KNOWING GOD

LESSON 19

Title: The Wrath of God

Text: Romans 1:14-25

1. Review:
   1. God is not just force, influence, or power; He is personal and desirous of personal relationships.
   2. The word majesty, when applied to God is always a declaration of His greatness and an invitation to worship.
   3. Unless we see God as majestic our worship of Him will be weak and flabby.
2. Introduction:
   1. It must be rehearsed here again that God is always consistent with Himself. No attribute of God contradicts another; rather each attribute presupposes every other attribute. Remember, His attributes may be considered separately but they can never be separated.
   2. So now we look into the wrath of God. It should be pointed out that to avoid this subject would be to avoid a great deal of what God has revealed of Himself in Scripture. The prophets spoke of His wrath more than His love, but then so did Jesus and the apostles. Just because the subject is not pleasant does not mean we can avoid it. It is a fundamental part of the nature and character of God.
3. Wrath Defined: Hot, passionate anger; displeasure, indignation.
   1. Biblical Support:
      1. Exodus 32:7-11 reveals that God’s anger “waxed hot.”
      2. II Thessalonians 1:8: “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:”
   2. Those who think wrongly of and lowly of God do not accept the fact of God’s wrath.
      1. This is because they think of God as they think of man.
      2. When we think of a wrathful man, we think of a raving man who has lost his temper and is out of control.
      3. It is not equivalent to surmise that when God executes wrath He engages in some wild-eyed fit or temper tantrum and temporarily loses control. That is man, not God.
      4. Just because the Bible uses terms to describe God that are normally used of man doesn’t mean we should attach all the connotations and limitations to God that belong to man.
4. God’s wrath is a major theme of the Bible.
   1. Major Bible accounts dwell on the fact of God’s wrath.
      1. The fall in the Garden of Eden
      2. The flood
      3. The Red Sea
      4. The Crucifixion
      5. The Revelation judgements
   2. We should never apologize for declaring that God is a God of wrath.
5. God’s wrath is not just against the wicked; but it is also on behalf of His people.
   1. The wicked vent their rebellion against God by opposing God’s people.
   2. God not only takes vengeance for His sake, but also for the sake of His children.
   3. Revelation 6:9-11: “And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”