

THE WEEK OF  
October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009



Jesus Vs. The Consuming Wrath  
Part I  
Ephesians 4:31-32

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

Ephesians 4:31-32

This week and for the next few, we will be addressing anger, "consuming wrath". Most of us probably don't struggle with wrath to the extent of the guy who beats his wife, screams in traffic, or shoots his lawnmower; but we all have the potential to develop a life-dominating anger problem. Also, there is a common misconception is that anger, in and of itself, is sinful. In Genesis 1:27 we learn that man and woman were created in the image of God, and this includes anger. However, God cannot sin, and therefore his anger is righteous. We, on the other hand, have the ability to take the emotion of anger and act sinfully upon it. In Ephesians 4:26 Paul says "Be angry, and do not sin". Sin enters when we choose to respond-verbally, physically or in our thoughts-in a sinful manner.

Sometimes it's easy to identify the source of our anger; like a problem at home, work, etc. At other times it can be deeply-rooted in something that happened many years ago. While both can be challenging to deal with, God is faithful to heal our wounds. When angry emotion comes, we have a choice, we can handle the temptation in a manner that glorifies the Lord or we will fall into sin. 1 Cor 10:13 tells us that when tempted (this includes anger) God provides an escape. It's up to us to take Him up on this promise.

Many things make us angry for good reason. Abortion, child abuse, pedophilia, human trafficking, slavery, etc. should all make us angry. Our initial response would be to want to hurt or murder those involved in these crimes, but this would be a sinful response. In Luke 9:51-56 we read of John and James's desire to command fire to consume the Samaritan's on Jesus' behalf for the way they wronged Him. Jesus rebuked them instead. Ultimately, the sins committed against us are not reason enough for us to respond in sin. The battle is the Lord's.

**Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day *example:***  
*If it's the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)*

#### **Anger in the Bible**

**Mon:** Righteous Anger of God: "...And God is angry *with the wicked* every day" Psalm 7

**Tue:** Righteous Anger of Jesus: "...Jesus...began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple..." Mark 11:15-24

**Wed:** Anger of Godly Men: "his spirit was provoked within him..." Acts 17:16-17

**Thu:** Anger equated to murder: "but I say to you that whoever is angry..." Matt 5:21-22

**Fri:** Overcoming Anger: "those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh..." Galatians 5:19-26

#### **Discussion Questions for Bible Café:**

1. Share a recent experience in which you were unrighteously angry and contrast it with one where you were righteously angry.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does the enemy use our anger against us? How do we make it easy for him? What has God given us to combat this weakness?

**Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):**