

PSALM 11 – WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?

Introduction

- 1) **Psalm 11** – a short psalm that presents a troubling question: *“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”* (v. 3)
- 2) Author is David who had observed the foundations of Israel attacked in his day
 - a) Outside enemies (1 Sam. 17:10-11)
 - b) Unfaithful, jealous king (1 Sam. 28:16-19; 18:9)
 - c) Personal immorality (2 Sam. 11:1-27)
 - d) Attempted overthrow (2 Sam. 15)
- 3) The wicked of every generation seek to attack and destroy the foundations of truth and God’s righteous people who stand upon them (v. 2)
- 4) What are the righteous to do in the face of the attempts of evil to destroy them and their foundations?
 - a) “Flee as a bird to your mountain” (v. 1b) – run away in fear and resignation? **NO!**
 - b) “In the Lord I put my trust” (v. 1a) – stand faithfully and contend for the faith? **YES!**

I) **The Foundations of the Faith**

- A) We are to contend earnestly for “the faith” once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3)
 - 1) “The faith” is the revealed word of God on which our faith is based (Rom. 10:17)
- B) Foundations of the faith continually under attack today (from internal and external threats):
 - 1) One true and living God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - 2) Six-day creation of the heavens and the earth
 - 3) Sanctity of human life created in the image of God
 - 4) Bible is the inspired and complete word of God
 - 5) Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the only name by which man is saved
 - 6) Bible as the true basis of ethics and morality
 - 7) Bible truth about marriage, family, sexuality, government, church, godly living
 - 8) Bible truth about death, final judgment, heaven and hell
- C) God’s people must fight the good fight of faith (Phil. 1:17; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; Eph. 6:12)

II) **What Can the Righteous Do?**

- A) Put their trust in God (v. 1a) – stable, strong divine foundation
 - 1) God is in His holy temple on His throne in heaven (v. 4a) – He reigns and is in total control (cf. Ps. 103:19; Hab. 2:20; Rev. 4:1-2)
 - 2) God is the Judge of all (v. 4b) – tests the hearts of all men (Jer. 17:10)
 - 3) God hates and punishes the wicked (vv. 5-6)
 - 4) God loves righteousness and the upright (v. 7)
- B) Study, learn, and understand the word of God (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17)
- C) Live soberly, righteously, and godly in this world (Titus 2:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:12)
- D) Pray always (Eph. 6:18)
- E) Contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3) – no compromise, no surrender of truth
- F) Submit to ruling authorities, but obey God rather than men if necessary (1 Pet. 2:13; Acts 5:29)
- G) Overcome evil with good and love (Rom. 12:9, 17, 21; 13:8-10)
- H) Seek first God’s kingdom and eternal life (Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:2-4)

Conclusion

Without the foundations of truth, we have nothing to build our faith and hope on. As withering attacks continue to be launched against the truths of God and our faith, let us “watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love” (1 Cor. 16:13-14).