

Romans 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Analysis

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart—κατὰ δὲ τὴν σκληρότητά σου (kata de tēn sklērotēta sou), literally "according to your hardness." Σκληρότης (sklērotēs) means "hardness/stubbornness," the same root describing Pharaoh's hardened heart (Exodus 4-14 LXX). Αμετανόητος καρδία (ametanoētos kardia, "unrepentant heart") combines alpha-privative with "repentance"—a heart refusing to change. **Treasurest up unto thyself wrath**—the verb θησαυρίζεις (thēsaurizeis, "store up/accumulate") ironically applies 'treasure-gathering' to divine fury.

This verse delivers devastating irony: instead of treasuring up God's goodness (v. 4), the unrepentant accumulate wrath. Every sin unrepented adds to the eschatological storehouse, like compound interest on a debt unpayable. **Against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God**—ήμέρα ὥργης καὶ ἀποκαλύψεως (hēmera orgēs kai apokalypseōs) refers to final judgment when God's δικαιοκρισία (dikaiokrisia, "righteous judgment") is unveiled.

Paul's language echoes Amos 5:18-20's warning about "the day of the LORD" being darkness, not light, for the unrepentant. The heart—kardia—is Scripture's core of moral identity (Proverbs 4:23, Jeremiah 17:9). A hard heart cannot repent; only God's Spirit can replace the heart of stone with flesh (Ezekiel 36:26).

Historical Context

Jewish apocalyptic literature (Daniel, intertestamental works like 1 Enoch) vividly described the "day of wrath" when God would judge the world. Most Jews expected vindication on that day, with judgment falling on Gentile oppressors. Paul shockingly redirects: unrepentant Jews face the same wrath. The phrase "revelation of the righteous judgment" indicates this judgment is currently hidden but will be unveiled—secrets exposed, motives judged, hypocrisy condemned (Romans 2:16).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What areas of my life show 'hardness'—places where I've resisted God's convicting Spirit repeatedly?
2. Am I accumulating treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21) or storing up wrath through unrepented sin?
3. How does contemplating the 'day of wrath' motivate present repentance rather than inducing despair?

Interlinear Text

κατὰ	δὲ	τὴν	σκληρότητά	σου	καὶ	ἀμετανόητον	καρδίαν
after	But	G3588	hardness	thy	and	impenitent	heart
G2596	G1161		G4643	G4675	G2532	G279	G2588
θησαυρίζεις	σεαυτῷ	όργῆς	ἐν	ἡμέρᾳ	όργῆς	καὶ	
treasurest up	unto thyself	of wrath	against	the day	of wrath	and	
G2343	G4572	G3709	G1722	G2250	G3709	G2532	
ἀποκαλύψεως	δικαιοκρισίας		τοῦ	θεοῦ			
revelation	of the righteous judgment	G1341	G3588	of God			
G602				G2316			

Additional Cross-References

Romans 1:18 (Righteousness): For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (Judgment): For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

2 Peter 3:7 (Judgment): But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Jude 1:6 (Judgment): And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Hebrews 3:15 (Parallel theme): While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Deuteronomy 32:34 (Parallel theme): Is not this laid up in store with me, and sealed up among my treasures?

Hebrews 4:7 (Parallel theme): Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Hebrews 3:13 (Parallel theme): But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Psalms 110:5 (Judgment): The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.

2 Peter 2:9 (Righteousness): The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: