It Is Written

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Escape The Wrath Of God

By Richard Thetford

The apostle Paul writes that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). We know from this passage of scripture that God's wrath will be manifested because it is revealed from heaven. It is not manifested now because He has appointed a day in which this will happen. God is waiting for all men to repent and turn to Him. "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God" (Romans 2:4-5). God's wrath will be manifested in the judgment.

The Recipients of God's Wrath

Individuals who do not believe in Jesus Christ will certainly suffer the wrath of God. In John 3:36 we find these words, "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." In the opening text of scripture, we learn that the unrighteous, ungodly and those who hinder the truth will suffer God's wrath. Ephesians 5:5-6 tells us that the unclean, fornicators, and the covetous will suffer the wrath of God. In addition to these things, we also know that those who have evil desires will experience the wrath of God (Colossians 3:5-6).

How Can We Escape God's Wrath?

We know that it is only through Jesus Christ that we will be able to escape the terrible wrath of God. It says in 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come." We have to be justified before God in able to stand before Him (Romans 5:9; Revelation 6:17). When we believe in Christ, repent of our sins, confess Him as being the Son of God, and are baptized into Christ then we can begin our walk in His righteousness. We must then dedicate ourselves to His service, being faithful to Him every day that we live, making sure that we flee from the wrath to come (Revelation 2:10; Matthew 3:7).

Salvation: Conditional and Confident

By Joe R. Price

The Bible teaches that salvation is conditional. "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9). "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may" (Acts 8:36-37).

The Bible also teaches that the Christian's continued fellowship with God is conditional: "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"

(1 John 1:7-9). "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 1:10-11).

Some believe that conditional salvation undermines the Christian's hope. They say that conditions (like the ones we noted above) imply uncertainty or doubt about one's salvation. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, when we meet God's conditions, we are supremely confident that God grants the blessing(s) He has promised. It also follows that if we do not meet God's conditions, we cannot expect His blessings. We dare not hold out a false hope for ourselves or others. Faith in God does not neglect what He commands and then say, "God's grace is greater than sin; therefore, I am saved regardless of whether I meet Bible-revealed conditions for salvation." The apostle responds: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Rom. 6:1-2).

The conditional nature of salvation and having confidence in our salvation do not conflict. The apostle John wrote 1 John to assure Christians of their salvation in Christ Jesus: "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13). The Christian's confidence of fellowship with God and eternal life in the Son rests in these God-given conditions: Walking in the light (1 John 1:7), keeping His commands (1 John 2:3), abiding in Christ by practicing righteousness (1 John 2:28-29, 3:7-10), and loving our brethren (1 John 3:16-19; 4:7-11, 16).

False doctrine says you can know God without keeping His commandments. But God says, "He who says, I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him" (1 John 2:4-5). John confidently wrote that "we know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (1 John 5:19). Such confidence comes from faith that does the will of God (1 John 2:17; James 1:22).

The Lord's family is confident of salvation by faithfully doing the Father's will: "Whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end . . . For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end" (Heb. 3:6, 14). Our confidence in salvation is secure when we meet His condition to obey Him in faith.

Did Christ Die In Vain?

By David McPherson

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isa. 53:7). Isaiah described the events leading up to the death of Christ. In obedience to the Father, Jesus willingly stretched out his hands and died on the cross for our sins. But was his death in vain?

For those who refuse to obey the gospel, they are saying, "Lord, we don't care what you did." "Jesus, so what if you loved me and gave your life for me?" Those who stubbornly reject the gospel of Christ are saying by their actions that the death of Christ was in vain.

If this is true of you, then consider that one day the Lord will return "in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thes. 1:8). Appreciate what the Lord has done for you. Recognize your need for the blood of Christ. Obey the gospel! Don't let Christ's death be in vain.