

# THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S ANGER AND GOD'S MERCY

The Beauty of God's Anger (Wrath & Justice)

The Beauty of God's Mercy (Patience & Forgiveness)

*The Beauty*  <sup>OF</sup> **PARADOX**

### **Psalm 145:17–21**

<sup>[17]</sup> The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. <sup>[18]</sup> The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. <sup>[19]</sup> He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. <sup>[20]</sup> The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. <sup>[21]</sup> My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. (ESV)

### **Psalm 11:5**

<sup>[5]</sup> The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. (ESV)

### **Psalm 5:4–5**

<sup>[4]</sup> For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. <sup>[5]</sup> The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. (ESV)

### **Romans 2:3–8**

<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? <sup>[5]</sup> But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

<sup>[6]</sup> He will render to each one according to his works: <sup>[7]</sup> to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; <sup>[8]</sup> but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

### **Hebrews 10:31**

<sup>[31]</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (ESV)

### **Revelation 19:15**

<sup>[15]</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. (ESV)

### **Romans 3:21–26**

<sup>[21]</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it <sup>[22]</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>[23]</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>[24]</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>[25]</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>[26]</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

### **Ephesians 2:1–7**

<sup>[1]</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>[2]</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>[3]</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>[4]</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>[5]</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>[6]</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>[7]</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

### **Exodus 34:5–7**

<sup>[5]</sup> The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>[6]</sup> The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>[7]</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." (ESV)

### **Jonah 3:10 - Jonah 4:2**

<sup>[10]</sup> When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

<sup>[1]</sup> But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. <sup>[2]</sup> And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. (ESV)

# The Beauty of God's Anger and God's Mercy

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September 5, 2021

**Open:** What are some times when you've experienced two conflicting emotions?

**Read & Discuss:** Hebrews 10:26-31

1. In these verses, where do you see support for the biblical truth that God is angry at sinners? What do these verses tell us about *why* God is so angry at those who continue in sin?
2. How do the truths presented in these verses motivate you to walk in obedience and gratitude to God? What beauty can you find in the portrait of God presented in these verses?

**Read & Discuss:** Romans 2:3-8

3. Looking at this passage, where do you see evidence of both God's anger and God's mercy? From these verses, how would you summarize what Paul seems to expect of a repentant heart?
4. Verse 3 speaks of how we long for others who sin to experience justice, while hoping for mercy for ourselves. How should we think of both our own sinfulness and the sinfulness of others?
5. Why is it good that God judges sin? What would it mean if God were to simply overlook or ignore the sin of this world?

**Read & Discuss:** Ephesians 2:1-7

6. From verses 1-3, list what Paul says was true of all believers before we were saved. How would you explain to someone why living in such a state deserves God's wrath?
7. From verses 4-7, list what Paul says is true of us now that we have been saved. What reaction should we have to the truths of these verses?
8. Verse 7 speaks of God's grace and kindness one day being put on display. How is the reality of God's anger toward sin essential to the display of His grace and kindness?

**Apply:** How should the fact that God is both a God of anger and a God of mercy shape how we live?

**Pray:** Pray that we would celebrate all of God's attributes and live appropriately before Him.

## **Hebrews 10:26–31**

[26] For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27] but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. [28] Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. [29] How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? [30] For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (ESV)

## **Romans 2:3–8**

[3] 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? [4] 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? [5] But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. [6] He will render to each one according to his works: [7] to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; [8] but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

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