

Angry Words

Introduction:

1. Written by Horatio Richmond Palmer, this song was published around 1867.
 - a. Palmer was an editor of hymnbooks and a writer of several texts concerning music theory.
 - b. He lived most of his life in New York where he worked as music director of Rushford Academy, choir conductor, and organist of Broome Street Tabernacle.
 - c. He was the author and composer of several other songs, including "Yield Not to Temptation."
2. This song poetically demonstrates the Biblical principle of loving others by controlling one's speech.
3. James warned Christians to be "slow to wrath" (James 1:19-20).
4. This passage is an admonition to allow God's Word to guide in all things, especially in times of trial.
5. The Bible gives important guidance concerning anger and wrath...

I. Definitions

- A. Wrath is defined as:
 1. "Sudden outburst of passionate anger"
 2. "The blaze of temper which flares into violent words and deeds, and just as quickly dies"
- B. Anger is defined as:
 1. "Indignation which has arisen gradually and become more settled"
 2. "A more settled or abiding condition of the mind, frequently with a view to taking revenge"
- C. Both are condemned in Scripture, in both Testaments (Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 14:17, 29; 15:18; 16:32; 19:19; 22:24-25; Romans 12:19; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; Titus 1:7).
- D. However, there is a place for a certain kind of anger (Ephesians 4:26).
- E. At times, God is angry (Romans 1:18; 2:4ff; etc.).
 1. It is always a just reaction to sin.
 2. In contrast, man's anger is often misguided and flawed.
- F. At times, Jesus was angry (Matthew 23:13ff; John 2:13ff).
 1. It was always against sin (cf. John 2:24-25).
 2. It was never in self-interest (cf. 1 Peter 2:21-23).
 3. In contrast, man's anger is often selfish and unholy.
- G. The Christian must not let anger become sinful:
 1. By doing wrong because of it – wrathful temper
 2. Or by allowing it to linger and settle in the mind – vengeful hate

II. Dangers

(James 3:2-12)

Angry words! O let them never From the tongue unbridled slip;
 May the heart's best impulse ever Check them ere they soil the lip.

Love is much too pure and holy, Friendship is too sacred far,
For a moment's reckless folly Thus to desolate and mar.

Angry words are lightly spoken, Bitt'rest thoughts are rashly stirred,
Brightest links or life are broken By a single angry word.

Chorus:

"Love one another," thus saith the Savior;
Children obey the Father's blest command:
"Love one another," thus saith the Savior;
Children obey the blest command.

- A. Anger endangers one's obedience of God's Word (Ephesians 4:26-27).
 - B. Anger endangers one's love for others (Matthew 5:20-26)
 - 1. One who acts in anger does not display love for his neighbor.
 - 2. "If you don't love your neighbor, then you don't love God" (cf. 1 Peter 3:7).
 - C. Anger endangers one's relationships with others (Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; cf. 16:28; 17:9; Ecclesiastes 10:12).
- III. Defeat (John 15:12)
- A. How can one overcome anger?
 - B. Become a Christian (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:1-7, 17-18).
 - C. Guard the heart (Proverbs 15:1; Matthew 12:34; Romans 12:1-2).
 - D. Practice restraint (James 1:19-20; Psalm 39:1; Proverbs 10:19; 13:3).
 - E. Love others (John 15:12; Matthew 7:12).
 - F. Pray (James 1:2-5; Matthew 7:7-8; Philippians 4:6-8).
 - G. Imitate Jesus (1 Peter 2:21-23; Luke 23:34).

Conclusion:

- 1. God's wrath abides upon those who sins are not forgiven (John 3:36; Romans 1:18; 2:5).
- 2. To be delivered from divine wrath, obey the Gospel of Christ.