

**March 9, 2023**

**1 Thess. 5:9-11** *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.* (NIV)

Our Father loves us so very much. He wants all to come to repentance and receive salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. What an amazing and loving LORD we serve. Because of our salvation, we will not suffer the wrath of God. I challenge you to take some time today or this week and read the famous sermon by **Jonathan Edwards** entitled *Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God*. I first heard this message when it was recreated by one of my seminary professors. He came to class in full 1741 regalia and stood upon his desk, reciting the powerful words of this message. Once preached, it began to spread throughout the early colonies and was the catalyst for the First Great Awakening. Some people say we shouldn't motivate others with the fear of Hell. I say, fear can be a powerful motivation. It keeps us from running out through the middle of traffic. It keeps us from jumping out of a perfectly good airplane without a parachute. In fact, Jesus even mentioned this in **Mt. 10:28** *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One Who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* (NIV)

Our freedom in Christ reminds us constantly that we are not subject to the penalty of sin. Instead, we have been set free. We are free to love like He loves, with no strings attached. We are free to encourage one another just as He does for us by His Holy Spirit. We can live like He intends for us to live. Are you burdened and heavy laden? Bring your burdens to the only One Who can carry them all; Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Dear LORD, thank You for our salvation through faith in Jesus. Thank You for Your Spirit that now resides within us. Thank You that You will never leave us nor forsake us. Thank You that we are saved from Your mighty wrath. We praise You alone! In Jesus Name, Amen**