

BIG WORDS

Word 2: Propitiation

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Some Troubling Scriptures

The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong.

– *Psalm 5:4*

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. – *Isaiah 59:2*

In his anger against Israel the Lord handed them over to the raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. – *Judges 1:14*

God is a righteous judge, who expresses his wrath every day. – *Psalm 7:11*

The story of Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 5:1-11*)

My logical conclusion:

God is really, really angry!

The Truth About God's Wrath

God's anger is not irrational (*Psalm 7:11*)

God's anger is slow (*Exodus 34:6-8*)

God's anger is sometimes held back (*Psalm 78:38*)

The bottom line: God is holy. God's anger burns against sin. We are sinful people. This is a problem. We need help.

Some Comforting Scriptures

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. – *1 John 4:10 ESV*

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. – *Romans 3:23-25 ESV*

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. – *1 John 2:2*

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pro•pi•ti•ate – to appease, to pacify, to avert the anger of another

pro•pi•ti•a•tion – The work of Jesus our Savior to avert the wrath of God by dying on the cross as a substitute for sinners

The Truth about God's Love

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. – *1 Timothy 2:56*

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! – *Romans 5:8-9*

The bottom line: God is holy. God's anger burns against sin. We are sinful people. This is a problem. We need help.

Jesus appeased God's wrath. Jesus became our substitute. Jesus paid the price for our sin. God loves us. We can be at peace with God.

On Your Way Home

Have you ever experienced road rage? How is that anger different from God's anger?

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) No spiritual agenda with this question – just a chance to get to know people. How do you spend a typical Thursday evening?
- 2) As a child, what did God look like to you? Kind? Angry? Wise? Non-existent? How has that picture changed over your spiritual journey?
- 3) What are you like when you are angry? How is your anger different from God's anger?
- 4) Is it possible to truly love someone when you are very angry with them? How does your answer line up with all of the scriptures listed above?
- 5) What does "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" mean?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?