Day 4 - READ Romans 5:15-21

1. Paul further differentiates between the free gift of salvation and the condemnation of sin.
2. Note all of the differences between the two.
3. Why is it important for us to understand Christ's sacrifice as a free gift?

4. Study verses 20-21.
 - a. Contrast the distinction between sin and death.
 - b. Contrast the distinction between grace and eternal life.
5. Grace is God's free gift through Jesus Christ.
 - a. Grace reconciles us to God.
 - b. We are objects of **His** wrath due to **our** sin.
 - c. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. By what are we saved?

I challenge you to remember the great wrath from which you are saved. Take a moment and reflect on the wrath that should be upon you. This wrath is completely due, deserved, and earned. Yet Christ took the full wrath of God upon himself, because of his great love for you! Remember this!

We should daily celebrate the rescue from wrath we have been given through Jesus Christ! And when we remember this, that we have been rescued from eternal wrath, there should be a great well of joy, peace, and comfort, even in the trials of daily tribulation. The gift of God's grace, a great rescue from God's righteous wrath, should bring exaltations to the Lord of great praise!

Remember! Regardless of our circumstances, we can exalt the Lord!

I challenge you, in an attempt to remember, to memorize this verse.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold
And there be no cattle in the stalls,
Yet I will exult in the LORD,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

Walking in Remembrance,

Pastor Matt

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at any time by simply replying to the weekly email with the word 'STOP' in the body of the message. "May the LORD bless you and keep, may He make His face shine upon you." Numbers 6:24-25

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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*