

Sermon Reflections

The Value of the Lord's Vengeance (Nahum 2-3)

Introduction

- Is teaching about the wrath of God a good thing? Explain your answer.
- How do you respond to the hip and happy pastor who wants to be fun and dumb and whose goal is to make people laugh and be happy? Is Jesus supposed to be fun?
- What is the danger of always hearing only those things we want to hear and already know and find encouraging?

Summary: Find comfort, because even in the face of wrong, God's vengeance will right all the wrongs, and restore His people.

1. Vengeance upon God's enemies means good things for God's people.

Nahum 1:15 tells Judah to celebrate. Nahum 2-3 tells them why.

- Why do God's character and justice demand vengeance for evil?
- Did Israel deserve the oppression of the Assyrians? What were two reasons the Lord exacted vengeance on Assyria?
- The Lord exacts vengeance against His enemies. Who are His enemies?

2. Vengeance upon God's enemies means good things for God's justice.

- God's vengeance exacts the justice that evil deserves, but how do we explain this in the light of His mercy and grace?
- How does the evil of the Assyrians compare with the evil we see in the world today? (v. 3:4)
- In what sense is the unbeliever oppressed?
- Assyria trusted in the strength of its cities and people. What do non-believers place their trust in today?
- Compare and contrast God's treatment of Nineveh in Jonah with Nahum's prophetic picture. Why the difference?

3. Thoughts for Holy Week

- How do Good Friday and Easter Sunday reflect and satisfy God's wrath, justice, and mercy?
- Why was it necessary for Jesus to drink the cup of God's wrath?
- God's wrath is manifested in response to injustice toward whom?
- Are you more likely to hope and pray for God's vengeance, or His mercy and redemption – to be displayed against your enemies?

Peace will not come to this world until Christ returns. Peace will come in your life when Christ comes to your heart. Praise God for the life, death, resurrection, and coming return of our Savior!