

### Who needs to be saved, and why?

Romans 1:18 says that God's great anger, His wrath, is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of mankind; and Paul produces abundant evidence in Romans 1:19 - 3:20 to demonstrate mankind's sinfulness.

Does God have any reason to be angry? The Bible tells us that human beings come face to face with the truth of God's existence and creative activity everywhere they turn. But what do they do with the knowledge of God as divine Creator? They do not recognize Him as God; they do not give thanks to Him for their existence and for the benefits God showers on them every day: rather, they suppress the truth as they go on in their unrighteousness; they pervert the truth and exchange it for a lie; and they choose idols and worship them through the images they create.

But does God have any right to be angry with human beings? Just because they owe their existence to Him; just because they owe Him worship and gratitude and obedience and service; and just because they actively oppose the truth about Him and give their ultimate loyalty to things that He created or that they create, should God be angry with them? Should His wrath fall on them just because they reject Him and refuse to love Him?

Well, let's pause for a moment and mention some truths to help us put this question in proper perspective:

First, God has a justifiable right to be angry with sinful humanity which, by and large, has rejected Him as Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of the world.

Second, although God's wrath is justified, in His mercy He has not destroyed mankind from the face of the earth.

Third, although God is justified in revealing His wrath on those who reject His truth and goodness, He takes no pleasure in their punishment. To the contrary, He is grieved even while He is angry with them for their sin.

Fourth, although God is under no obligation to do so, He reaches out in grace and lovingkindness to those who are ungodly and actively opposed to His truth, and provides a way of reconciliation through the saving work of His own dear Son.