

The Results of God's Wrath Romans 1:24-32

Slide 1

We have been looking and examining the wrath of God. As noted, few people in the world have any real fear of God or His wrath.

But we know that God's wrath has an end time or es-cha-to-logical element and present reality. We understand the punishment at the end times.

Revelation 20:15, *"Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire."*

The torment there is everlasting. In fact, the Bible indicates that there are degrees of punishment.

Those that knowingly sin; those who fully know and deliberately transgress a holy God will receive the greater condemnation.

God has made His presence known to all men, so all men are without excuse. Romans 1:20, *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."*

John, in his gospel, clearly states that men deliberately choose darkness over the light. John 3:19, *"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."*

But there's also a present reality to God's wrath. So, how does God display his wrath now? What are the present "Results of God's Wrath?"

Slide 2

We can make a good argument about natural disasters and God allowing terrorist attacks to punish, but in today's passage we find what God does do. And that is... He gives people just what they ask for.

Three times, in Romans 1:24–32, we read “*God gave them over.*” The Greek word used here is *paradidómi* (par-ad-id'-o-mee) which means “*to hand over, to give or deliver over, or surrender something to an authority.*”

This is the same word used when Jesus was delivered to the Romans for crucifixion. It has a real sense of being abandoned.

In this passage, this word is in an active tense meaning that God actively does this. It's not a passive action on His part.

He delivers people over for destruction to the sin of their own choosing. There is a cause and effect action here.

Romans 1:28b, “*God gave them over to a depraved mind...*” Man rejected God's wisdom, so God let them have the fool's wisdom of Psalm 14:1, “*The fool says in his heart, There is no God.*”

Do you understand the implications of God giving someone over? When God abandons a soul, that person is dead while he lives. Is there a chance that he can come back to God? The short answer is no.

The fact is none of us can come to God unless God first reveals Himself to us. Even Jesus said we can't be drawn to Him unless God draws us. John 6:44, “*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.*”

The problem is that nothing in scripture indicates that this drawing to Jesus, this revelation of God revealing Himself to each individual, is opened ended.

God gave man a free will and God honors the choices that are made.

A person who rejects the revelation of God, and resists the draw of God to Jesus, runs the risk of God abandoning them to the choice he/she has made. The fact is that death-bed conversions are rare.

Most people have made that choice long before they reach the point of death. At some point God will give over those who actively suppress God's truth.

To the one God gives over, they're completely unaware of what has taken place. There's no longer any desire or even the curiosity to seek after God. For all practical purposes, God no longer exists to that person.

Does that mean there's no hope for them? I don't know, only God knows, but His word said that He has abandoned them.

God hasn't given me the discernment to know who He's given over, so my preaching and witnessing is to all.

Slide 3

But we do have some indicators. In a real sense, the results of God's condemnation on rebellious humanity are nothing more than the natural consequences of suppressing truth, ignoring revelation, and perverting God's glory.

However, God does more than simply let nature take its course. God abandons people to expressions of a corrupt lifestyle that deserve God's wrath and the sentence of death.

Romans 1:32, "*Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*"

I've met people who've bragged about going hell. In this life they know they deserve death, and many flaunt it. And, as they sin, they're storing up wrath.

Romans 2:5, *"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."*

Let's examine to what God is giving over to those who have rejected Him. Romans 1:24, *"Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another."*

Why did God give them over? Because they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image of themselves and their desires. God gave them over to the uncleanness they themselves desired.

Moral degradation is a consequence of God's wrath not the reason for it. Sin inevitably creates its own penalty. One is punished by the very thing by which he sins.

Through the psalmist God declared in Psalm 81:11-12, *"But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices."* Divine judgment is God permitting people to go their own way.

Romans 1:25, *"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised."*

Man worships or gives worth to things, including himself, that is undeserving of worship rather than to God who deserves all worship.

They exchanged the truth of God for the lie. What lie is that? It all began in the garden where Eve was deceived by the serpent who told

her in Genesis 3:5, *“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

Man has the desire to be a god, a master of his own destiny. The lie is that we can exist independent of God. Our culture has bought into that lie hook, line, and sinker.

The collective mind of our society claims to know right from wrong apart from God. The words of God, the Bible, is considered antiquated and out of touch with today’s world.

Such out of date notions like sex only within the confines of marriage or the marriage of one man to one woman reflects an out of step ideals. What does God know? *“I can choose any gender I want to be.”*

The world around us considers themselves “enlightened” but the word of God says they’re in darkness. Now understand, people who’ve been given over aren’t necessarily un-religious.

Some are very religious, however they’re completely un-godly in that they do what is right in their own eyes. That was the problem with Israel in the Old Testament in the days of the Judges.

Judges 21:25, *“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”* They didn’t see or know what was right in the eyes of God, but they called the shots. They did what was selfish and self-advancing.

Romans 1:26–27, *“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.”*

These verses are some of the clearest condemnations of homosexuality in the New Testament. Paul clearly calls it unnatural.

Even a casual look at homosexuality shows it is against nature. I've heard it argued that homosexuality is a sign that God has given them over. This may very well be true, but God also has rescued people from that sin.

Paul verifies this in his letter to the those living in Corinth. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11, *“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*

Slide 4

The power of God can rescue souls from the clutches of immorality, pornography, homosexuality, gender confusion, alcoholism and drug addiction.

But here's the problem in today's world: some don't wish to be rescued.

Romans 1:28, *“Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.”*

God giving one over is a progressive action. The more one puts out of their mind the things of God, the easier it is to deviate from God's standards to do those things that are not fitting.

Their minds become corrupt or as some translations put it, “*depraved*.” This word translated from the Greek means worthless, or a mind incapable of making sound and moral judgments, or a mind that is morally reprehensible.

But what things are not fitting? Romans 1:29–31, “*They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.*”

Look around you. We don’t have time to examine each one of these reprehensible traits, but they’re on display in the world around us. Scripture tells us in the later times, there will be a great falling away.

It’s happening to whole Christian denominations, but it’s also happening to our entire culture, which was, at one time, based on Christianity. Today, our culture is anything but Christian.

1 Timothy 4:1–2, “*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*”

We see whole political parties whose conscience is seared with a hot iron. No conscience is a sure sign of God giving one over.

One can only cringe at the “wrath of God” that awaits those public officials in government office who, by passing legislation which not only doesn’t restrain evil but in fact encourages it, have made it possible for millions to yield to the temptation to sin.

It’s true that many who are weak in conviction, conscience, and caring, will not sin when they think that public sentiment is against them.

But remove the restraints of moral imperatives, and sin multiplies. One of the responsibilities of leadership is to encourage righteousness thereby restraining sin.

Jesus tells us that His coming will be like the days of Noah. Genesis 6:5, *“The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.”*

That’s the day in which we now live. It would appear that God has given over whole groups of people. But here is the clincher. These people who do wrong also encourage others to do likewise.

Our Justice system, with worldly judges and worldly law makers, is forcing people to accept ungodly issues.

Romans 1:32, *“Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”*

Can you see why Judgment Day will be such a fearful day for the world? *They are without excuse.*

Slide 5

Conclusion

We have the means of escape from the judgment and wrath of God which is coming. We have Jesus. Jesus became sin for us and endured the God’s wrath on the cross in our place.

You might see yourself characterized by some of these ungodly traits and sins we’ve covered this morning. You might be wondering if God has given you over; if it’s too late to turn to Him.

I want to insure you, that if you are having such thoughts it's not too late. Those thoughts are the moving of the Holy Spirit, of God drawing you to Jesus.

It is not too late... yet. Don't stiff arm the Spirit but allow the Spirit to do His work in your life. 2 Corinthians 6:2b, *"I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."*

If God hasn't given you over, He's delaying for your sake. Understand what's in the heart of God. 2 Peter 3:9b, *"Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*

You may be black from sin, but the blood of Jesus can make you whiter than snow.