

***Understanding the Wrath
and Longsuffering of God***

Is the character of God contradictory?

- Many wish to deny the wrath of God.
- One denomination eliminated the hymn “In Christ Alone” because of this line:
“Till on that cross as Jesus died/the wrath of God was satisfied.”
- The problem with many is that they see God in light of man’s weaknesses or try to create a God from their own imagination. **(1 Sam 15:29; Isa 55:8-9)**

Is the character of God contradictory?

- 1 Samuel 15:29 - "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."

Is the character of God contradictory?

- Isaiah 55:8-9 - " For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

Is the character of God contradictory?

- It is important that we see God as He has revealed Himself. If we deny or fail to understand one aspect of His Character then it affects everything we know about God or what we even believe!
- The wrath of God is always connected with His holiness. **(Isa 6:4-6)**

Is the character of God contradictory?

- Isaiah 6:1-6 - And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ... So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." ...

Is the character of God contradictory?

- The wrath of God is always directed at sin.
(Eph 5:5-7)

Is the character of God contradictory?

- Ephesians 5:5-7 - For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Is the character of God contradictory?

- This knowledge is at the very heart of the gospel. (**Rom 1:16-18**)

Is the character of God contradictory?

- Romans 1:16-18 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Is the character of God contradictory?

- 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Why does God want us to know of His wrath?

- Wrath- as a vigorous upsurge of one's nature against someone or something anger, wrath, indignation; (1) as a human emotion anger, wrath (JA 1.20); (2) as the divine reaction against evil, bringing judgment and punishment both historically and in the future wrath, indignation (MT 3.7; RO 9.22); as a future culmination of judgment in an outpouring of the stored-up anger of God (the) day of wrath (RO 2.5; RV 6.17)

Why does God want us to know of His wrath?

- “The Greek words orge and thumos are used over a hundred times in the Bible side by side, at times hardly distinguishable.”

Why does God want us to know of His wrath?

- A. T. Robertson: - “God’s anger (thumos) is his vehement fury or boiling rage. His wrath (orge) is his settled indignation or his settled anger. In other words, in God’s anger the emphasis falls on the emotional, boiling intensity of it. And in God’s wrath the emphasis falls on the controlled, settled, considered direction and focus of its application.

Why does God want us to know of His wrath?

- But we dare not draw a hard line between them. God's anger is never out of the control of his wisdom and righteousness, and his wrath is never cool or indifferent, but is always a wisely directed fury. The wrath of God is never less than a perfect judicial decree, but is always more than a perfect judicial decree because it is always full of right and fitting fury.”

Why does God want us to know of His wrath?

- God's anger is consistent and absolutely righteous. **(Rom 2:5-6)**

Why does God want us to know of His wrath?

- Romans 2:5-6 - But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds"

Why does God want us to know of His wrath?

- It is always connected to the righteous judgment of God.
- *It is cumulative*; God will not let even an idle word pass His wrath. **(Mt 12:36)**

Why does God want us to know of His wrath?

- Matthew 12:36 - "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- **Salvation** - deliverance; (1) physically, as rescue from danger deliverance, preservation, safety (HE 11.7); (2) as a religious technical term safety of the soul in a spiritual sense salvation (2C 7.10); (3) of the messianic deliverance at the end of the present age salvation (RO 13.11)

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- Jesus pointed out the only alternative to salvation. (**Jn 3:36; Jn 8:24**)

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- John 3:36 - "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- John 8:24 - "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- The nature of God demands that sin be punished. (**Ex 34:6-7**)

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- Exodus 34:6-7 - And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- Our God will not clear the guilty.
- Look at some of the sins that bring the wrath of God. **(Col 3:5-7)**

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- Colossians 3:5-7 - Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- When we find forgiveness then we are no longer “children of wrath.” **(Eph 2:1-3)**

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- Ephesians 2:1-3 - And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- What are we saved from? We are saved from the wrath of God. **(Rom 5:9)**

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- Romans 5:9 - Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- There is a “wrath to come” that we do not want to see. **(1 Thess 1:10; 5:9-10)**

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- 1 Thessalonians 1:10 - and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

God's wrath reveals God's grace, love and way of Salvation

- **1 Thessalonians 5:9-10** - For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- What is longsuffering?
- Longsuffering - as a state of emotional quietness in the face of unfavorable circumstances patience, long-suffering; (1) as patience under trial endurance, steadfastness (HE 6.12); (2) as constraint exercised toward others forbearance, patience (2C 6.6); (3) as God's constraint of his wrath long-suffering, forbearance (RO 2.4)

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- Our God wants us to know this about Him.
(Num 14:17-19; Ps 86:14-15)

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- **Numbers 14:17-19** - "And now, I pray, let the power of my LORD be great, just as You have spoken, saying, 18 'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- 19 "Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- Psalm 86:14-15 - O God, the proud have risen against me, And a mob of violent men have sought my life, And have not set You before them. 15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- Before you begin to complain about why the world continues as it is you need to think about God waiting for you.
(2 Pt 3:9)

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- Paul wanted all men to know how God's longsuffering changed Him.
(1 Tim 1:12-16)

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- 1 Timothy 1:12-16 - And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- Why does the longsuffering of God move some men and harden others? Does the longsuffering of God eliminate His wrath? **(Rom 2:4-5; 9:21-24)**

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- **Romans 2:3-4** - And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- **Romans 9:21-24** - Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? 22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- If there was another way to appease the wrath of God other than the blood of Christ, would Jesus have gone to the cross? **(Mt 26:39)**

How does the longsuffering of God abide with His wrath?

- Matthew 26:39 - He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- We should want all men to be saved (forgiven).
- When we remember what God did for us we must put on this kind of heart towards others. **(Eph 2:1-3; 4:31-32)**

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- Ephesians 2:1-3 - And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- Ephesians 4:31-32 - Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- We must never forget this and lose our motivation! **(2 Pt 1:8-9)**

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- 2 Peter 1:8-9 - For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- We will be able to be comforted by the wrath of God!
- There are burdens that we were never meant to handle. One of these is personal vengeance! **(Rom 12:19-20)**

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- Romans 12:19-20 - Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- Is it righteous to want evildoers punished? God wants us to trust Him and His ways. **(Rom 13:2-5)**

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- Romans 13:2-5 - Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- We will be able to work in unity with our brothers in Christ. **(Eph 4:1-2)**

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- Ephesians 4:1-2 - I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- What did Jesus endure with His apostles?
(Lk 9:40-41, 54-56)

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- Luke 9:40-41 - "So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."
41 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here."

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- Luke 9:54-56 - And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" 55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. 56 "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- What did your parents have to endure with you?
- This will eliminate the “short fuse,” hasty accusations and gossip.
- Longsuffering is not ignoring the person or harboring hate in silence!
- Today is the day to avail yourself of the blood of Christ! **(2 Cor 6:1-2)**

How the knowledge of God's nature changes us

- 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 - We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.