

A WARNING TO THE UNCONVERTED!

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To warn is to love. Someone who sees danger on the horizon and refuses to alarm those in danger of death cannot be considered loving. Rather, he is selfish, uncaring, unloving, without compassion, and cold. To see an emergency demands that one urgently, clearly, passionately, and loudly call for all to hear and be delivered from the danger. Herein lies the purpose of this essay. In this writing, I endeavor to provide a warning to the unconverted! Like a policeman waving his hands and warning cars to exit rather than fall into the breach in the road ahead, so I endeavor to grab attention and warn unbelievers to flee to Christ for refuge rather than to reject Christ and face the unrelenting wrath of God forevermore.

1. The **CRIMES** you've committed are many.

A criminal is one who breaks the Law. He is one who lives guilty, he persists in rebellion, and defies the Lawgiver. Sin is lawlessness. To break the law is a crime and to live under that sentence grieves the conscience. The omniscient Judge of heaven and earth sees and knows every crime of every person and He scrutinizes the heart, mind, and motives of every person. He knows, then, that the crimes that every person has committed are many.

2. The **WEIGHT** of your rebellion is unbearable.

To sin speaks of rebellion. To sin is to miss the mark. To transgress is to rebel against the Sovereign's authority. To commit iniquity is to bend what He demands in His just Law. The rebellion that every single person has stored up heaps judgment upon His own head. The weight of rebellion is massive. The consequence of that rebellion is unbearable since it requires the just punishment of the heavenly Judge.

3. The **PUNISHMENT** for your transgressions is anguishing.

Like the weight of ten million worlds crushing down upon one single sinner is the weight and force of God's fair punishment upon the guilty one. To sin is to defy God's Law. To defy God's law is treason, rebellion, and nothing short of a revolt against the Lord. To see the tidal wave of divine wrath swiftly approaching with nowhere to run, nowhere to hide, and with no one to deliver should produce an anguish the sinner's soul. God's punishment reveals His great justice, His inscrutable righteousness, His unwavering love for His own glory, and His crushing hatred toward all sin. Every sinner should anguish at the thought of divine punishment.

4. The **WRATH** of God stored up for you is just and infinite.

If a man strikes a punch at a sibling, a penalty might be given. If a man strikes a punch at his mother, a penalty certainly will be given. If a man strikes a punch at a police officer, jail certainly is his destiny. If a man strikes a punch at the King, the President, or the Emperor, death is the certain outcome. All of the actions were identical. But the difference rests in the power, the importance, the position, and the authority of the one sinned against. So it is with God. Every single sin against God deserves an infinite penalty. One sin from one sinner deserves an eternity of eternal wrath because God, the offended One, is eternally holy,

just, fair, and righteous. For sinners to have perpetually sinned; to have heaped up decades of continuous unbelief, sin, pride, and rebellion; to have heard the Truth of the blessed Christ and blasphemed and rejected it mockingly; all of these deserve infinite hells of infinite wrath from an infinite God without end.

5. The **ARROGANCE** of your unbelief is condemning.

Every sinner who lives in unbelief stands in defiance against God by calling Him a liar. Everyone who does not believe in Jesus Christ, whom God has sent, has made God out to be a liar. To reject the Sovereign's command to repent and believe in Christ opposes the authority of God and the blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ. To reject God's truth and to adhere to manmade wisdom reveals the absurdity of worldly wisdom. Unbelief arrogantly rejects God's Messiah and it pridefully scoffs at Christ's atonement. This incurs the just and fair condemnation from God upon all unbelievers who arrogantly live and pitifully die in unbelief.

6. The **IMMINENCE** of hell demands your attention.

Every unbeliever lives just one step away from hell. No one knows when life will expire; that is, when God will stop graciously giving breath. For the non-Christian, that last step of life, that last breath God gives will irresistibly thrust him into the eternal worlds of wrath and vengeance. And how fully deserved, just, and righteous this divine anger is upon poor, wretched, unbelieving lawbreakers. Hell is real. Hell is near. Eternity looms for every person living. For those who presently live as God's enemies, the divine and sharp sword of God's fury is descending lower and lower with unstoppable power and unrelenting force until the moment that God, in His secret wisdom and sovereign counsels, decrees to destroy the soul eternally in hell. A sinner who lives in unbelief is blindly walking across a thin garment above the fires of hell with holes and gaping tears throughout. He does not know when the next step he takes will be a step into a hole or through a gaping tear so as to plunge him eternally into the real, ferocious, and agonizing fires of hell. Eternity comes quickly. The judge is right at the door! The imminence of hell demands your care!

7. The **PLEA** for you to repent demonstrates true love.

A blind man who continues walking down a sidewalk into a busy four-lane highway has no idea that his death will happen momentarily. To love would be to run after the blind man, to shout and call and plead with him to stop, to turn around, to change his ways, and to walk the other direction. If not, he will die and die violently. So it is with the gospel call! Every person in the world lives and moves like a blind man heading to the eternal sentence of divine punishment. Unless that sinner turns and amends his ways; that is, unless he repents and believes, the wrath of God will consume him. O nonbeliever turn and repent and flee to Christ! O that Christ would ravish your soul with His excellency and with His beauty! O that the Spirit of the living God would bring conviction to your soul and show you the judgment that awaits you unless you turn! O the glory of Christ who came, who suffered, who bled, who became God's curse, who drank God's cup of infinite wrath, and who died as an innocent Lamb in the stead of the sinner! O the wonder that God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin! O the imputation of the guilty man's sin to the innocent man! O the glory that sinners who trust in Christ alone are declared righteous by God because of Christ's perfect and sufficient merits! O the great exchange! Christ suffered in the place of convicted criminals as He took their penalty and yet the sinner receives a full pardon and is reckoned with the full righteousness of Jesus Christ, the spotless One. O sinner, turn to Christ and live! O sinner, fly to Christ before the storm of divine power and just wrath overtakes you and churns you forever in the furnace of hell! O sinner, look to Christ who alone provides propitiation—the appeasing of divine wrath! O sinner, run to Christ, the mighty refuge. Care for your soul and take heed to your soul! Trifle not with eternal matters any more. Get right with God and repent today! Come to Christ by faith! Believe in Christ and follow Him! Surrender to Christ and live!