

# We Will Be Saved From Wrath

Romans 5:9-11

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**Introduction:** With thirty days left to go before New Year's day, thoughts often run in two directions...how things went this past year and our hopes and expectations for the next. Subconsciously we hope that January 1 will somehow close the chapter on the past and it will not intrude on our hopes for the future. The problem is, of course that.....you will be the same person in 2015 that you were in 2014. To put this another way....we can escape the past, but we cannot escape ourselves.

So are you satisfied with your life or do you entertain some nagging thoughts that God may be angry with you? There are some professing believers who never worry about such things. They believe that they do not commit sin or react wrongly to the circumstances and people in their lives. John, who was a very good man warned about that thought...

**1 John 1:8** <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**1 John 1:10** <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

But accepting our shortcomings is difficult, because it means that we are spiritually in need. Even after coming to Christ by faith alone for forgiveness of our sins, we continue to struggle in this world with ourselves, our circumstances and the other humans that God has brought into our lives. And we not only struggle, but we often fail to do the right thing. We just decide not to or we determined not to sin, but find ourselves too weak spiritually or physically to keep our resolution. And so the thought..."Surely God is angry with us for these failures! He sent His Son to die for our sins and yet we continue to sin!"

To make matters worse.... God tells us that He IS angry with the world. Their hatred, the murdering, the lying and stealing and malice of men toward one another. Satan tries to blame God for these things, but God says that this is the world that men have desired. It is a world that steadfastly rejects God's explanations and instructions and even God Himself. It is a hollow complaint that the God men so reject is the one responsible for their condition. God says that He is simply honoring the expressed desire of humanity to have nothing to do with HIM

**Romans 1:21-24** <sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the *strong desires* of their hearts.

And Yes!!! God is angry about what men are doing to themselves and one another, because they were all created for a higher purpose. A joyful and fulfilling purpose. So that brings us to our text this morning. If we as believers are still sinning in thought and action and if we are still not getting along, not loving, not forgiving, if we lack joy and peace....IS GOD ANGRY WITH US? Let's begin to find the answer.

**John 3:16-18** <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is not true because God does not care any longer about your sin. It is not because He is just fed up with us. IT is because Jesus has taken the just wrath of God for you. The just anger God has over your sin was absorbed fully by Jesus on your behalf.

**1 Peter 2:24** <sup>24</sup> and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

To summarize the Book of Romans so far....Jesus has done for you what you can never do for yourself. He has taken your sin and given you His righteous standing before God. This can ONLY BE BY FAITH ALONE! Why? Well the proof of that was staring back at you in the mirror this morning. You cannot be what you are incapable of being. You and I are all sinners by nature and unable to undo our past or fully chart our future. We will always be sinners. BUT.... we can be saved sinners! Sinners who through trust in Christ have become His children and are never to be subject to His wrath.

But God describes the final judgment of the world as an outpouring of His **wrath** on evil unrepentant mankind. The unspeakable evil of men throughout history and even right now on our planet will be subject to the righteous anger of a just, loving and holy God. Have you felt any outrage over the beheadings and butchery of women and children and innocents of late? Imagine if you knew of every single event that happened because it was committed right before your watching eyes. This is why God is more angry than you are. When His just anger finally spills over, this world will be saying....

**Revelation 6:16-17** ....to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; <sup>17</sup> for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Our text this morning speaks to our opening question: "Will men and women who have placed trust in Christ for salvation, be subject to this wrath....this future end time wrath?"

**Romans 5:9-11** <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him [9]:** Paul has just described how Christ has loved you. “Having now been justified” is a verb that describes something finished, done, complete and final. It says that Christ accomplished it at the cross 2000 years ago. He did not wait for you to love Him first. Or.... made the first move, showed yourself worthy or believed the right thing and prayed the right prayer. He acted when you had no interest whatsoever in Him or in being reconciled to God.

**Romans 5:8** <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

That was the past. In the present we receive that eternal life by trusting in Christ. Those who reject this offering of Christ will have to die for their own sins and be eternally lost. But there are many believers who still fear the future judgment. Because....as we have said...we are aware of our ongoing struggles as fallen men in a fallen and broken world. So the argument takes a sharp 180 away from the past and looks straight to the future end time judgment of God.

Paul’s argument is from the greater to the lesser work of God. “If God was willing to die for you when you were totally alienated from Him and did not trust in Him at all....how much more will He protect you from His final judgment now that you are reconciled to Him. If God will save His enemy, how likely is it that he will save His Child? TOTALLY LIKELY!

The phrase, “**we shall be saved from the wrath of God**” is a future passive. Christ justified us in the past by dying on the cross AND He will save us in the future from His righteous anger.

### **THIS FUTURE WRATH OF GOD WILL COME UPON THE EARTH DURING WHAT WE CALL THE TRIBULATION.**

The Tribulation is a seven year period of time described, not only in the book of Revelation...but in the Old Testament Prophets as well. The term “The Wrath of God” occurs at least 7 times in Revelation. Satan and mankind will be angry too, but the Tribulation’s primary purpose is the unleashing of the Wrath of God against all the cumulative wickedness, evil and malice of humankind. The Tribulation is **NOT** what men go through now on earth.

**Job 5:7** <sup>7</sup> man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward.

**John 16:33** <sup>33</sup>“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

**2 Corinthians 4:17** <sup>17</sup>For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

Jesus talked about the Tribulation....Yes....Jesus believed in it and He is the primary player....Jesus described it as unlike anything that the world has ever experienced.

**Matthew 24:21** "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

It is called by several other names in Scripture, but always describes the same event.

**Amos 5:18** Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for **the day of the LORD**? That day will be darkness, not light.

**Jeremiah 30:7** <sup>7</sup> How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a **time of trouble for Jacob**, but he will be saved out of it.

**1 Thessalonians 2:16** <sup>16</sup> in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. **The wrath of God** has come upon them at last.

**Revelation 6:17** <sup>17</sup> For the **great day of their wrath** has come, and who can stand?"

**Revelation 19:15** <sup>15</sup> Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of **the wrath of God Almighty**.

It has become fashionable in our day to view the entire notion of God saving His Children from His wrath as a sort of Christian escapism or worse. I regularly meet Pastors and Christians who consider confidence to be naïve and uneducated. The thoughts of ignorant country bumpkins who have not read enough theology and who just take the Scripture at face value. They like to argue...for example....that....

- Daniel was kept in the Lion's Den
- His three friends survived the fiery furnace.
- Stephen was killed along with most of the other Apostles.

BUT...in each of these cases the **wrath of Satan** was brought to bear on those who belonged to God. In the Great Tribulation it will be the Wrath of God brought to bear on those who belong to Satan. It is the exact opposite. Many deny that The Tribulation is The Wrath of God, but Revelation certainly says differently.

**Revelation 14:9-10** <sup>9</sup> Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, <sup>10</sup> he also will drink of the wine of **the wrath of God**, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger;

**Revelation 14:19-20** <sup>19</sup> So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered *the clusters from* the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of **the wrath of God**.

**Revelation 16:1** Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of **the wrath of God**."

**Revelation 19:15** <sup>15</sup> From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of **the fierce wrath of God**, the Almighty.

**Revelation 6:16-17** <sup>6</sup> and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and **hide us** from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and **from the wrath of the Lamb**; <sup>17</sup> for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

The arguments against God's mercy for His children are sentimental. They attempt to shame believers into abandoning the Blessed Hope by pronouncing them cowards to suffer for Christ. The real truth is that...the church for 2000 years, has found Christ sufficient for any suffering that the world might persecute us with. Will the world find itself sufficient for the righteous judgment of Christ? The Hope of the Church has always been the appearing of Christ to take us to heaven.

**Titus 2:11-13** <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

#### **Consider how believers were save from God's Wrath in the past**

- Noah was taken out of harm's way by the Ark. This event was an outpouring of God's wrath upon the earth, but the righteous were spared it.

**Genesis 7:1** <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Noah, "**Come into** the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

- Lot was rescued from Sodom because God deemed him righteous. God said to him....

**Genesis 19:22** <sup>22</sup> "Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar.

- Paul stated that we were Christ's ambassadors. Everyone knows that before a war begins a country recalls its ambassadors.

**2 Corinthians 5:20** <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- In each of these instances it is the wicked who face judgment. They are the ones described by Paul:

**Romans 2:5** <sup>5</sup> But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

“With Noah it was “**come in**”; with Lot it was “**Come Out**” and with the church it will be “**Come Up**”” *Dr. Fanklin Logston*

**For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son [10a]:** Scripture repeats the claim that Christ died for us while we were still His enemies. Thus....proving His unconditional love for you before you showed any honor or love for Him. Your salvation is totally apart from any good things you have done. It is done out of love the same way as a human father does everything for his infant children. It is out of love!

**Much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life [10b]:** How likely do you think it is that God would now turn on His own children? If He loved His enemies, does it seem likely that He will withdraw that love from His children? UNTHINKABLE!

Now Christ and His Church are inextricably linked. What happens to one happens to the other. This is called union with Christ. When you hate the church you hate Christ and when you love the church you love Him. Just consider Saul.... By Persecuting The Church, he became guilty of persecuting Christ Himself. Touching the Church means touching Christ. She is His Body and His Bride.

**Acts 9:4-6** <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup>"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. <sup>6</sup>"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied

**Matthew 25:40** <sup>40</sup>"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

**Ephesians 5:30** <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body.

How likely do you think it is that God will pour out His wrath on Christ again, having done it once at the Cross? Again....It is impossible!

**Hebrews 10:10-12** <sup>11</sup> Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

**The Bible pointedly says that we will be rescued from God's coming wrath.**

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10** They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

We have an appointment with salvation NOT wrath!

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** <sup>9</sup>For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The righteous Philadelphian Church was promised deliverance from wrath!

**Revelation 3:10** .... I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

The Day of the Lord [The Tribulation] is a time of deep darkness with no light. But, The Church is light.... not darkness!

**Amos 5:18**

<sup>18</sup> Woe to you who long  
for the **day of the LORD!**  
Why do you long for the **day of the LORD?**  
That day will be darkness, not light.

BUT....The Church is the Light of the World! The Tribulation cannot be a place of spiritual darkness if the light of the World is there.

**Matthew 5:14** <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

**Matthew 5:16** <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

**Ephesians 5:8** <sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

**1 Thessalonians 5:5** <sup>5</sup>You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

**Romans 5:11** <sup>11</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**CONCLUSION:** He saved us when we were His enemies and not after we became His friends. You can therefore rest assured that now that He has made you His child He will save you from all harm and future judgment. Jesus has taken the judgment of His Children on Himself that they may live and rejoice. This does not require you to be perfect and without sin or flaw. Its only requirement is to put your trust in Him to Save You.

This is what Paul means when he says "We also exult in God!" Not only are we saved by Christ's love at the Cross, we are kept daily by His Holy Spirit in the world and we WILL BE SAVED from the wrath that He will certainly pour out on the whole malicious, man hating and god hating earth. As Paul said to the Thessalonian church....

**2 Thessalonians 2:13-17** <sup>13</sup> ....we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. <sup>14</sup> It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us. <sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, <sup>17</sup> comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.