

God's Gracious Anger

In the Grip of Grace - 2

God carved His initials in the tree, as it were, by designing the world in such a way as to draw attention to Himself. The physical world might not reveal *everything* that can be known about God, but it does point beyond itself to the One responsible for its existence.

Although many affirm a belief about God, they often suppress the truth about God by the way in which they live. Disregarding God's claim on their lives, they choose instead to live independently from God--"going their own way."

Although the heart of God is grieved by man's foolishness, God never forces Himself on anyone. At times, people are bent on having their own way, and God "lets them go." But even in such instances, God's desire is that people would recognize the destructiveness of their own choices and acknowledge that His way is right.

LOOKING BACK:

What was the most outrageous excuse you ever gave as a kid when your parents caught you doing something wrong? What's the best one you've heard from your own kids?

LOOKING DEEP:

Read Romans 1:18-20

- 1. What does everyone know about God, according to these verses? How would they know these things?*
- 2. What sort of response or relationship does God desire from every person (vs 21)?*
- 3. In what way is God's anger different from man's anger? In what way is it similar? Is God's anger a manifestation of His love or hate? Explain.*
- 4. Have you ever had to practice the type of "tough love" described in this passage (vss 24, 26, 28)? If so, how did you feel? Ultimately, did your tough love prove "redemptive?"*
- 5. When has the freedom to resist God only ended up hurting you? Have you ever experienced God's "gracious anger" in your own life? Share an incident from your own life.*

*PRAYER REQUESTS
AND REFLECTIONS*