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3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL

005 - Thursday - January 30, 2025

SHOW COMPASSION

**The love of God could not be pure in favor of the sinner
unless his wrath is pure against sin.**

God's wrath is God's righteous anger and judgment against sin. It's a response to sin that's in line with God's holiness and divine attributes. Here are some ways that God's wrath is described in the Bible.

Ezekiel 18.32 NKJV “(18.32) For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!””

Isaiah 28.21 KJV “For the LORD shall rise up as *in* mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as *in* the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.”

1. **A reaction to sin** - God's wrath is a reaction to sin, which is the rejection of God. God's wrath is a way of highlighting the incompatibility between God and sin.
2. **A consequence of human sin** - God's wrath is the consequence of human sinfulness. God allows sin to work its course and bring its own condemnation
3. **A holy action** - God's wrath is a holy action of retributive justice towards those who deserve eternal condemnation.
4. **A response from heaven** - God's wrath comes from heaven, from God's essential nature and existence.

While divine wrath is a “terrible” act, it is by no means immoral or unloving. On the contrary, in the Old and New Testaments, God expresses wrath against evil because of His love. Human wrath is terrible because it stems from a corruptible nature, in contrast to the pure goodness and splendor of God.

- God’s **love is essential to God**;
- God’s wrath is imperative.
- Where there is no evil or injustice, there is no wrath.
- In the end, God’s most loving act of eradicating evil from the universe also permanently eliminate anger and wrath.

Some worry that divine anger might unintentionally be taken as giving license to human vengeance.

How do these texts guard against human vengeance?

1. Deuteronomy 32:35 (NKJV) “Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.”

Divine Vengeance teaches us not to make vengeance our aim.

Divine Vengeance gives the offender an opportunity to repent and be saved.

Divine Vengeance does not rush to judgment and does not thirst to inflict injury.

2. Proverbs 20:22 (NKJV) “Do not say, “I will recompense evil”; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.”

- Solomon reveals how wisdom protects us from responding negatively of evil.
- A negative response to evil impacts the development of a godly character.
- When we understand the true, destructive, nature of evil, we will remain in right paths.
- We will stay on course, keeping to the way of reality.

Romans 12:21 (NKJV) “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

3. Proverbs 24:29 (NKJV) “Do not say, “I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.”

- A righteous response to an evil act testifies of our connection to Christ.
- Reciprocity applies to all, we can truncate it by avoiding its cycle.
- Allow the works of the wicked only to impact them, don't let it impact us.

Romans 12:20 (NKJV) “Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.””

Treating your adversary as Jesus would, deflates their desire to overcome good with evil.

Matthew 7:2 (NKJV) “For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Example of Elisha and the Syrian Army:

2 Kings 6:22-23 (NKJV) “(22) But he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” (23) Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.”

The example of Elisha to the Syrian Army was highlighted by the apostle Paul:

4. Romans 12:17-21 (NKJV) “(Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. (18) If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. (19) Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. (20) Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” (21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

- The manner in which we respond to evil actions either release or prevent God's blessings on our lives.

Luke 6:27-28 (NKJV) "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, (28) bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."

Luke 6:32-33 (NKJV) "(32) 'But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. (33) And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.'

- Christians should maintain a higher standard in moments of threat and adversity. This is what distinguishes us from those of the world.

1 John 3:14 (NKJV) "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death."

5. Hebrews 10:30 (NKJV) "For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,'" says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people."

Vengeance was the concern of martyrs. It appeared that God was unconcerned with their well-being and supportive of their enemies—by a non-response, but such is not the case.

Revelation 6:9-11 (NKJV) "(9) When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. (10) And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?' (11) Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."

Even in these moments, do not say, "God will get you for the way you treated me."

