

**Psalm 11: 1-7; “The Trust of the Righteous”, A Sermon preached at the  
Premier Estates Nursing Home, to those gathered there,  
on the afternoon of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

This psalm was written by David probably upon the occasion of his having to flee from Saul who was trying to falsely accuse him of some wrong-doing. He wanted to see David killed because he was envious of him for the praises which had been given to him by the women of Israel. They came out singing and dancing, following David's having killed the Philistine Goliath. They came out singing – “Saul has slain his thousands, but David his ten-thousands”. This was disturbing to Saul because he thought to himself – “What could he further have now but the kingdom?” And so, since he was a wicked man, he employed others to try to undermine the people's good opinion of him, and he enlisted his own supporters to see how they might do violence to him and put him to death; even though he had done nothing wrong. See how the heart sins of others can lead to your being falsely misrepresented, slandered, and spoken evil of.

But I believe that this Psalm was given to us so that each of us might know what to do when we personally encounter great difficulties in our life; indeed when it seems as though the foundations of our life and the foundations of our society are being destroyed by wicked men. At such times, we must do what David did, and say to the other people around us, who may be telling us to flee: “In the Lord I put my trust”. And so during our time together this afternoon, I want us to consider some of the practical spiritual ways that we can put our trust in the Lord, during such perilous times. I think that we can find 3 ways which will help each of us, in these verses. 1<sup>st</sup> – We can trust in the Lord by remembering that the Lord is in His holy temple. 2<sup>nd</sup> – We can trust in the Lord by remembering that the Lord's throne is in heaven. And 3<sup>rd</sup> – We can trust in the Lord by remembering that the Lord is righteous and He beholds us, to do us good. When we are troubled, let us comfort ourselves with the sureness and certainty of salvation in Christ. Let us remember these truths about God.

**1<sup>st</sup> – We can trust in the Lord by remembering that He is in His holy temple.**

(verses 1-4a)

When David states that the Lord is in His holy temple, he is stating a truth which we ought to remember and take to heart. The only true and living God is a God who holy and He dwells in heaven, which is called in the book of Isaiah – “A high and holy place”. At this time in human history, when there is so much unbelief and skepticism, we should believe that there is a heaven; a different dimension, a 4<sup>th</sup> dimension which we cannot see. God is spirit and He dwells in heaven. He dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen, or can see, it says in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6: 16. To Him belongs all honor and everlasting power and glory. Our God is not a God who is weak, One who waits upon men to see what they will do. He is a God of infinite wisdom and power. And He will act in accordance with His own decrees; His own plans and purposes which He formed before time began. His plans and purposes are to have a people for His own possession.

It was from heaven that our Lord Jesus Christ came, in the fullness of time. He came having been sent by the Father, to accomplish the work of man's redemption. He came down from heaven to do God's will, He said in John 6: 37. All of mankind are fallen in Adam. Adam fell from the original righteousness in which he was created, and this is the reason that we all need a Savior. God in His mercy sent Jesus. In the Incarnation, the nature of a man was joined to the Deity so that this Man would be able to do what no man had ever done or will do; live perfectly to the glory of God, fully all the commandments of His holy law, and then as the God-Man suffer, bleed, and die for our salvation. But there is another sense in which these words are true, for all those who will trust in Christ for salvation. We are told by the apostle Paul that the

church, Christ's church is God's holy temple. And He dwells there. It is the place where His glory dwells, and in which He resides, because of Christ's finished work on the cross. "From heaven He came and sought her, to be His holy Bride." "With His own love He bought her, and for her life, He died," says the hymnwriter. So, the Lord dwells in heaven; that place out of our sight in a different dimension; a place where nothing but pure holiness resides, and the Lord also dwells with and in His Church. That is His temple here upon the earth. And His Church Universal is all those believers in all generations of time; those who have trusted in the Lord for their salvation and their help in understanding and doing His will. He who does the will of God, abides forever, the Bible says.

But how can sinful man do the will of God? They can do the will of God by trusting in the Lord for righteousness and strength. This is how it has been in all generations. It was true for David. And it is true for us. What is the purpose of God in relation to His Universal Church in all generations? It is that all of those who are trusting in God will be holy and without blame before Him in love. Listen to Ephesians 1: 3-6 – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved."

This is the purpose of God. But included in this purpose of making us holy in Christ, is included all of the trials and difficulties that He has ordained that we pass through before we come to dwell with Him in heaven. These things; the anger and schemes of wicked people against us, and all of those things which seem to be too hard and difficult for us to understand why we have to go through them; these things are ordained for our good, and He has ordained that we will go triumphantly through them because of the grace of Christ. It is because of the grace of Christ, that we trust in the Lord during these most difficult times. What Christ has died to purchase for us, is grace; the grace that will work in our hearts so that we will better come to learn what holiness and righteousness are, and what His will is, during those times; what we should do, and how we should think, and what we should learn about Him, and about ourselves, in passing through them. This is the glorious work of our God, to sanctify our trials to us, so that we will become ripe for heaven and eternal glory. The Lord would build faith in you; the kind of faith that trusts implicitly in Him during the best of times and during the worst of times in your life.

As is evident in the life of David, as he expresses it in verse 3, there are times in the lives of the most holy of God's saints when they question – "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" And sometimes God's dear saints wish that they could flee away from their trials and they cannot. David says in Psalm 55, verse 6 – "Oh, that I had wings like a dove!" "For then I would fly away and be at rest." "Indeed, I would wander far off, and remain in the wilderness." "I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest." This is the way that we feel sometimes. It feels like the foundations of everything in this life, even the earthly things and people and institutions in government that we have thought keep us in this life, are in danger of being destroyed. We see wicked people bending their bow and making ready their arrow on the string, so that they might shoot secretly at the upright in heart. And yet, we know that when we trust in the Lord, He will undertake for us to uphold us in our faith and to help us in the midst of all of our trials and difficulties. Let me ask you now whether you see the Lord in this holy way? Do you see Him in heaven; high and lifted up in His holy place? Do you see the Lord is dwelling in His Church, dwelling in your heart, and there to help you in all that you are going through? Then, beloved, you will find comfort in the midst of all of your afflictions.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - We can trust in the Lord by remembering that the Lord's throne is in heaven.**

(verses 4b-6)

“The Lord’s throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.” “The Lord tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who love violence His soul hates.” “Upon the wicked He will rain coals, fire and brimstone and a burning wind.’ This shall be the portion of their cup.” Now, a real part of the basis of our trust in the Lord, you should know, is our faith in Him that He is a righteous Judge; that He sits on His throne in heaven, and that His eyes behold all of the sons of men. The Lord rules from His throne in heaven it says here, and so we can be assured that He acts and interacts with both the wicked and the righteous, whether they know it or not. His eyes behold all the evil and all the good, and His eyelids test the sons of men, to prove to Himself and to them what they are truly like in their hearts, and whether their actions are good and right, or whether they have sinned in some way.

In the case of the righteous, since they are trusting in Him, He will teach them in the way that they should go. He will teach them what they need to know from the Scriptures and what they need to do in order to obey Him in accordance with the Scriptures. By His Spirit He will lead them to repent over every known sin, and to mourn over their indwelling remaining corruption in their hearts. He will test the righteous, not to prove them unbelievers, but to prove them to be His very own children. John Gill says in his commentary on verse 5 – “As gold is tried in the fire, by afflictive providences; hereby He tries their graces, their faith, and patience, their hope, and love, and (godly) fear; and, by so doing, expresses His love to them, since this is all for their good: and therefore, when He suffers the wicked to go great lengths in persecuting and distressing them, this should not weaken, their confidence in him; He still loves them, and He loves them even when he rebukes them and chastises them.” (end of quote)

Upon the wicked, it says in verse 6, He will rain coals, or snares, as it is the King James version. Truly, if there is a place called heaven, as we have seen today that there is, then there is also a place called hell, which is so graphically described here for us. “Fire and brimstone and a burning wind; this shall be the portion of their cup; that is all of the wicked. Hell will certainly be the portion of those who love violence; especially those who put the Lord Jesus to death and never repented of their crime. Hell is reserved for those who do not love the Lord. It is for those who love and practice a lie; saying that either there is no God, or that – He does not see. But how many of us have seen that it is our sins which put the Lord Jesus to going to the cross and it is our sin to resist the truth that He must die for us. Let us glory in the fact that our God is a just God, and He has punished sin at the cross in the Person of the Lord Jesus. And He will punish sin in all those who will not have Him to be their Savior from sin. “The Lord will keep all who love Him,” it says in Psalm 145, verse 20, “but all the wicked, He will destroy.” Now why does God do this? He does this because they did not love the knowledge of the truth of God’s word, which told them of their sin, but it also spoke of this great salvation in Christ that I preach to you today. Since God is eternal, He cannot have people who are at enmity with Him living with Him forever. He cannot have those who are wicked enter His pure and perfect dwelling place and surely they would feel very uncomfortable living there with Him forever, beholding His glory, when they would rather have their sin.

**3<sup>rd</sup> - We can trust in the Lord by remembering that the Lord is righteous and He beholds us, to do us good.**

(verse 7)

“For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.” Remember, beloved, that if you believe in Jesus, you have been declared righteous in His sight. You have been justified by His blood and righteousness. The being righteous, He also loves to perform righteous deeds and judgments for all who are oppressed. He beholds you right where you are; whatever you are feeling; whatever you are going through. His purpose is do you good forevermore; not to turn away from doing your good, in whatever circumstances that He finds

you. We have now seen that the eternity of hell is a very righteous punishment for very bad people; people who do not want to change to learn God's good ways. Thank God that the foundations of His righteous government over all men, and His righteous judgment of all men, has been established by the Father's seating the risen Lord Jesus on the throne at His right hand. And our Lord Christ will remain there until all of His enemies are put under His feet. Then, and only then, will He return. And I pray that each of us are looking forward to His coming, for it is then that He will make all things new; a New Heavens and New Earth in which will dwell righteousness. Hebrews chapter 1, verses 8 and 9 say: "Your Throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom." "You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

This was the outcome of the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ; that He would be made eternally glad by what His sufferings purchased, that is, everyone who believes in Him, and all of the elect of God. There will be in heaven and in the New Heavens and New Earth a multitude which no man can number. The glory of being with God shall go on forever and ever for each one trusting in God. It shall not cease, for all those who love Him. This is why you should always trust in Him my friends. It is because all who trust in Him are God's favored people. God the Father made His Son who knew no sin, to become sin on our behalf, that we should become the righteousness of God, in Him. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 21) Oh, how great is the grace of Christ, to change sinners into saints and make them fit for heaven. I pray that you have come to experience the blessed reality of what it means to be a Christian. It means that you have grace to save and grace to change and turn from sin. And you have everlasting joy placed upon your heads. "But the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their head." "They shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Although this is speaking in the immediate sense of the conversion of the Jews in days to come, we can surely also apply it, more generally, to all of God's elect people who have been saved, and who will eventually come into the possession of eternal and everlasting joy in the eternal state after Christ returns. Never has there been such a glorious time in human history yet, but it is coming, and we must look forward to it. This the trust of the righteous.