

Portrait



*of
The
Damned*

A Study of Romans Chapter One

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Introduction

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;” Romans 1:1

After reading this scripture, it is apparent, to me anyway, that those who hold the truth in unrighteousness will no doubt face the wrath of God.

This eBook is designed to shed light on these kinds of people. Who are they? Where do they live? Why do they knowingly resist God? Are they really going to be damned by God? What does “Damned” mean? What exactly is the wrath of God?

We will search for the answers to the above questions using the KJV version of the Bible, beginning in Romans chapter One. Let’s begin with some definitions so we know the biblical meanings.

A Few Definitions

What is the Biblical understanding of the wrath of God?

Wrath is defined as “the emotional response to perceived wrong and injustice,” often translated as “anger,” “indignation,” “vexation,” or “irritation.” Both humans and God express wrath. But there is a vast difference between the wrath of God and the wrath of man. God’s wrath is holy and always justified; man’s is never holy and rarely justified.

In the Old Testament, the wrath of God is a divine response to human sin and disobedience. Idolatry was most often the occasion for divine wrath. Psalm 78:56-66 describes Israel’s idolatry. The wrath of God is consistently directed towards those who do not follow His will (Deuteronomy 1:26-46; Joshua 7:1; Psalm 2:1-6). The Old Testament prophets often wrote of a day in the future, the "day of wrath" (Zephaniah 1:14-15). God’s wrath against sin and disobedience is perfectly justified because His plan for mankind is holy and perfect, just as God Himself is holy and perfect. God provided a way to gain divine favor—repentance—which turns God’s wrath away from the sinner. To reject that perfect plan is

to reject God's love, mercy, grace and favor and incur His righteous wrath.

The New Testament also supports the concept of God as a God of wrath who judges sin. The story of the rich man and Lazarus speaks of the judgment of God and serious consequences for the unrepentant sinner (Luke 16:19–31). John 3:36 says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on Him.” The one who believes in the Son will not suffer God's wrath for his sin, because the Son took God's wrath upon Himself when He died in our place on the cross (Romans 5:6–11). Those who do not believe in the Son, who do not receive Him as Savior, will be judged on the day of wrath (Romans 2:5–6).

The wrath of God is a fearsome and terrifying thing. Only those who have been covered by the blood of Christ, shed for us on the cross, can be assured that God's wrath will never fall on them. “Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!” (Romans 5:9)... Definition and copy taken from GotQuestions.org.

What Does It Mean To Be Damned By God?

It is logical to assume that anyone that is under the wrath of God is also damned of God. However, what exactly does that mean? Here's what the dictionary says.

A damned human "in damnation" is said to be either in Hell, or living in a state wherein they are divorced from Heaven and/or in a state of disgrace from God's favor.

The KJV Bible Dictionary says this about the word “Damn.”

1. To sentence to eternal torments in a future state; to punish in hell.
2. To condemn; to decide to be wrong or worthy of punishment; to censure; to reprobate.
3. To condemn; to explode; to decide to be bad, mean, or displeasing, be hissing or any mark of disapprobation; as, to damn a play, or a mean author.
4. A word used in profaneness; a term of execration.

We should never say, “Damn You” because it calls for the wrath of God to be upon that individual and seeks a final solution of eternal damnation. We

should not wish that on even our worst enemy. Besides, it is not our job to be the judge, jury and executioner over anyone. That is God's responsibility.

Why Would God Condemn or Damn Anyone?

God has gone to great lengths to reveal Himself to mankind. We are without excuse when it comes to acknowledging the existence of God.

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them, For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” Romans 1:19

God has a specific reason to pour out His wrath and even damn the souls of men to an eternal death. Here it is, straight from the Word of God.

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.” Romans 1:21-23

Man has always known that there was a God that created him and ruled over his universe. However, to deny God's existence and refuse to glorify Him as God comes with consequences.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen...For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections:” Romans 1:24-26a

Vile Affections... The descent into evolutionary paganism is always soon followed by gross immorality, specifically including sexual perversion, such as described in Romans 1:26-29. Ancient Sodom was so notorious for homosexuality that its practice has long been known as sodomy (see Genesis 13:13; 19:4-9). The practice became so widespread in ancient Greece that it was considered normal and even desirable. Other examples are abundant and, of course, it is quickly becoming accepted—even encouraged—here in America. Not surprisingly, this was preceded by widespread return to evolutionism in science and education.

(Institute For Creation Research)

When God gives up on you, you fall into vile affections and become the worst of the worst among human beings. Here's a list of vile affections: Romans 1:27-

1. **Going Against Nature**...*for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. Romans 1:26*
2. **Homosexual lifestyle**....*And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. Romans 1:27*
3. **Refusal To Acknowledge God**...*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Romans 1:28*
4. **Unrighteous To The Bone**....*Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful (In other words...Immoral) Romans 1:29-31*
5. **Disobedient And Rebellious**...*Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. Romans 1:32*

I think it's important to understand the meaning for some of the words used in #4 above. Most of us know what they mean but some are not used in today's expressions and may not be as familiar.

Fornication...is generally consensual sexual intercourse between two people not married to each other. ... For many people, the term carries an overtone of moral or religious disapproval. Throughout history, most theologians have argued that any and all forms of premarital sex are immoral. A contemporary example is the modern-day theologian Lee Gatiss who argues that premarital sex is immoral based on scripture. He states that, from a Biblical perspective, "physical union should not take place outside a "one flesh" (i.e. marriage) union.

Wickedness...*The state of being wicked; a mental disregard for justice, righteousness, truth, honor, virtue; evil in thought and life; depravity; sinfulness; criminality. See SIN. Many words are rendered "wickedness."*

There are many synonyms for wickedness in English and also in the Hebrew. Pride and vanity lead to it:

Covetousness... Strong desire to have that, which belongs to another. It is considered to be a very grievous offense in Scripture. The tenth commandment forbids coveting anything that belongs to a neighbor, including his house, his wife, his servants, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to him (Exod 20:17). Jesus listed covetousness or greed along with many of the sins from within, including adultery, theft, and murder, which make a person unclean (Mr 7:22). Paul reminded the Ephesians that greed or covetousness is equated with immorality and impurity, so that these must be put away (5:3). A covetous or greedy person is an idolater (5:5) and covetousness is idolatry (Col 3:5). James warns that people kill and covet because they cannot have what they want (4:2).

Maliciousness...or Malice, now used in the sense of deliberate ill-will, by its derivation means badness, or wickedness generally, and was so used in Older English. In the Apocrypha it is the translation of kakia, "evil," "badness." We have "malice" in the more restricted sense as the translation of menis, "confirmed anger." In the New Testament "malice" and "maliciousness" are the translation of kakia (Romans 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:8; 14:20; Colossians 3:8); malicious is the translation of poneros, "evil" (3John 1:10, malignity occurs in Romans 1:29 as the translation of kakoetheia, "evil disposition"; "maliciously," "having ill will."

Malignity... malice, malevolence, ill will, spite, **malignity**, spleen, grudge mean the desire to see another experience pain, injury, or distress. Malice implies a deep-seated often-unexplainable desire to see another suffer.

Despiteful... adjective. Characterized by intense ill will or spite: black, evil, hateful, malevolent, malicious, malign, malignant, mean, nasty, poisonous, spiteful, venomous, vicious, wicked. Slang: bitchy.

Without Natural Affection... This phrase "without natural affection" is the translation of one Greek word, *astergeo*. It was a characteristic of many pagans of the ancient world. Significantly, it is also prophesied to be a characteristic of the humanistic pagans of the end-times. "In the last days . . . men shall be . . . without natural affection" (II Timothy 3:1-3). These are the only two occurrences of this word in the New Testament.

The word *stergeo* ("natural affection") is one of four Greek words for "love," but it is never used at all in the New Testament. It refers to the natural love

that members of the same family have for each other. It is such a common characteristic of all peoples that there was apparently no occasion to refer to it at all -- *except* when it is *not* present, when people lose their instinctive love for their own parents and children, and thus are "*without* natural affection." One thinks of the widespread abortions of these last days, as well as the modern breakdown of the family in general.

Implacable,... not placable : not capable of being appeased, significantly changed, or mitigated and *implacable* enemy.

Lets Paint A Portrait

Some folks see only with their five senses. If they can't smell it, feel it, taste it or otherwise use their natural senses, it doesn't exist. However, there are those that see with their spirit and feel with their heart. They look at such things as character, morals, and commitment.

Those that see with the spirit paint a portrait of the damned with character that reveals itself in personality traits and actions. Jesus, referring to false prophets said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits." Matthew 7:16

Paul, the Apostle, tells us about the fruit of the Spirit in his letter to the Galatians. He says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." This fruit is in fact the very character of God.

The fruit is contrasted with the *works of the flesh* , which are also found in Galatians chapter five. They are the deeds of the flesh and include but are not limited to the following:

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, Fornication, Uncleanness, Lasciviousness, Idolatry, Witchcraft, Hatred, Variance, Emulations, Wrath, Strife, Seditions, Heresies, Envyings, Murders, Drunkenness, Revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21

So, to see a person that has been damned by God, you will see a person that is a murderer; One who is caught up in habitual envying of others; one who allows hate to dwell in their heart, one that commits adultery against his or her spouse; one who is into sexual immorality; one who fights against peace

to create strife; one who puts idols above God and worships them; one who participates in witchcraft (The worship of Devils);

These folks are soiled, filthy, base, unchaste, sinful, corrupt and polluted. However, Paul says that this portrait, at one time, was a picture of us. We were the monsters that ruled the world in sin. See it for yourself in Paul's letters to Titus and the Colossian church.

“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.” Titus 3:3

“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:” Colossians 1:21-22

You'll remember that God created man in His own images and in His likeness. Man was, originally, created to manifest the very character or nature of God on the earth. But, with the disobedience of one man, Adam, sin entered into the human race and death came as a result of that sin...so says Paul in his letter to the Romans.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” Romans 5:12

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

Dead in Sins

Eph 2:1 ¶ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Col 2:13 ¶ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

From Death Into Life

Here's what these scriptures tell us about ourselves:

1. We were just like everyone else, dead in our sins.
2. We walked according to the lifestyle of this world, following the call of immorality.
3. We were slaves to Satan who rules the souls that are living on planet earth but dead spiritually.
4. We were children of wrath and disobedient against the will of God.
5. We talked the talk and walked the walk as people of the flesh, not the Spirit.
6. We were enemies of God, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

Aren't you glad that I said, "Were?" Paul goes on to say that Jesus reconciled us to God by His own death, as a penalty for sin. He did all of this so He could present us holy and unblameable and unreprouvable before the throne of God.

The true gospel message is that God lost His most prized possession, Mankind. He lost Adam to disobedience and self-will that actually led him to attempt to be his own god. That was the same sin that Lucifer, otherwise known as Satan, and the Devil committed.

The difference between Lucifer's sin and Adam's was Adam was deceived into believing a lie. Here's what Jesus said that later became the Divine solution. He tossed Lucifer out of heaven and into chains of darkness. God, through Jesus' death, resurrection and righteous life, restored man to his rightful place in God's kingdom. God's great Love for us was manifested in Jesus.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Why did God do such a thing?" *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."* John 3:17

How can you and I be saved and escape the wrath of God that He will pour out upon the wicked?

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” John 3:18-19

Aliens And Strangers

The Bible says we are now Aliens in this world.

The Word of God tells us that we are **aliens and strangers** in this world. This means that this world is NOT our home. We do not belong here. To understand this better let's use an example: let's say that you board a plane and land in a country foreign to you. You are alien and foreigner in that country. You don't understand the language of the people. You cannot read their newspapers. You turn on the TV but you soon have to turn it off as you do not understand anything. It is all foreign to you. You are an alien and a stranger.

If however, using the same example, you start speaking the language of the people, listen to their news, watch their TV programs, speak about what they speak and do what they do, you are no longer a stranger and an alien, but you are **integrated** to that country, you are part of it. It is the same for us as Christians.

The Word of God tells us that we are strangers and aliens to this world. We are not supposed to be conformed to this world, to share the same interests with the world, behave as the world behaves, watch what the world watch and have the same vision and interests as the world has. We are strangers and aliens here and we are not supposed to be integrated or conformed to this world (Romans 12:2) i.e. be shaped together with the world (that's what co-formed means). We are coming from another world, another home. Where is this home? Here are a couple of passages that answer this:

Philippians 3:20... **For our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,..."

Colossians 1:12-13...“He [God] has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,” The Journal of Biblical Accuracy

“The Soul That Sinneth, It Shall Die.”

I know that some folks that read this eBook will be upset. After all, who am I to say that the entire world, every person, is full of sin and headed towards eternal destruction? However, I did say it but I did not originate the idea. God sets the rules. He said it first, *“The soul who sinneth, it shall die.”* Ezekiel 18:20 I just happen to believe it, especially when Jesus backs it up. Here’s what He said.

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19

Most of the world is on that broad road that leads to destruction. The gate is wide and easily seen. The only way to enter the narrow gate is to repent (turn from your wicked ways) and receive Jesus as your savior.

Wait A Minute...I am a decent person. I try to be good, go to church occasionally, work hard and love my family, so why is God angry with me?

The measurement for which salvation is given is Holiness. We must be continually Holy, without even one blemish...no disobedience! No sin! If we miss the mark, we miss it, even if it is just by a few inches. In other words, we can never reach God’s level because He is Holy and Righteousness. We are not, no matter how good we seem to be in the eyes or the eyes of others.

***“All have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God.”***

Romans 3:23

Again Paul, in his letters to the church, makes this clear. He says...

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” ... Paul wrote in Romans 2:10, “It is written: none is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.”

Think About it...if God had looked at the human race as fixable, he would have fixed it with new laws or some easier mark to attain. But He, instead, saw mankind as totally depraved and thus concluded that there was no fixing it. He knew that mankind could not or would not ever attain Holiness on its own merits. (Remember, Holiness is moral purity) So...He deemed it all as spiritually dead so He could save it all through life, the life of Jesus.

Where is good works? Where are man’s efforts to attain moral purity? The best of the best is still short of the mark. Man is still a slave to sin. Only Jesus could redeem mankind. Listen as you read this next scripture. It will show the truth.

“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”
Romans 5:10

The death of Jesus on the cross, reconciled us unto God. However, our salvation comes by His life. Where we fail, time after time, He did not. He lived the life we were supposed to live and He dies the death we were supposed to die.

Salvation

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:9-10

It’s that simple. Confess Jesus with your mouth by making Him Lord of your life and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead...and you shall be saved. This puts you on the narrow way that leads unto eternal life. Read my other eBook on “How To Be Born Again” for all the details.

Conclusion

I think I have done a fair job of painting a portrait of the damned. Little did I know when I started this study that I would see myself and every other believer from Adam to the end of time in the portrait. Thank God I can say, it was in the past and not now. Thank God that I responded to the call, repented and received Jesus as my personal savior. How about you?

It saddens me to know that the entire world is soon to come face to face with the wrath of God. However, all peoples of the earth have the knowledge of the one true and living God and they are all subject to His judgment or grace. I am glad that I have found grace in His sight and will not suffer the terror of His wrath.

And now...it is your choice. What shall we say to these things...Believe and be saved or ignore and be damned?

Let me know what you think
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