**An Unsavory Topic:**

**Reflection:**

*“Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them* (Romans 1:32).”

Nobody likes to talk about the wrath of God, everybody loves the love of God, His mercy and grace, but His wrath is something we’d rather not discuss, or even worse, dismiss it as superstitious nonsense leftover from a less enlightened age. Some challenge the doctrine of Hell because it isn’t nice or socially acceptable or isn’t possible in their conception of a loving God. Some years ago a certain denomination wanted to include ‘In Christ Alone’ in their hymnal, but only if the writers would change the phrase, ‘the wrath of God’ to something less controversial, which they would not do.

It makes us uncomfortable, this talk of looming punishment, especially since we know it is justly deserved, so many would rather just ignore it or pretend it doesn’t exist or argue it out of polite society, but that doesn’t make it go away. Rather than ignoring that the house is on fire, perhaps we should call the fire department! And God did just that, He sent Jesus to suffer His wrath in our place, to bear in His person the just penalty of our sins, that we might be called children of God!

God’s wrath makes us uncomfortable but we can’t appreciate His even greater mercy, love, and grace without acknowledging it and then turning from our former ways. Many wish to live an indifferent life, their sins great and small ignored as no big deal, God loves them and that’s all that matters, but that’s not the God who reveals Himself in the pages of Scripture. He’s not the benign grandpa in the sky indulgently overlooking the sins of his earthly kiddos, rather He’s a fiercely loving parent that will accept nothing less than the best for His children, so much so that He sent His own Son to bear their guilt and shame, that they too might be called sons of God. Can we take this matter any less seriously than He does?

**Let Us Pray:**

Pray that we realize we are all renegades, sinners, and rightly deserving of God’s wrath, save for His great mercy. Pray that we remember we did not make ourselves or our world, that all we have is a gift, and we owe our thanks and obedience to the Giver thereof. Pray that we learn to humble ourselves before God lest we be humbled. Pray that many will come to realize this in these days of confusion, futility, and uncertainty, and that in seeing their own helplessness and evil, that they will turn to God for forgiveness and hope. Let us thank God that He has offered us escape from His deserved wrath, and accept this great gift on our behalf.

**Recommended Scripture**:

[Isaiah](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+53&version=ESV) 53

[Luke 23:26-49](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+23&version=ESV)

[Romans 1:28-2:1:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+1&version=ESV)

**Recommended Worship:**

[In](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1QjKqyGh8s) Christ Alone

[Man](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3SBVpLCnA0) of Sorrows

[Awesome God](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJOVB6Bu7K8)