



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

On July 8, 1741 (in Enfield, Connecticut) Jonathan Edwards preached his now-famous sermon titled "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." In this sermon – from Deuteronomy 32:35, "*Their foot shall slide in due time*" (KJV) – Edwards vividly captured the wrath of God against sin.

"The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present; they increase more and more, and rise higher and higher, till an outlet is given; and the longer the stream is stopped, the more rapid and mighty is its course, when it is once let loose. It is true, that judgment against your evil works has not been executed before; the floods of God's vengeance have been withheld; but your guilt in the meantime is constantly increasing, and you are every day storing up more wrath; the waters are constantly rising, and growing more and more mighty; and there is nothing but the mere pleasure of God that holds the waters back, that are unwilling to be stopped, and press hard to go forward ...

You have offended [God] infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince: and yet, it is nothing but His hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment. It is to be ascribed to nothing else, that you did not go to hell last night; that you were allowed to awake up again in this world, after you close your eyes to sleep. And there is no other reason to be given, why you have not dropped into hell since you arose this morning, but that God's hand has held you up. There is no other reason to be given why you have not gone to hell, since you have sat here in this church, provoking His pure eyes by your sinful wicked manner of attending His solemn worship. Yes, there is nothing else that is to be given as a reason why you do not this very moment drop down into hell."

While these words may be unsettling, they are certainly in harmony with the teaching of Scripture (see Ps.2:4-6, 12; 7:11-13; Nah.1:2-6; Rom.1:18; Col.3:6; Rev.6:15-17; 19:15). God's wrath is the holy expression of His righteous judgment. God's wrath is never capricious, never misguided, never unjust. Until we understand the reality of God's wrath, we will never completely understand the reality of God's mercy. And any attempt to diminish God's wrath is an attempt to diminish His mercy.

Simply put, God's mercy is Him not giving us the punishment we deserve. In the Bible, we read that God's "*mercy is great*" (2Sam.24:14), that He is "*rich in mercy*" (Eph.2:4), and that His mercy comes only to those who truly put their faith in Jesus Christ: "*Jesus ... delivers us from the wrath to come*" (1Thess.1:10); "*For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1Thess.5:9). We cannot truly proclaim God's mercy apart from His wrath, and we must not declare God's wrath apart from His mercy.

Even in his graphic sermon on the wrath of God, Edwards did not fail to preach on God's mercy:

"There is no other reason to be given, but His mercy ... why you do not this very moment drop down into hell";

"Now, God stands ready to pity you; this is the day of mercy; you can cry now with some encouragement of obtaining mercy. But when once the day of mercy is passed, your most lamentable and dolorous cries and shrieks will be in vain";

"And now you have an extraordinary opportunity, a day wherein Christ has thrown the door of mercy wide open, and stands calling, and crying with a loud voice to poor sinners, a day wherein many are flocking to him, and pressing into the kingdom of God; many are daily coming from the east, west, north, and south; many that were very lately in the same miserable condition that you are in are now in a happy state with their hearts filled with love to Him who has loved them, and washed them from their sins in His own blood, and rejoicing in hope of the glory of God."

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(11/10/25)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #45):

Deuteronomy 10-12; 2Chronicles 33-36; Psalm 128-130; Ecclesiastes 5-6; Haggai; Acts 13-14; 1Peter 1-3

Recommended Reading:

"A God-Entranced Vision of All Things: The Legacy of Jonathan Edwards" John Piper & Justin Taylor