

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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“LET US DRAW NEAR HITHER UNTO GOD”

John Edwards

This study is based on the words of the priest in 1 Samuel 14:36, when he said, *“Let us draw near hither unto God.”* The downfall of Israel was that *“...she drew not near to her God”* (Zeph. 3:2). Will we draw near unto God?

A BROKEN HEART AND A CONTRITE SPIRIT. The Psalmist said, *“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit”* (Ps. 34:18). One who is contrite is broken to pieces; crushed. Are you broken by a consciousness of guilt of sins that you have committed? The Lord is nigh unto such (Ps. 51:17; Is. 57:15; 66:2).

FEAR GOD. To be near unto God, one must fear God. *“Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him...”* (Ps. 85:9). Departing from evil and doing good is involved in fearing the Lord (Ps. 34:11-16). It is *“the whole duty of man”* to *“Fear God, and keep his commandments”* (Eccl. 12:13).

CALL UPON GOD. *“The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth”* (Ps. 145:18). Men began to call upon the

Lord in Genesis 4:26. Romans 10:13-17 reveals how we call upon the Lord today: by hearing, believing and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ. Have you called upon God in this way? *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22:16).

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. If one is to draw near unto God today, the blood of Christ must be applied. Ephesians 2:13 records, *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”* This takes place as one is *“...buried with him by baptism into death...”* (Rom. 6:3-4), where He shed His blood (Jn. 19:33-34; Rom. 5:9-10).

HOPE. Hebrews 7:19 teaches, *“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.”* We are *“saved by hope”* (Rom. 8:24). There is *“one hope”* (Eph. 4:4). This is *“the hope of the gospel”* (Col. 1:23). Christ is *“our hope”* (1 Tim. 1:1). Hebrews 6:19 states, *“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.”*

PUT AWAY SIN. Since sin separates us from God (Is.

59:1-2), to draw near unto God, we must put away sin. This was the appeal of the Lord through Isaiah the prophet (Is. 1:10-20).

READ AND STUDY HIS WORD. We draw near unto God by reading and studying His word, the Bible. *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”* (Eph. 3:4). This is how God speaks to us today and we come to know His will.

PRAY. Through prayer, we draw near unto God. *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”* (Eph. 6:18). This is how we talk to God.

ASSEMBLE WITH THE SAINTS. The Psalmist said, *“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him”* (Ps. 89:7). We draw near unto God when we assemble with the saints to worship God. *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Heb. 10:25).

James instructed, *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you....”* (Jas. 4:8).

BEHOLD, WHAT A WEARINESS IS IT!

Nicolas Edwards

Malachi 1:13, “*Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! And ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? Saith the Lord.*” In Malachi 1, the priests of Israel were offering unacceptable sacrifices unto God. By giving less than their best, they were said to have “*profaned*” the great name of the Lord (v. 12). The Lord had no pleasure in them (v. 10). They were saying, “*What a weariness is it*” to offer sacrifices unto the Lord. As children of God, we are “*a royal priesthood*” (1 Pet. 2:9). “*I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service*” (Rom. 12:1). How is your attitude? Do you say, “Behold, what a weariness is it”? Does God have any pleasure in you?

STUDY. “*Study to shew*

thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). Is it a weariness for you to study, or do you “*desire the sincere milk of the word*” (1 Pet. 2:2)?

PRAY. “*Pray without ceasing*” (1 Th. 5:17). Do you practice this or is it a weariness?

TEACH. “*...and the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*” (2 Tim. 2:2). The servant of the Lord must be “*apt to teach*” (2 Tim. 2:24). Are you teaching or is it a weariness?

ASSEMBLE WITH THE SAINTS. Hebrews 10:25, “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*” Do you assemble faithfully or is it a weariness?

TRANSFORMED. Romans 12:2, “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your*

mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Are you transformed or do you live like the world? Is it a weariness?

KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS. “*If ye love me keep my commandments*” (Jn. 14:15). “*Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city*” (Rev. 22:14). “*His commandments are not grievous*” (1 Jn. 5:3). Is it a weariness for you to keep the commandments?

DO GOOD. Galatians 6:10, “*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*” “*But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased*” (Heb. 13:16). Galatians 2:20 says, “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*” Is it a weariness to live for the Lord and give your best in service to Him in all that you do?

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Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

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We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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