

Pray: That your life does not make a mockery of God.

Monday 4/7

Read: Consider **Nahum 1:2-3, 6-8**. Refusing to acknowledge the wrath of God is perhaps the most blatant method in which we mock God. As you read the Bible, the wrathful side of God cannot be ignored. God is declared to be "**avenging and wrathful, taking vengeance on His adversaries**".

Application: Speaking of Gods wrath is not held in high esteem in our culture today. We feel more comfortable reflecting on the biblical description of a loving God. Ignoring the wrath of God may be more comfortable, but deliberately disregarding Gods wrath denies the reality of His supreme judgment.

Pray: For a complete understanding of Gods nature that will amplify your appreciation of His grace in your life.

Tuesday 4/8

Read: **Zephaniah 1:5-6** outlines the cause of Gods wrath towards the people during this time in the history of Israel. The nation was worshiping idols and false Gods. The people were turning their backs on following the commands of the Lord.

Application: It seems people haven't changed much. Read **Galatians 5:19-21**. These are the idols and false gods people continue to worship today. Self indulgence in sexual activities and selfish behavior that places your own interests and desires against the interests and desires of others.

Pray: That as you survey the Galatian list of sinful behavior you would be convicted of your own need to repent.

Wednesday 4/9

Read: Gods wrath is a part of His perfectly just nature. He cannot allow transgressions of His law to go unpunished. God expects submission to His word. God expects us to be obedient to the laws he has set in place.

Application: It would be wise at this point to understand that with God there is no plea bargaining. There are no technicalities that reduce the impact of Gods wrath. We fall either on the side of a transgressor who will receive the full wrath of God, or on the side of a forgiven sinner who receives the full grace of God.

Pray: That you would be fully obedient to Gods command, not looking for some way around the law of God.

Thursday 4/10

Read: You may have heard the term "full counsel of God". Simply put, this term means understanding all aspects of Gods counsel in the Bible. As we have already seen, some of Gods counsel is easy to accept. At the same time, other aspects of God counsel are not as readily received, particularly when they conflict with what we would like to believe.

Application: You are probably familiar with **II Timothy 3:16**. However, I encourage you to read this verse again. You are to use everything in Gods word to be taught, corrected, rebuked and trained. Every word that God has given us is true. It does not require your acceptance in order to be efficacious.

Pray: You would accept and receive every word God has given in the Bible. That you would seek to apply His principles correctly.

Friday 4/11

Read: The Bible teaches us those things which please God. These are the things we are to seek. The heart transformed by the grace of God eagerly seeks to please the One who has shown them eternal love.

Application: Read **Matthew 6:33**. It is in Gods kingdom you should seek to live. You should make Gods sovereign rule, and a desire to have a right relationship with Him, the highest priority in your life.

Pray: For a heart that seeks the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Saturday 4/12

Read: There are those who mock God now. There are those who deny the wrath of God. These people speak boldly now, but there will come a time when they will stand silently before God in judgment for their disbelief and disobedience.

Application: As the mockers of God stand before Him there will be no defense for their arrogance. These men will be judged for their complacency towards the things of God.

Pray: Pray not only that you would remain obedience to God, but also pray that those who arrogantly set aside the commands of God would have their hearts molded into obedience.

How Firm a Foundation

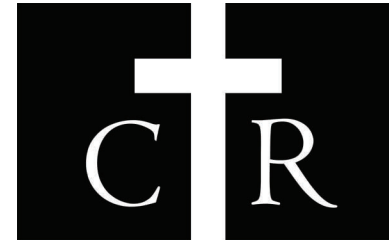
1. How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous , omnipotent hand.
3. When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.
4. When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
5. E'en down to old age all my people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.
6. The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

Traditional American medody

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Zephaniah-The Day of the Lord

Week of April 6, 2008



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER

■ PRESBYTERIAN ■

The message of Zephaniah was not unlike the words spoken by the prophets who proceeded him. Zephaniah spoke of God's judgment, of God's call to repentance and of God's restoration of those who turn to the Lord. Words of God's wrath have often been spoken. These words have also been often ignored by nations and individuals. People easily accept the idea of God's mercy. However, the message of God's wrath is not so readily received. But God's wrath is just as real as His mercy. God's commands cannot be ignored with impunity. Judgment will most assuredly follow.

Reading this week from Zephaniah 1:1-6

Sunday 4/6

Read: Galatians 6:7. The Bible teaches what God requires of you. There are things God expects you to do. There are things which God expects you to forsake. These commands are not to be ridiculed, scorned or held in contempt.

Application: You mock God when you refuse to submit to His laws. Take a look at **Romans 2:5-8**. These verses describe the future that lies ahead for both the believer and the scoffer. For the former, there will be "**glory, honor and immortality**". For the latter, "**there will be wrath and anger**". You reap what you sow.