

SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD

Deuteronomy 32:35 Psalm 73:18

(On July 8, 1741, Jonathan Edwards preached a sermon entitled "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" at Enfield, Connecticut. Any preacher who has read this particular sermon was deeply impressed with it and quickly re-preached it to his own congregation. This sermon has been preached countless times through the years by hundreds of preachers. The following is but a brief summary of that magnificent sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" by Jonathan Edwards.)

Introduction: God is threatening vengeance on the unbelieving Israelites. They were God's people, yes, they were under God's grace, yes, but with all of God's wonderful works toward them, they had stopped listening to Him and obeying Him. Therefore God is reminding them of their dangerous position.

- They were exposed to destruction (they were in slippery places).
- They were exposed to sudden, unexpected destruction.
- They were going to fall by their own doings.
- The only reason they had not already fallen was because God's appointed time had not yet come.

I. ALL THE WICKED ARE GOING TO HELL

1. God can cast the wicked into hell at any moment.
 - There is absolutely nothing man can do to prevent it.
 - A person's life is all that is keeping man out of hell (his soul is hanging by a thread).
 - Who is man to think that he/she can withstand God?
2. The wicked deserve to be cast into hell.
 - God's justice demands that man pay for his sins and wickedness.
3. Every human being is born under the sentence of condemnation to hell.
 - Man is born an enemy to God, sinful, wicked, separated from God by nature at birth.
4. God looks at every living wicked being the same way that He looks at those already in Hell.
 - The only reason the living wicked are not in hell this very moment is because God has delayed cutting that "thread of life" that they are suspended over hell with.
5. If it were not for God's restraints (the Holy Spirit) this world itself would be a hell, in itself.
 - Mankind is so corrupt, evil, ungodly whereas if let loose to pursue its heart's desires, this world would be turned into a fiery oven, a furnace of fire and brimstone.
6. It is no security to the wicked for one second that there seems to be no means of death nearby.
 - The wicked, unsaved, disobedient, unbelieving world of men and women are walking over hell on rotten planks, so weak that they will not bear the weight for long.
 - God has so many different unsearchable ways of taking the lives of the wicked and sending them to hell that it seems God doesn't have to go out of His way.

7. All the precautions the wicked can think of does not preserve nor secure them for a moment.
 - Wise, unwise, rich, poor, educated, uneducated, men, women, boys, girls, religious, non religious, etc...all are condemned and damned and will burn in hell fire.
8. Therefore in God's eyes, all natural mankind deserve the fiery pit, are already sentenced to it. God's anger is as great toward those in hell as those who are still living and haven't gone there yet. There are no means within reach or security, no refuge, nothing to take hold of that man has come up with that will save himself. ONLY the unobligated forbearance of an incensed God.

II. GOD'S WRATH IS READY TO BE RELEASED

1. For everyone outside of Jesus Christ, the fires of hell await.
 - There is nothing to stand on, nothing to take hold of, nothing between a person and hell except the grace of God found in Jesus Christ.
2. Very few are aware that they are kept out of hell for the moment.
 - They do not see the hand of God in their life but if God should withdraw His hand from them they would fall straight into hell.
3. Wickedness builds up (sinfulness) through one's life as one lives disobedient to God, deaf to His call, blind to His works, thus adding to one's torment when he/she goes to hell.
4. The wrath of God is like great waters damned up for the present, but increasing daily and when the life of the wicked is ended, those damned up waters of God's wrath are released and poured out in great fury.
5. The bow of God's wrath is bent. The arrow of justice aimed at the heart of the wicked and all that keeps the arrow from being released is God. There is no place to hide, there is nothing one can do in him/herself to escape God's arrow of justice.
6. The wicked have offended God who holds them over the pit of hell and there is nothing one can do in him/herself to keep from falling into the pits of hell.
 - There is no reason you did not go to hell last night, no reason you have not already dropped into hell before this day except for the grace of God.
7. Consider the fearful danger the wicked are in.
 - A great furnace of God's wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, being held over all this in the hand of God who is angry, provoked and incensed at your wickedness. Held by a thin thread called life. Nothing you can do to save yourself. Damned, Doomed.

CONCLUSION:

1. Consider whose wrath it is. Consider the fierceness of God's wrath. Consider the misery a person will be exposed to. Consider that it will be everlasting wrath.
2. Some don't care to think about things such as this. Some say they will think on these things later in life. Some say they will be alright because they are good. Some say a good God wouldn't do such a thing. However, some say, tell me more.
3. ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."***
- "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me.."
4. Think! Every person in this room is either saved from the fires of hell because of his/her belief in God's only begotten Son, Jesus, or is still damned, condemned and hanging over the fires of hell by the slender thread of life. Not only those in this room, but every person you see anywhere.
5. God is wanting, waiting to save you from the fires of hell. What will you do?