

➡ The last time we were together, I challenged you with a little "fast" from the media and anything that wasn't a devotional or some type of Bible study. This was all for the purposes of seeking God's wisdom and Him revealing to you the things in your life, like sin, that you hadn't been aware of. We are all prone to the very natural problem of trying to get the splinter out of our brother's eye while still having a log in our own eye, **Luke 6:41-46**. After correctly judging ourselves, we are going to consider God's judgment and wrath, **Romans 2:1-5**.

1. The first principle to remember is that all sin will receive God's wrath.

- ✓ Either you will accept the saving work of Jesus as payment for your sin, therefore having your sins paid for by Him, or you will refuse Christ, and receive the judgment of your own sins which are judged by Him. Either way, you will have Jesus, either as your Savior or as your Judge. Jesus will either be your best friend or your worst enemy. Either you call out to Jesus, or you will call out to the rocks, **Revelation 6:16**.

2. The second principle of wrath is that, like sin, it is either on the decrease in our lives because of the God's forgiveness or it is on the increase.

- ✓ This passage teaches us that every day we live and enjoy the general grace of God without repenting and turning to Christ, we are storing up more and more wrath for ourselves. Think of this life as a nice valley of God's patience, grace and kindness. He is treating us very kindly even though our sin is an act of open rebellion against Him. But that rebellion isn't going on without consequences. God's mercy, grace, kindness and patience are like a Dam holding back His wrath, which is on the increase every day as we continue to live in active rebellion. That Dam will not hold forever, one day it will break, and the flood will wash us away.

3. The third principle of wrath is that there is a common grace that is extended to all people this side of eternity.

- ✓ "He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.", **Matthew 5:45**, a grace common to all. Think about it, if a person is not a believer in Christ and is also not yet in Hell, that is grace. A person who refuses Christ but is still healthy and prosperous is a recipient of His grace. That same person has a nice job, a home and healthy children, which are more examples of His grace. They or we deserve none of what they or we are getting, God is treating them and us with grace.

4. This all raises an important question: why does God put up with people? John 3:16

- ✓ Do people think lightly of all these benefits God's shows toward them? Of course!, **Romans 2:4**. They enjoy His blessing all the while saying, "there is no God." It's like a beggar asking for food, and when you give it to him he says that he doesn't believe you exist.

5. Another principle of wrath: people are deceived into being greedy for it.

- ✓ They refuse to give up running their own lives and squander the blessings that none of us deserve. For this reason, the Bible issues a stern warning: **Romans 2:5**. Hoarding means to store up more that you will ever need; that you are greedy for it. Greed for more and more wrath is a very disturbing principle. People do what they want to and do not acknowledge God in their lives or respond to His call that they desperately need a Savior. They enjoy God's blessings without turning to "The Source" of those blessings. They don't realize that they are storing up something very deadly.
- ✓ The pattern is unmistakable in the Bible; the people before the flood had never seen rain and wouldn't believe that anything like a flood could come. Noah warned them and built an ark right in front of them to save his family. It seemed ridiculous to the people of that day because it didn't line up with anything they had experienced before. They continued to live their lives like nothing would ever change. Then the flood came and swept them all away.

Today people live as if God and His wrath are fairytales. They see the claims of the Bible as ridiculous because they don't line up with anything they have experienced. They are being warned a flood of wrath is coming whether they believe in it or not. Sin is ever on the increase in our world, likewise, God's wrath is ever on the increase.
