

**NOTE:** People need to fear God. They already believe He is; they reject His authority over them.

**Romans 1:20, NLT:** For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**II. Second, God's wrath is an extension of His holiness (15:6)**

**Holy:** right intrinsically, apart from human statutes or relations (*Strong's*); undefiled by sin, free from wickedness (*Thayer*)

- A. He is angered by sin (**15:2, 16:6**)
- B. He does not stay angry forever. (**15:1**); He is not "an angry God"

**Completion:** fulfill, finish

**NOTE:** Eternal winners sometimes lose on earth, and winners on earth sometimes lose eternally.

- C. His wrath is poured out but fully under control (16:2, 10)  
...no temper tantrum

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**Transition:** Is His pouring out His wrath *really* good?

**III. Third, God's wrath is an extension of His justice (16:2, 4-7)**

**Just:** right, fair; rendering to each his due

- A. God set mark for justice at the cross (16:8)... He poured out His wrath on His Substitute; only those who receive Jesus receive forgiveness; wrath remains for those who reject Jesus

**NOTE:** "It is finished" echoes from the cross to the day when God's wrath is complete. (**16:17**)... thunder & lightning (**18**; see **Matt. 27:45 darkness**); great earthquake—worst (**18**, see **Matt. 27:51**); terrible hailstorm (hail weighing 75 lbs)

**John 3:36, NLT:** And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment.

- B. while He may delay His wrath, no one can halt it (**15:8**)...
  - Nineveh, Jonah; Nahum, ~150 yrs. after Jonah
  - God waited because of Josiah (2Kings 22:16-20)
- C. He allows the wicked to be fully wicked (12-14, 19)... justifying His wrath

**NOTE:** Open doors do not always mean God's blessing (12-14)

**Armageddon:** of Hebrew origin, meaning Megiddo and hill country/mountain; uncertain place

- Peoples will come against God, His people, to destroy Jerusalem
- Will involve the whole world (Jer. 25:29-38)

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**CONCLUSION:** God sets the standard for good and for patience—long suffering

**ALTAR:** Are you burdened by God's long suffering, wanting justice now? Are you wrestling with God's goodness?