

Hamartiology and the Holiness of God

THEOLOGIAN

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Romans 1:18-25 (in entirety). The following is the order in which we studied them in this message.

*“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, **they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature.** So they have no excuse for not knowing God.” Romans 1:20 NLT*

*“For **the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness** of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” Romans 1:18 ESV*

*“And **instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols** made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.” Romans 1:23 NLT*

*Claiming to be wise, they **instead became utter fools.**” Romans 1:22 NLT*

*“because **they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.**” Romans 1:25 ESV*

*“For the time is coming when **people will not endure sound teaching,** but having itching ears they will **accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,** and will **turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.**” 2 Timothy 4:3-4 ESV*

*“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but **they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**” Romans 1:21 ESV*

*“**For the wages of sin is death,** but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 ESV*

*“Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, **and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**” James 1:15 ESV*

*“For **the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness** of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” Romans 1:18 ESV*

*Revelation 20:11-15 – just referenced (final wrath)
Romans 13:1-2 – just referenced (provisional wrath)*

*“**Therefore God gave them up** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,” Romans 1:24 ESV*

*“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. **So they have no excuse for not knowing God.**” Romans 1:20 NLT*

*They show that the work of the **law is written on their hearts,** while **their conscience also bears witness,** and **their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.** Romans 2:15 ESV*

*Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be **saved by him from the wrath** of God Romans 5:9 ESV*

Start Defining. This series launches with several important Theological terms. Work towards having everyone in the group being able to have an ability to verbally explain each term.

- Review definitions from last week: Theology, Soteriology
- What is Hamartiology?
- What is ungodliness and what is unrighteousness? How are they similar? How are they different?
- What is wrath [of God]?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How does Romans 1:18-25 relate to the concept of God’s holiness? What are some ways you would try to describe the holiness of God?
- According to the text, why is God revealing His wrath?
- What are some of the results of sin depicted in this passage?
- What are some things we can learn about God in this text? Look for God’s point of view when it comes to His wrath and relationship with people.

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What part of this message impacted you most and why?
- How has this study impacted your view of God’s wrath? Has it changed a lot, a little, stayed the same?
- Given the information shared in this message, how would you respond to someone who accuses God of being evil [in the context of friendly conversation]?
- Two principles from the text are that “sin misdirects our worship” and “sin leads to madness.” How have you experienced the effects of either of these principles in your life?
- Why do you think it is important to see the difference between sin as just breaking a rule verses sin being an offense against the holiness of God?
- Have you ever been tempted to be ashamed of God’s wrath? How can you celebrate God’s wrath as part of God’s character without being unloving towards people?
- Read Romans 5:9. Praise God together for this.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father in Heave, we pray with thanksgiving for your abounding grace and your justified wrath. Help us to appreciate all of who you are rather than walking in shame over certain parts of your character. Grant us understanding and clarity about You in the areas we’re tempted to shy away from so that we may love you all the more. Use us as a ministry to lead people away from wrath and into healthy relationship with you, Lord. In Jesus’ name, amen!

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Appreciate God’s wrath this week. Spend time each day thanking him for carrying out justice through His wrath and for also offering grace so abundantly before He has poured out His wrath.

GOD'S WRATH?

Hamartiology (hə, märtē'äləjē): The branch of theology concerned with the study of sin.

TO APPRECIATE THE WRATH OF GOD, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE HOLINESS OF GOD.

“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.” Romans 1:20 NLT

SIN IS MORE THAN MERE RULE BREAKING OR WRONGDOING; IT IS AN OFFENSE AGAINST GOD'S HOLINESS

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” Romans 1:18 ESV

3 PAINS CAUSED BY SIN

SIN MISDIRECTS OUR WORSHIP

“And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.” Romans 1:23 NLT

SIN LEADS TO MADNESS

“Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools.” Romans 1:22 NLT

“because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.” Romans 1:25 ESV

“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” 2 Timothy 4:3-4 ESV

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SIN CAUSES DECAY AND DEATH

“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” Romans 1:21 ESV

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 ESV

“Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.” James 1:15 ESV

GOD'S CHARACTER NESCESSITATES WRATH AGAINST SIN!

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” Romans 1:18 ESV

3 WAYS GOD REVEALS HIS WRATH

FINAL WRATH – Revelation 20:11-15

PROVISIONAL WRATH – Romans 13:1-2

PERMISSIVE WRATH

“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,” Romans 1:24 ESV

WHERE DOES THIS LEAD US?

WE ARE ALL WITHOUT EXCUSE

“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.” Romans 1:20 NLT

They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them. Romans 2:15 ESV

THE 4th WAY GOD REVEALED HIS WRATH: JESUS

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God Romans 5:9 ESV