

## Anger, Without Sin

Continued from Page 3

angry people that do many damaging and hurtful things to others and themselves because of their unforgiveness of someone's deed to them. When the Holy Spirit comes into one's life and is obeyed, the underlying causes of anger may not seem so important any more, resulting in less need for being angry.

A man being angry at women because of not having a father in his life and blaming all his hardships on the only one near him, his mother, may stop his bitterness when he forgives his father for leaving when he was small. A woman angry with men for what one man did to her, may cease to be angry when she can forgive her attacker. When the Holy Spirit comes into one's life, all feelings can be changed and anger against others can change. As the child's song goes, "The things I used to do, I don't do them anymore," should be the nature of the new creature in Christ. All things should be changed in the believer, and the handling of one's anger can be part of the change. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

As impossible as it sounds, anger can be reduced in one's life. If it were not possible God, would

**"If anger is not restrained, it is frequently more hurtful to us than the injury that provokes it." — Seneca**

not have commanded us to eliminate anger from our life. As in all difficulties we face in this life, prayer, finding God's instructions by reading His Word, and obedience to what He shows us in the scripture will help us to overcome sinful anger.

*"Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil." Psalm 37:8*

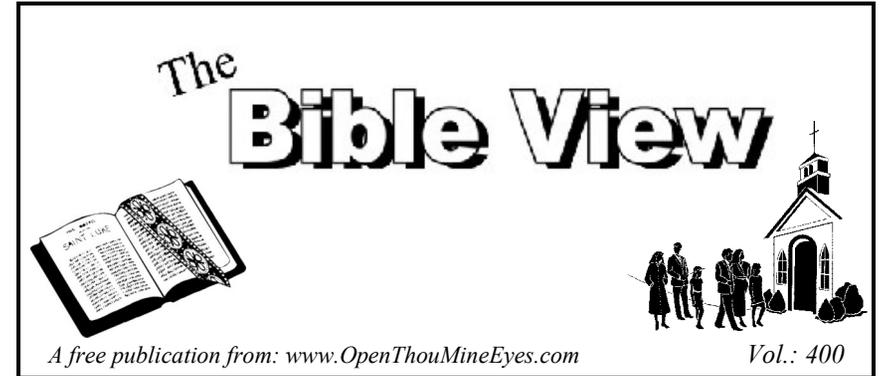
The complete version of this study can be found at:  
<http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/lessons/anger.html>

## When Anger Is Sinful

J. Beaumont, 1871

- ◇ When we are angry with the providence of God.
- ◇ When we are angry with the laws of God.
- ◇ When we are angry at the doctrines taught in the Word of God.
- ◇ When we are angry at the good we see in others.
- ◇ When we are angry with those who differ from us in religious sentiments.
- ◇ When we are angry at reproof.
- ◇ When we wish evil upon our reprove.
- ◇ When we use unlawful means to avenge ourselves; we sin in anger.

Get ALL of the *The Bible View* in the weekly e-mail version. Sign-up for it at:  
<http://www.OpenThouMineEyes.com/SignUp.htm>



## Anger, Without Sin

Bill Brinkworth

Each person shows their anger differently, but everyone gets angry. For some, the emotion boils and stews inside



of them, and for others it results in fists through the sheetrock. These emotions of displeasure are part of how we are created. It is part of our design. Anger was never intended, however, to turn to sin or to control our lives.

Since we are created in the image of God, we have many character traits that our Creator has. Anger is one of them, although He would never sin with His anger. God got angry with:

- ⊗ Moses (*Deuteronomy 1:37*).
- ⊗ The people of Israel many times, including at Mount Horeb (*Deut. 9:8, II Kings 17:18*).
- ⊗ Aaron (*Deut. 9:20*).
- ⊗ Solomon (*I Kings 11:9*).
- ⊗ With those sinning (*Psalm 7:11, Psalm 80:4*).

- ⊗ Even Jesus was angry enough to throw the corrupt money-changers out of the temple (*John 2:15*).

Continued on Page 2

## Get Rid of It!

Cawdray, 1660

If we have eaten poison, we seek to vomit it up again with all speed. If we be fallen into any disease, we use any means we can to get a remedy. Likewise, when we feel any unruly emotions of anger, and the fiery flames thereof be kindled in our hearts, we must be careful to repress and get rid of them, the same as we would quench the flames if our house were on fire.

**This is the 400<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Bible View!** Although under a different name and not on-line, this publication has been produced since 1991. Its purpose is to reach as many as possible with the truths and teachings of the Word of God. Help us reach more, by passing your copy on to others.

## Anger, Without Sin

*Continued from Page 1*

God's chosen men also got angry, including:

- ⊗ Moses, one of the men most used by God (Lev. 10:6).
- ⊗ Nehemiah (Neh. 5:6).
- ⊗ Jonah (Jonah 4:1).

In all the situations that God was angry, sin was never involved. Anger is not sin when it is directed towards the things God gets angry at. There should be some things that make us angry. It is not sin if you find yourself angry at unrighteousness in government, the death of millions of aborted babies, or the theft of property, or other sinful activities. Anger is sin when it is for prideful or selfish reasons.

Needless to say, we should not want to get angry and should avoid it at all costs. It should be a last measure in handling a situation. Some biblical reasons for not getting angry are:

- ⊗ Remember that God was angry with you, but he turned his anger away from you and forgave you, if you have trusted Christ as your Saviour! Think of all the times He forgave and forgot your transgressions against Him. If He can turn His anger away from you, and He certainly does not have to, cannot we forgive and forget what a person has done to us? Are you not glad

that you did not receive what was due you for your sin against the Creator (Isa. 12:1, Eph. 4:32)?

- ⊗ Because you will do something foolish that you probably will regret (Pro. 14:7).
- ⊗ Because no one likes angry people (Pro. 14:17).
- ⊗ Because no one wants to be near angry people (Pro. 21:19).
- ⊗ Because no one should be friends with angry people. God commands us not to be. He knows that anger can spread from them to you (Pro. 22:24)!
- ⊗ Because anger affects others and causes problems. Many times an angry person gets some satisfaction in making others as unhappy as he (Pro. 29:22).

Controlling anger is easier said than done. For some, an angry reaction comes upon them so fast that it turns to sinful anger before it is stopped. The Bible does give suggestions and warnings so it does not turn into sin. They include:

- ⊗ Do not let anger be the first reaction to a situation. Some are convinced that blowing their stack is the only way they will get what they want. They hope that the opposition will back off, when they blow up.

Realizing that anger does not ever fix any situation, and that it usually makes matters worse, is one of the first steps in eliminating anger (Eccl. 7:9).

- ⊗ Only anger against sin is justified. The mind of Christ that resides in every Christian should be angry at sin. That "mind" should not be angry, because someone said something or did something against you. That is their sin of unkindness for which they will be responsible. A Christ-like mind should not be angry at someone because of jealousy, bitterness, or unkindness. The Christian should not want to sin, and therefore any anger leading to a trespass against God should be halted.
- ⊗ If you do get angry, get it right and forgive the offender before the day is finished. Do not let that spirit of anger fester overnight. If you do, you will wake up with that sin embedded deeper, and it will be harder to forgive and put it behind you. Most deep-rooted anger that some lug around their whole life is from something that should have been talked out with the person and forgotten by the first night it occurred (Eph. 4:26).

Take the anger of the past and throw it out of your life

to the best of your ability. Fill that void with kindness (Eph. 4:32, I Peter 2:1, Col. 3:12-13).

- ⊗ Do not get yourself in a position that has made you angry in the past. If you know a certain situation or being near a person will probably lead to sinful anger, avoid that situation or person (Rom. 13:14).
- ⊗ Think before reacting. This, especially for many, is a difficult thing to do, because anger is usually their first reaction. The old adage was to count to ten before saying anything. If you can get to that point that you can think before you react, ask yourself, "How would Jesus react to this situation?" It certainly would be more productive than counting. A Christian is supposed to be "Christ-like," and it should be on a Christian's mind that they duplicate their Master's reaction.

Anger can be 'put off' (Eph. 4:31) when the heart is changed at the time of salvation. Although we will still have the potential for anger, we can have a changed heart where anger does not rule and reign. We all know

*Continued on Page 4*

**WHAT A SPLENDID THING  
IT WOULD BE IF THOSE  
WHO LOSE THEIR TEMPER  
COULD NOT FIND THEM  
AGAIN.**

**"An angry man is again angry with himself when he returns to reason." — Publius Syrus**