

THE BIBLE VIEW

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You Should be Afraid!

Bill Brinkworth

Several glass walk-bridges have been constructed. Some of the most famous ones are found in the Hubei Province in China. The longest is 1,600 feet long and spans a 715 foot chasm. Many visitors to the bridge enjoy looking down through the glass panels to see all that is below them through the clear structure. It must feel like they are walking on air.

Others have been very frightened. In many of the video clips, one can see some that are so scared that they cannot move and have to be escorted off. Others summon the courage to crawl to safety, as the fear of falling and perishing overwhelms them. I would have liked to have been on the other side of the bridge telling the visitors how to be saved, as the thought of perishing must have gone through many minds.

To make it scarier, one shorter bridge in the Hubei Province installed a frightening device at the end of the trek across the clear-floored overpass. Special vibration sensors detect a walker approaching the area. Visual effects make the glass bottom appear to be cracking as the hiker exits

the bridge. Cracking sounds also are activated. One hiker was so scared, that he clung to the glass side to escape what he thought was his certain demise.

Watching videos of the hikers crossing the glass-walk reminded me so much of the different attitudes people have about their eternity. Most go through life knowing that one day they will die, but it is not something they are concerned about. They believe they are safe, as they think they have time until they will face eternity. Although there is not much separating them from the next life, they are not concerned enough about it to address their future.

Perhaps, they are convinced that others have walked the same way they have; and since others are alright and do not seem concerned, they also are not worried about that time. They know they are close to eternity. It could happen any minute. A car accident, heart attack, devastating cancer, murder, or many other methods could instantly end their life; but they try not to think about it and have not made any preparations about where their eternity will be spent.

They reach a point in their life that they see themselves as who they really are — sinners. They are horribly terrified about where they will spend their eternity. Because of their sin, they realize that there is no hope of Heaven for them. They are petrified, as were those on the glass structure, that they will plunge into Hell. They are eager to have an escape from a frightening future.

Someone tells them what the Bible says about being saved. Maybe they even recall something they were told earlier about being saved from the place of torments. They admit their sinnership to God, and trust Christ as their Saviour. They become saved from a hellish eternity, and become a child of God. They saw the eminent danger, were scared, and they did something about it.

There is not much separating any of us from eternity. For those driving down a paved road, only the yellow, painted line keeps them from having a fatal car crash. Only the grace of God keeps us from having terminal cancer or a life-robbing heart attack. Life is precious, and there is not much keeping us from an everlasting future.

What have you done to prepare for the next life? Are you prepared? You may be scared about that reality, but what are you doing about those fears?

Death is eminent for all. Fear when thinking about where one will spend eternity is normal and should not be ignored. Those concerns are an opportunity to be assured of Heaven. Are you concerned enough about your eternal future to do something about those fears? Be saved today! Do not put it off any longer. You may not have many more tomorrows.

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Rom. 13:11

“That only is worth my having, which I can have forever. That only is worth my grasping, which death cannot tear out of my hand.” — Spurgeon

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

Excerpts from Jonathan Edwards 1741 Sermon

The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked. His wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire. He is of purer eyes than to bear you in his sight; you are ten thousand times as abominable in His eyes as the most hateful, venomous serpent is in ours.

You have offended him 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 suffered to awake again in this world, after you closed your eyes to sleep. And there is no other reason to be given why you have not dropped into hell since you arose in the 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 the house of God provoking his pure eye by your sinful, wicked manner of attending His solemn worship. Yea, there is nothing else that is to be given as a reason why you do not this very moment drop down into hell.

O sinner! consider the fearful danger you are in! It is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath that you are held over in the hand of that God whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you as against many of the damned in hell. You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of Divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it and burn it asunder.

It would be dreadful to suffer this fierceness and wrath of Almighty God one moment; but you must suffer it for all eternity. There will be no end to this exquisite, horrible misery. When you look forward, you shall see along forever a boundless duration before you; which will swallow up your thoughts, and amaze your soul. And you will absolutely despair of ever having any deliverance, any end, any mitigation, any rest at all. You will know certainly that you must wear out long ages, millions of millions of ages in wrestling with this Almighty, merciless vengeance. And then when you have so done, when so many ages have actually been spent by you in this manner, you will know that all is but a point to what remains. So that your punishment will indeed be infinite.

Oh! who can express what the state of a soul in such circumstances is! All that we can possibly say about it gives but a very feeble, faint representation of it. It is inexpressible and inconceivable: for "who knows the power of God's anger"!

How dreadful is the state of those that are daily and hourly in danger of this great wrath and infinite misery! But this is

the dismal case of every soul in this congregation that has not been born again; however moral and strict, sober and religious, they may otherwise be. Oh! that you would consider it, whether you be young or old!

There is reason to think that there are many in this congregation, now hearing this discourse, that will actually be the subjects of this very misery for all eternity. We know not who they are, or in what seats they sit, or what thoughts they now have. It may be they are now at ease, and hear all these things without much disturbance, and are now flattering themselves that they are not the persons, promising themselves that they shall escape.

If we knew that there was one person, and but one, in the whole congregation, that was to be the subject of this misery, what an awful thing it would be to think of! If we knew who it was, what an awful sight would it be to see such a person! How might the rest of the congregation lift up a lamentable and bitter cry over him!

But, alas! instead of one, how many is it likely will remember this discourse in hell! And it would be a wonder, if some that are now present should not be in hell in a very short time, before this year is out. And it would be no wonder if some persons that now sit here in some seats of this meeting-house, in health, and quiet and security, should be there before tomorrow morning!

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” *John 3:3*

How Does the Bible Tell One to be Saved?

- **Know that you are a sinner:**
“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23 Also: Romans 5:12, I John 1:10.
- **Hell is the payment for all that have sinned.** *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom. 6:23*
“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” Romans 5:12
- **BUT, there is good news! Jesus’ death on the cross is the payment for the sins of all that call upon Him for salvation!**
“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”
Romans 10:9
“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Rom. 10:13

This is how the Bible says one is to be saved. However, so many add to God’s commandments. They add good works and deeds, obedience to a church’s teaching, or “religious acts” to get to a heavenly eternity.

Those are man’s attempts to pay for their sins. There is nothing we can add to God’s gift of salvation. There is

nothing we can pay, because Jesus paid it all when He died for our sins. Accept His payment today!

“Don’t gamble on the eternal destiny of your soul. It is the only thing you possess that will last forever!”