

# Andersonville CRUSADER

Fall 2022 News & Updates

ATS Office of the President

## Accreditation Achieved

ATS Attains “Accredited Member”  
Status with AICCS.

So that Andersonville students might have full confidence in the quality of the ATS curriculum and degree, Andersonville has chosen to become accredited by the Association of Independent Christian Colleges & Seminaries (AICCS), which is a private accrediting organization not affiliated with any governmental agencies.

How did Andersonville select AICCS? After careful review of several private accrediting agencies, ATS settled upon AICCS due to the credentials of the AICCS president, Dr. Scarborough. Dr. Scarborough received his theological training at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Education Administration from Columbia Pacific University in 1979. He later developed the curricula for several academic programs, ensuring that he personally understands the required rigor to train students properly in their chosen field of study. His extensive experience and solid theological training set both him and his accrediting organization apart.

AICCS will be a great asset to ATS!



Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs

## Walking a Fine Line

Governmental vs. Private Accreditation

Is your seminary accredited?

This seems like a good and reasonable question for a potential student to ask. And the basis of the question has a worthy foundation, for what the student really wants to know is if the seminary provides a quality education that is well-received in the Christian world. But, unfortunately, the definition of accreditation is often specified by the unwary student as government-approved accreditation.

Why has the government's recognition of a seminary's curriculum and theology become important to the student? The question that should be asked by the student is, "Upon what grounds is the government qualified to evaluate a Bible education?" For example, in the ABHE (an organization that is government recognized to accredit seminaries) handbook on accreditation, the organization requires access to a physical library. ATS, as an example, does not offer students a library from which they can check out resources. Why? Because ATS is a world-wide institution that has thousands of students from all fifty states and over twenty foreign countries. Logistically, we could not provide such a student body with a library without raising our tuition exponentially. Andersonville, however, does point students to reliable resources through websites such as galaxie.com, a journal database that includes thousands of articles to assist students with their research.

Also, ABHE requires "qualified academic leadership" for each program offered by the seminary. But the question becomes, who determines the definition of "qualified." Is one qualified simply because he (Continued on Page 3)

Dr. James L. Hayes

## The Relationship Between God's Love and God's Wrath

### Does God Love the Sinner but Hate the Sin?

Wrath and love—These are two seemingly incompatible attributes of God. In fact, Marcion, an early church heretic, could not reconcile the two attributes, and so he threw away his Old Testament, for in it he claimed to find a God of vengeance and wrath, while in the New Testament he found a God of love. Likewise, many Christians today follow Marcion's example, divorcing God from wrath and concentrating upon His love. Now this is not to say that they actually dismember their Bible as Marcion did, but rather that their actions practically reflect a dissection between the God of the Old Testament and the New. But this is not only poor theology, it is false theology.

Most people have a clear belief in God's wrath in the Old Testament. Time and time again, the Bible speaks of God's wrath being kindled against Israel and even against the heathen nations which came against her. Yet, they believe that such wrath was done away with in the Cross. The New Testament, however, does not abandon the wrath of God, but rather intensifies it. As one theologian noted, "both God's love and God's wrath are ratcheted up in a move from the Old Testament to the New." His observation is based upon the fact that God's love and God's wrath are often portrayed



Dr. James L. Hayes is the VP of Academic Affairs and has been a pastor for over twenty-five years in the Baptist church.

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ATS Christian Counseling Department

## New Biblical Counseling Program Now Available

### Earn Your Biblical Counseling Certification and your ATS Degree

The Association of Biblical Counselors moved quickly over the summer, and they are now fully ready to receive Andersonville students into their program. Now, ATS Biblical Counseling students will receive a dual enrollment just as the ATS Christian Counseling students have for many years. For Christian Counseling students, the dual enrollment involved working through the National Christian Counselors Association and through the ATS graduate and doctoral programs.

Now, ATS Biblical Counseling students will enroll with both the Association of Biblical Counselors and with ATS. (Continued on Page 4)

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Dr. James Hayes

## Let's Run the Race

### A Sermon from Hebrew 12:1-2

God has a race for every person here today. Notice the words of our passage: "The race that is set before us." And as we run that race, we have a great cloud of witnesses watching our progress.

Now, I am a certified protection dog decoy. That means I am the one the dogs bite when they're in training. I put on a bite suit, and the dogs run at me and bite me as hard as they can.

Now, why am I telling you this? Because of the way I became a decoy. A young man was training me, but four years ago on Labor Day, he dove into a swimming pool, and he broke his neck. He is now a quadriplegic, stuck in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. After his accident, I had to step up and become serious about my training for the company that he worked for. After several months of my working towards my certification, he visited one day while I was working the dogs. He sat over to the side and watched me. And though I had several months of practice, I was nervous as he watched, because I knew how good he had been. And so, I tried my very best as he watched over me that day.

Just imagine today if you were shooting basketball and Michael Jordan showed up, or if you were playing golf and Tiger Woods showed up, or if you were throwing football and (Continued on Page 4)

## Walking a Fine Line

*Continued from Page 1*

earned a degree from a government-recognized accredited seminary? Or is one qualified by other means, such as deep study of the Bible and extensive ministry experience in the given field in which he teaches? Consider Andersonville once again. ATS has an impressive faculty, with many professors having earned Ph.D.'s and D.Min.'s at government-recognized accredited seminaries. These include seminaries such as Dallas Theological Seminary, Luther Rice College & Seminary, and Liberty University. These men are well-versed in their area of teaching.

But ATS also employs faculty that have extensive training in the fields in which they teach. For example, Dr. Harley Howard has over three decades of ministry experience of pastoring and teaching as a pastor and Christian educator. He also holds a doctoral degree from Andersonville, meaning he has studied the Word deeply and systematically. In our opinion, while we are very proud of professors such as Dr. J.B. Hixson, a graduate of a government-recognized seminary, we are equally proud of experienced and studied professors such as Dr. Harley Howard, who has been teaching at Andersonville for over twenty years. His experience and study of God's word is self-evident as he lectures using his "whole-Bible" approach for expositing the Bible to ATS students.

Another issue with becoming accredited by a government-recognized agency is the cost of tuition. ATS has professors who teach as a ministry to the ATS student body. They are compensated for their work, and well they should be, but they do not become wealthy through their teaching. But, if ATS were to seek and obtain government-recognized accreditation, ATS would have to raise its tuition tenfold. And it is Andersonville's belief that it is unscriptural for a minister to be required to take out a loan from the government in order to pay for their Bible education.

Consider for a moment that a preacher wants to learn the Bible, and he has been told that he must earn a government-recognized accredited degree. Let us use an accredited seminary in the Atlanta, GA area as an example. This accredited seminary is an excellent school by reputation, having produced such distinguished alumni as Charles Stanley and Spiro Zodhiates. But, according to its website, the expected cost of attendance for a four-year track B.A. is over \$49,000.00, and the expected cost of the shortest M.Div. degree

program is \$31,482.00 while the cost for a D.Min. is over \$13,000.00 and a Ph.D is over \$29,000.00. This means that that total expected cost for a Doctor of Ministry is over \$93,000.00 and for a Ph.D. is over \$100,000.00. Should a man of God finance over ninety-thousand dollars to earn his academic credentials for preaching and leading in the local church? Is this good stewardship? Remember, according to the Southern Baptist website, in the state of Georgia a minister with a doctorate degree averages only \$78,000.00 salary per year. In New York, he averages only \$69,000.00 per year.

At Andersonville, on the other hand, a student can earn a Bachelor of Theology for less than \$4,000.00, and an M.Div. for approximately \$2,000.00. The D.Min. in Pastoral Leadership is less than \$2,000.00 also. Thus, a Doctor of Ministry is less than \$8,000.00 for the total degree. And, with the interest-free monthly payment plan, the ATS graduate exits seminary with no remaining financial obligations.

ATS, however, desires its students to know that the ATS curriculum provides a quality education that is well-received in the Christian world. Andersonville, therefore, has chosen to seek private accreditation through the Association of Independent Christian Colleges & Seminaries. Like government-approved accreditation, the AICCS accreditation is a third-party review of the ATS programs. And after reviewing the ATS programs, AICCS has determined that Andersonville is a quality seminary.

ATS would also like to make its students and graduates aware of another important fact. ATS students have reported that their degrees and coursework have been received by government-recognized accredited seminaries. Furthermore, the great majority of ATS students come to Andersonville based upon recommendation of fellow ministers who have joined with the ATS student body and alumni. Now, why would students and graduates recommend ATS to their fellow ministers if the program were not a quality program that was meeting their own needs? The commonsense answer is that they would not if the program were not a worthwhile program.

ATS, then, must walk a fine line. As a school desiring its students to know that the programs are quality programs, ATS has chosen to have a third party, AICCS, review and recognize its programs as worthwhile. But, as a school desiring to assist actual ministers in the field, ATS rejects raising its tuition and placing its graduates in financial debt.

ATS will always seek to improve itself and its credentials, but not at the price of entangling itself with secular standards and prices. We pray that the Seminary will always be a blessing to you and your ministry.

## BIBLICAL COUNSELING

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Through this dual enrollment, students will earn both a degree from ATS and certification through ABC in one smooth program. And, ATS Biblical Counseling students will have access to student advisors from both ATS and ABC to ensure that they have every advantage in completing their degree and certification work.

For the Bachelor of Ministry program, ATS students will complete ABC Level 1 Certification.

For the Master of Ministry Biblical Counseling students, there are two options. **Option 1** is for students who already have achieved their ABC Level 1 Certification. In this option, students will complete ABC Level 2 Certification only. **Option 2** is for students who have not completed Level 1 Certification through ABC. For Option 2 students, they will be required to complete both Level 1 and Level 2 Certification through ABC.

For Doctor of Ministry Biblical Counseling students, students are required to complete any uncompleted certifications from ABC Level 1 to ABC Level 3 Certification.

The curriculum for each of the programs will be listed shortly on the ATS website and in the ATS Student Catalog & Handbook. These changes should be reflected no later than September 2022.

For all students wishing to earn their ATS degree and ABC certification, please contact the Christian Counseling Department at 1-800-525-1611 or at [CCD@andersonvilleseminary.com](mailto:CCD@andersonvilleseminary.com).

## Run the Race

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Tom Brady showed up, or if you were playing tennis and Roger Federer showed up. Suddenly, you would try your very best to be your best!

But as Christians, we have witnesses watching over us more famous than these men! We have Moses...He led the Jews out of Egypt and delivered the Law to Israel. We have King David ... He slew the giant Goliath. We have the Apostle Paul ... He laid his head on the chopping block. We have King Jesus ... He gave His life at Calvary's cross. And because we have these great witnesses, we should try our very best to be our best!

To run life's race, however, takes patience. [Heb 12:1] ... *let us run with patience the race that is set before us.* Patience is endurance. It means to maintain a right spirit while dealing with difficult circumstances. It means to maintain a right direction while dealing with difficult circumstances. (Continued on Next Page)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✚ **SPECIAL PRICES ON OFFICIAL ATS DEGREE FRAMES.** For frames without the medallion slot: \$180.00. For frames with medallion slot: \$240.00.
- ✚ When calling the Seminary, please give your full name as listed on your Student File. This is especially true of students having hyphenated last names. This will allow ATS staff to be much quicker in accessing your files.
- ✚ Remember, courses on your Student Dashboard will “time out” after so many weeks. This cannot be changed as it is automatically set up by the program. But, if you need additional time to complete the course, simply email or call the Seminary, and we will be glad to reset your access to the course. No progress will be lost.

[Jas 5:10-11] *Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

How do we gain the patience to endure? While we run, we look unto Jesus! [Heb 12:2] *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.* No matter what, we do not get drawn away from Him! [Jas 1:14] *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

You see what the Bible is saying? If you take your eyes off of Jesus, you will be tempted and enticed to sin. Why? Because of your own lust! Now running and looking to Jesus is not always easy. In fact, at times, we have to endure God's chastening or discipline. Speaking of God's discipline, Hebrews 12:11 says, "*Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*"

The ministry is hard work! There's a lot to put up with. But when we are chastened, we must be "exercised by it." These words show the ministry is a workout. For example, the phone rings. Sister Sue has an ingrown toenail. Brother Bob's chest hurts. Sister Joyce has a headache. The deacon wants you to lighten up because of his wife not liking hard preaching. What are you to do in these circumstances? "Follow peace and purity of heart." As Hebrews 12:14 says: *Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord*

Now, with these thoughts in mind, I would like to make three points from our passage.

**First of all, every person has his own race to run.**

Look again at our passage: *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Verse 1's cloud of witnesses is the alumni association. You can find them in Hebrews 11: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samson, and Gideon. They have all already run their

leg of the race. They have passed the baton on to us. They have left us in a good position. But have we today dropped the baton? Or are we still running the race to win?

You and I are the objects of the race. Why is this important? Because the world watches you seminary graduates more than it does others because you have made an investment in studying God's word, and they know it. And they are just looking for you to make one slip, then they'll tear you down! So, there is much at stake!

You must run the race to win! Why? Because they watch your progress. They watch you every minute of every day. Make sure you let them see Jesus! Win the lost by your lifestyle.

Not only do we have observers and objects in the race, but we also have obstacles. Our passage calls them weights, and it calls them sin. Now, some weights are not sinful by nature, but they are a drag on your resources; a drag on your time; and a drag on your life. Get rid of them or you will fall behind!

I know a man who is a great organizer in the business world. He tells huge companies how to make the most of their time, and he tells individuals how to make the most of their time. He likens life's choices to poker chips, to red chips, blue chips, and white chips. Imagine, he says, that blue chips are those things that make a difference in your life, things that will matter in the long run. Then, imagine that the red chips are things that are less important, and finally the white chips are things that are not important at all in the long run. He advises his clients to keep the blue chips and use them to structure their time. And then he advises his clients to get rid of the red and white chips. Don't let them drain your attention, time, and energy.

That is the way we should order our Christian lives as well. We should get rid of those things that have no effect on our eternity and the eternity of others. Those mundane things in life should be left behind.

So, we have observers, objects, and obstacles. But we also have an obligation. We are to run to win! How do we preachers and teachers do this? By preaching and teaching that Hell is hot; Sin is black; Heaven is sweet; Homosexuals are not born that way; Deacons do not run the church; and pimento cheese, potato chips, cupcakes, and breakfast committees don't win souls! Forget your programs! Think about the people!

Now, pay attention to me here...People do not like hardcore Bible preaching. They do not want to be told that they are sinners violating God's absolute laws. They want "tickle me" sermons where nothing is required of them. It reminds me of two seniors graduation from high school. They could not wait to get out from under their parent's rules. So, you know

what they did? They joined the U.S. Marines! Now that is poetic justice, for the Marines don't tickle your ears. The Marines are hardcore. They do not care if you like it or not! And Andersonville graduates should be the same way!

Every person has his own race to run! In this race, we all have a Coach—Jesus. Notice our text says that we are to be “looking unto Jesus.” He is coaching us in this life. He makes no mistakes. He made no mistakes when He ran the race which we are now running. He knows the hills, curves, and valleys. He knows the dangerous places. And because of this, He has been Coach of the Year every year for the past 2,000 years!

In this race, we all have a rule book—the KJV 1611 Bible. Now, our Coach has a great name. [Philippians 2:10] states, “*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth.*” BUT!! Jesus put the rule book before His own name! You say where did he do this preacher? Psalm 138:2: “*I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*”

Follow the Rule Book! Remember Bible—B-I-B-L-E: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth! Follow it all the way to the Judgment Seat of Christ. If you do, you run the race effectively.

In this race, we have a uniform. It's found in Ephesians 6:10-18. It is called the “armor of God.” Wear it proudly! On the jersey front, it says “Heaven University.” One day, some day, we will all get together in Heaven. And we'll talk about what you did with this sermon

In this race, we have an opponent: he is called Satan and the Devil. [1Pe 5:8] *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* He tried to defeat Jesus in the wilderness. He tried to defeat Paul in his missionary journeys and preaching. He tried to defeat and disqualify Job. He tried to defeat and eliminate Peter. And he will try to defeat you, too! Don't put on the uniform unless you are going to strive to win. Remember, the rule book is what Coach Jesus used to handle Satan, and you can, too!

In this race, we have a standard to hold up. [1Pe 1:16] *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.* Holding this standard up requires separation and holy standards. [Tit 2:11-15] *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the*

*great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.* If you smoke—it suffocates the Holy Spirit. If you drink—it drunkenness the Holy Spirit. If you cuss—it grieves the Holy Spirit. If you dress like the world—it shames the Holy Spirit. If you eat like a glutton—it starves the Holy Spirit. No athlete prepares or competes in such a fashion, and neither should you.

Finally, we have a trophy waiting for us at the end of the race. Keep your eyes on Heaven. Paul said in Philippians 3:14 | *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* If you keep your eyes on Heaven, then our Coach will present the trophy to you. According to 1 Cor 3:11-16, those who run the race effectively will receive a reward. What a moment that will be! The Olympics medal ceremony is nothing compared to it! Don't you want to win the trophy? Then run the race to win!

**Secondly, and very quickly, I want to ask, How do you win the race?** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 says, “*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring [it] into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*”

According to these verses, your character must be pure. You must strive. This means to engage in a struggle, and to exhaust all your resources in that struggle. You must have the right temperament: be obedient to your Coach. If you ignore Him, flaunt His authority, and do things your own way, you will stumble and fall, and your opponent will win, your uniform will be stained, and you will not win the trophy. It is not a *corruptible* crown. It is *incorruptible!* It lasts forever. Don't you want it? Then win it!

The good athlete does what he is supposed to do whether it feels good or not. Training starts early in the morning. Training goes on all day. No time to let up! Satan is watching, waiting for an opportunity to ensnare you. Sometimes it's painful. Sometimes it's hard to go on. But you MUST—You must keep putting one foot in front of the other! There is too much at stake. The University of Heaven and Hell University are after the same souls of men and women, boys and girls. Wear your uniform proudly! And listen to Coach Jesus! *Continued on Next Page*

Do not be a castaway! A servant who is disapproved and put on a shelf never to be used again. Is that what you want? For the race to end? Heaven Forbid!

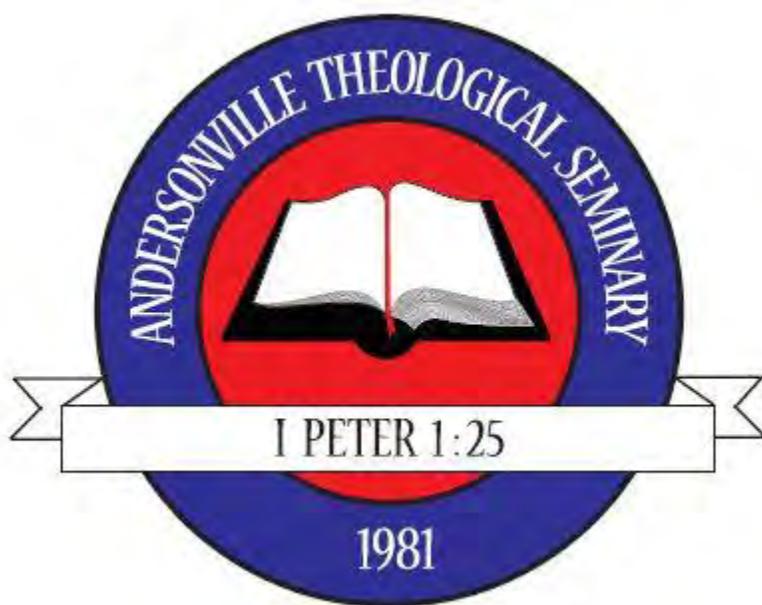
**Finally, there is a Finish Line.**

2 Corinthians 5:10—For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. The Judgment Seat of Christ, also known as the Bema Seat Judgment. Here is where you will get your reward. Every one of us will cross the finish line some day. You may be first or you may be last.

When I preach, I give my best—I do all that I can to see souls saved and lives changed. Now, you must find your place in the race and give it your best. Ecclesiastes 9:10—whatsoever thy hands find to do, do it with might. There are some basic things we must do to give it our best: Attend Church (Heb 10:25); Study our Bible (II Tim 2:15); Pray without ceasing (I Thess 5:17); and Win Souls (Matt 9:37-38).

You have been called by God. You have made that known publicly. You battle every day against your opponent. You have studied the Bible. You have laid aside your weights. You have put on your uniform. Today, witnesses are watching from Heaven’s hallway. Don’t ever let them down—Run until it’s finished. Don’t ever let down this Seminary—it has trained you to win. And don’t ever let down your Coach—He died so that you might be successful in serving God Almighty. That’s my message for today. I pray God will bless it and that you’ll consider it. AMEN.

**1-800-525-1611**



**Andersonville**

Theological Seminary

Since 1981

“Teach with Wisdom. Preach with Power!”

# God's Wrath & Love

Continued from Page 2

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only in types in the Old Testament, while in the New Testament they are explicitly declared. And this theologian continues, "Do you wish to see God's love? Look at the Cross. Do you wish to see God's wrath? Look at the Cross."

It is through the Cross that God's love is expressed, as all will admit. But how is God's wrath expressed? And when it is expressed? Firstly, from an Old Testament perspective, God's wrath was first displayed at the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve had sinned, God's wrath was kindled against them, for they were now rebels in the domain of sin. Remember Psalm 5.5—"...thou hatest all workers of iniquity." God is unchanging in His nature, and so if God hates all workers of iniquity, His hatred had to be kindled against Adam and Eve, for they had rebelled against His law and His dominion. Lest this verse seems to be taken in isolation, do not forget Psalm 11.5—"The Lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth." Notice in both of these verses a very important point: It is not the sin that God hates, but the sinner himself. Thus, the statement, then, that "God hates sin but loves the sinner...should be abandoned. Fourteen times in the first fifty psalms alone, the psalmists state that God hates the sinner, that His wrath is on the liar, and so forth. In the Bible the wrath of God rests on both the sin (Rom 1.18-23) and the sinner (1.24-32; 2.5; John 3.36)." Or as another commentator notes, the Lord will take vengeance upon sinners, and "Vengeance, by definition, is against a person, not just an abstract principle. Sin is the acting of a sinful person, and sin makes that person the enemy of God (Jer 46.10)."

God, therefore, had great wrath towards Adam and Eve, even to such a degree that He required blood as a payment and as covering for their sin. John Stott, the statesman of evangelicals, notes that the sacrifices were a substitute for the sinner. Leviticus 17.11 gives voice to this fact: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." In fact, God would reveal an entire system of blood sacrifices in the Old Testament through the Levitical law. Speaking of these Old Testament sacrifices, Stott observes, "By laying his hand(s) on the animal, the offerer was certainly identifying himself with it and 'solemnly' designating 'the victim as standing for him.'"

God's wrath, then, is demonstrated throughout the Old Testament by the very presence of the sacrificial system, a bloody system that spilled the blood of

innocent animals. But this system, as intense as it was, was insufficient to stay God's wrath forever. Hebrews 10.4: "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." For this cause, God the Son, in eternity past, had yielded to the will of the Father by agreeing to come as the ultimate sacrifice for sin. Hebrews 10.12: "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God." This plan was activated in time by the prophetic utterance of Genesis 3.15, and the fate of the Son of God was sealed with these words.

Imagine with me if you would for just a moment the scene following Genesis 3.20. Adam and Eve have sinned, having rebelled against God and His holy Law. God has passed temporal judgment upon them, Eve to labor in childbirth and to be under the dominion of her husband; Adam to work the cursed ground. Of course, at the moment of sin, they had spiritually died, being separated from God's kingdom and God's presence, for God is too holy even to look upon sin. Further, by God's own decree, Adam and Eve had to die a physical death. But God had promised salvation to the human race before it was ever created and before it ever fell (Titus 1.1-3). And the Son had promised to die for the sin of mankind before the world was ever formed (Revelation 13.8). So, God in His mercy, called a little lamb from the flock. It was a perfect lamb, without spot or blemish, having been created by God Himself. And that lamb willingly came to God, and He took that little lamb and slaughtered it, spilling its blood upon the ground.

Remember, God's wrath was directed towards Adam and Eve. But He Himself supplied them with a temporary substitute, a little lamb. And so it was throughout the Old Testament, for if man wanted to come before God and to placate His holy wrath, he had to do so with the blood of a lamb. Outside of that blood, God's wrath was poured out on the individual himself. Under the Law, he was "cut off" from Israel and the sacrificial system that temporarily pardoned him.

But this principle was not set aside in the New Testament, and common sense itself declares the reason why. If God's wrath was poured out when Israel rejected the sacrificial system, how much more so when Israel and the Gentiles rejected the very Son of God! And the New Testament bears this fact out in clear terms. John 3.36: "He that believeth the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the WRATH of God abideth ON HIM." Again, Ephesians 5.6: "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the WRATH of God UPON THE CHILDREN of disobedience." It is the sinner who is the object of God's wrath in the New Testament, even as in the Old Testament (Ps. 5.5, etc.).