

(1) Take a few minutes and let each person define, in his/her own words, what they understand about the wrath of God. How have your views on divine wrath changed or developed over the years? Do you think that “wrath” is beneath God’s dignity, something of a slanderous way of speaking of God’s nature? If so, why? If not, why not?

(2) Read again the comments of Leon Morris and let everyone meditate upon them. Now, what do you think of this? If the Christian Church should lose this truth, what would become of the “gospel” we proclaim?

"Then, too, unless we give a real content to the wrath of God, unless we hold that men really deserve to have God visit upon them the painful consequences of their wrongdoing, we empty God's forgiveness of its meaning. For if there is no ill desert, God ought to overlook sin. We can think of forgiveness as something real only when we hold that sin has betrayed us into a situation where we deserve to have God inflict upon us the most serious consequences, and that is upon such a situation that God's grace supervenes. When the logic of the situation demands that He should take action against the sinner, and He yet takes action for him, then and then alone can we speak of grace. But there is no room for grace if there is no suggestion of dire consequences merited by sin" (*The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, 185).

(3) In what sense is God’s wrath being poured out in the present day? Read Romans 1:18-32 and then answer this question yet again.

(4) The worship that we read of in Revelation 15:2-4 is praise of God for his justice and the judgment he brings to bear on the lost. Do you struggle to believe that it will be “just” and in accordance with “truth” when God judges the unbelieving world? If so, why?

(5) Does God owe you anything? Is he in your debt? If so, what obligation is he under? Let your answer then shape how you would understand and define God’s grace and mercy.