

Genesis 6

God's Wrath and Mercy: Following God Alone

Section 1: 6:1-4 – Sin Reigns

The first four verses of Genesis 6 have confounded many theologians throughout modern church history. Who are the sons of God and who are the daughters of men? The two understandings are (1) sons of God are angels and the daughters of man are humans and (2) the sons of God are the descendants of Seth and the daughters of man were the descendants of Cain.

I said it confounded modern church history because the common understanding of these verses found throughout Jewish tradition and the early church is that the "sons of God" were angels.

If you would like more information you can go to our YouTube page which is linked on our website to see the video I posted about this particular passage (Gen. 6:1-4).

But all agree that rebellion will always lead to the judgement of God. And that is the focus of this passage. When you sin...God sees, judges and executes a punishment. Here we see God gives man 120 years until they will be destroyed from the face of the earth by a global flood.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that God will judge the wicked?
- ❖ God is not pleased or ok with sin. Why do we live as if He is ok with sin?

Section 2: 6:5-13 – The Heart is Wicked

Man is not only sinful...man is wicked and evil all the time. So, what made Noah different? Why did Noah find favor with the Lord? Because Noah "walked with God" (6:9). Man's only hope is the grace and mercy of God. And that is only experienced by those that have a relationship with Him.

Often, we forget that God looks at who we are on the inside rather than the outside. We see our family, friends, neighbors and coworkers and think "they are generally a good person". But in reality...there is none that are good. All without Christ are wicked and evil in the sight of the Lord.

Too often we focus so much on the fact that God is love that we forget or simply ignore the fact that God also hates evil and those who commit evil. Those outside of Christ will experience God's hate and wrath and those in Christ will experience God's love and grace.

Psalm 5:4-6 (CSB) - ***4 For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil cannot dwell with you. 5 The boastful cannot stand in your sight; you hate all evildoers. 6 You destroy those who tell lies; the Lord abhors violent and treacherous people.***

Psalm 11:4-7 (CSB) - ***4 The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord—his throne is in heaven. His eyes watch; his gaze examines everyone. 5 The Lord examines the righteous, but he hates the wicked and those who love violence. 6 Let him rain burning coals and sulfur on the wicked; let a scorching wind be the portion in their cup. 7 For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds. The upright will see his face.***

God despises and hates who you are in your sin but accepts and loves who you are in Christ. The sin will not be cast into hell the sinner will be. God will bring His full wrath down upon the sinner on the great and terrible day of the Lord. We cannot separate ourselves from our sin and the wrath to follow under our own power. Our only

hope is Christ. The only way to be separated from the consequences of your sin and to experience the love of God is in Christ. This reality should cause believers to desperately share the gospel. Because the unbelievers have no hope in escaping the wrath of God being poured out upon them unless they repent and believe. And how can they believe unless someone tells them. We can't get trapped into thinking that people are generally good and will be fine.

1 Samuel 16:7 (CSB) - *⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart."*

Jeremiah 17:9-10; Proverbs 21:2; Matthew 15:18-20

In our sin we are left despised and hated by God. What do we do once we realize that we are enemies of God? We repent and believe. Psalm 51:10 (CSB) - *God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Praise be to God that when we cry out in salvation (Romans 10:9 and 1 John 1:9) He hears.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (CSB) - *²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.*

Proverbs 3:5-7; Romans 12:2; Romans 10:13

When we've given our lives to Christ in salvation, we have security knowing that Christ Himself will guard our hearts and minds from that day forward and into eternity. Philippians 4:7 (CSB) - *⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

Because of God's love for His creation, He has provided a way to escape His wrath and hatred for sin. That love is fully expressed in Jesus.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is Jesus our only hope in being separated from the consequences of our sins?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that God is not pleased with us living in sin?
- ❖ God hates and despises evildoers. Does that motivate you to share the gospel? Why or why not?

Section 4: 6:14-22 – God Gives a Clear Command

God gave Noah clear instructions on building the ark. Even that Noah may not understand the purpose of the ark...God understood. Even that the instructions may have been strange to Noah...God was perfectly on target.

God explains to Noah plainly that He is going to destroy the earth and all outside the ark. This is a picture of the gospel. In Christ all will be saved...outside of Christ all will be punished. It may seem strange to us but God has given clear instructions that Jesus is the only way of salvation. Just like Noah's only way of salvation was the ark. There weren't many ways to survive the flood...only one. There are not many ways to survive the wrath of God...only One.

Noah is saved from all the destruction because God made a covenant with him. Jesus, likewise, makes a covenant with us in His blood (1 Corinthians 11:25). If God had not come to Noah with a covenant, he would have perished, likewise, if Jesus had not come to us with a covenant, we would all perish.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is there only one way to be saved?
- ❖ Are you going to experience God's love or hatred for all eternity? How do you know?