“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
Supplemental Worksheet

Sermon Content

Read the following statements and mark those that are clearly stated in the sermon.

1. ______ God sees human beings as we see worms and snakes.
2. ______ God is angry with humans and their unappreciative behavior.
3. ______ Hell is a place for murders only.
4. ______ Human beings are constantly in danger of going to Hell.
5. ______ It is the good deeds of humans that keep them from going to Hell for eternity.
6. ______ If God does not forgive you and you are sent to Hell, you will only be there until you earn your passage to Heaven.

Puritan Beliefs

**Eternal punishment:** This is the belief that all wicked people will be punished by being sent to Hell, a place of fire and torment where they will remain forever.

**Salvation through grace:** The Puritans believed that all people were basically sinful and that the only way a person could get into Heaven was through God’s mercy, or grace, given to them despite what they actually deserved.

**Being “born again”:** When a person repented of his/her sins and accepted God’s grace, the Puritans said that these people were “born again.” That is, they had given up their old lives and started new lives in Christ.

Find one direct quotation from Edwards’s sermon that shows his belief in each of these concepts. **Don’t forget to use citations!** (author’s last name and text page number)

Eternal punishment:

Salvation through grace:

Being “born again”: 
After Reading Thoughts

Mark each of the following statements with a “Y” (I agree) or an “N” (I disagree). Then explain the reasons for your answer.

1. Edwards’s sermon appeals mainly to people’s intellect and logic.

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

2. This sermon asks its audience to “reawaken” to Puritan beliefs, but society does not need to “reawaken” to anything today.

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

3. People are motivated by fear.

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

4. It is easier to catch flies with honey rather than vinegar. (Translation: To motivate someone to do something, niceness works better than forcefulness.)

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Word Choice

For each pair of words, circle the better connotative choice – which has the biggest emotional or descriptive punch? Then explain your choice (this is personal opinion, so just explain your thinking here!).

1. anger wrath

___________________________________________________________________________

2. being damned in trouble

___________________________________________________________________________
3. hate abhor

4. loathsome gross

5. misery sadness

After examining the careful word choice of Edwards, what then is his overall purpose?

Figurative Language

Identify each of the following quotations as an example of:

- a simile
- a metaphor
- hyperbole
- personification
- alliteration
- imagery

1. “...his wrath towards you burns like fire...
2. “...the flames gather and flash about them...and swallow them up.”
3. “The bow of God’s wrath is bent...”
4. “Unconverted men walk over the pit of hell on a rotten covering...”
5. “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...”

Extended metaphor

Throughout this sermon, Edwards focuses on the wrath of God. What images are used throughout his speech that explains Edwards’s view of God’s wrath and its effect on humankind?
Closing Thoughts

Well...what did you think of the sermon from Mr. Edwards? Something you would want to hear on a weekly basis? Was it entertaining at all for you?? (Place a sentence or two of your overall opinion below.)

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Which passage was your “favorite” – as in, the most entertaining piece that would be shown as the “Oscar clip”?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Edwards lived in two ages: the sacredness of the Puritan religion and the secularism of the blossoming rational world (as per the author bio, pages 36-37). Do you see evidence for both worlds within this sermon? Are they equally balanced? Why or why not?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________