

Discussion Questions
The Gospel of Perfect Wrath
Revelation 14:19-16:1

(Who do you most struggle to forgive and why? Do you feel angry with them? If so, what emotions are behind that anger? What led up to the anger?)

Read Revelation 14:19-16:1. In this passage of Scripture, the “wrath of God” is mentioned several times.

- When you read about God’s wrath, what comes to mind? What is the wrath of God?
- Do you think God gets angry? Do you think He is angry...even now? If so, what do you think He’s angry about?
- Do you think His anger is like your anger? How might His anger & your anger be similar? How might they be different?

We often don’t trust that God is angry enough; we don’t trust that God hates evil enough:

Whenever I point out that Scripture clearly says God reconciles all things to Himself making peace by the blood of Jesus, someone will invariably say, “What about Hitler?” And by that, they mean “What about my ex-wife who broke my heart” or “What about the man who abused me as a child?”

—P.H

- What are your “What about Hitler?” questions?
- Are there any areas in which you’re angry at God for being too forgiving or merciful?
- Is there any area in your heart where you rejoice at the idea of endless torture of your enemies? (Take a moment to confess those feelings to God)
- In Revelation 14:17-20 we read about a “winepress trodden outside the city” what do you think this is referring to?

Rev. 15:1 says, “*Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.*” [The word “plagues” *pleges* in Greek...means wound or more literally “stripe” like the mark made from a whip... like the prophecy in Isaiah 53: “*with his stripes we are healed*”. Jesus...told us, “I am the *eschatos*—the last.”]—P.H.

- Considering the above information, What/who do you think the seven messengers with stripes, wounds are and how might the wrath of God be “finished with them”?
- Why do you think God allowed Himself to be beaten, bloodied, nailed to a cross and crucified? What does it reveal to us about the nature of God’s wrath?

In this sermon, Peter told a story about when his son was young & was trying to get the clerk to acknowledge him & his Mickey Mouse Pez dispenser. Peter felt wrath & wanted to lash out at the clerk and say, “See my son!” In the midst of Peter’s frustration, God reminded him that the clerk might need to be seen as well & He said to Peter, “See my son.” God calls us to have His passion & heart for all His children. If we will listen, He speaks to our hearts: “See my son behind the counter.” “See my son in the last & the least of these.” “See my son in the poor & naked.” “See my son in the sick & imprisoned.”

- Does the Holy Spirit bring to mind someone He’d like you to see?

“When people take blood, we take blood in return—that’s human vengeance.

But when we take blood, God gives blood—His vengeance is Absolute Mercy. It is the fluid Love bleeds.”—P.H.

- Read Romans 12:19-21. How might God be calling you to trust His vengeance?
- How might He desire to pour out His Life—His blood through you (as part of His Body) to a hurting & broken world?

“Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to Him...” You take their life and you take His life. And check this out: Whenever someone tries to take your life (in big ways or small ways) because they’ve judged you the last and the least... they aren’t just taking your life, they’re taking Christ’s life . . . because your life *is* Christ’s life. Jesus weeps your every tear. Jesus knows your every sorrow. Jesus feels your every wound, even more intensely than you do because He literally is the blood you bleed.—P.H.

- In what ways does knowing that your wounds, griefs, & sorrows are shared & carried by Christ give meaning & comfort to you in the midst of the pain you experience in this world?