

NO MATTER WHAT...GOD IS NOT MAD AT YOU!

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I saw a bumper sticker that read, "No Matter What...God Is Not Mad At You!" I couldn't help but think that someone has a misconception about the nature of God. Now, it is true that God does not get mad like men often do, by losing his temper, becoming flustered, turning red in the face. In the heat of an angry moment, many a man has done a thing he later regretted. God does not do that. God is always in complete control, always takes the right action, always acts in harmony with his infinite nature. If God were ever to get angry, it would be a perfect anger, for just reasons, executed in a perfect way. God does not throw temper tantrums. But, is it possible for God to be mad? A quick word search reveals that the phrase, "anger of the Lord" occurs 36 times in the Old Testament. The similarly worded "wrath of the Lord" is found 14 times in the Old Testament. In the first person, God speaks of "my wrath" 44 times and "my anger" 31 times in the Bible. Speaking of God's anger in the third person, "his wrath" occurs 20 times. "Wrath of God" occurs 11 times in the New Testament. In Jeremiah 49:37, God even refers to "my fierce anger." Doubtless there are other passages that express the same idea, though worded differently. Surely this is enough for us to understand there is such a thing as divine anger at a man or mankind. Many want to perceive God as a grandfatherly figure in the sky who is rather harmless and doesn't have the will to mete out genuine punishment which lasts for eternity. They think like that, not because the Bible teaches it, but because they do not know what the Bible teaches. The New Testament puts us on guard against such delusions. Every right-thinking man wants to "avoid God's wrath" (cf. Romans 13:5), and living every day as a Christian is the only way to do so. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31), "for our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29). Come visit us at the Sherman Drive church of Christ, where we worship a God who is worthy of all respect.

