

Given Over
Romans 1:18-32

"The god of today's making looks pathetically weak—nothing at all like an almighty Creator who cares for His creation. People today want a god they don't have to fear, supposing that he would be more loving than one who gets upset when people don't please him. But a passive, hand-wringing god who cannot be angered is not one I would characterize as loving. A God of love must hate anything that harms those He loves. A God of love must take action to protect the innocent against the malicious. A God of love must mean business when he declares a certain action 'off limits.' After all, a law without consequences is no law at all.

A God of love must have the capacity for anger. But the wrath of God is not the kind of bellowing anger we have come to associate with abusive people. Rather, God's 'wrath' (orge...), is a righteous and holy response to humanity's sinful, rebellious nature... His wrath is nothing less than a reasonable expression of His righteous character and His unfailing love when confronted with evil." Swindoll

- I. God's wrath against all sin is an expression of his perfect justice toward man's godless and wicked heart. His wrath is being stored up for the day of judgment against all wickedness, but it is also being revealed through the human depravity and misery that results from godless living.

Rom. 1:18-23

Col. 3:6

- A. God's wrath is justified because men and women deliberately suppress the truth of His existence, which has been plainly revealed to them through His creation (general revelation).

Rom. 1:18-20

Ps. 14:1 *The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."*

- B. God's wrath is justified because men and women refuse to glorify their Creator.

Rom. 1:21a

- C. God's wrath is justified because men and women refuse to have gratitude in their hearts toward a God of love, grace and mercy who offers mankind an opportunity to escape His wrath through faith in the gospel.

Rom. 1:16-17, 21b

- II. God's wrath "against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness" is being revealed by handing men and women over to the progressive consequences of the evil desires of their rebellious hearts.

Rom. 1:24-32

Eph. 4:17-19

"Since Adam and Eve, man has wanted to get rid of God, to push him out of his life. In contemporary terms he is saying, 'God, I just want you to leave me alone. Take a seat on that chair over there. Shut up, and let me get on with my life as I want to live it.' And so God does." Boice

- A. God hands men and women over to depravity and the emotionally, physically and spiritually degrading consequences of sexual immorality.

Rom. 1:24

1 Cor. 6:18 *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.*

- B. God hands men and women over to homosexuality to suffer the emotional, physical and spiritual consequences of their perversion.

Rom. 1:25-26

Lev. 18:22

- C. God hands men and women over to a depraved mind, so that they call good evil and evil good. In the futility of their thinking, they lose their ability to see the emotional, physical and spiritual value of embracing God's moral absolutes.

Rom. 1:28,32

- III. God's wrath is seen in the societal decay that becomes progressively more and more insidious in the moral decline of a home, a culture and a nation. The only way to stop its progression is for people to seek God's face through repentance.

2 Chron. 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*