

“A Message From God Unto Thee”

John Isaac Edwards

The era of the judges finds left-handed Ehud making a two-edged dagger and coming unto a very fat Moabite king, saying, **“I have a message from God unto thee”** and thrusting the dagger into Eglon’s belly (Judg. 3:15-21). I’m making spiritual application of when Ehud said, “I have a message from God unto thee.” The word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). Making my appeal to the word of God, “I have a message from God unto thee”:

1) **You Have Sinned.** The Bible teaches, “...all under sin” (Rom. 3:9; Gal. 3:22) and “...all have sinned...” (Rom. 3:23; 5:12). This includes you, my friend. Sin is the transgression of God’s law (1 Jn. 3:4). Having missed the mark, you have sinned!

2) **Sin Separates You From God.** Isaiah revealed, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Is. 59:2). “...the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (1 Pet. 3:12). Paul informed the Colossians that they had been “...alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works...” (Col. 1:21). Through sin, you

have made yourself an enemy of Almighty God!

3) **The Wages Of Sin Is Death.** It’s always been that way. When the first law was given it was said, “...in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:16-17). Ezekiel 18:20 records, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die...” Romans 6:23 affirms, “For the wages of sin is death...” James reported concerning sin, “...when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (Jas. 1:15). That is eternal separation “...**from** the presence of the Lord, and **from** the glory of his power” (2 Th. 1:9). To avoid this death, our sins must be forgiven by God.

4) **God Gave His Son For You.** Perhaps the best known and most memorized Bible verse, John 3:16, says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” God’s love prompted Him to give His Son for you! “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). Has it occurred to you that Christ died for you, a sinner; “...that Christ died for our sins...” (1 Cor. 15:3); “...that

he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb. 2:9)? God’s grace has made it possible for you to be saved! (Titus 2:11).

5) **You Need To Hear The Gospel.** The transfiguration scene of Matthew 17 reveals God saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (v. 5). Have you heard Him? Peter’s sermon to the Jews in Acts 2 began with the plea, “...hear these words” (v. 22). The teaching of Romans 10 shows that hearing the gospel is vital to calling upon the name of the Lord and being saved (vv. 10-17).

6) **Faith Is Essential.** Jesus declared, “...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24). You don’t want to die that way for if you die in your sins you can’t go to Heaven! (Jn. 8:21). Romans 5 shows that we are “...justified by faith...” (v. 1). Hebrews 11:6 states, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

7) **God Demands Repentance.** Jesus preached,

“...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:3, 5). Peter’s message at Solomon’s porch was a call to repentance: “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” (Acts 3:19). God “...commandeth all men every to repent” (Acts 17:30). He is “...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). Repentance is a turning from sin (Jon. 3:10; Mt. 12:41).

8) Confession Is Made Unto Salvation. Paul pointed out in his Roman letter, “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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:9-10). Jesus promised to confess you before the Father, if you will confess Him before men (Mt. 10:32). The Holy Spirit revealed, “Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God” (1 Jn. 4:15). Have you made the confession as the man of Ethiopia, “I believe that

Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37)?

9) Baptism Is Necessary. Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...” (Mk. 16:16). Peter answered heart-pricked, “... what shall we do?” questioning men, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38). 1 Peter 3:21 affirms, “... baptism doth also now save us...” Baptism is an immersion in water (Acts 8:36-39) that puts you “...into Jesus Christ...” and “...into one body” (1 Cor. 12:13), “...which is the church” (Col. 1:24).

10) Faithfulness Is Required. The story of New Testament converts does not end with their being baptized. “...they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42). Writing about the resurrection Paul pleaded, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your

labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). The grace of God teaches us that, “... denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:12). The Lord has promised, “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

As Ehud’s two-edged dagger was thrust into Eglon’s belly, the word of God, sharper than any two-edged sword, needs to penetrate our hearts today! Let’s respond in obedience to the message of God! (Heb. 5:9).

Mark The Date:

April 22-27

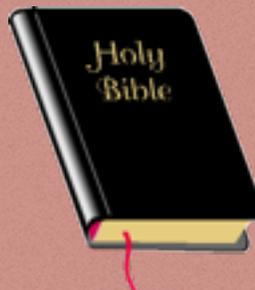
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