

# MADRID CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017

2017 ANNUAL THEME:

## PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD



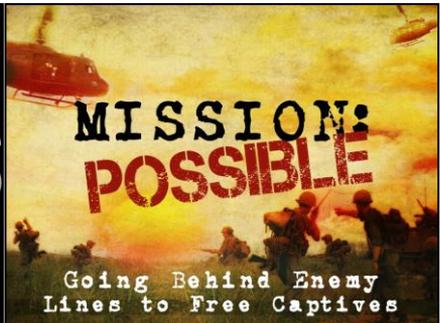
EPHESIANS 6:10-20

**"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL" (EPHESIANS 6:11).**

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

**9AM**

**11AM**



**"NO SOLDIER GETS ENTANGLED IN CIVILIAN PURSUITS, SINCE HIS AIM IS TO PLEASE THE ONE WHO ENLISTED HIM" (2 TIMOTHY 2:4).**

# DOES GOD "HATE THE SIN BUT LOVE THE SINNER"?

BY JASON SMITH

You have probably heard the popular cliché, "God hates the sin and loves the sinner." There is a problem with this statement. It is usually not biblical the way we normally hear it used. It is true that God hates sin. Sin makes Him angry. And it is true that God has displayed His love towards sinners and offers it to all. But the Scriptures take God's hatred towards sin a step farther than most are willing to. The Bible says that God not only hates sin, but also sinners. For instance, in Psalm 5:4-6, the psalmist says, "For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You. <sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; **You hate all who do iniquity.** <sup>6</sup> You destroy those who speak falsehood; **The LORD abhors the man** of bloodshed and deceit."

This is one example of many passages in scripture which show God's attitude towards, not just sin, but sinners. Just look at the words of this passage again. "You **HATE ALL** who do iniquity. You **DESTROY THOSE** who speak falsehood (liars) (v6), The **LORD** abhors the **MAN** of bloodshed and deceit." If hate is too strong a word for you, how about **ABHORS**? God abhors some people, not just their sin. God's hatred and wrath is against men and women who are living in sin as His enemies.

Some may read this and say, "You are right. This is how the God of the Old Testament was, but Jesus shows that God is different now. He is all-loving and hates no one!" First, keep in mind that God's character does not change. We serve the same God under the New Covenant that the Jews served under the Old Covenant. Our understanding of Him may be a little different, but we still serve the same God.

Second, there are many New Testament passages that show that God hates the sinner or shows wrath towards him/her. Even within the

same context as the verse which is one of the most well-known for talking about the love of God (John 3:16), we see His wrath/hatred spoken of also. In John 3:36, the Apostle John says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but **the wrath of God remains on him.**” The wrath of God abides on the sinner - on the one who does not obey the gospel or turns away from it. We need to understand that when God killed someone in the Bible or when he even now sends someone to hell, He is not just showing His wrath towards sin, but towards sinners.

You may be asking, “Why is this question so important?” It is important because we need to make sure that we are portraying God and His Gospel correctly. If we are teaching that God is only a God of love and does not hate sinners, we are misrepresenting Him, and it may be the case that we are serving a god of our own imagination – a god that is not the God of the Bible. He loves, but He also hates sin and those who commit it. He will judge them with “and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES” (Hebrews 10:27).

God is love, and He has displayed His love in the most amazing way by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins so we can have the hope of eternal life. He shows His love for all, but this love is only experienced fully by those who obey the Gospel. It is conditional. It is not for those outside of Christ, and it is not for those who fall away or turn their back on Jesus (see context of Hebrews 10:27).

It is amazing that a God who hates sinners is willing to offer His lovingkindness to them. This is one of the many things that makes God so much different from us. He is willing to make a sacrifice for the good of those who have rebelled against Him – for those whom His wrath abides on. We would hardly ever think of doing something like this for those who hate us, but God does. He gives us the hope of being saved from His wrath in Christ.

## **VISITORS:**

### **THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY!**

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or contact us using the information below. We would be happy to schedule a time to sit down with you and to answer your questions from God's word. If there is anything we can do to help you spiritually, please let us know. We are here to serve!

Call or text Jason @ 412-999-4837 or email him @  
preacher@madridchurch.com

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- 03/19-03/22 - Gospel Meeting w/ Mike Richardson (Resisting the Attractions of the World)
- 03/19 - Shed potluck after services @ Larry & Franki's
- 04/02 – Song Service

*If there is an event you are planning that you want put in the bulletin, let Jason know!*

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### **DAILY READING:**

- 03/13 – Judges 9-12; Psalm 73
- 03/14 – Judges 13-15; Psalm 74
- 03/15 – Judges 16-18; Psalm 75
- 03/16 – Judges 19-21; Psalm 76
- 03/17 – Ruth; Psalm 77
- 03/18 – 1 Sam 1-3; Psalm 78
- 03/19 – 1 Sam 4-8; Psalm 79



*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

*-Psalm 119:105*