

# For whom is the wrath of God's justice reserved?

## Answers to Questions Concerning the Restored Gospel from [HisWorkmanship.net](http://HisWorkmanship.net)

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**Question:** [For whom is the wrath of God reserved?](#)

### Answer(s)

Whether or not a person or a people experience the wrath of God's justice depends upon the *image* they worship (Exodus 20:4,5 with Romans 1:18-32). God's wrath is reserved for those who worship the *beast* and his *image* and receive *the mark of the beast* in their foreheads or hands (Revelation 16:2, 19:20).

*And the third angel followed them,  
saying with a loud voice,  
If any man worship the beast and his image,  
and receive his mark in his forehead or in the hand,  
The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God,  
which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation;  
And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone  
in the presence of the holy angels,  
and in the presence of the Lamb;  
And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever;  
And they know no rest day or night,  
who worship the beast and his image,  
and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

**Revelation 14:9-11**

On the other hand (God's right hand), those who worship God and His Image, and receive His *mark*, meaning His *name*, in their *foreheads* are spared from *wrath* (Revelation 22:4 with Colossians 3:1-7, I Thessalonians 1:10, I Thessalonians 5:9 & Romans 5:9). Hence comes the testimony, that at *the name* of Jesus Christ, who is *the express image* of God, every knee *should* bow and every tongue *should* confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory and honor of God the Father.

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners  
spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,  
Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,  
whom he hath appointed heir of all things,  
by whom also he made the worlds;  
**Who being the brightness of his glory,  
and the express image of his person,  
and upholding all things by the word of his power,  
when he had by himself purged our sins,  
sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.***

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

*Let this mind be in you,  
which was also in Christ Jesus;  
Who, being in the form of God,  
thought it not robbery to be equal with God;  
But made himself of no reputation,  
and took upon him the form of a servant,  
and was made in the likeness of men;  
And being found in fashion as a man,  
he humbled himself,  
and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.  
**Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him,  
and given him a name which is above every name;  
That at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
of things in heaven,  
and things in earth,  
and things under the earth;  
And that every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.***

**Philippians 2:5-11**

Why exactly does the image we worship have so much to do with whether or not we *drink* of the *wrath* of God? Remember, we were created in the *image* of God (Genesis 1). But are we *thankful*, even satisfied to have been made in His *image*? Do we want to be like the God who gave us life, the One who sustains us day to day? Now, in our fallen state, are we willing to allow God to restore His image in us anew through faith in Jesus Christ, through being born again by His Spirit?

Or, on the other hand (the left hand of God), do we persist in seeking to lift someone or something above God, to worship and praise them above Him and instead of Him? Do we seek to honor someone or something other than our Lord by setting the desires and affections of our hearts upon them and their ways? Are there others we delight to lift up as if they are more worthy of praise and glory than Jesus Christ?

Those who worship any *image* other than God's *express image*, Jesus Christ, are declaring that they have set the affections of their heart, their love and their devotion, on someone or something they consider of greater worth than Jesus Christ, as someone or something more deserving of their adoration and praise than Him. Thus, they not only mock and disgrace the Lord and His image (by placing a lesser image above His own image) they *separate* themselves from His presence and exclude themselves from His glory (cf. Jude 18,19).

*But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before  
of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time,  
who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.  
These be they who separate themselves,  
sensual, having not the Spirit.*

### **Jude 1:17-19**

Because they *worship the creature more than the creator*, God turns them over to their own carnal, corruptible desires and forms of worship (cf. Romans 1:18-32 with II Corinthians 4:3,4, Exodus 20:4,5).

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven  
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men;  
who love not the truth, but remain in unrighteousness,  
after that which may be known of God is manifest to them.  
For God hath revealed unto them the invisible things of him,  
from the creation of the world, which are clearly seen;  
things which are not seen  
being understood by the things that are made,  
through his eternal power and Godhead;  
so that they are without excuse;  
Because that, when they knew God,  
they glorified him not as God,  
**neither were they thankful,**  
but became vain in their imaginations,  
and their foolish hearts were darkened.  
Professing themselves to be wise,  
they became fools.  
And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God  
into an image made like to corruptible man,  
and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.  
Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness,  
through the lusts of their own hearts;  
to dishonor their own bodies between themselves;  
Who changed the truth of God into a lie,  
**and worshipped and served the creature  
more than the Creator,**  
who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

***For this cause*** God gave them up unto vile affections;  
*for even their women did change the natural use  
into that which is against nature;*  
And likewise also the men,  
*leaving the natural use of the woman,  
burned in their lust one toward another;  
men with men working that which is unseemly,  
and receiving in themselves that recompense  
of their error which was meet.*  
And even as ***they did not like to retain God  
according to some knowledge,***  
God gave them over to a reprobate mind,  
*to do those things which are not convenient;  
being filled with all unrighteousness,  
fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness;  
full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,  
backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters,  
inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,  
without understanding, covenant-breakers,  
without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful;*  
***And some who, knowing the judgment of God,  
that they which commit such things  
are worthy of death, are inexcusable,  
not only do the same,  
but have pleasure in them that do them.***

**Romans 1:18-32**

The God who created us has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. He *is* light and He *is* love (I John 1 & 4). The question before us then is this: do we want to be filled with His light and with His love, or not? In the above quote, Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, has plainly stated what becomes of those who do not.

In this life we have been given the opportunity to choose for ourselves whom we will worship, that is, whom we *hope* to be like and with whom we anticipate being in fellowship throughout eternity (cf. Romans 8). Specifically, two *images* have been placed before us:

1) God's *express image* was manifest in the person and life of Jesus Christ, His Only Begotten Son (cf. Hebrews 1:1-3 with John 14:9).

2) The other *image* placed before us is the *image* of a fallen angel who was cast from heaven because of his pride and rebellion (Revelation 14:9-11 with I Timothy 3:6).

We will worship the image of the one we aspire (hope) to be like, either the Lamb of God, or the evil, fallen angel, Satan, and those who fell with him (John 14-16, Romans 1:18-2:11, etc.). If we hope to be like (worship) the God in whose *image* we were originally created, God will cause us to be born anew into His likeness according to the image manifest in His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ (I John 4 with John 3). This rebirth specifically comes of the *hope* to be like Jesus

(in *light and love*) when He returns in glory – this is the only *hope* that is able to *purify* and *perfect* our souls through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:24 with Hebrews 11:1 with Colossians 1:27).

*Behold, what manner of love  
the Father hath bestowed upon us,  
that we should be called the sons of God;  
Therefore the world knoweth us not,  
because it knew him not.  
Beloved, now are we the sons of God,  
and it doth not yet appear what we shall be;  
but we know that, when he shall appear,  
we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.  
And every man that hath this hope in him  
purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

**I John 3:1-3**

*For we are saved by hope;  
but hope that is seen is not hope;  
for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?  
But if we hope for that we see not,  
then with patience we do wait for it.*

**Romans 8:24,25**

*Wherefore, cleave unto charity,  
which is the greatest of all,  
for all things must fail;  
but charity is the pure love of Christ,  
and it endureth for ever;  
And whoso is found possessed of it at the last day,  
it shall be well with them.  
Wherefore, my beloved brethren,  
pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart,  
that ye may be filled with this love  
which he hath bestowed upon all who are  
true followers of his Son Jesus Christ,  
that ye may become the sons of God,  
that when he shall appear, we shall be like him;  
**for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope,  
that we may be purified even as he is pure.**  
Amen.*

**Moroni 7:52,53**

Those people in whom this purifying *hope* is **not** found, in whom it has been replaced with the worship of worldly things, will experience God's *wrath* when Jesus Christ returns. They will receive for their eternal inheritance a fallen *countenance* that must abide outside His fellowship, in the place of darkness reserved for all those who reject *the Light of the world* (II Peter 2, Jude, etc.).

Therefore, Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, admonishes us to put off the *old man* rooted in the evil ways of our fallen nature, and put on the *new man* that is established in the person and power of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3 with Galatians 5 & II Corinthians 5). Otherwise, we must content ourselves with remaining forever in unrighteousness and darkness outside the kingdom of God.

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest,  
which are these,  
adultery,  
fornication,  
uncleanness,  
lasciviousness,  
idolatry,  
witchcraft,  
hatred,  
variance,  
emulations,  
wrath,  
strife,  
seditions,  
heresies,  
envyings,  
murders,  
drunkenness,  
revellings,  
and such like;  
Of the which I tell you before,  
as I have also told you in time past,  
That they which do such things shall  
not inherit the kingdom of God.*

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

While God could have promised us worlds without number, all filled with boundless riches and untold pleasures, instead in the beginning God chose to give us that which is most precious, that which is of greatest worth, the gift of His very own *image* manifest through His Holy Spirit in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. And in doing so, He provided us with the means whereby we might have full fellowship with Him in His glory, that we might fully commune with Him in all righteousness, peace, and joy in His Holy Ghost (cf. Romans 14:17).

By creating us in His own image, God predestined, even foreordained us to be like Himself. He purposed in His heart that we should abide in His fellowship forever. However, mankind became fallen through the deceitfulness of sin and was therefore cast out from God's

presence. Now, because of the atonement of Jesus Christ, we have been given *the hope* of being restored to God's fellowship by being born again into His image by His Spirit through the baptism of Jesus Christ (Romans 5&6, Galatians 4&5 with John 14&15).

If we choose, however, to defile the image of God and act contrary to His character once Jesus Christ is revealed unto us and in us, if we disregard Him and cast off His image as if it were a thing of little or no worth to us, then we will remain in our fallen nature and inherit a place among all those who fight against God and His righteousness (cf. Hebrews 6:4-8). Plainly stated, we will suffer *the wrath of God*.

*Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man,  
whosoever thou art that thus judgest;  
for wherein thou judgest another,  
thou condemnest thyself;  
for thou that judgest doest the same things.  
But we are sure that the judgment of God  
is according to truth against them which commit such things.  
And thinkest thou this, O man,  
that judgest them which do such things,  
and doest the same,  
that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?  
Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness  
and forbearance and long suffering;  
not knowing that the goodness of God  
leadeth thee to repentance?  
But, after thy hardness and impenitent heart,  
treasurest up unto thyself  
wrath against the day of wrath  
and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;  
Who will render to every man according to his deeds;  
To them who by patient continuance in well doing  
seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;  
But **unto them that are contentious,  
and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness,  
indignation and wrath,  
tribulation and anguish,  
upon every soul of man that doeth evil;  
of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;**  
But glory, honor, and peace,  
to every man that worketh good;  
to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile;  
**For there is no respect of persons with God.***

### **Romans 2:1-11**

What about those individuals or peoples who have never known God, who have not heard of Jesus Christ and His teachings? God is just. Those who have done evil but have not known God, and that they were created in His image, will not receive the same severity of punishment

received by those who have known Him but have failed to prepare themselves for His return (Romans 1:18-32).

*And that servant who knew his Lord's will,  
and prepared not for his Lord's coming,  
neither did according to His will,  
shall be beaten with many stripes.*

*But he that knew not his Lord's will,  
and did commit things worthy of stripes,  
shall be beaten with few.*

*For unto whomsoever much is given,  
of him shall much be required;  
And to whom the Lord has committed much,  
of him will men ask the more.*

**Luke 12:56,57**

In other words, God reserves His wrath for those who know His will but who refuse or fail to prepare themselves to meet Him upon His return by failing to hope and trust to be like Jesus (e.g. Matthew 23 with I Thessalonians 4:3). The punishment is far less for those who do not know Him and do evil by their old nature. That is, those who know the truth but sin against it will experience a more severe judgment than those who do not know God and yet sin.

*And we will go on unto perfection  
if God permit.  
For he hath made it impossible for those  
who were once enlightened,  
and have tasted of the heavenly gift,  
and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,  
and have tasted the good word of God,  
and the powers of the world to come,  
If they shall fall away,  
to be renewed again unto repentance;  
seeing they crucify unto themselves the Son of God afresh,  
and put him to an open shame.  
For the day cometh that the earth  
which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it,  
and bringeth forth herbs meet for them who dwelleth thereon,  
by whom it is dressed,  
who now receiveth blessings from God,  
shall be cleansed with fire.  
For that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected,  
and is nigh unto cursing;  
Therefore they who bring not forth good fruits,*

*shall be cast into the fire;  
for their end is to be burned.*

**Hebrews 6:4-8**

*Here is the patience of the saints;  
Here are they that keep the commandments of God,  
and the faith of Jesus.*

**Revelation 14:12**

In summary, the wrath of God is reserved for the wicked (Job 21:30), those who are God's enemies (Nahum 1:2), who are unjust (II Peter 2:9,17) and who do not love the truth nor choose to *receive* the love of the truth (Romans 1:16-18 & II Thessalonians 2:9-12 versus John 17:17).

*For **the wrath of God** is revealed from heaven  
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men;  
who love not the truth, but remain in unrighteousness,  
after that which may be known of God is manifest to them.*

**Romans 1:18,19**

*Yea, the Lord, even Jesus, whose coming is not until  
after there cometh a falling away,  
by the working of Satan with all power,  
and signs and lying wonders,  
and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness  
in them that perish;  
because they **received not the love of the truth,  
that they might be saved.**  
And for this cause God shall send them **strong delusion,**  
that they should believe a lie;  
that they all might be damned  
**who believed not the truth,  
but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

**II Thessalonians 2:9-12**

Every last person who has been created by God will be judged according to whom or what they worship and seek to serve, either secretly or openly. Those who do not worship God and receive God's Spirit in their countenance will experience great sorrow for turning away from the greatest gift of all, the express image of God found only in the person of Jesus Christ. On the other hand (the right hand of God), those who worship the true and living God, those who receive His image into their countenance through the gift of His Spirit, and act accordingly, will be blessed forever (see Revelation 22, esp. vs. 4 in contrast to Revelation 14:9-12).

*For since the beginning of the world  
men have not heard,  
nor perceived by the ear,  
neither hath the eye seen, O God, besides thee,  
what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.  
Thou meetest him that worketh righteousness,  
and rejoiceth him that remembereth thee in thy ways;  
In righteousness there is continuance,  
and such shall be saved.*

**Isaiah 64:4,5**

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