Should Anger Have A Place In A Christian’s Lifestyle?

By Johnny Hunton

Should a Christian ever get angry about anything? The bible has much to say about anger and the place of it. Anger is an excessive emotion or passion aroused by a sense of injury or wrong. God’s anger or wrath are stirred up by disobedience to his word – sin.

Before making a judgment or decision relative to a Biblical subject, it is important to review and study all references in the bible regarding that subject. Many folks have made premature interpretations based even on a single verse of scripture, maybe even ignoring other relative passages.

Is it wrong for a Christian to get angry? God got fiercely angry on many occasions – as his people, Israel, disobeyed him in many ways, particularly in the worship of idols. I looked up over a hundred references in the old testament that speak of his being provoked by Israel, kindling his anger! He poured out his wrath many times, punishing his people. One severe occasion was when he allowed king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to destroy Jerusalem and take many captive to his land – for a period of seventy years. There were times when god turned from his fiery anger when there was true repentance. “…but thou art a god

Ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness… (Nehemiah 9:17; see also: Psalm 103:8; 145:8;

Jonah 4:2)

Jesus was angry at those having hardness of heart. (Mark 3:15) he really got stirred up to anger in the temple one day – overthrowing “the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves; and said unto them: “it is written, my house shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves.” (Matthew 21:12-13)

There are certain things Christians should be angry about – but with some limitations. “be ye angry and sin not, let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” (Ephesians 4:26) we certainly ought to be angry about the murdering of millions of innocent, unborn babies – and other ungodly things going on in our land! However, most all references to believers call for the ceasing from anger: “cease from anger and forsake wrath.” (Psalm 37:8; see also Proverbs 15:1, 18; 16:32; 19:11; 27:4; Colossians 3:8, 21; Titus 1:7) Jesus said: …whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment…” (Matthew 5:22)

Well, since we all get angry at times in ways displeasing to God, what can be done by Christians to gain forgiveness and do right in the future? Where there is true repentance and confession of such sins, god will forgive! (I John 1:9) feeding upon god’s word, the bible, will be of help. The psalm writer stated: “thy (God’s) word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against thee (God).”  (Psalm 119:11) much prayer is needed – and a daily reliance upon the holy spirit for help! May God help all of us to control our tempers and be Christ-like in all that we do and say!!