**Sinners in the Hands of Angry God**

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The purpose of this terrifying subject is to awaken the unconverted persons in this congregation. This that you have heard is the case of every one of you that are out of Christ. That world of misery that lake of burning brimstone is spread right beneath you; and you have nothing to stand upon, nor anything to take hold of: there is nothing between you and hell but the air; ‘tis only the power and mere pleasure of God that holds you up.

You probably are not sensible of this; you find you are kept out of hell, but

don’t see the hand of God in it, but look at other things, as the good state of your bodily constitution, your care of your own life, and the means you use for your own preservation. But indeed these things are nothing; if God should withdraw his hand, they would avail no more to keep you from falling, than the thin air holds up a person that is suspended on it.

The bow of God’s wrath is bent, and straining, the arrow is already set on the string, and justice aims it directly at your heart, it is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, an angry God, who is not restrained by any promise or obligation, that keeps the arrow from being made drunk with your blood.

Thus are all you that never passed under a great change of heart, by the mighty power of the Spirit of God upon your souls; all that were never born again, and made new creatures, raised from being dead in sin, to a new light and life; all of you are thus in the hands of an angry God; ‘tis nothing but his mere pleasure that keeps you from being this moment swallowed up in everlasting destruction.

However unconvinced you may now be of the truth of what you hear, by and by you will be fully convinced of it. Those that are gone from being in the like circumstances with you, see that it was so with them; for destruction came suddenly upon most of them, when they expected nothing of it, and while they were saying, “Peace and safety”: now they see, that those things that they trusted on for peace and safety, were nothing but thin air and empty shadows.

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The God that holds you over the pit of hell, as someone holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked;

O sinner! Think seriously about the fearful danger you are in: yet you have no interest in any mediator, and nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of yourself, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to persuade God to spare you one moment.

For now, God stands ready to have pity on you. This is a day of mercy. Now, you may cry with the hope of obtaining mercy. But, once the day of mercy is passed, your most serious and desperate cries for mercy will be in vein. B ut, once the day of mercy is passed, your most serious and desperate cries for mercy will be in vein. You will be forever lost, and God will throw you away. No longer giving thought to your welfare, God will have no other use for you except to make you suffer misery. You will exist for no other purpose, you will be objects of his wrath prepared for destruction. And there will be no other use of those objects except to be filled full of Gods wrath.

It would be dreadful to suffer this fierceness and wrath of all mighty God. Even for one moment. But you will suffer it for eternity. There will be no end to this intense and horrible misery. When you look ahead, you will see a long forever, an unlimited length of time before you. This will swallow up all your thoughts. It will amaze your soul, and you will be in absolute despair of ever being delivered of its ever coming to and end or receiving any reduction in torment or any rest at all. You will know for sure that you must wear out many long ages, millions and millions of ages of struggling and fighting against this merciless vengeance. And when you have struggled and fought for all these many ages, you will realize that hardly a second has gone by, and eternity still remains.

H-historical context

I-intended audience

P-authors purpose

P-authors point of view