

# Six Truths About God's Wrath

by John Piper

---

*This sermon emphasizes the greatest peril facing every person is the righteous wrath of God against guilty sinners, leading to everlasting suffering unless rescued by God. While global suffering like poverty and war is tragic but temporary, the wrath of God is eternal and present, already being revealed against ungodliness. The wrath of God is coming in final judgment, owing to our sin that exchanges God's glory for man's, and it is righteous and solely God's prerogative, not ours.*

**Scripture:** Romans 2:6, 2 Thessalonians 1:8, Romans 1:18, Romans 3:23, Romans 12:19

**Topics:** "God's Wrath", "Salvation from Sin"

---

## Description

This sermon emphasizes the greatest peril facing every person is the righteous wrath of God against guilty sinners, leading to everlasting suffering unless rescued by God. While global suffering like poverty and war is tragic but temporary, the wrath of God is eternal and present, already being revealed against ungodliness. The wrath of God is coming in final judgment, owing to our sin that exchanges God's glory for man's, and it is righteous and solely God's prerogative, not ours.

---

## Transcript

The greatest peril facing every person in every ethnic group in every place on earth and at every time in history is the righteous wrath of God against guilty sinners leading to everlasting suffering unless God Himself rescues us from His own judgment. Poverty, hunger, disease, war, crime, climate change, addictions, homelessness, ignorance, sex trafficking, these bring great global suffering. And they pale in comparison to the peril of being under the wrath of God.

They are all tragic, but they are all temporary. They may last a lifetime, but the wrath of God lasts forever. For one of the pillar convictions of this conference, and I said it on the panel, Christians, I hope this is true of you, Christians care about all suffering.

Christians care, feel, care, and act care about all suffering, especially eternal suffering. How many texts have I got on this? Six? Let me say six things about the wrath of God. Five or six.

One, the wrath of God is terrible and eternal. Romans 2, 6 to 8, To those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, God will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

Eternal life, wrath and fury, and the fact that wrath and fury are contrasted with eternal life at least implies this is eternal wrath and fury. It's confirmed in 2 Thessalonians 1, 8, and 9. The Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might.

So my first point about the wrath of God is that it is terrible, I get that from the word fury, and it is eternal as 2 Thessalonians 1, 9 says. Number two, the wrath of God is present. It has already begun.

Romans 1, 18, The wrath of God is revealed, is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. Romans 1, 18. In America today, it would not be wrong to say that we are collapsing morally at every level of society and ripening for judgment.

That would be a true statement, I believe. It's just misleading because the collapse is judgment. And if you want to read how that works, I'm not going to read it.

Just read the rest of Romans 1 and you will see what Paul means by the present activity of the wrath of God giving men over to their sin. So think about America's judgment in two ways. One, we're under the wrath of God.

It's being poured out everywhere. And two, it's coming. Now, don't hear me as saying revival is not possible.

Oh, you have no idea what God is capable of doing and I don't want any of you to say, Bring it on, Lord! Wrath! You do not want. The judgment of God begins with the household of God. 1 Peter 4, and you don't want to taste it as a believer even.

The righteous are scarcely saved. You pray for revival. You pray for awakening.

You pray for healthy churches and strong witness. You pray for amazing things to happen in the church of Christ. That's number two, it is present.

Number three, the wrath of God is coming, is coming in final judgment. Chapter 2, verse 5. Because of your hard and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. So it's both and.

It's present, and God's giving people over to their licentiousness, their sin, their bondage to evil, and he is saying they are storing up more wrath as he gives them up to wrath. Fourth, the wrath of God is owing to our sin which exchanges the glory of God for the glory of man. Three texts put together here.

Romans 3.23, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. What does that mean? Romans 1.23, they exchange the glory of God for the glory of the immortal God for images. Romans 3.9, all are under sin.

None is righteous. No, not one. Therefore, 3.19, every mouth is stopped, meaning nobody can fault God rightly for his wrath.

It is totally warranted. It is totally just. It is totally righteous because of how serious it is to exchange the glory of God for any other glory.

Number five, the wrath of God is righteous. I've already said it. I'll read it this way.

Romans 3.5, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? By no means, for then how could God judge the world? In other words, it is not unrighteous. It is totally righteous. And now number six, the wrath of God is God's prerogative, not ours.

And this is the great difference between Islam and Christianity. Romans 12.19, Beloved, never avenge yourselves. Leave it to the wrath of God.

For it is written, vengeance is mine. I will repay, says the Lord. If your enemy is hungry, feed him.

If your enemy is thirsty, give him something to drink. Overcome evil with good. Christians don't take God's prerogative and become the mediators of wrath.

We die for our enemies. We don't kill them. We don't pronounce damnation on infidels.

We evangelize them. We plead with them. We love them.

We call them. We go to them. That's why this conference exists.

We're not those who go out looking to show wrath to our adversaries. That belongs to God. And He assigns us to love our enemies.

---

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/YM799BWbJog.mp4>  
Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-piper/six-truths-about-gods-wrath/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**