

## GOD'S LOVE AND WRATH MEET AT THE CROSS (15)

Parents have the responsibility to punish their children when they are rebellious. When the parents neglect this responsibility the future happiness of the entire family is in jeopardy. Government is responsible for punishing criminals. If a government fails to punish evil the culture will soon be in turmoil and confusion. God, the creator and king of the universe, is the ultimate authority in charge of punishing evil and rewarding good. He loves those he created, but to remain just and righteous he must punish sin.

What is sin? Sin is the "transgression (disobedience) of law" (1 John 3:4). Sin is basically rebellion against God. It is lawlessness. "He that practices sin is of the devil" (1 John 3:8). "He who practices sin has not seen God, neither known him" (1 John 3:6). Therefore, sin means enmity and rebellion towards God and agreement and submission to Satan. Sin is ungodliness and the sinner is ungodly. "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful mind cannot please God" (Romans 8:7-8). Sin is more than simply disobedience, it is opposition to God himself. It is **PERSONAL**, because sin reflects against God and the creation he made. God hates sin because it is antagonistic to him and his loving purpose for us. Man was not made for sin and the devil, but for God and righteousness. This is why sin curses and never blesses man. Sin produces condemnation, guilt, anarchy, unhappiness, and broken relationships. This is why sin separates from God. He can have no fellowship with sin or the sinner.

*"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). The first couple (Adam and Eve) was plainly told by God that on the day they disobeyed "they would surely die" (Genesis 2:17).*

*"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life" (Gal 6:7-8).*

*"Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. (15) Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, GIVES BIRTH TO DEATH." (James 1:14-15)*

Therefore, WE SEE THE NEED FOR SALVATION OR REDEMPTION! God cannot change, he must punish sin. Death is demanded by man's rebellion. However, God continues to love us even when we all stand under judgment and condemnation.

*"Righteousness and JUSTICE are the foundation of your throne; LOVE and faithfulness go before you. (Psalms 89:14)*

Since God is a just and righteous judge, he cannot overlook man's sin. If a judge has a guilty criminal before his court, to be just, he must punish the criminal. Justice demands that sin and crime be punished. This is why every man is under a death sentence. We die physically because we are a descendant of Adam and we no longer have access to the tree of life that was in the

garden (Genesis 2). We also die in that our sins have separated us from God. Paul said, "you were dead in your trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).

## **GOD // SIN // MAN**

Separation from God is death. Every sinner without God in this world is also excluded from God's family, his blessings, and his inheritance. Every sinner is lost, without hope, and unable to do anything about it! However, PRAISE GOD for God still loves us and was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to satisfy the justice, anger, and wrath which we deserve.

Romans 5:6-9

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. (7) Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. (8) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!*

**NOTE:** Please save this lesson as you might want to refer to it again before reading lesson 16.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who is the ultimate authority to punish evil in this world?
2. The wages or punishment for sin is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Sin, when it is full grown gives birth to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. "\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the foundation of God's throne, \_\_\_\_\_ and faithfulness go before you" (Psalms 89:14).
5. Why can't God just overlook man's sin?