



⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. (ESV).

Review

Paul is bringing home the fact, especially to the Jews, that they, like everybody else, were under the wrath of God and the only hope of salvation to them, as to others, was in the righteousness provided by the Lord Jesus Christ, a righteousness received by faith. The Jews are guilty of the very things for which they condemn others and they are guilty of the fallacy of forgetting that God's judgement is according to truth. They think God's judgement is like their judgement which is fallible and unworthy. The Jews themselves are proof of this having been judged and punished by God repeatedly, though they were His own chosen people. The Jew despises the goodness of God, His patience toward him in his sin, not knowing that this goodness was to lead him to repentance.

The Jew is also ignorant of his hard and impenitent **heart**. What is the heart?

- The center of personality
- The seat of sin

Man believes his heart is good, but he goes wrong in one way or another. Scripture teaches the opposite (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 1:21; Heb. 3:13; Mt. 15:10-20; Mark 7:18-23)

The trouble with man is not intellect and the mind only, but the heart!

If a man were to be able to make himself "good" through study, through the intellect, there would be no more wars, divorce, infidelity, but we are governed by something more elemental – the heart (Rom. 7:23).

Therein lies the necessity of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:7).

Man, in sin, hates God. There is nothing but hatred in his heart. That is why man is always looking to prove that He doesn't exist.

The same sun that *softens* butter also **hardens** clay. The preaching of the gospel can have either effect (Heb. 3:7-19).

Be careful! Hardening is a process. Each time we refuse to listen to God's voice we are hardened, and it becomes more difficult to obey the next time. If you do not respond to the mercy and compassion of God, *it will harden you.* (v. 13).

Instead of being led to repentance they are led to **impenitence**, a hard, callous heart, incapable of repentance (2 Kg 22:19).

The stony heart cannot be softened. It is fixed and cannot respond. Regeneration gives us a new heart (Ezekiel 11:19).

In verse 4 God treasures up His goodness. Contrast this with verse 5 where *man* stores up **wrath**! Man, in refusing the stored-up riches of God's goodness, is storing up for himself wrath.

Man also does not realize what finally awaits him, the day of wrath, the day of the revelation of the righteous judgement of God (Acts 17:30-31; 1 Cor. 3:13; 1 Thess. 5; Phil. 1:6; 2 Pet. 2:4; 1 Pet. 3:19-20; Rev. 6:17). Some is revealed now, mere adumbrations...

- This is why we have wars.
- God is giving man over to a reprobate mind.
- He allows man to reap the consequences of his false attitude towards Him.

There is judgement now, but there will be a great day when God announces His verdict upon all men (Rev. 20:11-15).