

# San Juan Church of Christ

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## What does God's Word Say About...

### Wrath of God

Students of the Bible properly observe that the Old Testament frequently makes reference to God's wrath. However, these same students of God's word will teach that the New Testament speaks only of God's love (1 John 4:8), grace (1 Peter 5:10), patience (2 Peter 3:9), comfort (2 Cor. 1:3), and hope (Romans 15:13). The truth is, the Old Testament also points to God's love (Deut. 7:7-8).

There are also many verses in the New Testament that have reference to God's wrath. So, both testaments refer to aspects of God's nature, or character: love and wrath. The scripture that most believers memorize is "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). But they tend to forget that in the same chapter of the gospel of John the apostle writes, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). It is also written, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). According to this verse, man is condemned because the truth of God's word was given to him and he rejected the truth.

When speaking to fellow Christians who are in Christ, Paul wrote that "you formally walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh, and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest" (Eph. 2: 2-3). Also speaking to those in Christ, Paul wrote, "consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience" (Col. 3:5-6). Do you notice that those who will experience God's wrath are defined as "the sons of disobedience"?

When Paul spoke of God's love and grace to those who are in Christ, he told the believers to not "think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance. But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance and doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not OBEY THE TRUTH, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation" (Romans 2:4-8). The previous verses speak of God's wrath to those who are disobedient to His word on the day of judgment which will occur at Christ's return.

For those who are "sons of disobedience" there will be during one's lifetime, "tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil...but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good" (Romans 2:9-10). If we want peace and joy in this life, then be obedient to the commandments of God as we live out God's purpose in our life. Jesus said, "The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
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