

Does God punish us now?

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The scriptures used throughout these study notes are quoted from the Authorized or King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Notation **N2543/S2849** means word numbering from Novum 2543 and Strong's 2849.

All non-English (typically either Hebrew or Greek) words are written with English letters, in boldface and in italics, e.g. ***nega'***.

All explanatory insertions within a scripture verse are enclosed in square brackets.

# Does God punish us now?

## Introduction

Often people think that when you do something wrong God punishes you. So, if we are born-again believers with God's spirit inside us, God's children, does God punish us?

### Colossians 2:13 & 14

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, **having forgiven you all trespasses;**

<sup>14</sup>Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

### Ephesians 1:3 – 7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

<sup>4</sup>According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world (*before the begetting of mankind*), that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

<sup>5</sup>Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

<sup>6</sup>To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

<sup>7</sup>In whom **we have redemption** through his blood, **the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace;

Now, I would like to point out that there are great differences between the times of Old Testament and our times right now. Now we live in the age of God's grace. The dividing point is the first coming of Jesus Christ the Messiah. After Christ came it became available for people to be born of God's spirit. People can now have something similar to what Adam and Eve lost when they fell. Because of that spirit people are accepted of God and they are able to do the will of God.

However, I would like to look first at the places in the New Testament where the word "punish" or "punishment" is used in order to see what is our position in these places.

## "punish", "punished"

The first word we look at is *kolazomai* N2543/S2849 [*to chastise, correct*]. It is a verb and it has been used twice in the New Testament.

### Acts 4:21

So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might **punish** them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. (Read Acts 4:13 – 22!)

## **II Peter 2:9**

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to **be punished**:

Another word that is translated by the word "punish" is *timōreō* N4458/S5097 [*to take vengeance on one, to punish*]. It is also a verb and it is also used twice in the New Testament.

## **Acts 22:5**

As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to **be punished**.

## **Acts 26:11**

And I **punished** them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

The last word that is translated by the word "punish" is *dikē* N1210/S1349 [*right, justice, a sentence of condemnation, execution of the sentence, punishment, the goddess Justice, avenging justice*]. It is a noun, but once it has been translated by the verb "punish".

## **II Thessalonians 1:9**

Who **shall be punished** with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

It has been used four times in the New Testament. Here are the other three usages:

## **Acts 25:15**

About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have **judgment** against him.

## **Acts 28:4**

And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet **vengeance** suffereth not to live.

## **Jude 7**

Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering **the vengeance** of eternal fire.

## ”punishment”

The first word which is translated by the word ”punishment” is ***kolasis* N2545/S2851** [*correction, punishment, penalty*]. It is a noun and it has the same root with ***kolazomai***. It has been used twice in the NT.

### **Mathew 25:46**

And these shall go away into everlasting **punishment**: but the righteous into life eternal.

### **I John 4:18**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath **torment**. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Another word is ***timōria* N4459/S5098** [*vengeance, penalty, punishment*]. It is a noun form of the verb ***timōreō***. It is used once in the NT.

### **Hebrews 10:29**

Of how much sorer **punishment**, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

One more word is ***ekdikēsis* N1401/S1557** [*vengeance, punishment*]. It is a noun and it has been used 9 times in the NT. Once it has been translated by the word ”punishment”.

### **I Peter 2:14**

Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for **the punishment** of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

In the other places it has been translated either by the verb ”avenge” or by the noun ”vengeance”.

### **Luke 18:7 & 8**

And shall not God **avenge** his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? (*This is the first usage in the NT.*)

<sup>8</sup>I tell you that he will **avenge** them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? (Read Luke 18:1 – 8!)

### **Romans 12:19**

Dearly beloved, **avenge** [***ekdikeō* N1400/S1556**] not yourselves, but rather give place unto **wrath** [***orgē* N3192/S3709**] : for it is written, **Vengeance** is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Let’s read Romans 12:9 – 21!

The two other words from the same root are the verb ***ekdikeō* N1400/S1556** [*to avenge one’s self, to avenge a thing (i.e. to punish a person for a thing), to bring justice*] (6x) and the noun ***ekdikos* N1402/S1558** (*avenger*) (2x).

The last word translated "punishment" is the noun *epitimia* **N1828/S2009** [*punishment*]. It is used once in the NT.

## **II Corinthians 2:6**

Sufficient to such a man is this **punishment**, which was inflicted of many.

Let's read I Corinthians 5:1 – 5! The other place is I Timothy 1:20.

The verb form of *epitimia* is *epitimaō* **N1827/S2008** [*to tax with fault, rebuke, reprove, censure severely*] and it has been used 29 times in the NT.

## **Matthew 8:26**

And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and **rebuked** the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

The ultimate punishment of God will come on the day of the Lord *Jehovah* after the gathering together of the believers to the Lord Jesus Christ. (The gathering together is described in I Thessalonians 4:13 – 18.) It is often referred to by the word "wrath" *orgē* **N3192/S3709** [*anger, wrath, indignation*] which we had in Romans 12:19.

Let's see what is the wrath of God and what our relationship to it is!

## **Matthew 3:7**

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from **the wrath** to come?

## **John 3:36**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but **the wrath** of God abideth on him.

## **Revelation 19:15**

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and **wrath** of Almighty God.

## **Romans 5:8 & 9**

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup>Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from **wrath** through him.

## **I Thessalonians 1:9 & 10**

For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

<sup>10</sup>And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from **the wrath** to come.

**I Thessalonians 5:8 – 10**

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

<sup>9</sup>For God hath not appointed us to **wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>10</sup>Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

There is Christ in us, the hope of Glory. According to Psalm 91 God sends his angels to protect Christ. Let's look at some verses in this Psalm (verses 1, 2 and 10 – 12.)!

**Matthew 26:53**

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than **twelve legions of angels**?