

EP41 Revelation 3:1-6 P4

The Church at Sardis

Overall Theme: Spiritual Delusion=Death

Revelation 3:1-6

To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who is now having the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you now have a name that you are now alive, but you are now dead. 'Now choose to be waking up (or watching), and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds ever having been made complete in the sight of My God. Now, remember what you have received and heard; and now keep it, and repent. Therefore, if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 'But you now have a few names in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are now worthy. 'He who is now overcoming will thus choose to be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 'He who is now having an ear, is commanded to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches.'

In our last podcast, we concluded by addressing the similar warnings found in **Revelation 3:3** and **16:15**. The implication was that those who love their own goodness and hide behind their tall steep walls of “**church worthy**” deeds, will be those who are asleep when Jesus chooses to come. Simply said, they will **NOT** end up being those who are **now** believing.

Instead, they will find themselves on the other side of the rapture, deep within the time of the Lord’s Great **wrath**. They will walk about naked, and men will see their shame. This is another way of saying that all their great preaching and blah blah blah about Jesus and salvation and church, and ministry, and gifts, and so on will come back to mock them, for none of it saved them from the time of **wrath**. Rather, it just sealed them in their shame, and everyone who is still around will see it and know it.

With that said, we will pick up in our study on the **wrath** to come. This is such an important issue because it has been taught all throughout evangelical Christianity that God has promised that believers will be saved from the wrath to come, for God has not appointed them to **wrath**. Therefore, what I have been explaining to you and the **warnings** that come from **Revelation 3:3** and **16:15** must be heresy and I must be confused.

Well, let’s jump in and explore what the Spirit says.

Fiction Alert

Saved From the Wrath to Come

FICTION ALERT

Jesus declared to those in Thyatira that Jezebel and her children will be thrown on a bed of **Great Tribulation**. This judgment had both near term and **End Times** implications. Likewise, He declares the same **WARNING** to those in Sardis. The language is different, but the implication is the same. They will be left behind and find themselves smack dab in the center of the day of the **Lord's Wrath**.

This begs the question, what does the Spirit mean by “**wrath**”? Almost universally (at least in Western Christianity), teachers summarily conclude that because a lot of bad things happen during the **End Times**, the entire time (both periods of 3.5 years of the tribulation) must be **wrath**. And so, they pronounce to everyone that the rapture must occur before the tribulation begin because we are not appointed to **wrath**. And everybody stands up and shouts, “hallelujah, others will suffer but not me!”

The problem however is that according to the **Codex**, “**wrath**” is a *defined term*. This means that we do not get to choose its definition, as the **Codex** is extremely specific about this time and when it occurs. To the surprise of many, the time of **wrath** does not apply to the entire **End Times** events but is found occurring specifically within the last or the second 3.5-year period of the tribulation, during the time of **mercy in Judgment**.

This time of *wrath* is clearly demarcated by angels who literally pour out 7-bowls containing plagues and the **wrath** (or anger) of God.¹ These bowls of wrath occur after the 7-seals are opened, after the 7-trumpets are blown, and after the Church is removed from this world in the event known as the rapture (remember, true believers are not appointed to wrath, therefore, they are not appointed to the Great Tribulation). This would place the **wrath** clearly at some point within in the second of the 3.5-year periods.

Timing of the Great Tribulation—the Day of Wrath

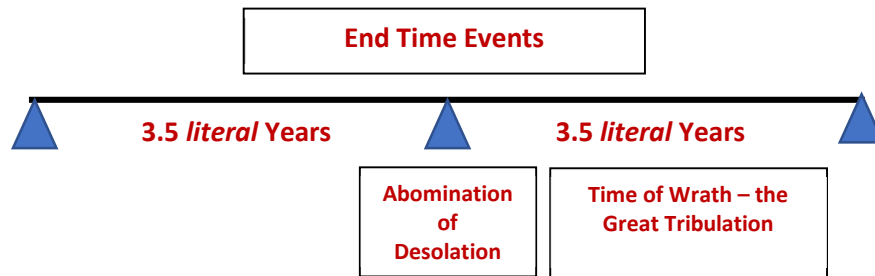
To determine with accuracy the timing of this unparalleled event, we must go back to its key marker, the *Abomination of Desolation*. According to Jesus, the “Great Tribulation” which is a synonymous term for the **Day of Wrath**, cannot occur before the *Abomination of Desolation*.² It is a subsequent event that follows the *Abomination of Desolation*.

Key facts about the Beast (the demonic spirit that will possess the man we know as the Antichrist) and key facts about **Yahweh's** 2 witnesses pin the *Abomination of Desolation* to a time near the middle, between the two 3.5-year periods, give or take some days.

¹ *Revelation 15:1; 16:1-12, 17-21*

² *Matthew 24:21; Mark 13:19*

Illustration



I have included an illustration in the transcript which you can download. But we addressed all this in **Episode 23**. If you go to Threshermediagroup.com/podcasts (or click the link here), you will want to go to **Season 5 Jude and Revelation** and click on the expanding + sign to show the episodes. Then simply scroll down to **Episode 23**. There is a download transcript button that will allow you to download and even print the written transcript, or you can just listen to the Episode and refresh yourself with these important and pivotal concepts.

With this short refresher on the **wrath** to come and its specific occurrence after the *Abomination of Desolation*, clearly none of us want to be left behind and endure that terrible and unparalleled time of **wrath**. But it is very hard for those who are living in their religious delusion with their ministry mindset to understand the threat and the reasons for the Spirit's **warning**.

Nevertheless, the Spirit warns those in Sardis that if they do not wake up and strengthen the things that remain, and if they fail to remember what they received, and heard, and keep it and repent (as a matter of lifestyle), they will **NOT** know when He comes to do the work in their life that is necessary for them to ultimately be saved from the **wrath** to come.

And we must keep in mind, Jesus is talking to good church folk, people who believe they have been serving God faithfully as good Christians. These are those who are beyond confident in their "golden ticket" to heaven because they said the "sinner's prayer," and are otherwise considered by the many to be "sons" of God; after all, they have a great reputation for being alive. They believe they are part of the masses who will get raptured (most of them believing they will be raptured before the Tribulation even begins), and they could hardly imagine any other outcome.

It is no wonder that their eternity will be marked by an existence of wailing and gnashing of teeth.

This is extremely hard to accept, since practically everyone is convinced that this cannot be talking about them, but someone else. After all, our religious **fictions** have told us that it is not possible for someone who has prayed the "sinner's prayer" and served God so faithfully with all those **church worthy** deeds to go through the dreaded time of the Lord's **wrath**. According to the traditional translations of the **Codex** even, we are told that believers are not appointed to wrath and that Jesus promises to save them from the wrath to come.³ So why am I once again talking like a crazy heretic.

³ 1 Thessalonians 5:9, 1:10

Wrath

Let's explore what the Spirit has to say about the **wrath** to come and the protections that are afforded from this dreadful day. Once again, we will stick tightly to the **Code** to ensure that we do not build any taller walls of religious delusion—walls that are based on presupposition and **fiction**.

To begin, the **fictions** tend to ignore that God's promises of protection are given to His bondservants—the Chosen—to those who are deemed to be “in Christ.” And the only way we know we are “in Christ” is if we walk (as a matter of lifestyle) as He now walks (doing deeds that are completed before the face of the Father).⁴ This requires us to walk by grace through faith.

These promises **DO NOT** extend to everyone who is in His household (the Called). This is clear in all the parables beginning in **Matthew 24** through **Matthew 25** where the Spirit throughout the narrative juxtaposes two people (or two types of people) who live in the Lord's household: one who is faithful and is rewarded and the other who is unfaithful and cast out of the household or out of His kingdom.

In those parables, the unfaithful steward, the wicked servant, and the unprepared virgins are all *cast out* of the Kingdom of God to a place of outer darkness where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth. By the way, both **wailing** and **gnashing** of teeth are nouns and not verbs. Thus, this terrible picture is not describing what they will be doing, rather, it speaks of their eternal existence, their state of being. Moreover, it is not addressing the fate of heathen unbelievers, but the fate of those who were once within the household of God and should have known that they were to now be believing.

I can only imagine that after expecting to be saved from the wrath to come, after having been assured of their “golden ticket” to heaven in sermon-after-sermon, and after serving God so faithfully and performing so many “**church worthy**” deeds, that the only emotion that could come to define their eternity would be wailing and gnashing of teeth. It is absolutely terrifying.

The Division: The Called and the Chosen

This terrible reality reinforces what Jesus clearly stated in terms of there being a **2-step** process of our salvation or said another way, our deliverance from the wrath to come.⁵ Despite the modern **fictions** promulgated in evangelical Christianity, I believe we have learned that a person is not “saved” by simply saying the “sinner's prayer”.

In **Step 1**, a person must be converted by God (what we call being born-again). Being converted by God is the first step which occurs when a person beholds the Son for who He is, **Yahweh** God, understanding that He is the Savior of the world, having died for the sins of all the world, that He comes to give new life, and that He alone is able to bring this new life, for He is the one and only God, the Lord of all.⁶

Thus, when a person asks Jesus to come into their life to be their Savior and Lord, He births in them new life by placing within their being the **New Creation**, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit created in the likeness of God in righteousness and holiness of truth.⁷ **Step 1** is what brings a person into the Household of God and marks them as one who is Called of God.

⁴ See **1 John 2:6**

⁵ **Matthew 18:3**

⁶ **John 6:40**

⁷ See **Ephesians 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17**

Step 2 is all about our need to now and continually be believing by betting our life on the name of God.⁸ **Step 2** is about bringing the role of Jesus as the Savior and Lord to fruition in our lives by granting Him the right to be the Savior by going to war against, and saving us from, everything and anything in our being that does not want **Yahweh** to be our **I AM** and that does not want Him to be the sole authority over our lives. This includes the strongman that has dominated our lives and the “Woman who rides the Beast” who has seduced us into self-reliance, in the name of Jesus.

However, **Step 2** leads us down the pathway of tribulation or trouble and pressure. It is the pathway of war. With that said, it is the only pathway that leads to life, which so few find. Many will seek to enter this gateway to life yet will not be able, for this is the pathway of those who are **Chosen** of God—the bondservants of Jesus Christ.⁹

Jesus said that once converted (**step 1**) a person must then (**step 2**) dig down deep in their soul and choose to become a little child or they will **NOT** enter the kingdom of heaven.¹⁰ In effect, they must now and continually be believing that **Yahweh** is the sole provision for life and godliness and therefore choose (or be **willing**) to let the Spirit cause them to become dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things all the time. For instance, He will teach us to become dependent upon **Yahweh** for His righteousness alone, that of **Yahweh Tsidkenu**, and for His good works, laying aside our own passion and desire to be good for God and to do good works for Him.

Clearly this is a process, it is a journey down a pathway; hence, the necessity to now and continually to be believing or traveling down the pathway that leads to life. And given what we know about the coming “great apostasy,” many who started the journey down this pathway sadly choose to get off the trail.

Let’s Review:

Step 1: the Called – those who will find themselves on the wrong side of the rapture having to endure the terrible **Day of the Lord’s Wrath** (those who will be cast out of the kingdom of God to that place of outer darkness where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth).

Step 2: the Called and Chosen – also known as the Bondservants of Jesus Christ who will be saved from the wrath to come, for they are even now believing that it is by grace through faith (though believing) that they are saved, and NOT as result of works (even “**church worthy**” deeds), in order that no man should boast. Jesus refers to this group as the Called, Chosen, and Faithful.¹¹

With that in mind, let’s search out the places in the **Codex** that addresses the **wrath** to come and the promise of deliverance.

Division and Judgment Comes for Those Within the Household of God

The Pharisees and Sadducees were in the household of God. For a time, they were the leaders of the **Yahweh** community and the so called “spiritual” people of Jesus’ day. Yet, when they showed up to hear

⁸ Again, See **John 6:40** where “beholds” or “sees” and “believes” are rendered in the *present active participle*

⁹ **Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 13:24**

¹⁰ **Matthew 18:3**. Note: “converted” is rendered in the *aorist passive subjunctive*; “become” is rendered in the *aorist middle subjunctive*; “not enter” is rendered in the *aorist active subjunctive*.

¹¹ **Revelation 17:14**

John the Baptist, John scolded them and said:

Matthew 3:7-12

...You brood of vipers {essentially calling them demon possessed}, who warned you to flee from the **wrath** that is **now** coming. Therefore, bear fruit in keeping with repentance; and do not suppose that you can now say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God can now raise up children to Abraham. The axe is already **now** chosen to be laid at the root of the trees; therefore, **every tree that is now not bearing good fruit is now cut down and now thrown into the fire**. As for me, I now baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is **now** choosing to be coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire**.¹²

Did you notice that Jesus will be clearing **His** threshing floor? This is not dealing with a judgment on so-called unbelievers, but of the religious masses within His household (the chaff and not the wheat berry) who do not live by grace through faith and therefore **CANNOT** bear good fruit which comes only through Jesus as we cling to Him as a branch clings to the vine. Remember, apart from Him we can do nothing!¹³

Jesus spoke this same truth and gave this same **WARNING** to **His own disciples**, to those whom He had already made clean by His word (and not just to the big bad religious Pharisees and Sadducees).

John 15:1-9

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that is **not now** bearing fruit, He **now** takes away; and every branch that is **now** bearing fruit, He prunes it so that it may **now** bear more fruit. You are **now** clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. You are commanded to abide in Me (as a matter of lifestyle), and I in you. As the branch cannot **now** bear fruit of itself unless it **now** abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you **now** abide in Me.

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who is **now** abiding in Me and I in him, he **now** bears much fruit, for apart from Me you will **now** be caused to **now** do nothing. **If anyone does not now abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and is caused to be withered (dried) up; and they now gather them and now cast them into the fire and they are now caused to be set on fire.**

If you abide in Me (as a matter of lifestyle), and My words abide in you, **now** ask whatever you dig down deep in your soul and command (or wish), and it will be chosen to be done for you. My Father is caused to be glorified by this, that you **now** bear much fruit, and you dig down deep in your soul and choose, as a matter of lifestyle, to be My disciples.

¹² **Matthew 3:7-12**

¹³ **John 15:5**

Thus, the **WARNING** of wrath and eternal fire is not just for some legalistic Pharisee who is off the rails with their religious zeal, because even those who have been cleansed by His word (His own disciples), those who are in Him, are warned of this judgment.

What is amazing is that prior to the words of judgment which are all rendered in the *future* tense, the bulk of this passage is rendered in the *present* tense. Thus, it does not matter what a person has done, what matters is what they are now doing. **Faith is a now thing!** Are they now believing such that they are now bearing the fruit which only Jesus produces? If not, they will in the *future* be thrown away as a branch and caused to be withered or dried up and cast into the fire.

Juxtaposition: He Who Sees & He Who is Blind

In like manner, John, through the Spirit said: “*He who is now believing in the Son* (in effect, he who understands and accepts that Jesus is **Yahweh** and there is no other) **now** has eternal life; but he who is **not now** believing the Son (your translation might say, he who does not obey the Son”, but that is not in the Greek). The literal translation is “he who is **not now** believing the Son **will not choose to see LIFE**, but the **wrath** of God **now** abides on him.”¹⁴

When we see the word “obedience” we tend to think about what we need to do and what law we need to obey. But the way God sees things is always about what we need to now be believing so that Jesus can now be doing His work in-and-through our lives.

The issue always comes down to this juxtaposition between those who are **now believing** and those who are **not now believing**, between those who think they can get along fine without being permanently fixed to the vine, and those who **now** cling to the vine every moment of their lives, drawing all their sustenance from the one who is the **I AM**.

As we saw with Ephesus, and the implication is the same for Sardis, they are cut off and thrown away as a branch and caused by God to be withered or dried up, good only for the fire. And, even now, they are caused to be set on fire.¹⁵

IT IS ONLY THROUGH BELIEVING IN OUR NOW (CLINGING TO JESUS FOR ALL OUR SUSTENANCE AND PROVISION) THAT JESUS CAUSES HIS CHILDREN TO NOW BEAR “GOOD” FRUIT—AND THEREBY ESCAPE HIS FIRES OF JUDGMENT.

It is fascinating that this judgment of wrath is for those who **DO NOT** dig down deep in their soul and choose to **see LIFE**, as “see” is rendered in the *future middle indicative*. In other words, having been converted by God (or born-again) and filled with the Spirit, they can see—they have the ability and the opportunity. They just will not choose to dig down deep in their soul and choose to see Jesus as their only source—as life itself.

¹⁴ John 3:36

¹⁵ Note: “thrown away” and “withered” are rendered in the *aorist passive indicative*; “gather them” and “cast into the fire” are rendered in the *present active indicative*; “burned” is rendered in the *present passive indicative*

With that said, it is important to note that those who are Called into the household of God have **NOT** been blinded from the truth, they have seen. Whereas “unbelievers” have been blinded from seeing the truth. The Spirit is clear when He says, “*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are now perishing, in whose case the god of this world (who is Satan¹⁶) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*”¹⁷

Unbelievers cannot see, for they have been blinded. But those who are Called into the household of God have seen and have beheld the Son for who He is. Still far too many have **NOT** chosen to now be believing that He is their personal **I AM**, their only sustenance for life. Instead, many, like those in Sardis, have put their hope in their great name and reputation for being alive, and are trusting in their great walls of “**church worthy**” deeds.

WARNING To the Saints

In the epistle to the **Romans**, the Spirit wrote to all who are beloved of God and called Saints.¹⁸ Therefore, the context of the message is fixed to those who are in God’s household and not to the unbelievers who have been blinded from the truth by Satan.

In addressing these “Saints,” the Spirit says something incredibly terrifying. He in effect likens those within the Household to the “*unfaithful servant*” spoken about by Jesus in one of the **Matthew** parables. Let’s first look at that parable and then the epistle to the **Romans**.

The Beating of our Fellow Servants

Matthew 24:45-51

Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’ and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; **the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**”

We are given this imagery of those who are in the household of God who are in effect “*beating*” their fellow servants and living lasciviously. This is our *background* that will help us comprehend what the Spirit said to those *who are beloved of God and called Saints* (those He addressed in the letter to the **Romans**).

And let’s keep in mind, the master comes on a **day** and **hour** which the servant does not know, and the result is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Next, the passage in **Romans** will put some meat on the bones of what it means to beat our fellow servants and to live lasciviously, since obviously those were metaphors spoken in **Code**, so they do have a meaning the Spirit wants us to comprehend.

¹⁶ See **John 12:31**

¹⁷ **2 Corinthians 4:4-5**

¹⁸ **Romans 1:7**

Storing Up Wrath

In addressing those who are beloved of God and called Saints, the Spirit warns them about storing up wrath for themselves in the day of wrath. Yes, that is something those who are in the household of God, Saints, can do; and the outcome is terrifying.

Romans 2:1-11

Therefore, you have no excuse, every one of you who **NOW IS JUDGING** *{essentially beating their fellow slaves for doing wrong}*, for in that which you **now** judge another, **YOU NOW CONDEMN YOURSELF**; for you who are **now** judging now practice the same things *{after all, only God is good}*.

And we know that the judgment of God **now** rightly falls upon those who are **now** practicing such things. **But do you now suppose this, O man, when you are now passing judgment on those who are now practicing such things and are now doing the same yourself, that you will choose to escape the judgment of God?** *{By the way, it amazes me that escaping judgment is always our choice—it is not a destiny but a result of choices we make.}* Or do you **now** think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God now leads you to repentance?

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart **you** *{yes, “you saints”}* **now store up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good *{Jesus worthy deeds not “church worthy” deeds}* are now seeking for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; **but to those who are selfishly ambitious and are not now believing the truth**, *{your translation probably says “obeying the truth” but in the Greek it is literally “not believing”}* **but are now being caused to be persuaded to unrighteousness, wrath and indignation** *{another word for the Day of Wrath}*.

There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who digs down deep in their soul and chooses to **now** be doing evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who digs down deep in their soul and chooses to **now** be doing good *{the works which only Jesus can do in-and-through them}*, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is **now** no partiality with God.

When we hold to the law (any law, your law, my law, the law) and use it as a weapon against others (as well as ourselves) in judgment (like the “*unfaithful servant*”) for all the bad and evil things they/we do, then we are guilty of transgressing that same law. We are guilty of loving the law and despising the grace of God, while at the same time beating our fellow servants expecting them to keep the law.

The result is that we have fallen from grace and have been cut off from Christ, just like those Jesus warned in the church of Ephesus.¹⁹ Hence, those who love the law (which describes most who abide within the religion of Christianity), now abide in **wrath** and they will find themselves smack dab in the center of the Lord’s indignation, or the time of the **Lord’s Wrath**.²⁰

¹⁹ See **Galatians 5:3-4**

²⁰ See also **Isaiah 26:20-21** which addresses those who get to hide away during the time of His indignation, His time

This is the reason why Jesus stopped everything mid-sentence in **Revelation 16** and gave that very important Public Service Announcement. **And beyond abiding in wrath, they also now store up wrath for themselves in the day of wrath.**

Romans 4:13-15

For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would **now** be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith {by the way, "*righteousness of faith*" is a noun and not a verb and therefore speaks not of what we do but of what we are in **Yahweh Tsidkenu**}. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; **for the Law now chooses to bring about wrath**, but where there is **now** no law, there also is no violation."

Being Born-Again Does Not Equal Saved from Wrath

Now this next passage has confused many. It deals with *justification* and *reconciliation*, as well as being *reconciled* and its direct association to being **saved from the wrath to come**. It is a hard passage, but quite navigable if we follow the **Code**. The difficulty comes in the words we use, what they have meant to us, or how they have been translated and taught to us.

As we venture down this path, let us keep before us what learned from Jesus. Being born-again is only **Step-1** of the process of salvation; and yes, it is a process. One must first be converted by God. This is the step by which a person becomes "*reconciled*" to God.

But then there is **Step-2** where each person must dig down deep in their soul and choose to become a little child. In other words, they must choose to be dependent upon God for all things all the time (just like a little child), or else they **WILL NOT** enter the kingdom of heaven.²¹ This is the step in which Jesus comes in our dark night (like a thief) and is busy "*justifying*" and "*reconciling*" us to Him in order that we might be saved.

Romans 5:8-11

But God **now** demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we are **now** being yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having been caused {*by God*} to **justifying** by His blood, we shall be caused to be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we are **now** being enemies we have been caused to be **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been caused {*by God*} to be **reconciling**, we shall be saved **by His life**. And not only this, but we also are **now** choosing to be exulting in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

of wrath and judgment.

²¹ Matthew 18:3, "converted" is rendered in the "*aorist passive subjunctive*"; "become" is rendered *aorist middle subjunctive*"; "not enter" is rendered in the *aorist active subjunctive*"

Reconciled, Reconciling, Justifying

Despite the awkwardness of this passage, the **Code** communicates that there is a process that is all rooted in what Jesus did (reconciled us to God) and what He does (*justifying* and *reconciling* us to God). What He did enables what He does. Let's break this down.

1. We are still **now being** sinners and **now being** enemies (both are rendered in the *present active participle*). This describes our baseline functioning in our humanity and in our *flesh*. This expresses why we can never rely on what we have done, whether it is in keeping the law (again, any law) or performing all our “**church worthy**” deeds like those in Sardis. All we do is corrupted.
2. Still, we have been caused by God to be **reconciled**, through the death of His Son. It is a done deal rendered as a statement of fact (*aorist passive indicative*). We have been reconciled, an event which occurred when Jesus died for the sins of the world, and we received the benefit of His death through **Step 1**.
3. The Greek word translated “**reconciled**” means we have entered into a *mutual agreement* such that the fundamental relationship is changed. In other words, there is a mutual agreement to no longer function with one another based on law, for it is through the death of the Son that we are reconciled to God. It is a mutual agreement to function based on **grace through faith**—what He did and what He does. It is always about what He did and what He does.
4. “... *having been caused (by God) to **justifying** by His blood, we shall be caused to be saved from the wrath of God.*” The phrasing is weird because it is rendered in the *aorist passive participle*, and I could not figure out a better way to express it. But it simply means he started something in the past (acquitting us, or making us innocent), and He is continuing in it “*by His blood*” that cleanses us. This is consistent with what we learned in **Revelation 1:5**. Jesus has been loosening or washing us by His own blood.²²
5. “Justification” (literally, being made innocent) therefore is **NOT** a done deal, but it is an ongoing process whereby, if we are **willing**, He will be putting to death our *flesh* and in replacement, He gives us more and more of His innocent **life**. Or better said, the **New Creation** begins to possess more and more of our being (The Spirit begins to fill all the places in which our *flesh* is put down, or in Bible language, is “*crucified with Christ*”). This continues until we can say that “*I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me.*”²³
6. This odd phrasing, “... *having been caused (by God) to **justifying** by His blood, we shall be caused to be saved from the wrath of God,*” establishes a relationship between this processes of being acquitted (or made innocent) and being saved from the **Wrath** of God.²⁴ One leads to the other.
 - a. The point being that once we break our mutual agreement (to live by grace through faith) and choose to go back to the “**work of our hands**” or our “**church worthy**” deeds,

²² “washed” is rendered in the *aorist active participle*

²³ **Galatians 2:20**

²⁴ “we shall be saved” is rendered in the *future passive indicative*

which are essentially our attempt at being justified or declared innocent before God through what we do and what we have done for Him, then we are no longer in that process of being acquitted by His blood. The branch has been cut or broken off from the vine.

- b. The process of being declared innocent has stopped and we have renounced that “*mutual agreement*” to no longer function with one another based on law, but through the death of the Son. In effect, we have chosen to return to the law and abdicated that mutual agreement that reconciled us to God by grace through faith alone. And law brings about **WRATH**.²⁵ Thus, those who love the law (in any way, shape, or form) are now abiding in **wrath**. They are also now store up **wrath** for themselves in the day of **wrath**.

Saved By His Life

- 7. To reinforce this idea, the Spirit continues, “... *much more, having been caused {by God} to be reconciling, we shall be saved by His life.*”
 - a. We have been **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son. That is **Step 1**, and it is captured in the idea that we must be born again (or converted by God). This establishes this mutually changed relationship that is no longer based on law but upon grace through faith, and it is accomplished by His blood.
 - b. However, we shall be saved (a *future* act) “**by His life**”. This is not just a cute turn of phrase, but it is establishing the parameters of the **Design Point** and the **Substitution Principle**: *His life for ours*. This is the foundation for **Step 2** and our decision to become a little child: *His life—His everything for ours*.
 - c. As He is *reconciling* us (the process of firmly establishing us in this new mutually agreed to relationship where He replaces—or thieves—what He wants from our lives) and as He is *justifying* us by His blood (this process of declaring us innocent of the law through taking each area of our life and replacing our goodness for that of **Yahweh Tsidkenu**), we shall be saved by His life as He lives in-and-through our bodies.

Once again, the desire of the Spirit is to get us to that point through the *justifying* and *reconciling* process where we can honestly declare with our heart, mind, soul, and strength: “*It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me, and this life I now live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God who loves me and gave Himself for me.*”²⁶

As we have discussed, this requires a mutual agreement to let God cause us to be transformed into a **New Creation**. Upon our having been **reconciled** (though accepting the work He did on the cross), He places within us the **New Creation** that is the dwelling place of the Spirit of God. And it is through our *reconciling* and *justifying* that He brings the **New Creation** to full expression within our being such that Jesus lives in-and-through our lives whereby He now fulfills the works of the Father that were determined for our lives. **And it is through this process that we will escape the wrath of God.**

²⁵ See **Romans 4:13-15**

²⁶ **Galatians 2:20-21**

By the way, living as this **New Creation** captures the notion of what it means to be found “**in Christ**”. *“If anyone is in Christ, He is a New Creation. The old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”*²⁷

Therefore, just being part of the Household of God, having said the “sinners’ prayer,” does not elevate one to the status of being “**in Christ**”. And this is a crucial fact, because there is no condemnation for those who are “in Christ.” For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and of death.²⁸ This truth enables us to walk as He even now walks, doing only what the Father wants us to do when He wants us to do it. Thus, those who run away from this freedom and return to the law, they are **now** abiding in wrath, storing up wrath for themselves in the day of wrath. Why? Because they have broken the agreement, they have violated that mutual covenant that they made to live only by grace through faith.

Let’s stop right here and pick up in our next podcast with an example of those who will be rescued from the **wrath** to come.

²⁷ **2 Corinthians 5:17**. See also **Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10**

²⁸ See **Romans 8:1-2**