

In addition to the evidence Paul provides to demonstrate mankind's active opposition to God's truth about Himself, Paul also provides much evidence of mankind's active disobedience to God's law. He says that both Jews and Gentiles violate and transgress and break God's moral law, and that this is a second reason why God is angry with mankind.

It may be helpful to remember the reasons why God gave His law.

God gave His law so that human beings could know how to live lives that would please Him; could maintain protection, cooperation, peace, and good order in society; and could live wholesome, rich, satisfying lives that would avoid many pitfalls and sorrows. God's law is beneficent and beneficial to mankind and contributes to mankind's well-being. Transgressions of God's law are therefore sins against God, against fellow human beings, and against our own highest and best interests.

And thus when God sees human beings doing things that dishonor and grieve Him, or things that hurt other people or themselves, He is right to be angry with them!

**GOD IS ANGRY WITH THE WICKED! EVEN NOW HIS WRATH RESTS ON THEM!**

It was this thought that moved Jonathan Edwards to preach with such solemnity and loving concern – he knew that there were some in his audience who were as yet unconverted, and quite complacent about it. He pictured them as "sinners in the hands of an angry God!"

It was this thought that moved John the baptizer to say to those who were coming out into the desert to see him, "Who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

It was this thought that moved Christian, in John Bunyan's book Pilgrim's Progress, to finally set out on his journey to the celestial city, and to stop his ears against the calls of friends and loved ones, who urged him to wait, to stay, to stop, and the mocking cries of unbelievers who tried to persuade him to give it up. Christian put his fingers in his ears and ran on, crying, "Life! Life! Eternal life!" and continued until he came to the narrow gate that leads to life, where he saw a wondrous sight. As he gazed on that wondrous sight of the cross, the heavy burden of his sins dropped off his back and he knew the forgiveness that comes through trust in Christ and His atoning work. And he wept for sheer joy, and then went on his way with a lightness and a relief that he had never