

## How to Avoid God's Wrath: Part 1: S. Swartz

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Matthew 11:1-6

- The final event of the wrath of God describing the end all of the wicked is revealed in Rev. 20:11-15 at the Great White Throne Judgement. God's wrath is (1) God's righteous anger against sin. (2) Eternal judgement of God against the wicked (Rom. 6:23).
- Jesus as revealed in Scripture **must** be our Savior and Lord, not Savior now and later He becomes your Lord, Rom. 10:9, Acts 2:36 (Lord and Christ), Luke 2:11 (Christ and Lord).
- To those perishing, the word of the cross is foolishness (folly, absurd), but to those being saved, it is the power of God, 1 Cor. 1:18.
- The trials that test our faith prove the genuineness of our faith, resulting in praise, honor, and glory at the coming of the Lord Jesus, 1 Petet 1:6-7.
- The believer remains in Christ and holds fast to the Scriptures taught in the Bible, 1 John 2:19. Not all those that call Jesus Lord are indeed His, Matt. 7:21-23.

### **Don't Be Offended by Christ:**

1. **Don't be offended that evil still exists:** John the Baptist had been taken to prison (Matt. 4:12) for speaking out against Herod taking Philip, his brother's, wife (Matt. 14:1-2). It had been ~12 months since his imprisonment and John sends a message to Jesus.
  - a. John jumped in the womb from Jesus' presence (Luke 1:41). John had declared Jesus as Messiah (John 1:15). He declared Jesus is the Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36). He baptized Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17). John knew that he would decrease, and Jesus would increase (John 3:30).
  - b. John did not have a full revelation of Jesus' work. Jesus' first coming was revealed in Isiaah 61:1 as Jesus declared in the temple in Luke 4:18-21. But Jesus stopped in the middle of the verse not declaring the vengeance of God had come from Isiah 61:2 at that time.
  - c. The Jesus in Scripture came first to give His life to make a kingdom of worshippers. But He will come again to judge evil and wickedness.
2. **Don't be offended that I am not the focus of God's plan:** Jesus tells the messengers to tell John: a) the blind see, b) the lame walk, c) the lepers are cleansed, d) the deaf hear, e) the dead are raised, f) and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. The people are being cleansed and spiritually purified. The work of the Kingdom of God is causing men to see their sin and repent and turn from it.
  - a. Matt. 5:8, the pure in heart are blessed because they will see God. Jesus has opened their eyes.
  - b. Matt. 5:4, those that mourn are blessed for they shall be comforted. Jesus forgives sin.
  - c. This passage reminds John of Isa. 35 and 61 that the Messiah has come. John would die in prison, but the plan of God is and was to bring glory to God, John 17:1-5. To make worshippers for His Son.
3. **Don't be offended that Jesus is not who I wanted Him to be:** V6, some follow Jesus' teachings to help the poor and comfort others in showing compassion, but they don't proclaim the whole message of Christ and don't proclaim the Gospel, which is that man has offended a holy God, and without Christ, will be judged and cast into an eternal hell.
  - a. Jesus has come to baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Those who come to Him He cleanses, but those who reject Him are thrown into the fire, Matt. 3:11-12.
  - b. Jesus conceals the understanding of parables so the Jews (and unbelievers) wouldn't understand, Matt. 13:11.
  - c. Jesus cleansed the temple from money changers who weren't worshipping God but making money in the temple, John 2:14-15.
  - d. Jesus left many wanting to be healed to go and preach in the cities in Galilee, Mk. 1:35-39.
  - e. Those who come to Christ are granted that gift from God the Father, it is not a work of man, Matt. 16:13-20.

4. **Don't be offended that Jesus is a God of vengeance:** Jesus is fulfilling prophetic Scripture in His first coming. He will fulfill all Scripture in His second coming. Isaiah 61:2 will be completed when Jesus returns taking vengeance upon His enemies (See also Rev. 19:11-19).
  - a. Jesus is calling those to come to Him for rest, Matt. 11:28-30.
  - b. We are commanded to repent and believe in the gospel, Mk. 1:15.
  - c. Jesus has a prepared a place for those who believe in Him, John 14:1-3.
  - d. Jesus will return with all of His saints in righteousness to judge and wage war, Rev. 19:11-19.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

The warning in Colossians 1:28, is that we must preach and proclaim the Jesus of the Bible. Only the message that Jesus gave is one that saves. According to Col. 1: 15-20, how has God chosen to save and reconcile sinners? What was our situation before God granted us grace and faith to be justified in Christ (Col. 1:13)? What is our hope in Christ (Col. 1:21-22)? What is the blessing of continuing to believe and obey the Lord (Col. 1:23)? Who is firmly established? Who has hope?

Peter speaks of those in the last days that scoff that Christ has not returned and everything remains as it was from creation, 2 Peter 3:3-4. In verse 1 and 2, Peter wants to stir up and remind believers to remember what God has spoken in His word. In V5-6, Peter speaks of those who maintain the view of things continuing on as if they have never changed, that they have forgotten there was a flood and all flesh destroyed because of the wickedness of man (Gen. 6:11-12). Read V7, what is sure to come? Read V8-13, why has God planned this long delay (2000 years since Christ)? What does Peter tell us to look forward to? Why don't we give up on others? Why are our prayers still meaningful? How will purity and holiness in our conduct prepare us for the Day of the Lord?

What should we be doing in life to prepare for the coming of the Lord and the rapture of the church? What should our conduct demonstrate? What should our speech reveal about the hope that we possess? How is the Lord sanctifying you currently? Make a list of what you should care about it and a list of how you are spending your time and resources. Do they align? Does something need to go? What needs to stay? What needs to be added or done more often?