

ESCAPING THE WRATH OF GOD

Romans 1-8

By Raymond White

The first half of the Book of Romans is about the wrath of God, who God executes his wrath against, and who might escape it. So, for your reading pleasure, here is a whirlwind tour of Escaping the Wrath of God.

Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness.*

But is ignorance a legitimate excuse? What about people who don't know about God or his laws or his wrath?

Romans 1:19 *God is manifest in them* :20 [and in] *in the things that are made [so] they are without excuse.*

Sinners, then, are condemned and ignorance is no excuse because no one is complete ignorant. We all sense God and his moral law because he made us and the universe around us. Now, the Jews say, "we have the law so we're not sinners." That argument doesn't wash.

Romans 2:1 *Thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgeth: for wherein thou judgeth another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgeth doest the same things. :17 Behold, thou art called a Jew and restest in the law and makest thy boast of God. :24 the name of God is blasphemed among the gentiles through you. 3:10 There is none righteous, no, not one [Psalms 9:8].*

The issue is not having the law but living it. It is a poor boast to have the law because they didn't live it flawlessly. Nobody does, nobody can. The law didn't make Jews righteous, because they could not live it, and neither can anyone else.

Now, how about the gentiles? They would make the opposite argument. "The law condemns, true enough. But we don't have the law so we're okay. Right?" Wrong.

Romans 2:12 *For as many as have sinned without the law shall perish without the law. [How is that? That doesn't seem fair.] :14 For when the gentiles, which have not the law do by nature the things in the law, these having not the law are a law unto themselves. :15 the law [is] written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness.*

Even gentiles sometimes keep the law for conscience sake. And when they do, they give proof that they really do know it, they know right from wrong and are therefore accountable to the law because it is written on their hearts. Their conscience proves it.

So, having the law doesn't help and not having the law doesn't help. So how in the world can we possibly escape God's wrath? There is only one way. Skipping a lot, we get to —

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit.*