

“If the Foundations are Destroyed, What Can the Righteous Do?”

Introduction:

1. Early last Sunday, June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen, a “radicalized” Muslim, a member of ISIS, entered Pulse, a gay night club in Orlando, FL and shot 49 people to death, and wounded 53 others, before being killed by the police. This example of murder in the name of Allah follows other similar incidents.
2. Between January, 1973 and January 14, 2016, 58,586,256 babies have been legally murdered while still in the wombs of their mothers.
3. The April 7, 2015 issue of **the National Review** featured an article by Dennis Prager, entitled “**America’s Accelerating Decay.**” He talked about:
 - a. The Decline of the Family. Stating that 48 percent of American children are born to a mother who is not married, that 43 per cent of American children live without a father in the home.
 - b. The Decline of Education. “The average American school teaches much less about important subjects such as American history, English grammar, literature, music, and art.” Instead they are “teaching much more about ‘social justice,’ environmentalism, and sex.”
 - c. The End of Male and Female. “Whatever one’s position on same-sex marriage, one must acknowledge that at the core of the argument for this redefinition of marriage is that gender doesn’t matter.” “...whether children are raised by mother and father or two mothers or two fathers doesn’t matter. A father has nothing unique to offer a child that a mother can’t provide and vice versa.” “..for the first time in recorded history – gender is regarded as meaningless.”
 - d. The End of Right and Wrong. “At least two generations of American young people have been taught that moral categories are nothing more than personal (or societal) preferences.”
 - e. The End of Religion. “There are no moral truths because there is no longer a religious basis for morality.” “...instead of being guided by a code higher than themselves, Americans are taught to rely on their feelings to determine how to behave.” “Instead of being given moral guidance, children are asked, ‘How do you feel about it’?”
4. Other disturbing, well-documented trends could be cited, such as:
 - a. “Today 7th graders are being taught to pray to Muhammad and wage their own Jihad.”
 - b. “Elementary children are forced to watch plays that portray homosexuality as a perfectly normal and acceptable lifestyle choice.”
 - c. School children “are being taught that parents who object to homosexuality and its indoctrination in our schools are divisive, intolerant, narrow-minded, and bigoted.”
5. Clearly, we are living in “*perilous times*,” 2 Tim. 3:1.
6. “*The Foundations*,” (pillars upon which society rests) as we have known them, are being destroyed!
7. Title of Lesson: “**If the Foundations are Destroyed, What can the Righteous Do?**”
8. Text. Psalm 11:1-7.

Discussion:

I. Examine our Text:

- A. David placed his trust in God, v. 1.
 1. We, too, must place our trust in God, Prov. 3:5.
 2. It is wise to place our trust in God because:
 - a. With God “*all things are possible*,” Matt. 19:26.
 - b. We reap what we sow, Gal. 6:7-8.
 - c. In God we live and move and have our being, Acts 17:28.
 - d. He will bless us if we do what is right, Heb. 13:5.
 - e. His eyes are over the righteous, I Peter 3:12.
- B. David was getting some bad advice – even though it was based on then current, perceived reality.
 1. Some were saying, “*flee as a bird to your mountain*,” v. 1.
 2. They were saying, “*the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow...*,” v. 2.
 3. “*The foundations*” are destroyed.
 - a. So “*what can the righteous do?*” As if to say “you can’t win!”
 4. Many believe this psalm was penned at a time when David’s life was threatened by Saul.
 - a. The background of Saul’s anger, I Sam. 18:6-9.
- C. David lived a life that was filled with trials.

1. As a shepherd he faced a lion and a bear, 1 Sam. 17:37.
 2. He fought Goliath, 1 Sam. 17:45.
 3. As a king, he faced civil war, 2 Sam. 3:1.
 4. He even had to wage war against his own son, Absalom, 2 Samuel 15.
- D. The Reasons for David's trust in God. Cf. v. 1.
- Note:** verses 4-7 might be called "the answer of faith to the voice of fear."
1. *"The Lord is in His holy temple,"* his *"throne is in heaven,"* Ps. 11:4; cf. Hab. 2:20.
 - a. Saul was reigning on earth, but **God** was reigning in heaven! Cf. Daniel 4:25-26,32,37.
 - b. We should always remember who is really in control!
 2. The Lord's *"eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men,"* v. 4.
 - a. Yes, "there's an all-seeing eye watching you," Heb. 4:13.
 3. *"The Lord trieth the righteous,"* v. 5.
 - a. The righteous are tested, Gen. 22:1.
 - b. Such trials, though unpleasant, are good for us. Jas. 1:2-3,12.
 4. *"Upon the wicked he (the Lord) shall rain snares, fire, and brimstone,"* v. 6. Cf. Gal. 6:7-8.
 5. *"His countenance doth behold the upright,"* v. 7.
- E. David's faithfulness paid off!
1. He reigned as king for 40 years.
 2. He died in faith.
 3. He is mentioned in "faith's hall of fame," Heb. 11:32.
 4. God described him as *"a man after mine own heart,"* Acts 13:22.
 5. **Note:** He lived an influential, successful life even though *"the foundations"* were seemingly destroyed!

II. Application: The Foundations are being Destroyed! "What Can the Righteous do?"

- A. Wake up!
1. Note the parable of the tares, Matt. 13:24-25. While men slept the enemy came and sowed tares.
 2. Spiritually speaking, Americans have largely been lulled to sleep while pursuing "the good life," and while the very fabric of society is being torn to shreds!
- B. Put our Trust in God!
1. This is what David did, Psa. 11:1.
 2. God is *"Lord of heaven **and** earth,"* Acts 17:24.
 3. Note Rom. 8:31,37; Heb. 13:5.
- C. Live Right!
1. Titus 2:11-12; Phil. 2:15; 2 Cor. 7:1.
- D. Pray! 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 3:12-13.
- E. Honor our Family Responsibilities! Cf. Psalm 127:1.
1. Marriage is for keeps! Matt. 19:6.
 2. Husbands and wives, honor your responsibilities, Eph. 5:25; 1 Peter 3:1-4.
 3. Parents, honor your responsibilities, Eph. 6:4.
 4. Children, honor your responsibilities, Eph. 6:1
- F. Speak up!
1. 1 Peter 3:15; Mark 16:15; 2 Tim. 2:2.
- G. Stand Up!
1. Eph. 6:10-13.
 2. Remember: "all it takes for evil to prosper is for good men to do nothing!"
- H. Be willing to suffer for righteousness sake.
1. Matt. 5:10-12; 1 Peter 4:16; Rev. 2:10.
 2. The story of the Bible is not only an account of the scheme of redemption; it is also a history of God-fearing people who endured much suffering for their faith.
- I. Remember – if you are a Christian, you **are** on the *winning* team!
1. Rom. 8:31,37; 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

Conclusion:

1. As citizens, we should be concerned about our country. As individuals, we must be concerned about our **souls**!
- Bobby Witherington, June 19, 2016

