

Letter to the Thessalonians:

To the church of the Thessalonians:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

-Paul-

1 Thessalonians 5

1 Thessalonians 5 The Day Of The Lord

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1 Now about the times and seasons, brothers, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3 While people are saying, “Peace and security,” then destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5 The Day Of The Lord

4 But you are not in darkness, brothers,
so that this day should overtake you like a thief.

5 For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day;
we are not of the night or of the darkness.

6 So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us
keep awake and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who
get drunk, get drunk at night.

8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober,
having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5 The Day Of The Lord

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5 The Day Of The Lord

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Salvation (what are we saved from?)

Sin – the penalty, power, presence of sin

– Matt. 1:21; John 1:29; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 6:1–11; Col. 2:13; Eph. 1:7

– symbolically, by the removal of leaven

Satan – captivity to, and accusations of Satan

– 1 John 3:8; Rom. 8:1, 33; Col. 1:13; 2 Tim. 2:25

– Pharaoh and his army being drowned

Death – the last enemy – separation from God

– Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:26; Heb. 2:9; John 5:24

– Crossing the Red Sea on dry land

God's wrath – judgment, eternal torment

– John 3:36; Rom. 3:5–6; 1 Cor. 5:7; 1 Thess. 1:10

– Passover lamb appeases the destroyer angel

John 3

36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever rejects the Son will not see life. Instead, the wrath of God remains on him.”

1 Thessalonians 1

9 ... you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God 10 and to await His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead—Jesus our deliverer from the coming wrath.

Romans 2

5 But because of your hard and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

6 God "will repay each one according to his deeds." [Psalm 62:12]

7 To those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life.

8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow wickedness, there will be wrath and anger.

9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil, first for the Jew, then for the Greek;

10 but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, first for the Jew, then for the Greek.

Romans 4

15 For the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there can be no violation.

Romans 5

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, How much more will we be saved from the wrath of God through him.

Romans 12

19 Never avenge yourselves, dear friends, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

Ephesians 2

3 Among them we also once lived in the passions of our flesh, gratifying the desires and impulses of the flesh, and were by nature children of wrath, just like everyone else.

Revelation 6

15 Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the commanders, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and free man hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

16 And they said to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.

17 For the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?”

1. God's wrath is just.

- God's anger is not like man's anger.
 - It is easy for us to think of God by what we know to be true of ourselves.
 - God doesn't "fly off the handle", "lose control", have "fits of rage" or engage in "emotional outbursts".
 - God's anger is never unjust or undeserved.
 - Everyone who experiences the eternal wrath of God will know that God has treated them with perfect justice.

Romans 3

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

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1. God's wrath is just.

- God's anger is not like man's anger.
- God's anger is the right, controlled, necessary, and measured response to the belittling of His holiness.
 - God's wrath in the Bible is always judicial – that is, it is the wrath of a Judge, administering justice. (J.I.P.)
 - It is always the precise, and the perfect Divine response to sin/evil.

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- Wrath is not an attribute of God, but a response that is generated because of His attributes.
 - God's wrath is provoked.
 - God's wrath exists because sin/evil exist.
 - God's wrath is necessary because of His perfect holiness.
 - God's wrath comes from His justice.

Psalm 5

4 For You are not a God who delights in wickedness;
no evil can dwell with You.

5 The boastful cannot stand in Your presence;
You hate all workers of iniquity.

6 You destroy those who tell lies;
the LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

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- God is slow to anger.
 - His wrath is only fully delivered after great patience.

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- God is slow to anger.
- God will someday repay to all, with perfect justice, that which is deserved.
 - His wrath is in perfect proportion to human sinfulness.

Proverbs 24

12 If you say, “Behold, we did not know about this,”
does not He who weighs hearts consider it?
Does not the One who guards your life know?
Will He not repay a man according to his deeds?

Psalms 62

11 God has spoken once; I have heard this twice:
that power belongs to God,
12 and loving devotion to You, O Lord.
For You will repay each man according to his deeds.

Luke 12

47 That servant who knows his master's will but does not get ready or follow his instructions will be beaten with many blows.

48 But the one who unknowingly does things worthy of punishment will be beaten with few blows.

John 3

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

18 Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

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- God will someday repay to all, with perfect justice, that which is deserved.
 - His wrath is in perfect proportion to human sinfulness.
 - The only ones who will not receive what is deserved are those who have not been “destined for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

2. God's wrath helps us understand, appreciate and love Him.

- There are attributes of God that cannot be understood rightly without considering His wrath.
 - His **mercy** is meaningless without knowing what His **mercy** has kept us from.

Jude

23 save others by snatching them from the fire;

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 - His **holiness** cannot be truly worshiped apart from seeing the reaction of God to all that defiles it.

Hebrews 12

28 Therefore, since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us be filled with gratitude, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

29 "For our God is a consuming fire." [Deuteronomy 4:24]

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 - His **patience** is appreciated only when we understand wrath and judgment.
 - His **love** for us, generates our love for Him, when we consider His anger against those would harm His children.
 - His **grace** to us seems cheap, until we realize what its cost truly was on Christ in our behalf.

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- There are attributes of God that cannot be understood rightly without considering His wrath.
- God's wrath is the best metric we have, to be able to fully grasp His other (more abstract) attributes.
 - We can understand wrath, judgment, and eternal torment.
 - We do not grasp His love, grace, mercy, and holiness.

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- We cannot fully appreciate the gospel, without considering the wrath of God upon Jesus in our place.
 - His wrath was fully propitiated by Christ on the cross.

Romans 3

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- We cannot fully appreciate the gospel, without considering the wrath of God upon Jesus in our place.
 - His wrath was fully propitiated by Christ on the cross.
 - We diminish God's holiness and righteousness if/when we do not also teach His wrath.
 - This is why we must be willing to teach about sin, judgment and eternal wrath, when we preach the gospel to unbelievers.

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- God's wrath is the best metric we have, to be able to fully grasp His other (more abstract) attributes.
- We cannot fully appreciate the gospel, without considering the wrath of God upon Jesus on the cross.
- We cannot be fully devoted to God without embracing His wrath against sin/evil.
 - When we understand His righteous anger against sin, it causes us to “take a stand” with God against all manner of evil.

Numbers 25

1 While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with the daughters of Moab,

2 who also invited them to the sacrifices for their gods.

And the people ate and bowed down to these gods.

3 So Israel joined in worshiping Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD burned against them.

4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that His fierce anger may turn away from Israel.”

5 So Moses told the judges of Israel,

“Each of you must kill all of his men who have joined in worshiping Baal of Peor.”

Numbers 25

6 Just then an Israelite man brought to his family a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and the whole congregation of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

7 On seeing this, Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, got up from the assembly, took a spear in his hand, 8 followed the Israelite into his tent, and drove the spear through both of them—through the Israelite and on through the belly of the woman.

So the plague against the Israelites was halted, 9 but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.

Numbers 25

10 Then the LORD said to Moses,

11“Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned My wrath away from the Israelites;

for he was zealous for My sake among them, so that I did not consume the Israelites in My zeal.

12 Declare, therefore, that I am granting him My covenant of peace.

13 It will be a covenant of permanent priesthood for him and his descendants, because he was zealous for his God and made atonement for the Israelites.”

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- We cannot fully appreciate the gospel, without considering the wrath of God upon Jesus on the cross.
- We cannot be fully devoted to God without embracing His wrath against sin/evil.
- God's wrath brings Him glory.

Revelation 11

16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying:

“We give thanks to You, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.

18 The nations were enraged, and Your wrath has come.

The time has come to judge the dead and to reward Your servants the prophets, as well as the saints and those who fear Your name, both small and great— and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Revelation 16

4 And the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they turned to blood.

5 And I heard the angel of the waters say:

“Righteous are You, O Holy One, who is and was, because You have brought these judgments.

6 For they have spilled the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink, as they deserve.”

7 And I heard the altar reply:

“Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are Your judgments.”

Revelation 19

1 After this I heard a sound like the roar of a great multitude in heaven, shouting:

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God!

2 For His judgments are true and just.

He has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality.

He has avenged the blood of His servants that was poured out by her hand.”

3 And a second time they called out:

“Hallelujah! Her smoke rises forever and ever.”

3. God's wrath is being revealed now ... and ...
it is being stored up for a future judgment.

- God's wrath upon the wicked is already being released.
 - God delivers His wrath through earthly governments.

Romans 13

4 ... if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain.

For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

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Ezekiel 14

12 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

13“Son of man, if a land sins against Me by acting unfaithfully,
and I stretch out My hand against it to cut off its supply of food,
to send **famine** upon it,

15 Or if I send wild **beasts** through the land to leave it childless and
desolate,

17 Or if I bring a **sword** against that land

19 Or if I send a **plague** into that land and pour out My wrath upon it

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- God's wrath upon the wicked is already being released.
 - God delivers His wrath through earthly governments.
 - God delivers His wrath in providential ways.
 - God delivers His wrath by giving men over to their sin.
 - Sin is both the cause of judgment, and also the judgment itself.

Romans 1

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts ...

26 For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions.

28 Furthermore, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God,

He gave them up to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

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- Those who are unrepentant are even now "storing up" wrath against themselves.

Romans 2

5 But because of your hard and unrepentant heart, you are **storing up wrath** against yourself for the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

6 God "will repay each one according to his deeds."

3. God's wrath is being revealed now ... and ... it is being stored up for a future judgment.

- God's wrath upon the wicked is already being released.
- Those who are unrepentant are even now "storing up" wrath against themselves.
- God has set a day when He will judge the earth and it will be a "day of wrath".

Acts 17

30 Although God overlooked the ignorance of earlier times, He now commands all people everywhere to repent.

31 For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed.

He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead."

4. God's wrath for His children whom He loves, is fully satisfied in Christ.

- Jesus Christ is the only man who can withstand the great and terrible wrath of God ... and survive.
 - All God's wrath for all the sin of those who will be redeemed, was once-for-all delivered upon Christ on the cross.
 - He is 'Noah's ark', standing between us and wrath.
 - He is the serpent in the wilderness, lifted up for us.
 - He is the Passover Lamb that wards off the death angel.
 - He is final High Priest, who offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice in the Holy of Holies, in the heavenly temple.

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