

How God Deals with Wickedness

International Bible Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-9

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L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy” (Hebrews 1:9).

The law of love for God and others includes loving righteousness and hating wickedness without hating others or ourselves. God requires us to love everyone, but God hates robbery and wrongdoing; therefore, God does not want anyone to ignore wickedness (Isaiah 61:8). Because God hates wickedness, but loves the world, He “gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Because God loves everyone, Jesus suffered for the sins of everyone so they would not need to be justly punished for their wickedness. Jesus died and rose again so people could turn from evil to faith in Him, to receiving forgiveness and cleansing from sin, to living righteously in the power of the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus loves righteousness and did so much for God’s people in spite of their wickedness, it is no wonder that His Father anointed Him “with the oil of joy.” Jesus came so those who trusted in Him could change their ways, put their past sins behind them, and practice righteousness from that day forward. Unhappily, the Bible and our experience reveal that some love wickedness and hate righteousness. They love “darkness instead of light because their deeds are evil” (John 3:19). They do not love God or those who love God. Even though they want nothing to do with God, God still loves them; therefore, God will not force them to live unhappily forever in His presence. Because God hates wickedness, He will send them to their preferred place, the place where people only experience evil continually forever.

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Thinking Further

1. Name three ways God has spoken to us.
2. Can you think of some ways God speaks to us today?
3. How did Jesus and the apostles show that they were speaking the truth of God?
4. From reading Hebrews 1, what are some of the important blessings that you have received as a result of your faith in Jesus, the Son of God?
5. What are some differences between Jesus and angels?