

September 22/23, 2012

## **The Gospel Story**

*A Study of Romans*

**God's Wrath**

Romans 1:18-32

Pastor Bryan Clark

### **Opening Discussion**

1. What are some ways Christians today are seeking to help God with His image by recreating Him in their own image? Why do they do this?
2. Is it possible to truly love others and not be moved to anger when those people are abused and hurt in some way? Explain.
3. Why do you believe people in the United States are so receptive to the idea that a God of love could not be a God of wrath? How might people in the Middle East see this debate?

### **Bible Study**

1. Review Romans 1:16, 17. What about the righteousness of God is revealed through the Gospel Story? What are the two sides of the coin?
2. Read Romans 1:18-23. Does God have wrath according to this text? Is this describing an uncontrollable rage or an anger that leads to judgment and justice?
3. What is God angry about according to this text? How do you see this text fleshing out in today's modern culture?
4. Read Romans 1:24-25. Why does God identify sexual sin (impurity) as the result of worshipping the creature rather than the Creator? Why this particular sin?

5. Read Romans 1:26-28. Following the train of thought from question # 4, why does Paul then narrow the sexual sin to homosexuality? What is the symbolism reflecting the bigger picture of his argument?
6. The homosexual activists have a very effective marketing machine that labels everyone who disagrees with them as people who are hateful and fearful and discriminatory. How would you define the real issue as to why Bible-believing Christians disagree with the homosexual lifestyle? How is this real issue symbolic of the bigger issue at play here?
7. Read Romans 1:28-32. These 21 vices are simply a list of the consequences of our choice to worship the creature rather than the Creator. You could say this list of vices (there are many more of course) are the judgment coming from the wrath of God. What does the phrase “God gave them over” mean (v. 24, 26, 28)? How might this “hell” on earth be a picture of the eternal judgment to come? Compare this with 2 Thes. 1:9. If this is true, what would be the likelihood that these same people would beg for God’s mercy or respond to God’s love after death?

## **Application**

1. The next time someone tries to explain away the wrath of God how might this text help you respond in a way that he/she might listen?
2. According to this text what is your greatest temptation? How can you avoid slipping into this trap?
3. How should we view those experiencing the consequences of their choices? Is one sin worse than another? Should we overlook some and condemn others? Discuss the right approach to those who are confused and lost in their own sin.