

## **GOD HAS A VIOLENT SIDE CALLED "WRATH"**

**Romans 1:18-32**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**INTRODUCTION:** Everybody has a good side, a bad side and an in between "side." So does God. The Bible has much to say about the "anger," violent side of God and that side is called the "wrath of God." Why in the world would a God who is so loving and patient ever display a temper, anger, wrath? God has shown His wrath already as revealed in the Bible. Just what does it take to get God angry enough to become wrathful?

### **I. WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO CAUSE GOD TO SHOW HIS WRATH?**

1. When people stifle or quench God's revealed truth:
  - When people suppress the truth in doing unrighteousness - Romans 1:18
    - By rejecting what is true.
    - By justifying what is wrong, ungodly and unrighteous
  - When people ignore, spurn what God has revealed - Romans 1:19-20
    - Such as things about God that are revealed in people themselves.
      - Intelligence, personality, which came from God.
      - The sense of rightness, pointing to a righteous God.
    - Things about God that are clearly revealed in the creation all around people - Psalm 19:1-2
      - Invisible things of God that are seen and understood by visible things.
      - The design and order of the universe point to the eternal power and deity of God.
  - When people fail to listen to the beauty and design of the universe that shouts out that "God exists" God is ANGRY.
  
2. When people are ungrateful and foolish:
  - By not being thankful to God - Romans 1:21
    - Even though people know Him.
    - Know God, yet fail to glorify Him as God.
  - By becoming vain in their thoughts and foolish in their hearts - Romans 1:21-23
    - Not glorifying God causes one to become vain and foolish.
    - This leads to idolatry, worshipping things of the creation instead of God who created all.
      - Making God into their own image.
      - Making God into the image of things.
    - People make up their own idols :
      - They worship their own selves.
      - They worship wealth, money, etc.
  - When people cease to be thankful to God and turn to created things other than Him, YES, God is angry!

### **II. HOW GOD SHOWS HIS WRATH**

1. God gives people up to moral uncleanness:
  - God "gave them up" - Romans 1:24a
    - Not any fire coming down from heaven.
    - But by simply leaving people to their own desires.
  - God gave them up to their moral uncleanness - Romans 1:24b
    - The lusts of their wicked hearts - Mark 7:21-23
    - To dishonoring their bodies among themselves.

- People do such things because they exchange the truth of God for lies - Romans 1:25
    - They worship and serve that which is created rather than He who is the Creator and worthy to be blessed forever.
2. God gives people up to their vile passions:
    - God "gave them up" - Romans 1:26a
      - No lightening from heaven striking people down.
      - By simply leaving people to their vile passions.
    - Homosexuality - Romans 1:26 - 27
      - Women exchanging the natural use for what is against nature.
      - Using their bodies in ways that do not reproduce as created to do.
      - Men leaving the natural use of women (reproduction) - 1 Corinthians 7:2
      - Men burning in lust for one another, committing with each other what is shameful.
      - Receiving the penalty one day of their wrong which is due - (disease, etc..)
  3. God gives people up to debased minds and unrighteousness:
    - God "gave them over" - Romans 1:28
      - Because they do not like to retain (think about) God in their knowledge.
      - God gives people up over to a debased mind, to do things not appropriate or fitting.
    - Being "given up" causes one to be filled with all sort of unrighteousness - Romans 1:29-31
      - Wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness
      - Envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness
      - Whisperers, backbiters, haters of God
      - Violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents
      - Undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving unmerciful.
    - These people know the righteous judgment of God and that they are deserving of death - Romans 1:32
      - Yet they still do such things.
      - They even approve others who do such things.

## CONCLUSION:

1. God's wrath is revealed today by simply allowing people to go their own way.
  - Following the desires of their heart.
  - Following the passions of their lusts.
  - Stumbling in blind ignorance to increasing degrees of depravity - Ephesians 4:17-29
2. God's mercy is revealed today as always to those who are willing to turn back to Him.
  - Those willing to recognise His revelation:
    - That has been given through Creation
    - that has been given through His Son, Jesus - 1 John 4:9-10
  - Those willing to be thankful to Him.
    - With an attitude of gratitude - Colossians 1:12; ;2:7; 3:15-17; r:2
    - Showing gratitude through repentance - Romans 2:4
3. How do YOU show your thankfulness to God?