

Escape from wrath? What in the world are you talking about?

I'm talking about whether you have what it takes to escape being counted worthy of receiving wrath and eternal damnation from God. And you most definitely do need to have an escape because God's wrath is not only real, but you will face it either when you die or when God stops being longsuffering with this world. In fact God has already declared to you that His wrath is against you, just as the Apostle Paul says:

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; (Romans 1:18)

As Paul states, God is making it known that His wrath is "against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." However for the time being God is actually holding off His "day of wrath," and He is telling men that they both deserve His wrath and that they will eventually receive it.

Now you yourself will eventually receive God's wrath, either when you die or when God stops being longsuffering with this world. This is because you yourself fully qualify to receive it. As Paul says, God's wrath is revealed "against all ungodliness and unrighteousness

of men," and that includes you. If you are honest with yourself you know perfectly well that by nature you are not godly or righteous. And just to make sure that you do know this, God has Paul further describe man's state as, ...

²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

³¹ Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. (Romans 1:29-32)

Bad News

As you can clearly see, you do qualify for receiving God's wrath. You are part of this ungodly world and you know that you "commit such things." And this is just what God wants you to realize, as well as what you need to realize.

But now, what are you going to do? How are you going to escape the wrath that is eventually going to come upon you? Time is run-

ning out, you know. Eventually you are going to die, and maybe sooner than you think. Or God may end His longsuffering with this world at any time. And then it will be too late for you.

More Bad News

Right now this doesn't sound like very good news. And indeed it isn't. And to make matters worse, there isn't any way for you to escape God's wrath on your own. There isn't anything you yourself can do to make up for your sins or to make yourself righteous in God's sight. It's impossible for you or anyone to appease God's Justice by any works, religious rites, or ceremonies of any kind.

But thanks be to God there is good news. For God Himself has provided a way for you to escape His wrath. And best of all, God offers it to you as an absolutely free gift. However the choice is up to you whether or not you accept God's escape.

The Escape

Romans 3:24-26 sets forth how that God Himself has provided the way of escape for you through what His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, did for you when He died in your place upon the cross of Calvary.

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

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²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

²⁵ Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

²⁶ To declare, / *say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. (Romans 3:24-26)

When the Lord Jesus Christ died upon the cross of Calvary, He did so to provide *redemption* for us. *Redemption* is the issue of one person paying the price for someone else in order to release him from a predicament that he is in. And this is just what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. He took the debt and penalty of our ungodliness, unrighteousness, and sins, upon Himself and suffered in our place the judgment of God's wrath against our sin. And this He did to fully provide for us to be released from the predicament of being worthy of God's wrath.

In so doing the Lord Jesus Christ not only fully satisfied God's Justice concerning our sins, but being raised from the dead He also made it so that God could completely forgive us our sins and justify us, or declare us righteous, in His sight. And this is exactly what we need so we can have "peace with God" and escape receiving His wrath.

Are You Going To Escape?

Now the question remains, Are you going to avail yourself of the escape from wrath that God has graciously provided for you? Or are you going to ignore, or refuse God's offer and stand in jeopardy of receiving His wrath? Again, the choice is up to you.

The only condition that God has placed upon forgiving you your sins and justifying you in His sight, is that you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your all-sufficient Savior. As the Apostle Paul declares, God is "*just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*"

When you believe in someone, you depend upon him and his ability to do something for you that you cannot do for yourself. And this is just what it means to "*believe in Jesus.*" Instead of depending in any way upon yourself or your own works to save you, you choose to depend completely upon the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ as all that you need for your salvation from God's wrath.

Have you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ? If not, why not do so right now and escape the wrath of God? Then the following will be true of you: "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*" (Romans 5:1)

— K.R. Blades

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