

# ~~This Is Not~~ The End

Group Discussion Guide // Week 9

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## WARM-UP

1. What's your dream job? What do you think you'd enjoy about it?
  2. How was discipline typically handled when you were growing up? How did you respond to discipline?
  3. If there were three character traits you wish every friend of your had, what would they be and why?
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## TRUTH

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" (Revelation 16:17)

You can't read very much of the Bible without bumping into the subject of God's wrath. Yet we're often tempted to sanitize it so no one gets offended. When a person gets a bad diagnosis from a doctor, it can be shocking, but knowing what's wrong is the first step on the road to health. The same is true spiritually. The stark reality of God's wrath toward sin shows us the problem we face. It also shows us why the gospel is really good news.

### Justice in God's Wrath

Read Revelation 16:2-7 and Genesis 6:5-6

When God acts against those who have the mark of the beast, it's not without cause. Allegiance to the beast has led these people to kill saints and prophets, and in the words of the angel, "It is what they deserve!" God hates sin because it destroys and victimizes. Because he is just, he will necessarily remove everything that brings destruction into the world he loves. The problem for humans is that our sinful hearts are the source of that destruction. Therefore God's wrath is justly directed at humanity.

- What are some clear examples of destruction that sin brings into the world?

## Patience in God's Wrath

Read Revelation 16:10-11 and Joel 2:13

Like the people in Revelation 16:11, we can have the cynical response of blaming God for our pain. Or we can see that his restraint in judgment is our opportunity to repent. This kindness should humble us. The humble heart sees the justice of God and our need for mercy. The cynical heart is hardened by pride, downplaying the danger of sin and distorting God's character. Although he could justly destroy humanity instantaneously, he patiently extends grace.

- ▶ Give some examples from other areas of life when a person might let you experience pain for your own good.

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## GRACE

### Rescue from Wrath

Read Revelation 16:17 and John 19:30

When Jesus gave his life on the cross, an amazing exchange happened. Jesus took the full flood of God's wrath against all human sin upon himself. For those who reject the grace of Jesus, judgment still awaits. For those who follow the Lamb, God has already finished pouring out his wrath on the Lamb. What an amazing salvation God has provided through our Lord Jesus Christ!

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## CHANGE

1. In what ways has this discussion impacted your view of God?
2. Do you err on the side of sanitizing judgment or being flippant with it? How does this discussion impact the way you present the gospel to people?
3. Have you received God's rescue in Jesus? If not, would you like to today?

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## PRAYER

- ▶ Pray for anyone receiving Christ.
- ▶ Pray for humility rather than cynicism when we come before God.