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## Unawakened Sinners Heap Up to Themselves Wrath Against the Day of Wrath as Men are Wont to Heap Up Treasures

“But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.” Romans 2:5

The principal aim of the apostle in the first three chapters of this epistle is to show that all mankind are naturally guilty or, as the apostle expresses it, are all under sin. The apostle under this heading distinctly treats Jews and Gentiles. In the first chapter the apostle had been setting forth the abominations that were prevailing among the Gentiles. In this chapter the apostle upon the Jews to show that they in themselves are not a whit better, though they were very apt to judge and condemn the Gentiles, looking upon themselves as much better than they. The apostle beings therefore: “Thou art inexcusable, O man.”

The Jews were exceedingly self-righteous and exceedingly censorious. They accounted themselves purer by nature than the Gentiles because they were the children of Abraham. They were very forward to take notice of the abominable wickedness of the Gentiles and sentenced all who were uncircumcised and did not join with their nation as being utterly cast off by God, but were very insensible of their own wickedness. They never considered that they had the very same inclinations in their own hearts and did things that were of a like nature. They thought that the Gentiles were liable to the judgment of God, but expected to escape the judgment of God themselves and looked upon themselves, as wicked as they were, that they should be

accepted of God because they were the children of Abraham and were circumcised. This makes the apostle say, “And thinkest thou, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?”

This is commonly the case, if not universally the case, with censorious persons, those who are ready to spy out others’ wickedness and the aggravation of it, and to doom others to hell. They are a sort of men that are very insensible of their own wickedness and their own being judged and condemned of God themselves. And the case was with them as with other secure sinners. They flattered themselves from the mercy of God because God had not executed judgment on them already. They flattered themselves that He never would. They at present saw no tokens of God’s anger and so were emboldened to go on in sin, as in the verse preceding the text. They, as yet falling nor feeling anything of God’s anger, went on boldly in sin when they did but extend the time of God’s patience in treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath.

In the words we may observe:

1. The manner of those ungodly men that the apostle is speaking of: They treasure up wrath to themselves. They treasure up something, and what is that? It is not gold and silver or pearls or any other wealth. ’Tis not any precious or desirable thing. ’Tis wrath and vengeance that they heap up as if it were their wealth. And ’tis wrath upon themselves. They treasure up their own misery. If any man should be industrious in augmenting another’s calamity it would be monstrous, but when men heap up misery for themselves it is even more strange.

2. Against what time they do this: Against the day of wrath. The apostle was speaking of how they encouraged themselves in sin because now God bore with them, as if He let them alone. But God lets men alone for the present only because the day is not come. This is not the day of wrath. That is the reason that they neither feel nor see anything of it at present. But the wrath of God has its appointed day, and then God will render to every man according to his work (Romans 2:6).

Wicked men don’t see any manifestations of God’s anger now, and they don’t believe there is any; nor can others see there is at pre-