

The Joy of Heaven and the Wrath of God

I. Introduction

"The salvation of a single soul is more important than the production or preservation of all the epics and tragedies in the world."

- C.S. Lewis

Romans 10:1

My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

Luke 15:7

⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

II. Scripture Lesson

Romans 1:18-23 (ESV)

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For 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. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴Therefore God gave them up...

III. Big Idea

May the present reality of God's wrath towards those outside of Christ move YOU to prayer and proclamation.

- A present reality
- An urgent prayer
- A bold proclamation

IV. A Present Reality

“The wrath of God is now visible in his ‘handing over’ of human beings to their chosen way of sin and all its consequences.”

- Douglas Moo

V. An Urgent Prayer

“A value is anything good in the created order – any idea, relation, object or person, from which one derives significance...in some one is prone to choose a center of value by which other values are judged. When a finite value has been elevated to centrality and imagined as a final source of meaning, the one has chosen a god. One has a god when a finite value is viewed as that without which one cannot receive life joyfully.”

- Thomas Oden

VI. A Bold Proclamation

“Most people, if they have really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sort of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise...something has evaded us.”

- C.S. Lewis

VII. Conclusion
