

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

THE WRATH OF GOD

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."

In a survey conducted by the George Barna group, over 2/3 of those surveyed believed they are going to heaven. Less than one-half of one per cent believed they are going to hell. In a PEW poll, 39% said they believed that those who do not believe in God will go to heaven. 27% said they don't believe there is a heaven.

In another PEW poll of more than 4,700 U.S. adults, **one-third** of the respondents say they do not believe in the God of the Bible, but that they do believe there is some higher power or spiritual force in the universe. A slim majority of Americans (56%) say they believe in God "as described in the Bible."

Those who deny God or reject His revelation of Himself through the writings of Holy Scripture are without excuse. (Romans 1:20) They will be held accountable for their rejection of Him. John 3:17-18 says, "Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." Jesus says, ". . . whoever rejects me rejects Him who sent Me." (Luke 10:17)

Those who deny and reject God's existence and want nothing to do with His Son Jesus are "storing up God's wrath against them." (Romans 2:5) Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction. . . "

God is patient with sinners as Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 3:20, "God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built." But, after 120 years of His patience, Yahweh sent the flood and all were destroyed save the eight, Noah and his family.

Jesus took God's judgment against unrepentant sinners on Calvary's cross. This includes the times you have been impenitent. God calls you to repentance not wanting to unleash His wrath against you. His desire is to forgive you all your sins. The promise of the Gospel is, "He who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ shall not perish but receive everlasting life."

Prayer: God, spare me from Your wrath by sending Your Spirit into my heart to draw me to Jesus, my Savior, my Redeemer and my Good Shepherd. Amen

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious! Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
Death hath now no power o'er us, Thou has conquered in the strife.
Thanks because Thou didst arise And hast opened paradise!
None can fully sing the glory Of the resurrection story.

Thou hast for my transgression, All my sins on Thee were laid;
Thou hast won for me salvation, On the cross my debt was paid.
From the grave I shall arise And shall meet Thee in the skies.
Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.

For the joy advent gave me, For Thy holy, precious Word;
For Thy Baptism, which doth save me, For Thy blest Communion board;
For Thy death, the bitter scorn, For Thy resurrection morn,
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, And in heav'n I shall behold Thee.
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