

# How does God see those who have set their faces against Him?

## Romans 1:18-32 English Standard Version (ESV)

### God's Wrath on Unrighteousness

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,<sup>[g]</sup> in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,<sup>30</sup> slanderers, **haters of God**, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.<sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

## Philippians 3:17-21 English Standard Version (ESV)

### Straining Toward the Goal

<sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> **For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.** <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

## Romans 5 English Standard Version (ESV)

### Peace with God Through Faith

<sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> **For if while we were enemies** we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 English Standard Version (ESV)

### Sexual Immorality Defiles the Church

<sup>9</sup> I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— <sup>10</sup> not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. <sup>11</sup> **But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.** <sup>12</sup> For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? <sup>13</sup> God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

## 2 John v9-11 English Standard Version (ESV)

### Walking in Truth and Love

<sup>9</sup> Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. <sup>10</sup> **If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,** <sup>11</sup> **for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.**

## 1 Peter 3:10-12 English Standard Version (ESV)

### Suffering for Righteousness' Sake

<sup>10</sup> For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. **But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.**”

## Proverbs 15:29 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

## Proverbs 28:9 English Standard Version (ESV)

If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

## Isaiah 59 English Standard Version (ESV)

### Evil and Oppression

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; <sup>2</sup> but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, **and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.**

## Zechariah 7:11-14 English Standard Version (ESV)

### A Call for Justice and Mercy

<sup>11</sup> But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. <sup>12</sup> They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts. <sup>13</sup> **“As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear,”** says the Lord of hosts, <sup>14</sup> “and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate.”

## How God Himself instructs His church to evangelize the world.

### Mark 6 English Standard Version (ESV)

#### Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

<sup>7</sup> And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> And he said to them, **“Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.”** <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Notice that His instruction was not to get a mob of people, load them up with money, resources, goods and services and send them forth. But this is exactly what the church is doing today with the missions that are going out into the world. The apostles proclaimed that people should repent! Why is the church camped out in places around the world where the name of Jesus cannot even be mentioned? What are they doing there if they cannot evangelize the people with the good news? Jesus Himself said, **“And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.”** So why has the mission groups decided that they know better than God on what’s best for those who reject the message of Christ?

**Warnings to those in the church who become apathetic in their charge to feed and tend to God’s sheep! Bible verses directed to those in the church! Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep three times! (John 21:15-17) Let’s take that charge seriously and tend to God’s children in the church.**

**Zephaniah 1:12-13 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**The Coming Judgment on Judah**

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, ‘The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.’

**Zechariah 11:15-17 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**The Flock Doomed to Slaughter**

<sup>15</sup> Then the Lord said to me, “Take once more the equipment of a foolish shepherd. <sup>16</sup> For behold, I am raising up in the land a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs.

<sup>17</sup> “Woe to my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! Let his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded!”

**Isaiah 56 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**Israel's Irresponsible Leaders**

All you beasts of the field, come to devour— all you beasts in the forest.<sup>10</sup> His watchmen are blind; they are all without knowledge; they are all silent dogs; they cannot bark, dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber.<sup>11</sup> The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all.<sup>12</sup> “Come,” they say, “let me get wine; let us fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow will be like this day, great beyond measure.”