

STUDY GUIDE

RIGHT WITH GOD 5.17.15

[Instructions for LifeGroup leaders]

As you prepare to take your LifeGroup through this study, remember that this guide is provided in the hopes that you will customize it based on the insights you have of your group. You can dig deeper by studying in advance for additional references, study helps and applications or you can trim it down and focus on one section that you feel your group needs to discuss and grow in. It's your study "guide". Modify as much as you want and have fun with it!

[setup]

Sometimes it can be difficult to hear about the "wrath of God". It is hard to synthesize God's wrath with his love and mercy. However, these two aspects of his characters must go together. Talk about why these two aspects of God character MUST coexists.

"If there be a God, he cannot let sin go unpunished. If he be really God, and the Judge of all the earth, he must have an utter abhorrence of all evil. It cannot be possible that he should think the same of the honest and the dishonest, of the chaste and the unchaste, of the sober and the drunken, of the truthful and the lying, of the gracious and the dissolute. Such a god as that would be one whom men might rightly despise; but the true God, if we understand aright what he is, must hold all sin in detestation."

-C. H. Spurgeon

[digging deeper]

Romans 1:18-32 - This text talks about the wrath of God being revealed in real time by the degradation of the hearts, passions, and minds of people. How do you see this being true in our world today?

What should be the Christian response to the degradation of the world (no opinions! use Scripture)?

Is there wrath being revealed right now against Christians in any way? (use Scripture to prove your answers - Romans 1:18 should help)

How does Romans 12:1-2 relate to our text from this week (Romans 1:18-32)?

In addition to wrath being revealed right now, the Bible also speaks of "wrath to come" (Luke 3:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:10). Revelation 14:14-20 is just a brief picture of this wrath. Revelation 16 continues the terrible picture of God's wrath. Revelation 20:11-15 depicts the final judgement of God's wrath. Read these sections of Revelation and then, based on 1 Thess. 1:10, explain how to escape this coming wrath.

[live it out]

The driving statement throughout Romans 1:18-3:20 (the argument concerning the wrath of God on all ungodliness and unrighteousness) is found in Romans 1:16-17. The horror of God's wrath should push us to be unashamed of the gospel! WE GET IT WRONG when our hearts and minds focus on God's wrath in such a way that we are excited for God to bring judgment INSTEAD of excited that there is still time for many more to be SAVED from his wrath (2 Peter 3:9-10)

Christian - the wrath of God does not belong to you - it is not yours to mete out. The gospel belongs to you - THIS is the tool that God has given you. Leave the wrath to him - SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - BE UNASHAMED!!

Unbeliever - the hope that you have to escape the wrath of God is the Gospel - the good news that Jesus stop in front of the wrath of God for you. Accept this truth in faith, give your life to Jesus, and be saved today!

[further study]

I am convinced that every believer should have a solid Systematic Theology book to help them think through the many difficult realities of the Bible - like the wrath of God. A resource such as this will help you, your family, and your LifeGroup dig more deeply into the wonderful doctrines found in the book of Romans over the next 20+ weeks. I highly recommend the following two volumes. They are an investment, but will yield VERY high returns. Remember, however, that books such as these ARE NOT the Bible. They are meant to point you to the Bible, so use them as such.

John Frame - Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief

<http://www.amazon.com/Systematic-Theology-Introduction-Christian-Belief/dp/1596382171>

Wayne Grudem - Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine

http://www.amazon.com/Systematic-Theology-Introduction-Biblical-Doctrine/dp/0310286700/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1431692708&sr=1-1&keywords=wayne+grudem+systematic+theology