

God Revealed Two Things

At least twelve times in the NT the inspired text specifically refers to God the Father or Jesus “revealing” something. Several other times it is implied. Usually it is something desirable that God has revealed, like when Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and Jesus said flesh & blood hadn’t revealed it to him, but the Father in Heaven. But sometimes what God reveals something that isn’t so pleasant. Paul mentioned one of each in Romans 1:16-18 (READ).

Paul acknowledged the gospel as “the power of God unto salvation,” because “in it (i.e. in the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed by faith unto faith” This isn’t talking about God’s personal attribute of righteousness, for that was made known even in the OT, long before the gospel was proclaimed. Rather, Paul is talking about the way God justifies sinners, making them right with Him by faith. That’s obviously desirable – highly so! In fact, when sinners learn that they can be made right with God by faith, it motivates them to put their faith in Jesus and obey the gospel.

But in the very next verse Paul points out the reason we need God to justify us by faith: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” So the same God who revealed His way to justify sinners by faith has also revealed His wrath against the ungodly. In 2 Thess. 1:8-9 Paul wrote that those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel will suffer the punishment of everlasting destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

The choice is ours to make. We can put our trust in Jesus, turn from sin, obey the gospel, and be justified (made right with God). Or we can reject Christ and His gospel and suffer the wrath of God. God has revealed both options, Which do you choose?