The Wrath of God

John 3:35-36 [NIV] “The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”

The wrath of God is God’s final judgement on sinners who knowingly have rejected Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Hebrews 3:7-11 [NIV] “So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’ So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

To “harden” your heart is to stubbornly set your mind against God so that you are no longer able to turn to Him for forgiveness.

Such an attitude is going to end in pain and eternal oblivion.

Romans 9:22-24 [NIV] “What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath, prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory, even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?”

Many Christians and people looking at Christianity have difficulty with an angry God who also introduces Himself as a God who is love.

1 John 4:8-12 [NIV] “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

How can such a compassionate and loving God in His wrath send human beings into a hell fire and total oblivion?

The wrath of God is a reality.

God’s anger is as Holy as His love and between His love and His wrath there is no incompatibility.

How can I make such a statement?

To understand God’s wrath we must view it in the light of His holiness, and His desire to create holy children to live with Him for eternity.

1 Peter 1:14-16 [NIV] “As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

All who are to be in God’s eternal created family must become holy.

1 Peter 2:9-10 [NIV] “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his
wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

All who have accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and look on Him as their Saviour are in God the Father’s eyes a potential holy nation whom He will use as priests [teachers] to bring others into that nation.

**Colossians 3:12-14 [NIV]** “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

This becoming holy is a process where we by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit clothe ourselves with all these characteristics of our Holy Creator God.

**God is Holy and He has made holiness to be the moral condition necessary for the health, peace and unity of His created family.**

Whatever is holy is healthy in God’s eyes as a Holy God.

Evil and sinfulness is a moral sickness that must end ultimately in death, to preserve the health of His created family.

Since God’s first concern and priority for His created family is its moral health, that is, its holiness, whatever is contrary to this is necessarily under His eternal displeasure, His wrath.

Wherever the holiness of God confronts unholiness there is conflict.

This conflict arises from the irreconcilable natures of holiness and sin.

God’s attitude and action in this conflict are His wrath.

When God arises to put down destruction and save the world of His potential children from irreparable moral collapse, His action is said to be His wrath.

**Every wrathful judgement of God in the history of humanity has been a holy act of preservation.**

The holiness of God, the wrath of God and His love for all His potential children are inseparably united.

**Not only is it right for God to display anger against sin, but I find it impossible to understand how He as a loving Creator God could do otherwise.**

**Luke 3:7 [NIV]** “John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”

Through the preaching of John the Baptist and in other scriptures God warns of His impending wrath and exhorts humans to repent to avoid it.

God puts it in the language we can all understand.

God is saying in effect, “Your life is evil, and because of this evil you are an enemy to the moral health of My created family. I must exterminate whatever would destroy the created family I love. Turn from evil before I rise up in wrath against you. I love you, but I hate the sin you love. Separate yourself from your evil ways before I send wrathful judgement upon you.”

We make the necessary change of mind and attitude through accepting the death of Jesus Christ as a substitute for our deserved death as a result of God’s loving preservation of His created family.
Romans 5:8-11 [NIV]  “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

The decision to avoid the eternal death, that God’s wrath brings, is yours to make, but please don’t delay that decision.