



Sermon – August 11, 2019
Chris Osborne

Verses Covered

Ephesians 4:26

Psalm 4:1 – 5

Isaiah 6:1, 5 - 8

So we're going to have to put some thinking caps on today. We're coming to a passage in Ephesians 4 that is a quote from Psalm 4. Now so we're going to have to go back there. It's going to require a little bit of work, a little bit of walk through. So there's no football on, who cares about NFL anyway. College is the only thing that matters and hopefully they're on Saturday. So we're golden.

So listen to Ephesians 4. Listen to, and remember he's in this little section where he's kind of just throwing out different ways we're to live. It's not really connected. He's talked about speaking truth with one another. And then he makes this statement in 26. Now listen. We've talked about before, and this is what makes this a little difficult, which is why we've got to go back to Psalm 4. Two Greek words in the New Testament for anger. One, *thymós*, that's a momentary anger. I lose it; it's done. And then there's *orgē* which is a Greek word that means an anger that's settled. It never goes away. It's not so much an anger as a disposition. We understand the God, when He comes back, when Jesus returns, that that anger of God, that *orgē* will settle on you because He never is OK with the violation of His glory. Now I'll probably use the word sin today, we're going to look at it. But I want us to be clear, it's not a Baptist definition, right. The idea of sin is simply that I don't reflect His glory anymore. And it angers Him because that's what He made me for. Now when you go back to the book of Genesis and you walk back there and you step into it, you discover that God created the whole world, talks about that. But then when He talks about Him creating man, at the end of every day it said, God said it was good, good, good, good, good, until the day that He creates us. And the Bible says that it says, God said it was very good. Why? Because we are the highest being He's created. No other being can offer Him glory in the same way that we can. Our ability to reflect His glory is based on the fact that we alone of any other creation He has, we are in His image. Now we don't have time to go into that today, but simply understand that makes us distinct from everybody else. No angel is like us. No cherub, no seraph, none of the four living beings, none of the animals, nobody's like us. We are the highest being He made to reflect His glory. So when we made the decision that we didn't want to do that, then basically what Satan offered is, I've got a better deal. Don't reflect it. Take it. And so when we

decided we wanted to take it instead of reflect it, now there's a settled anger from God at that lack of ability to reflect His glory. However, there is still this passionate love for the creature, us, who has decided we don't want to reflect His glory; we want to take it. And so His passion of love is as powerful as His passion of anger. But there is an anger that when the end day comes, will settle and that anger does not go away, nor does His love go away. But there will come a day when you don't have a way out of that and it's going to be settled on you. Now so listen to what he says. Ephesians 4:26: keep on being, really, in a state of anger, but don't sin.

Now those are a direct quote out of Psalm 4. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath. Now go with me to the book of Psalm, chapter 4, verse 4. It's the Psalm of David. Not all of them are a Psalm of David. This is one. Now I want you to listen because you have to know the context of what he said. David, Paul knows it, he quotes it. Now listen to this.

¹Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

Righteousness is what then? It is when your life correctly reflects God's glory. It is not a bunch of rules. It is not a bunch of rule-keeping. It is, in fact, when my life shows off His glory. Then I am righteous. So David says:

¹Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have made me that way. You've given me relief when I was in distress; be gracious to me, hear my prayer.

Then you have God speaking. Now listen to this. So David says, "God, I am living out as best I can Your glory in my life. So answer me when I call." Now here's God's response. Look at this.

²O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

God's response is, how long are you people going to refuse to have My glory in your life? And shame My honor, besmirch My glory? David.

³But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself; the Lord hears when I call to Him.

And then here's the quote and the context.

⁴Be angry, don't sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. ⁵Offer right sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord.

Now, it says be angry. Paul uses the word *orgē*. When I looked up this morning, there's a fourth century translation of the Hebrew scriptures in the Greek. They use the word *orgē*, not *thymós*. But the Hebrew isn't so much anger as it is a word that means, I'm so in awe that I'm agitated by what I know. So here's what he says. That I ponder on my bed who He is and who I am in relation to Him that I understand I'm not showing off His glory and that He still loves me and I'm struck and I'm agitated by that truth. Because there's a third aspect that we discover in Genesis 3:15 and that we discover throughout the text; that God hates when I don't reflect His glory. But He loves

the one not doing the reflecting and so what He decided before He made us was that if we turned on Him, that God the Father would send God the Son who would die on the cross, now listen, who would die on the cross, be buried, resurrected, attested to, go home, come back. But that span of ascension, from death to ascension, when He ascends, the purpose is so that if I put my faith in what He's done, His blood will wash away my sin so that His Holy Spirit can come back in me and restore to me the ability to give God glory again. That I don't have prior to Christ. So you have this God who hates the fact and He's angered by the fact that a planet He made in His image has decided we don't want to reflect Your glory, we want Your glory. But He still loves them. So He sent His Son to be able to die to restore them back to the ability to show off His glory. Listen, and we're to ponder that to the point where we're agitated by it. Listen to this. It's Isaiah's testimony. He says,

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne,

And then he said a result of this,

⁵“Woe is me, I am lost! I am a man of unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

What's the deal here? He's pondering, he sees God and he realizes, when I look at Him, I'm in trouble. As a matter of fact, when I look at Him, everybody around me is in trouble. Because I don't reflect Him and I don't know anybody that I know that reflects Him. What's God's response to that?

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, your sin is atoned for.”

I've forgiven you. The very next statement, listen.

⁸I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” And then I said, “Here I am. Send me!” ⁹And He said, “Go, and say to this people:

You see what happened? He ponders and when he understands who God is and who He is, he realizes, I don't reflect His glory. I am, in fact, a sinner. And there is not a good disposition to me. And so I know I'm undone. I can see the anger and I can see the disposition of hostility toward what I am and I know I'm undone. But then God comes to Him and says, “No, no, no, no. Listen. If you'll let Me, I can forgive you. And then you can be restored to showing off My glory.” That is what Paul means and what David meant when it says, keep on being angry. The idea is stay with the disposition of God that He hates your sin, but He loves you, but He's got a chance to redeem you so you don't have to live in that sin anymore. That is what it means to keep on being angry.

It's precisely what Jesus did in John 4. He's sitting at the well. Lady walk up. He looks at her and says, “You know, if you knew what I was offering, I can give you water. You never thirst again.” She said, “What are you talking about?” He said, “Well, I'll tell you what. Go call your

husband.” “Well, I don’t have a husband.” He said, “You’re right. You’ve been married five times. And the guy you’re living with now is not your husband.” He offers her redemption because He loves her. But He reminds her that she is not reflecting His glory. And finally at the end of the conversation, He says to her, “I am the Messiah.” She embraces Him and she brings her whole village to Christ. When you and I go to bed, we’re to ponder who He is and who we are in relation to Him and how that plays out, now listen, not intellectually, but emotionally. Hebrews says, I’m agitated. I should be bothered when my life doesn’t reflect His glory and I should be moved by the fact that He loves me. Both those truths should affect me emotionally. I should be gripped by the fact that He loves me enough for Christ to send me. But I should be emotionally crushed when in my own life I do not reflect His glory. And I need to be that way with everything. It should bother us when you read of a million babies a year terminated in the womb. That should bother us. That besmirching of His glory. But we should be gripped by the fact that no matter who’s done it, God can redeem that individual and restore them to a life of glory reflection. We should hate it when we despise each other because of skin color. We should hate that, but we should love it when we don’t see that. I don’t usually do Facebook, but I found this great little meme. 5-year-old kids in kindergarten. Little black boy and little white boy, they got their hair cut the same so the teacher wouldn’t be able to tell the difference. Because they don’t see the difference. So you rejoice. You’re excited about that kind of great holiness and you’re angry when it’s not there. I was at a parking lot talking to a guy that just last week, daughter goes here, and he was telling me that his daughter gave up one of her kidneys for him. We ought to be emotionally pumped about that. We ought to be crushed when that kind of thing’s not true. I saw where Miley Cyrus and her husband are divorcing after one year. She made the statement, she said, “I married him because he was the guy that best had my back. But I’m really attracted to women as well.” Now I’m going to make a confession here. My old days I would have just blistered her, but when you really begin to understand the Bible, you need to feel sorry, you need to be angry that her life is such a destruction of the glory of God. But you need to be grieved because she can, in Christ, be restored. And so I’ve got to keep in a state of anger, in a state of awe, angry at my failure to reflect His glory, but a state of awe, in agitation instead of awe, that in spite of that He still loves me.

Now listen, keep on being angry, keep on staying in that state, but don’t sin. Couple Greek words in the New Testament for sin. This is the word that means you shoot an arrow at something, you miss the mark. Now listen so we get this. So inside this disposition I’m to have, there are two poles. There’s a pole over here I hate and am angry when His glory is not reflected properly either in my life or somebody else’s life. But there’s this other pole here where I know He loves me and He loves everybody else. The mark you’re aiming for is right in the middle. If you hit either one of the poles, you’ve sinned. When Osteen only talks about how much God loves us and never the glory of God, never examines that, he’s sinned. You don’t buy his books. You don’t watch his TV program. He is sinning when he is only over here and there’s nothing about a reflection of the glory of God. You don’t pay attention, I don’t even know the name of it, West church, that weird Baptist church that hates everybody. You’re not over here either. You don’t hate people because they don’t do it right. You don’t hate them. One of the best moments of being at Texas A&M was the year that they were going to send, we had a military funeral in this room, and they said they were going to come and protest. And hundreds of Aggies ringed our entire, the perimeter of our entire campus so they couldn’t get in here. Now if you live over here, where you really hate the people that sinned, you hate Miley Cyrus, you hate the homosexuals, you hate them, then you’ve missed the mark. You’ve sinned. So we want to be balanced. We’ve got to catch this. I

read something about one of these bachelorette things. Those things really on TV, right? Bachelor and bachelorette? Is that right? I don't catch them. But one of the girls, I guess she was the bachelorette, I don't know. She was trying to get a guy. It's all I know. But she's physically intimate with him in the show and she's a Christian. And so somebody said, "What about your Christian principles?" And she said, "Oh, God's OK with that." You've missed the mark because you know He loves you, but you don't understand how much He hates His glory being besmirched by what you're doing. So we're going to miss, we're going to hit the mark. We're going to be balanced where we're right where we need to be. And that's why he adds the last statement. Don't let the sun go down on; who's wrath? Yours. Don't let it go down on your disposition. If I'm over here, I'm letting it go down on my disposition. If I'm over here, I'm letting the sun go down on my disposition. If I go down with the sun on His disposition, I'm right dead square in the middle. Why is it so important you don't let the sun go down on the wrong disposition? Because if you stay over here long, this is what you become. You become a person that hates anybody that doesn't do what you do. And you don't know how to love sinners. You stay over here too long; you get to the place where there is no sin. Culture disagrees with what the Bible says about a particular issue, you go with the culture because God loves us and we're OK. It's no big deal. So you're not going to let the sun go down on your wrath in either way. You're going to let the sun go down on His idea which is He hates His glory lost. He hates His glory lost in the greatest being He created. He still loves that being and so He put His Son on the cross so that being can be forgiven, restored back, not just to a relationship, but to a relationship that echoes in my ability to show off who God is. And that is what you go to bed with every night.

Let's pray.

Father, keep us at agitated and balanced on our bed. Hold us to who we are with who You are. And drive that home to us. I would ask You for everyone in this room, myself obviously included, that Psalm 4 be a life Psalm for every one of us. I ask You that in Jesus name.