

Wrath & Righteousness in Romans 1

1. All heresy has its source in wrong or feeble conceptions of sin ... God punishes sin with sin. This is his "wrath." If men will not honour him, he takes away from them the power of chastity and morality. Indeed, the section teaches that these sins come as a punitive infliction from God. This wrath against the race can never cease while men as a whole refuse to glorify him "as God." The attempt to rid the unbelieving world of the moral ills that afflict it is to attempt to change God's judgment of wrath. The world has deliberately and finally cast God off. It is well-nigh two thousand years since this sad list of sins was set down by the pen of Paul. Let candor say which one of them has ceased to have any existence among men. They came in God's wrath then because men refused the light of nature. The light to-day in Jesus Christ is many times more intense, and men still refuse.

James Stifler, *THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS* (2e. 1897) pp.22,28.

2. The higher the advancement of the nations in refinement and philosophy, the greater, as a general rule, the degradation and folly of their systems of religion.

Charles Hodge, cited in *J. Calvin* (see below, p.74)

3. The individual atheist, or polytheist, may conceivably be a virtuous person, on the human standard; but if he is so it is not because of his creed. Let his creed become a real formative power in human society, and it will lead inevitably to moral disease and death ... [God] has so constituted natural process that wrong gravitates to wretchedness; and He is in that process, and above it, always and for ever. -- **Handley C.G. Moule**, *THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE ROMANS* (*Expositor's Bible*, 4e. 1907) pp.48-49.

4. [the lost] enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded, and are therefore self-enslaved.

C.S. Lewis, *THE PROBLEM OF PAIN* (1940) p.115ff.

5. There is a moral law in life that men are left to the consequences of their own freely chosen course of action, and unless this tendency is reversed by divine grace, their situation will go from bad to worse ... The truth was accessible to them, but they suppressed it unrighteously and embraced "the lie" in preference to it. Therefore "God gave them up" to the consequences of their choice. And precisely here He has manifested His "wrath" -- that principle of retribution which must operate in a moral universe.

F.F. Bruce, *THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS* (TNTC) pp.81,83.

6. Yet the vices of the old time are not altogether an antiquarian's wonder. Now as truly as then man is awfully accessible to the worst solicitations the moment he trusts himself away from God. And this needs indeed to be remembered in a stage of thought and of society whose cynicism, and whose materialism, show gloomy signs of likeness to those last days of the old degenerate world in which St. Paul looked round him, and spoke out the things he saw. -- **H.C.G. Moule**, *op.cit.*,pp.51-52.

7. Woman is the purer, the most modest, of the sexes, has propensities less ardent; but even she became worse than beastly and equaled vile man in his depravity. -- **James Stifler**, *op.cit.*,p.26

8. Paul here records those abominations which had been common in all ages, and were at that time especially prevalent everywhere; for it is marvellous how common then was that filthiness which even brute beasts abhor ... As they chose not to continue in the knowledge of God, which alone guides our minds to true wisdom, the Lord gave them a perverted mind, which can choose nothing that is right. -- **John Calvin**, *COMMENTARIES ON THE EPISTLE OF PAUL ... ROMANS* (1539; tr. J. Owen) p.79.

9. In the preceding verses the delineation of the retribution meted out to apostasy had been restricted to the sexual vice. The reason is very likely that the apostle regarded the homosexual abominations as the most overt evidences of the degeneracy to which God in his wrath gave over the nations. -- **John Murray**, *THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS* (1959) Vol.1, p.49.

10. However severe has been the apostle's delineation of the depravity of men, he has reserved for the end the characterization which is the most damning of all. It is that of the consensus of men in the pursuit of iniquity. The most damning condition is not the practice of iniquity ... it is that together with the practice there is also the support and encouragement of others in the practice of the same. To put it bluntly, we are not only bent on damning ourselves, but we congratulate others in the doing of those things that we know have their issue in damnation ... Iniquity is most aggravated when it meets with no inhibition from the disapproval of others and when there is collective, undissenting approbation. -- **John Murray**, *op.cit.*,p.52.

11. For it is the summit of all evils, when the sinner is so void of shame, that he is pleased with his own vices, and will not bear them to be reprov'd, and also cherishes them in others by his consent and approbation ... For he who is ashamed is yet healable; but when such an impudence is contracted through a sinful habit, that vices, and not virtues, please us, and are approved, there is no more any hope of reformation. -- **John Calvin**, *op.cit.*,p.83.

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‘Our first need in life is to learn about sin ...’

The subject of sin is vital knowledge. To say that our first need in life is to learn about sin may sound strange, but in the sense intended it is profoundly true. If you have not learned about sin, you cannot understand yourself, or your fellow-men, or the world you live in, or the Christian faith. And you will not be able to make head or tail of the Bible. For the Bible is an exposition of God's answer to the problem of human sin, and unless you have that problem clearly before you, you will keep missing the point of what it says. Apart from the first two chapters of Genesis, which set the stage, the real subject of every chapter of the Bible is what God does about our sins. Lose sight of this theme, and you lose your way in the Bible at once. With that, the love of God, the meaning of salvation, and the message of the gospel, will all become closed books to you; you may still talk of these things, but you will no longer know what you are talking about. It is clear, therefore, that we need to fix in our minds what our ancestors would have called 'clear views of sin'.

J.I. Packer *God's Words* p.71

Greek-English Concordance for ὀργή [from Bill Mounce]

Forms of the word

Dictionary: ὀργή, -ς, ῆ; Greek transliteration: orgē; Simplified transliteration: orge

Statistics

Frequency in New Testament: 36

Gloss:

wrath, anger, the feeling and expression of strong displeasure and hostility; this can range from petty human anger to the righteous anger of God toward sinful disobedience

Definition:

pr. mental bent, impulse; anger, indignation, wrath, Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8; μετ ὀργς, indignantly, Mk. 3:5; vengeance, punishment, Mt. 3:7; Lk. 3:7; 21:23; Rom. 13:4, 5

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Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath (orgēs | ὀργς | gen sg fem)?"

Mark 3:5 And after looking around at them in anger (orgēs | ὀργς | gen sg fem), grieved at the hardness of their heart, their he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched out his hand and it was restored. hand his

Luke 3:7 So he said to the crowds that were coming out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath (orgēs | ὀργς | gen sg fem)?"

Luke 21:23 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) against this people.

John 3:36 The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) of God remains on him.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) of God is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and the unrighteousness of those who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness,

Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath (orgēn | ὀργήν | acc sg fem) for yourself on the day of wrath (orgēs | ὀργς | gen sg fem), when God's righteous judgment will be revealed,

Romans 2:8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) and fury.

Romans 3:5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unjust to inflict wrath (orgēn | ὀργήν | acc sg fem) on us? (I use a human argument!)

Romans 4:15 For the Law brings about wrath (orgēn | ὀργήν | acc sg fem), but where there is no law, there can be no violation.

Romans 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, much more will we be saved from the wrath (orgēs | ὀργή | gen sg fem) of God through him.

Romans 9:22 What if God, willing to display his wrath (orgēn | ὀργήν | acc sg fem) and make known his power, has endured with great patience the objects of wrath (orgēs | ὀργή | gen sg fem) prepared for destruction?

Romans 12:19 Never avenge yourselves, dear friends, but leave room for the wrath (orgē | ὀργή | dat sg fem) of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Romans 13:4 for he is a servant of God for your good. But if you do what is wrong, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain. he is a servant of God, an avenger to carry out wrath (orgēn | ὀργήν | acc sg fem) on the one who does wrong.

Romans 13:5 Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath (orgēn | ὀργήν | acc sg fem), but also because of conscience.

Ephesians 2:3 Among them we also once lived in the passions of our flesh, gratifying the desires and impulses of the flesh, and were by nature children of wrath (orgēs | ὀργή | gen sg fem), just like everyone else.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) and clamor and slander be removed from you, along with all malice.

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Colossians 3:6 Because of these, is coming the wrath (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.

Colossians 3:8 But now But you must put away you those things: all those things: anger (orgēn | ὀργήν | acc sg fem), rage, malice, slander, and filthy talk from your mouth. your

1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, our deliverer from the coming wrath (orgēs | ὀργή | gen sg fem).

1 Thessalonians 2:16 who prevent us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved. Their goal has always been to complete the full number of their sins. But God's wrath (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) has caught up with them at last!

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not appointed us for wrath (orgēn | ὀργήν | acc sg fem), but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Timothy 2:8 I desire, then, that the men should pray in every place by lifting up holy hands, without anger (orgēs | ὀργή | gen sg fem) and arguing.

Hebrews 3:11 So I swore in my anger (orgē | ὀργή | dat sg fem), 'They shall certainly not enter my rest.'

Hebrews 4:3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, just as God has said, "As I swore in my anger (orgē | ὀργή | dat sg fem), 'They shall certainly not enter my rest,'" and yet his work has been completed since the foundation of the world

James 1:19 Understand this, my dear brothers: everyone must be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry (orgēn | ὀργήν | acc sg fem).

James 1:20 For the anger (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) of man does not bring about the righteousness that God requires.

Revelation 6:16 They said to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne and from the wrath (orgēs | ὀργή | gen sg fem) of the Lamb,

Revelation 6:17 because the great day of their wrath (orgēs | ὀργή | gen sg fem) has come, and who is able to stand fast?"

Revelation 11:18 The nations raged, but your wrath (orgē | ὀργή | nom sg fem) came; and the time for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and the time to destroy the destroyers of the earth."

Revelation 14:10 he also will drink of the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his wrath (orgēs | ὀργή | gen sg fem), and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Revelation 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. So Babylon the great was remembered before God and was given the cup filled with the wine of his fierce (orgēs | ὀργή | gen sg fem) anger.

Revelation 19:15 From his mouth extends a sharp sword so that with it he can strike down the nations. He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the furious wrath (orgēs | ὄργη | gen sg fem) of God the Almighty.

Greek-English Concordance for θυμός

Forms of the word

Dictionary: θυμός, -ο, ὅ; Greek transliteration: thumos; Simplified transliteration: thumos

Statistics

Frequency in New Testament: 18

Gloss:

wrath, fury, anger, rage, a state of intense displeasure based in some real or perceived wrong. The anger of God is due to moral offense and has a focus on righteous punishment

Definition:

pr. the soul, mind; hence, a strong passion or emotion of the mind; anger, wrath, Lk. 4:28; Acts 19:28; pl. swellings of anger, 2 Cor. 12:20; Gal. 5:20

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Luke 4:28 And everyone in the synagogue was filled with wrath (thumou | θυμοῦ | gen sg masc) when they heard these things.

Acts 19:28 When they heard this, they were filled with anger (thumou | θυμοῦ | gen sg masc) and began to cry out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

Romans 2:8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury (thumos | θυμός | nom sg masc).

2 Corinthians 12:20 For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I would wish, and that I may be found by you not as you would wish; perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, flaring anger (thumoi | θυμοί | nom pl masc), selfish ambition, backbiting, gossiping, conceit, disorder.

Galatians 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, quarrels, strife, jealousy, fits of rage (thumoi | θυμοί | nom pl masc), selfish rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath (thumos | θυμός | nom sg masc) and anger and clamor and slander be removed from you, along with all malice.

Colossians 3:8 But now But you must put away you those things: all those things: anger, rage (thumon | θυμόν | acc sg masc), malice, slander, and filthy talk from your mouth. your

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the anger (thumon | θυμόν | acc sg masc) of the king, for he endured as though seeing the one who is invisible.

Revelation 12:12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and all who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you having great wrath (thumon | θυμόν | acc sg masc), because he knows that he has only a short time!"

Revelation 14:8 Then another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! — she who has made all nations drink of the wine of her passionate (thumou | θυμοῦ | gen sg masc) immorality."

Revelation 14:10 he also will drink of the wine of God's wrath (thumou | θυμοῦ | gen sg masc), poured full strength into the cup of his wrath, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Revelation 14:19 So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath (thumou | θυμοῦ | gen sg masc) of God.

Revelation 15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, because with them the wrath (thumos | θυμός | nom sg masc) of God is finished.

Revelation 15:7 Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath (thumou | θυμοῦ | gen sg masc) of God who lives forever and ever;

Revelation 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple declaring to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God's wrath." (thumou | θυμοῦ | gen sg masc)

Revelation 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. So Babylon the great was remembered before God and was given the cup filled with the wine of his fierce anger (thumou | θυμο | gen sg masc).

Revelation 18:3 For all the nations have drunk the wine of her passionate (thumou | θυμο | gen sg masc) immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her excessive luxury.”

Revelation 19:15 From his mouth extends a sharp sword so that with it he can strike down the nations. He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the furious (thumou | θυμο | gen sg masc) wrath of God the Almighty.