

Sunday, March 17, 2013—The Things Freely Given Us of God: Not Appointed to Wrath

Introduction

- Over the next couple of weeks we will be winding down our current series of studies on the things freely given us of God.
- I Corinthians 2:9-12—since the middle of October we have been studying about the things that have been freely given us of God as members of the body of Christ. In doing so we have discussed a wide range of topics that we could only know through God’s written word.
- This morning I want to talk about how as members of the body of Christ we are not appointed to wrath. There is wrath from God in terms of eternal punishment that we escape when we place our trust in the atoning work of Jesus Christ. There is also a time of wrath that will come upon the earth that members of the body of Christ are not appointed to endure because we have believed the gospel of the grace of God.
- Romans 1:18—we have already seen that man in his natural state has the wrath of God abiding upon him. If a person dies in that state without having accepted the provision that has been made for their sins by the crosswork of Christ they will face eternal punishment and separation from God.
 - Ephesians 2:1-3
- Romans 3:24—when a person trusts and rest exclusively upon the redemption that is in Christ Jesus they are justified, declared righteous, and given the vary righteousness of God. God wrath is no longer abiding upon that person.
 - II Corinthians 5:21
- I Thessalonians 5:9—the wrath of God is one appointment we don’t have to keep. We have been appointed to obtain salvation. Since we already possess forgiveness and salvation from all our sins what salvation is Paul speaking about here? He is talking about being saved from a specific time period of wrath that world has yet to endure.

The Wrath to Come

- I Thessalonians 1:10—because we are in Christ we have been delivered from the wrath to Come. The world and its system have a long overdue appointment with the wrath of God.
- Matthew 3:1-2—John the Baptist was preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. A message that called Israel to repent in light of her coming prophesied kingdom.

- Mark 1:14-15—according to the prophetic time schedule outlined in Daniel 9 the kingdom was at hand or near and Israel was being called to repent in light of this reality.
- Matthew 3:7—since the time was fulfilled and the kingdom of heaven was at hand so was something else: the prophetic time of wrath outlined by the Old Testament prophets that would proceed or come before the establishment of the Messianic kingdom. John warns the Pharisees here about this impending wrath.
- Daniel 9:24-27—lays out the prophecy of the 70 weeks or 490 years that are determined upon Israel and Jerusalem. From the time the commandment went forth to rebuild the city of Jerusalem until Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was 7 weeks (49 years) and 62 weeks (434 years) for a grand total of 69 weeks or 483 years.
 - Luke 19:41-44—according to the prophetic time schedule of Daniel 9 Israel should have known to the day when Messiah the prince would show up in Jerusalem. Not more than a week later what do they do with Christ? They execute him.
- Daniel 9:27—the counting of the 70th week does not commence until the signing of the covenant. It is this final week or 7 years time period before the establishment of the kingdom when the wrath of God will be poured out upon the earth.
- Daniel 7:15-28
- Daniel 8:15-27
- Daniel 11:21,24, 36
- Daniel 2:44-45—in the days of these kings the God heaven will break and destroy these kingdoms and set up a kingdom that will stand forever.
- During the earthly ministry of Christ, if the kingdom was at hand so to was the wrath because according to the prophets Israel must pass through the wrath until before the glories of the kingdom could be realized.
- Luke 13:6-9—after ministering in Israel for three years and not finding any fruit the nation was to be dunged and fertilized and given one more year. Remember one of the things Jesus said while upon the cross was “father forgive them for they know not what they do.”
- Acts 2:34-35—on the day of Pentecost after Christ’s ascension into heaven the Holy Spirit fell upon the Apostle’s thereby bring about a period of probation for the nation of Israel as they are called to repent for their part in the death of Christ. Peter in his message quotes from Psalm 110 and tells the nation that Christ whom they rejected is currently seated at the right hand of God “until I make my foes my footstool.” According to Peter, Jesus was going to remain seated at the right hand of father until the time came for him to deal with his enemies.

- Acts 7:51-56—Stephen being filled with the Holy Ghost sees Christ standing at the right hand of God. According to everything God had made known and revealed up to this point what should have happened next? The execution of the wrath of God upon the earth and the commencement of the 70th week of Daniel followed by the establishment of Israel's kingdom.

Wrath Delayed and Averted

- Ephesians 3:1-8—instead of standing the shake terribly the earth Christ appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus interrupted his wild career, saved him by his Grace, and revealed a previously unknown and unprophesied dispensation.
- Anyone who is saved during the dispensation of grace is not appointed to endure or face the wrath to come. The wrath to come was a prophetic event and we live in an unprophesied age that has an unprophesied ending.
- I Corinthians 15:51-53—before the dispensation of grace comes to an end not every member of the body of Christ will die but we will all be changed.
- I Thessalonians 4:13-18—nowhere in the Old Testament is this event foreseen. The catching away of the church to meet the Lord in the air is part of the mystery. The catching away of the church is the means by which future wrath is averted.
- I Thessalonians 5:1-9
- II Thessalonians 2:3-10—the presence of the body of Christ, the one new man is holding back the revelation of the man of sin and the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel. As long as the body of Christ is present on earth the 70th week cannot commence.
- Therefore, we as members of the one new man i.e., the body of Christ are not appointed unto wrath.