

Simon Wiesenthal



Simon Wiesenthal

The Sunflower



Why Justice Matters

Knowing God: Part 12

Genesis 18:25



A. The Problem of Evil



A. The Problem of Evil

- How can we forgive without trivializing sin?



A. The Problem of Evil

- How can we forgive without trivializing sin?
- What about justice?



A. The Problem of Evil

- How can we forgive without trivializing sin?
- What about justice?
- Who has the right to forgive?



A. The Problem of Evil

- How can we forgive without trivializing sin?
- What about justice?
- Who has the right to forgive?
- On what basis can we forgive?



A. The Problem of Evil

- How can we forgive without trivializing sin?
- What about justice?
- Who has the right to forgive?
- On what basis can we forgive?
- How can we believe in a good and powerful God, when there is so much evil in the world?



B. God's Righteousness



B. God's Righteousness

God's righteousness means that God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.

-- Wayne Grudem



Genesis 18:23-24

²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?”



Genesis 18:23-24

²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”



Exodus 34:6-7

⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”



Exodus 34:6-7

⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. **Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.**”



C. God's Wrath



C. God's Wrath

1. The Need for Wrath



C. God's Wrath

1. The Need for Wrath

God's wrath is the natural and necessary response of his holy nature to sin.



C. God's Wrath

1. The Need for Wrath

God's wrath is the natural and necessary response of his holy nature to sin.

"God hates every threat to what he loves."

ESVSB





C. God's Wrath

1. The Need for Wrath

God's wrath is the natural and necessary response of his holy nature to sin.

"God hates every threat to what he loves."

ESVSB



C. God's Wrath

1. The Need for Wrath

“No one gets away with anything. *Breaking Bad* revolves around the least fashionable concept imaginable: wrath.”

(David Zahl, *Christianity Today*)





Vince Gilligan

"I want to believe
there's a heaven. But
I can't not believe
there's a hell."



Vince Gilligan



West Nickel Mines Amish School

“I don’t want to live in a world where people are afraid to call some things wrong.”



“A God without wrath brought man without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.”

(H. Richard Niebuhr, *The Kingdom of God in America*, describing the liberal theology of his day)

C. God's Wrath

1. The Need for Wrath
2. Avoiding Wrath



C. God's Wrath

1. The Need for Wrath
2. Avoiding Wrath
3. Righteousness or Wrath



Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.



Romans 3:25-26

²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.



2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

⁸ The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, ⁹ for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.



1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.



John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.



John 5:22-24

²² Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

²⁴ "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.



Personal Reflection

- *How is God's righteousness reflected in your life?*



Personal Reflection

- *How is God's righteousness reflected in your life?*
- *Is there a situation you need to turn over to the Lord as the righteous Judge?*



Personal Reflection

- *How is God's righteousness reflected in your life?*
- *Is there a situation you need to turn over to the Lord as the righteous Judge?*

Psalms 73 – Asaph's "Aha!"



Genesis 18:25

Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?

