

“Understanding the Passive Wrath of God”

Romans 1:18-32

Introduction

The passive wrath of God exists because of the rejection of God, which is a form of idolatry. People choose gods they can control rather than the true God, in order to avoid accountability. In doing so, they convince themselves to believe lies rather than the truth because they have separated themselves from the truth (v. 24-32). When we turn from the truth of God, we become subject to His passive wrath. We emphasize the term, passive wrath vs. active wrath, to point out that when we push to have our own way God may allow us to fall under the weight of consequences we have brought upon ourselves. In other words, He releases us to the consequences of our own deceptive desires, and the price paid is often more than we had bargained for.

The passive wrath of God releases us to the consequences of our own degrading passions. Men, seeking independence from God, go to illegitimate sources to satisfy their lust. This then leads them to further consequences because depraved thinking. A depraved mind means that a person's thinking gets so crazy that they not only do wrong themselves but they also approve others who also do wrong.

Many people want to address the negative consequences we receive without addressing what may have brought on the problem in the first place. All too often we have brought consequences on ourselves by rejecting Christ and thus, experiencing His passive wrath. Therefore the consequences we experience cannot be addressed unless we also address the personal sin that caused them.

Getting Started

1. How has your life been impacted from the Overcoming series that Pastor Evans completed?
2. What resonated with you most from this week's sermon?

Let's Get Personal

1. How does this understanding of God's wrath affect you? How does God's wrath described above differ from more common active acts of wrath (for example: The 12 plagues in Egypt)?
2. Are you currently experiencing the wrath of God? Does this week's explanation of sin and its consequences make you view your circumstances differently?
3. How does this understanding affect your view of what is currently happening in the world? Does this influence how you view world events?

Take the Next Step

1. While we can't go back in time, we can make changes to how we live tomorrow. What change in your life do you need to make with regard to sin? By doing so, what consequences do you hope to avoid or to minimize?
2. Honoring God always involves turning away from sin. Turning away from sin always starts with repentance. For what sin do you need to repent today? Share with your group for accountability and allow your group to pray for you.
3. Want to dig deeper? Take a look at the following Scriptures: Ezekiel 33:11, Exodus 34:7, Romans 11:22, Nahum 1:2-7

Renew Your Mind

“The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...” Exodus 34:6-7
