

# Jonathan Edwards

*"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" - Psalm 34:8*

"I can show you honey. I can let you look at it. You can ooh and aah over its beautiful golden hue, the way the light bounces off parts, and penetrates parts, and radiates a beautiful glow. And I can tell you that it is sweet. And you can believe that it is sweet when I tell you it is. BUT, unless you have tasted it, you don't truly know it is sweet. You can believe it is sweet because I told you, but believing honey is sweet doesn't mean you really know it is sweet. I could be lying to you. You only truly know honey is sweet when you have tasted it."

## Who is Jonathan Edwards?

- One of the finest philosophers and theologians that the United States has ever produced.
- One of the leaders of the First Great Awakening
- One of the greatest sermons he ever preached is called, 'Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God'

## The life of Jonathan Edwards

- He was born in 1703
- At age 11, he wrote an essay on the behavior of the Balloon Spider
- He got into the Yale University at age 13.
- At the age of 26, he was ordained to be the assistant pastor at a Congregational church in North Hampton, Massachusetts.
- After 23 years, he was expelled by his congregation
- He served as a missionary to the American Indians for 8 years
- Edwards died in 1758, as a result of a smallpox inoculation.

## **Jonathan Edwards – Theology on beauty**

- "To become a Christian is to become alive to beauty."
  - Augustine's emphasis was on the theology of transforming grace, that liberates us by replacing our love.
  - Luther's emphasis was on the settled-ness of God's favorable verdict over despair sinners.
  - Calvin's emphasis was on the majesty of God over every detail of the Christian's life.
  - Owen's emphasis was on the joy of loving communion with the triune God
  - Bunyan's emphasis was on the hope and courage in battling through the ups and downs of the Christian journey.
  - Spurgeon's emphasis was on the gospel in light of God's sovereignty.
  - Edwards' emphasis was on the beauty of the Christian life. First, the beauty of God, and second, the beauty of the Christian.
- "Sinners are beautified as they behold the beauty of God in Jesus Christ."
- We're going to look at this, under 4 headings:
  1. Beauty in God
  2. Beauty in Christ
  3. Beauty in Nature
  4. Beauty in Christians

### **1) BEAUTY IN GOD**

- "God is God, and distinguished from all other beings, and exalted above 'em, chiefly by his divine beauty."
  - "The holiness of God is His beauty."
  - "Holiness is a flame infinitely pure and bright."
  - "There is no other true virtue outside holiness."
- "Only God's beauty happifies us!"
- "God is the only place true beauty is found. There is simply is nowhere else and no one else who has it."

### **2) BEAUTY IN CHRIST**

- "Christ is the brightness of God's glory!"
- "The gospel has seemed to me to be the richest reassurance the way of salvation by Christ, has appeared in a general way, glorious and excellent, and most pleasant and beautiful."

### **3) BEAUTY IN NATURE**

- "We admire at the beauty of creation, at the beautiful order of it, at the glory of the sun, moon, and stars."
- "In the deepest sense there is no beauty in nature itself. There is beauty only in God, and all beauty perceived in the creation is simply the reflection of God Himself."
- "We have reason from the beauty of the sun to admire at the invisible glory of that God whose fingers have formed it."

### **4) BEAUTY IN CHRISTIAN**

- "Christian living is participation in God, in the supreme loveliness of His nature."

### **CONCLUSION**

- By nature, we are sinners in the hands of an angry God. But by grace, we are saints in the hands of a beautiful God.
- A Christian is a human being beautified – decisively in the past, progressively in the present, perfectly in the future.