

## PRAYER

- Thank God for loving you even when you deserve His wrath. Pray that God will help you extend His love to others around you, even those who are seemingly difficult to love.
- Ask God to reveal areas in your life where you try to earn your righteousness. Ask Him for the grace and power to help you live a life that is pleasing to Him.
- Pray for opportunities to share God's mercy to your family and friends. Pray for them to see their need for a Savior and for open doors to share what Jesus did for them.

## NOTES

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## WARM-UP

- What is something that calms you when you're angry?
- Have you ever done something wrong and then made excuses for it? What happened?
- Share an instance when you expected someone to be angry at you but instead received love or forgiveness from him or her.

**WORD** *<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **ROMANS 1:18-20***

(Read also **ROMANS 1:21-2:5.**)

Sometimes we fail to appreciate good things because we don't see the need for them. We won't be able to appreciate good news if we are not aware of the bad situation we are in. This is probably why Paul explained the gospel by letting his audience first know that there was a great need for it. Today, we will look at why we need the gospel.

## 1 | We are unrighteous.

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ROMANS 1:18*

We all need the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus Christ because we are unrighteous and can never live up to God's standard of righteousness. We are guilty of sinning against God and people in our thoughts, words, and actions. Even the good and righteous acts we do will never measure up and are unacceptable (Isaiah 64:6). What does Romans 3:10,18 say about our state?

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## 2 | We deserve God's wrath.

*<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. . . . <sup>32</sup>Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. ROMANS 1:18,32*

Because we are unrighteous, we deserve God's righteous judgment. This does not just refer to God's wrath in the future, but to a wrath that is being revealed in the present. God gives persistent sinners to their sin, where they experience the full consequences and destruction that their sins bring upon them. We can never save ourselves from God's wrath. This is our desperate situation. What is God's solution to our desperate need?

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## 3 | Yet God shows us kindness.

*<sup>3</sup>Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup>Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ROMANS 2:3,4*

Even though we deserve to experience the fullness of God's wrath because of our sin, He shows us His mercy, goodness, kindness, and grace to influence and cause us to repent from our sins. God continually blesses us as He provides for our needs and showers us with His love. But this does not mean that we can continue to sin. Instead, God's kindness is meant to lead us to live a life that pursues not our own desires, but His will for us. We are meant to turn away from sin, turn to God, and follow Him all the days of our lives. What are you pursuing now, knowing that God has a purpose for your life?

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### APPLICATION

- Knowing that God has graciously extended His mercy to us, how can you grow more in extending the same mercy to others around you? Is there anyone you need to forgive or treat in a more loving manner?
- What can you do this week to pursue God's will for your life? Who can you ask to help you walk this out?
- Knowing that we are unrighteous and deserving of God's wrath apart from Jesus, think of a person who needs to surrender his or her life to Jesus to this week. Meet with the person and commit to share about what Jesus did on the cross for them.