

REMNANT CHURCH SERMON NOTES – ROMANS 9: 22-24
PREACHED ON OCTOBER 11, 2026, BY REV. B.B. ANUM-HIGHER

22 What if God, although choosing to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the objects of His wrath—prepared for destruction? 23 What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory— 24 even us, whom He also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

➤ **INTRODUCTION**

- You will notice that Paul had digressed from his main theme in this section to comment on the sovereignty of God. We have learned that God is in control not only of this world but of our individual lives. The apostle in our text seemed to be giving a response to the question: “Why is God not saving all men and women, but some are allowed to perish in hell? Paul writes: “What if God, choosing to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the objects of His wrath, prepared for destruction? What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory?”
- He answers it by inviting us to consider, “What if...” as though there may be other answers to the question, but we must not overlook or dismiss this particular one. In this passage, Paul gives us three reasons why not all men and women are saved, but some are allowed to perish in hell. First, God sends some to hell to display His wrath. Secondly, He wants to display His power, and thirdly, to show His mercy to the Christians, whom He saves. Notice that Paul refers to the non-Christians as objects of God’s wrath because God is angry with them for their sin and their rejection of Christ. He also refers to the Christians as objects of God’s mercy because it is only by the mercies of God that Christians are saved from hell and not because of any works they did.

➤ **GOD WAS DETERMINED TO DISPLAY HIS WRATH.**

- Consider a man who lives in a dangerous neighborhood but does nothing to protect his home and family. His doors remain unlocked, and his windows stand open. Criminals enter freely, stealing the family’s valuables and precious possessions, and yet he never calls the police. They enter again, abuse his daughters, and still, he does nothing to defend them. You would call such a man foolish. More than that, you would call him wicked for failing to protect his family’s possessions, allowing them to fall into poverty, and refusing to rescue his wife and daughters from terrible abuse. Or consider the citizens of a wealthy nation whose rulers refuse to protect them from raiders who cross the borders to rape, pillage, and enslave. Their leaders fail to guard the borders or protect their

people. You would say that such rulers were among the worst leaders a nation could have—utterly incompetent, negligent, and wicked. Their responsibility was to protect their citizens and use the full authority of their office to restrain and punish such criminals.

- So when mankind rebelled against God, the Lord did not simply sit back and allow evil to run unchecked. God was not willing to let this world become a complete hell. He did not surrender the inhabitants of the earth to tyrants, torturers, and the powers of darkness to do whatever they pleased. God was willing to display His wrath and make His power known. We see a powerful example at the end of Genesis 3, where God responds to Adam's rebellion in the Garden of Eden: "So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life" (Genesis 3:23–24). There is a threefold expression of God's wrath: God banished Adam, God drove him out of the Garden, and God stationed armed servants to prevent him from returning. God was willing to display His wrath and make His power known to Adam.
- The wrath of God is not like human anger. It is calm and settled; it is the righteous response of a holy God who loves everything that is righteous, good, pure, and true. God's wrath is directed against every form of sin. In Romans 1:18, the apostle tells us that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Notice the word all—God's wrath is directed against all sin. Jesus uses the word wrath when he says, "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 3:36). God is willing to display His wrath against those who reject His Son. If you say "No" to Christ's teaching, "No" to the atonement of Calvary, and "No" to His lordship over you and over this world, then the wrath of heaven is directed against you. The wrath of God comes upon the children of disobedience. We are also told that His anger is constant. It does not change with passing generations, philosophies, cultures, fashions, or social movements: "God is angry with the wicked every day" (Psalm 7:11). His wrath is also beyond our ability to comprehend. The psalmist asks in amazement, "Who knows the power of your wrath?" (Psalm 90:11). And Revelation declares, "The great day of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?"
- What are all these passages telling us about the wrath of God? They are declarations from prophets, apostles, and the Son of God Himself. But statements are not as powerful as examples, and Scripture gives us many terrifying examples of divine wrath. The first example, even before Adam's judgment, is God's judgment upon the angels who sinned. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 2:4, "God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment." This is one of the

greatest demonstrations of divine wrath because it appears to have happened suddenly. One day, these angels were in heaven; the next, they were in hell. One day, they were angels of light; the next, they were creatures of darkness. What makes the judgment especially fearful is that God gave them no opportunity for repentance. One lesson the universe should learn from this is that God will certainly punish sin.

- Another great example of God's judgment occurred on earth in the days of Noah. Evil had spread throughout mankind. Genesis 6:5 says, "The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time." God did not simply shrug His shoulders at the way men treated one another, women, children, and animals. He was willing to reveal His wrath. He sent the flood upon the earth to wash away the corruption that had filled it. "The Lord said, I will destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth." And so it happened: "The flood came, and carried them all away." The flood has left its testimony in the history of our world, reminding us that the holy God, who is light and in whom there is no darkness, will not fail to judge sin.
- Another tremendous display of divine judgment was the destruction of Sodom. "Now, the men of Sodom were wicked, and sinners before the Lord exceedingly." The cry of their wickedness reached heaven, and God sent His messengers to examine the situation. They found that the wickedness was indeed as great as the cry that had reached heaven. After Lot and his family were brought out, God rained fire and brimstone upon the city, leaving behind a testimony of His judgment in that region near the Dead Sea. God was willing to display His wrath.
- Yet there was another manifestation of divine wrath on earth, and it was the most extraordinary of all: Calvary, where God's beloved Son died. If God could rescue the holy family from Herod, Peter from prison, and Paul from the governor of Damascus, then he certainly could have rescued His Son from wicked men if that had been His purpose. There was no helpless God standing by, folding His hands in frustration as men crucified His beloved Son. If there was ever a moment and place on earth when God could have chosen to set aside His wrath, surely it was there. The one receiving that wrath was the one most precious to God. There had never been anyone in the universe whom the Father loved as He loved His Son. He loved His perfect obedience, His purity, and His wholehearted devotion to God. Jesus had never done anything displeasing to His Father. He had no sin of His own. His robe was spotless, and His soul was sinless. Yet when Christ was made an offering for our sin—when God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us—when He became the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world—it pleased the Lord to bruise Him. God bruised the Son whom He loved when our sin, guilt, and shame were laid upon Him. He did not spare Him. Even His love for His Son did not prevent Him from carrying out the work of redemption. That single act of Christ laying down His life was such a glorious demonstration of God's justice that the universe had never seen anything like it

and will never see anything like it again. Even hell does not display the fearful reality of falling into the hands of the living God as powerfully as Calvary does. If anything demonstrates that God will punish sin, it is the death of his holy and sinless Son, suffering in the place of sinners.

- Yet there is still one great display of God's wrath that is yet to come. Our text says in verse 22, "What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath, prepared for destruction?" God is prepared to destroy the souls of those He has created—not the angels who fell, for their judgment has already been completed when He cast them into hell, but men and women whose rebellion He is enduring with extraordinary patience. This is a moral universe, and "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Therefore, another great display of divine wrath is coming, unlike anything the world has ever witnessed. God will reveal what He will do to those who defiantly despise His Son and reject His gospel. It will be something new and terrifying. Paul tells the Thessalonian Christians that "God will be revealed from heaven in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know him not, and that have not obeyed the gospel." God Almighty is now patient. He allows men to live for decades, often into their seventies, and women even longer. Day after day, year after year, He blesses them and sustains them, while many want nothing to do with Him. They say, in effect, "Leave me alone. I will live my life my way." They refuse to speak about God, and concerning Jesus, they say, "We will not have this man rule over us." Yet the same God who is patient with them now will one day reveal his wrath against those who persist in rejecting Him. It will be fearful to experience—and it ought to be fearful even now to contemplate.

➤ **GOD WAS DETERMINED TO DISPLAY HIS POWER.**

- Here is the second reason why some will go to hell: that God might make His power known. Scripture reminds us of the almighty power of God. This is how He introduced Himself to Abraham. He commanded Abraham to leave everything and go immediately to a land He had prepared for him. He promised that He and Sarah, despite their advanced age, would have a son, and through that son's line, someone would come through whom every nation of the earth would be blessed. These were staggering promises, and to assure Abraham that he should not doubt Him, God declared, "I am the Almighty God." That should have been enough. Nothing is impossible with Him. God is limited only by His own will; He can accomplish whatever He chooses. Psalm 93 reminds us that "the Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea." Scripture continually reminds us of His almighty power and gives us remarkable demonstrations of it. Think of creation itself and the sheer vastness of the universe. All of it came into existence when "God said, Let there be light,"

and there was light. “He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and all things stood fast.”

- Another demonstration of God’s power is His constant providence, by which He governs all things and all their actions. “In Him we live, and move, and have our being.” He rides upon the swift wings of the wind. Another evidence of His power is His ability to restrain and control wicked men. Psalm 32:9 says, “Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding, whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle.” There are wicked men who hate the Western world so intensely that they would gladly build a hydrogen bomb and detonate it in several cities. Yet God has restrained them. He has prevented them from carrying out their evil intentions.
- Another way God makes His power known is through the conversion of sinners. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord.” It was the Lord who opened Lydia’s heart; Lydia did not open her own heart, and Paul had absolutely no ability to accomplish that work himself. Conversion is the work of “the wisdom of God and the power of God.” We believe that the conversion of a sinner is a greater display of divine power than the creation of an entire galaxy, and that it can happen only through the exercise of that same almighty power. Consider the apostle Paul. What power other than God’s can explain his conversion?
- There is one final exhibition of divine power that is still to come—it will be seen in the destruction of the wicked. Paul asks, “What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath, prepared for destruction?” He is speaking of the destination at the end of the broad road upon which so many are traveling, the destruction about which Jesus warned us. We have already seen in this chapter that one reason God raised up Pharaoh was to demonstrate His power by humbling and judging him. God said to Pharaoh, “For this cause have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee.” Those of you who hear me preach weekly and who continually reject the gospel of Jesus Christ and may one day die without Him: God will still receive glory from you. You cannot escape that reality. God has endured your unbelief and indifference toward Him for so long in order to demonstrate His power in you. Through the prophet Isaiah, God declares, “I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing” (Isaiah 63:3). “I will do it,” says the Lord. Revelation 17 declares, “She shall be utterly burned with fire; for strong is the Lord God who judges her.” And our Lord Jesus tells us in Matthew 10:28 to fear God, “who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Notice those words: God is able to destroy. There is great power required to establish the place of judgment and to destroy the wicked, and God possesses that power.
- Will it not be terrifying to see God display His power upon those who refused to leave the broad road and finally arrived at its dreadful destination? Even while traveling that road, they were continually upheld by the very God in whom they lived, moved, and had their being. Think of a four-year-old boy sitting safely on

his father's lap who becomes irritated and restless and then strikes his father across the face. His father is the one holding and supporting him; without him, the child would fall to the floor and into the dust, yet he strikes the very one sustaining him. That is a picture of fallen man today. But one day God's great patience will come to an end, and He will pour out His righteous wrath upon those who have continually rejected Him.

➤ **GOD WAS DETERMINED TO DISPLAY THE GLORIOUS RICHES OF HIS MERCY.**

- “What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory—even us, whom He also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?” (verses 23–24). We are mostly told that God is love, but Scripture also says that God is wrath. We are told that our God is a consuming fire; that is perhaps the closest the Word of God comes to describing Him in those terms. The Bible is fundamentally a revelation of divine mercy shown to those who utterly deserve nothing but judgment. It is the revelation of the promise of a coming Savior, the One of whom John said that “the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Jesus came to make known the riches of His glory to those whom the Father had given Him before the foundation of the world, those whom Paul here calls the objects of God's mercy.
- In other words, when we look at these Christians, we are moved to wonder, love, and praise. We say, “What riches of God's glory are displayed here!” Why do we say that? Because some of the most wicked people who have ever lived are numbered among them—cannibals, slave traders, Pharisees, murderers, liars, thieves, and sexually immoral people. What riches of God's glory are displayed in the lives of these transformed men and women! Again, we see God's glory in the sheer number of people who have received His mercy. They are as countless as the sands upon the seashore. Again, we see His glory in the usefulness of their lives. Their chief end is to glorify and enjoy God. They become Christian parents, preachers, and evangelists; people who care for the poor and sick; teachers of the ignorant and visitors of prisoners; people who pray for all kinds of men and women, love their enemies, and overcome evil with good.
- Again, what glory will be seen when they enter heaven forever, and each one who sees Christ is immediately transformed to be like Him forever. The murderer, the deceiver, the abuser of men, women, and children, the thief, the blasphemer—each one has been prepared beforehand to become glorious in the entirety of his life in the new heavens and earth, conformed to the image of the Son of God! What riches of God's glorious grace are displayed in their lives, and in our lives too, as Paul says here, “even us!” Jew or Gentile, rich or poor,

educated or ignorant, young or old, illiterate or highly intelligent—as long as they are called by God and united to Christ, they are all objects of His glorious mercy.

- Or again, the glory of Christ's mercy is displayed in the contrast between the destiny of the objects of God's wrath, who have prepared themselves for destruction through their continued defiance and refusal to turn to Jesus Christ, and the destiny of those who receive His mercy. For one, glory; for the other, destruction. For the one, there is the worm that does not die, the fire that is not quenched, weeping and gnashing of teeth, and the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels—all the fearful realities about which Jesus warned us. What a dreadful end that is! What a contrast to the place where God wipes away every tear from our eyes and where we will be with Jesus our Savior, forever. In hell, they receive exactly what they deserve. In heaven, they receive what Christ alone deserves.
- One reason there are objects of wrath prepared for destruction is that, by contrast, God might display the riches of His grace toward the objects of His mercy. It is as though He were saying, "This is what you deserved, but this is what I have freely and lovingly given you." You know, brethren, we often understand things best by contrast. A rainbow, for example, is never seen more brilliantly than when it appears against a dark cloud. In the same way, men and women, we will never appreciate the love and compassion of God displayed in those who have been saved more profoundly than when we see the dreadful destiny of those who remain objects of His wrath.
- So Paul brings this little digression on the sovereignty of God to an end—a truth so necessary for every Christian to believe and to find comfort in. Here we see God's sovereignty and the two radically different destinies of mankind. There is a day coming when God will make this distinction beyond all possibility of doubt. There are whole churches and entire bodies of professing Christians that oppose this truth, but a day is coming when there will be no one in heaven, on earth, or in hell who will deny it. Suppose that day had already come, and this congregation stood divided, some on the left and some on the right. Would you not see the sovereignty of God in that great separation and in the contrast between those whom He chose and those whom He passed over? Once you were all indistinguishable. You were all under the same condemnation. Some of you came from the same womb. You were nursed at the same mother's breast, received the same parental love, and were the subjects of the same parental prayers, and yet on that day one will be taken and another left. What made the difference? Everyone will see that it was God who made the difference, that He had "mercy on whom He would have mercy."
- Another evidence of God's mercy is the reality of the complete and comprehensive pardon He gives even to the worst sinners who seek His forgiveness. Forgiveness for deliberate sins, secret sins, calculated sins, shameful and vile sins, and sins of omission—all pardoned! Who is a pardoning God like You, and who has grace so rich and free? At present, this seems almost

unbelievable and open to every kind of abuse, but on that day it will be acknowledged with astonishment and adoring wonder. God will make known the riches of His glorious mercy to the objects of His mercy. Men and women, when one vessel is cleansed and carried into glory while another is left to perish, and when you know that both vessels were equally defiled, then you will understand that it was the blood of Christ that made the difference—the pardon He purchased and the righteousness with which He covered His people. One sought that pardon and received it; the other despised it. God will make known the riches of His mercy in the objects of His mercy, while at the same time displaying His holy hatred of everything defiling and sinful in those who deliberately remain objects of His wrath, fitted for destruction.

➤ **CONCLUSION.**

1. All will not be saved. There is no universalism here; no suggestion that everyone will eventually enter heaven, leaving hell as a real place with no one in it. No! Scripture speaks of two roads, two destinations, and two resurrections. It is a fearful delusion of our time that, despite the clear words of Jesus, people think they know better and deny the existence of hell. Some have embraced reincarnation and purgatory while rejecting hell altogether. But my thoughts and convictions are chained to Jesus Christ. He can say nothing wrong. He is the truth. There is a hell. It was God's purpose that there would be objects of wrath as well as objects of mercy. My friends, it is better that it should be so. Do not deceive yourselves! All will not be saved. There are those upon whom the wrath of God will come, as well as those who will receive His mercy. Some of you, I fear, are going to hell, while others, I trust, are going to heaven; and doubtless it is right that it should be so, even though I cannot explain all the reasons why. The net contains both good and bad fish: some are gathered into the vessel, while others are thrown away.
2. Every one of you will ultimately be to the glory of God. You will glorify Him in one way or another. You will do so either willingly or unwillingly. "He has made all things for Himself; even the wicked for the day of evil." Yes, wicked unbeliever, defiant man, you would rob God of His glory if you could, but you cannot. If you cast yourself upon Christ, He will display His glory by saving you; but if you refuse Him, God will display His power by destroying you, a vessel of His wrath.
3. There is a third lesson we must learn: God's chief end in this world and the world to come is the manifestation of His glory. Many people, especially unbelievers, imagine that God's chief purpose is the happiness of His creatures. But from the Word of God, we see that this is not so. If the happiness of His creatures were His highest purpose, then everyone would be happy. His chief end is His own self-manifestation. Had it not been for this, God would have remained alone—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternally delighting in one another, with no share of that glory given to us. This seems to be one reason why there are objects of

wrath as well as objects of mercy: that they might serve as mirrors reflecting His attributes. When creation is complete and redemption is accomplished for all whom the Father has given to the Son, there will be a complete manifestation of the glory of God.

4. Another lesson is that God is long-suffering or patient even toward the objects of His wrath. There was a woman who once argued that she must be a child of God because of all the goodness God had shown her. She listed the many blessings she had received—how God had protected her across the seas, delivered her from numerous trials, and given her many comforts throughout her life. But the answer given to her was, “The goodness of God leads you to repentance.” The blessings you have received are not proof that you are a child of God; rather, they demonstrate how patient God has been with you. There would not be an empty pew in this church if Christians were simply people who had lived easy and comfortable lives. Please believe this, strange though it may seem: this holy and discriminating God is patient with you and does not delight in your destruction. He bears with you for a long time. Although God will be glorified in the destruction of the objects of His wrath, He will be glorified even more greatly in making them objects of His mercy.
5. God gives you every encouragement to become an object of His everlasting mercy and love. Today, go to Him like the guilty tax collector and cry, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” Why are you determined to go to hell? The first moment you are there, you will look back upon your life on earth with the deepest longing to be delivered, but it will be too late. A great gulf has been fixed, and no one there will ever be able to cross it. Why face the judgment of an angry God when today you can humble yourself, confess your sins to Him, receive His pardon, and become His child? Receive Christ! Ask Him to receive you. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

Why live without making God your priority? Why continue seeking the approval of men while remaining outside of Christ? Scripture teaches that our main purpose in this world is to please God because in Him, our souls find security, rest, and contentment, even when the whole world opposes us. For the true Christian, God is sufficient, and His favor and approval are our true portion and reward. Will you receive Christ today, before death comes? For those who die outside Christ, death brings the end of all their joys. There is nothing like rest in peace for the non-Christian. But for those who belong to Christ, death marks the end of all earthly sorrow and suffering and the beginning of eternal joy in His presence. Our present suffering is all the hell we will ever have. What a privilege it is to be a Christian! Therefore, cry out to God for mercy, repent of your sins, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved! Amen.