

Critical Questions for 'Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God':

The following questions are intended as reading guides and/or discussion topics.

Part I: Getting Started – Initial Impressions

- 1) What was stirring, striking, or memorable to you in reading this sermon?

Part II: “O sinner, consider the fearful danger you are in!”

- 1) What images or analogies does Jonathan Edwards use to evoke the situation of the unconverted? (What does it mean to be *unconverted*?)
- 2) What are the most prominent themes communicated by these images?
- 3) How are listeners meant to feel?
- 4) Come up with another image that conveys a predicament similar to the plight of the sinner that Edwards speaks of.
- 5) Edwards communicates the danger of death and damnation that faces the unconverted. What might his listeners think would preserve the wicked? How does Edwards counter these assumptions?
- 6) What is the predicament of the unconverted, including those among his listeners? Also perhaps look together at the summary paragraphs on pp. 6 & 9, beginning with “So that thus it is...” and “O sinner! Consider the fearful danger...” respectively.

Part III: “This is a day of mercy.”

- 1) What is the purpose of his sermon? How are people meant to respond?

Part IV: Thinking about how the sermon works

- 1) How does this sermon work? What makes/made it effective?
- 2) What are Edwards' sources of authority or credibility? How does he elicit a response from his listeners?