

By Steven J. Hogan

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This has been a very difficult year for the United States – I can't believe all that has happened so far! I am wondering if God's patience with US is coming to an end and if, in fact, He has withdrawn His sin-restraining hand from US. Of course, we don't know all that God is doing, but His word does tell us what we are to know and do. For example, there's Psalm 11, which is most enlightening, and essential in helping us understand the present condition of our country, as well as learn how God deals with both good and bad people, the righteous and the unrighteous.

Verse 1 tells you that you need to take refuge in the Lord. At times, you may feel like you need physical refuge, that you need to get away from your problems by escaping to a safe place. But no, your biggest problem is not physical, but spiritual – it's your sin, and the answer is to take refuge in the Lord, to trust in Him. Only because of Jesus' death and resurrection can you find spiritual safety, salvation from your sins, this merciful and eternal deliverance from God's wrath. *"His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him."* Psalm 2:12

Verse 2 talks about our enemies, those who are unrighteous and wicked. These unbelievers don't fear God (Psalm 36:1), hate God and hate us (John 15:8), love to do evil (John 3:19), and don't think God sees them. And they don't want to be seen by people, and so they *"shoot in darkness at the upright."* They work behind the scenes, try to stay hidden, and embed themselves with other people, for they do not want to be exposed (Eph. 5:11), stopped, and arrested for their evil activity. Psalm 10:8-11

The result, the cumulative effect of the enemies' work is summed up in verse 3 – *"the foundations are destroyed."* This is sobering and shocking, and is describing the present state of our country, that our spiritual foundations are being torn down. We may not have seen this coming, but this devastating work is clearly obvious. It's now seen in our churches, families, schools, businesses, government, media, and music. Our laws, rules, morals, and values, that which hold us together, are being changed and replaced with that which is just plain godless, evil, and of the devil. *"The mystery of lawlessness is already at work"*

(2 Thess. 2:7). This should grieve and sadden our souls for, at this time in history, we are actually witnessing the foundations of our country being destroyed. *"They know nothing... They walk about in darkness. All the foundations of the earth are shaken."* Psalm 82:5-8

The question I have, and assume most of you have, is then stated: *"What can the righteous do?"* What do we do about all the problems taking place, the pride, lies, hate, crime, violence, disrespect, and lawlessness in our country? What do we do when people say evil is good and good is evil? (Isaiah 5:20). Thankfully, God gives us the answers in vss. 4-6, and it's not what the righteous are to do, but what God is doing. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of these few verses, for they will help you think rightly as you observe this evil on earth. And this evil will not just continue, but will increase, and then the Antichrist, that most lawless man, will come and rule the world, after which Christ will come to rapture the church, and then begin His 1000-year rule on this earth. Matt. 24:12, 2 Thess. 2:1-10

What are the answers? What do we need to know, understand, and believe? That God is not oblivious, ignorant, and just going *"to sit on His hands"* when it comes to the evil now being seen on these earth.

\* 1<sup>st</sup>, God is in His holy temple, which means He is holy, supreme, and altogether different than those living on earth. He is pure, righteous, and hates man's sin.

\* 2<sup>nd</sup>, God is on His throne, which means He is sovereign, and that nothing happens that He does not allow or authorize. Man cannot do just what he wants, for God is in control and, by His power and wisdom, predestines the actions of man. Dan. 4:35

\* 3<sup>rd</sup>, *"His eyes behold."* God is omniscient, and sees and knows every single thing that the righteous and wicked are doing on this earth. Proverbs 15:3

\* 4<sup>th</sup>, God doesn't just see, but He tests, He examines both the wicked and the righteous, and this is for the purpose of judging, and then punishing or rewarding (Eccl. 12:14). And God hates those who love violence. This is strong language, but it's the truth. Because God is holy, He hates those whom He

knows will not turn from their sin and turn to Him for mercy and forgiveness.

But it's not just that God hates sinful man but, because He is just, His punishing wrath must be poured out upon these unrighteous, unrepenting, unsaved sinners of the world. The language speaks of fire, the kind of fire that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, that will be seen during the day of the Lord, and that sinners will feel for all eternity. *"Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire... these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."* Matt. 25:41,46

Finally, there's verse 7, my favorite. *"The Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face."* God is righteous, and He loves you, His righteous one, and the righteous things you do. Then there's that encouraging and wonderful truth, that you *"will behold His face."* As Christians, you know the Lord and have a relationship with Him, and by faith, you see Him now, but by sight, you will literally see Him in the future. It cannot get any better than this! Job 19:25-27, Psalm 17:15

These are powerful, life changing, grace and peace giving truths, and you need them today, and for your entire life, up until that time when you physically die, or are raptured, and taken to heaven. You shouldn't be confused, upset, worried, sad, angry, or feel defeated about what's going on in our country. Believe the truths of this little Psalm, that God is on His throne, that He is holy, sovereign, omniscient, righteous, and judges, and will punish the wicked, those who *"freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men"* (Psalm 12:8). Whether the enemy is attacking you or the foundations are being destroyed, always remember that God gives you refuge (vs. 1), and a relationship with Him that lasts forever (vs. 7).

P.S. I am not one to give you false hopes. I am compelled to tell you the truth about the last years of this church age, for God wants you to know what is going to happen, and to be ready for it. Here are two other posts that speak about our future - *"It's Going To Get Worse Before It Gets Better"* and *"Christians Go Through Tribulation."*

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