

God's Wrath in 1 Thessalonians 2:16

I. 1 Thessalonians 2:16 – God's wrath is “ _____ ”

A. The _____ Jews were a people to be _____ for (2:15-16):

1. They were the tragic antithesis of the _____ in Thessaloniki. The Jews had a long-standing, persistent resentment, envy, and rage against Paul, the Gospel, and the Gentiles: Acts 9:20, 22; 13:40-50; 14:1-7, 19-20; 18:12-17; 19:8-10; 2 Corinthians 11:24.
2. Paul _____ over the Thessalonians because they received God's Word (2:13), honored the other saints (2:14a), and persevered in suffering (2:14b).
3. Paul _____ over the unbelieving Jews because they killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets (2:15a), hindered the saints from missionary work among the Gentiles (2:15b-16a), and would suffer punishment under God's wrath (2:16b).

B. Wrath of God in 1 Thessalonians 2:16

1. Wrath of God often symbolized in terms of a _____: Isaiah 51:17, 22; Jer. 25:15-17, 27-29; Lament. 4:21-22; Ezekiel 23:31-34; Habakkuk 2:16; Matt. 20:22; 26:39; John 18:11; Rev. 14:10; 16:19.
 - a. The Apostle Paul could be alluding to: Babylonian Exile in Ezekiel 8-11; Roman destruction of Jerusalem that came in 70 A.D.; Christ's second coming in judgment in Revelation 19; or most probably to God's _____ wrath on _____ as also mentioned by the Apostle John in his gospel (3:18, 36).
2. The Jews who rejected and hindered the Gospel “always fill up the measure of their sins” = “They always heap up their sins to the limit.”

*There is a well-defined point set by God at which people reach the limit of their sins. See Genesis 6:3-6; 15:16; Matthew 23:32.

*It means God brings _____ only when sin has reached a certain limit. See Daniel 8:23; **Acts 17:30-31**; **Romans 2:5-6**; Hebrews 10:28-31.

“Wrath has come upon them to the utmost” – 1 Thessalonians 2:16 =

"has come" = coming is certain, for sure, done deal!

Those Jews had met all the prerequisites for future damnation. They had murdered their Messiah and His messengers; therefore, God's wrath would *"come upon them to the utmost"* = God will extend His wrath to the unbelieving to its extreme limit, or fullest expression. See 2 Kings 22:17; Psalm 78:59; Matthew 3:7; Romans 9:22.

II. Jesus Took the Cup of God's Wrath for You

God's wrath is far outweighed by His _____ - Psalm 85:10

- A. He suffered for His whole life: Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 5:8; 12:3-4; John 11:35; Isaiah 53:3, *"...a man of sorrows acquainted with grief."*
- B. His suffering climaxed at the cross in physical pain and death, in the pain of bearing sin (Isaiah 53:6, 12; John 1:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 2:24), and in abandonment (Matthew 26:56; Mark 14:34). Matthew 27:46, *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* Jesus was finally cut off from the sweet fellowship He had always known with His heavenly Father; the unfailing source of His inward strength and greatest joy in a life filled with sorrows. Jesus faced the weight of the guilt of trillions of sins alone because God is *"of purer eyes than to behold evil"* (Habakkuk 1:13).
- C. He suffered by becoming the object of God's full wrath against our sin. Jesus became the object of God's intense hatred of sin and His vengeance and fury against all sin that had been stored up since the beginning of the world.
- D. Jesus was our *"_____"* (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10). *"Propitiation"* means *"a sacrifice that bears God's wrath to the very end and in so doing changes God's wrath toward us into favor (propitious)."*
- E. We can thank and praise God for His wrath because in Christ we no longer have to fear or dread His wrath (Ephesians 2:3; Romans 5:10). God's wrath should also remind us of His great patience toward sinners so that many can be saved (Psalm 103:8-9; Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9-10). God's wrath should motivate us toward evangelism. And God's wrath should stir thanks because we know that one day He will finally punish all wrongdoing, and will reign over a new heavens and a new earth in which there will be no unrighteousness.