

When The Shaking Is Close to Home!

**When the foundations are
being destroyed,
what can the righteous do?**

**The LORD is in His holy temple,
the LORD is on
His heavenly throne.**

Psalm 11:3-4a



Alaska Christian Ministry to Seafarers

Foreword

Vistoso Community Church's *theme of the year* for 2019 is drawn from Psalm 11, in particular the issue of how should the believer in Jesus Christ respond to the *shaking* of things they hold dear.

This booklet is drawn from the third message in this sermon series, in particular on what a Christian should do when the shaking is personal. This is a very challenging topic. I trust it will be a blessing to you and those to whom you might feel led to minister!



In His grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Redig'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'K' and 'R'.

Kevin Redig

All Scripture quotes have been taken from either the NKJV (1992 edition) or the NIV (1984 edition).

When the Shaking Is Close to Home!

Introduction

We are in the middle of a study entitled, "If the Foundations Be Destroyed. . ." taken from the text of Psalm 11. This psalm forces us to think very carefully about the message those around us, even well-meaning Christian brothers and sisters, are directing our way. For David begins the psalm with a declarative statement:

In the Lord I put my trust ...

Psalm 11:1

He then goes on to refute the voice of one of his counselors who is caught up in despair regarding current circumstances. The counselor's despair is clearly evident in this well-known verse of the psalm:

If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Psalm 11:3

Although this verse is often extracted and used for other purposes, in context it contains the counselor's voice of hopelessness in the face of trying circumstances. David, however, is having none of it, and his answer in the remaining verses of the psalm can be summarized:

Trust in the Lord. For He is on His throne, He is fully aware of the situation, justice will be served, His plans and purposes will stand, and He loves the righteous!

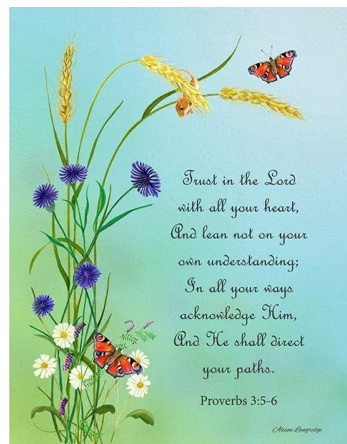
With that background, our study has pursued a simple theme: What are some of the foundations under attack by the world around us, and what does the Word of God

actually have to say about those foundational issues? In other words, what are the world-view attacks for which we need to be prepared? For sadly, and all too often, the sins of the world are, a short time later, the sins of the Church. And so, we have been investigating what the Word of God has to say about a number of key Biblical truths—*foundations*—which are under attack in our day. We are doing so in order that we might be fully prepared with Divine Viewpoint—and that simply means being able to look at things the way God does!

Thus far in our study we have looked at the secure foundation of God's Word, His Church, and His plan of salvation. We've looked at Divine Viewpoint on the origin and the end of our material universe, and we've looked at the unchanging nature of God's affections for the nation of Israel. We have found that the foundational nature of these topics is secure from God's perspective.

It is true these foundations are under attack from the lost world around us and, therefore, the ungrounded Christian will very likely be shaken by the relentlessness of the attack. But praise God it is also true that, as the result of our study, we have been greatly encouraged by the unshakeable foundational nature of what God has established. For we can steadfastly:

Trust in the Lord. For He is on His throne, He is fully aware of the situation, justice will be served, His plans and purposes will stand, and He loves the righteous!



Now that you understand the context of our study, this booklet is going to address the *foundations* at the personal level. To be more specific, what happens when the foundation-shaking events affect us personally and deeply? Now you know the source of the sermon title.

Understanding What Can Shake Us Personally

It is troubling when our core convictions come under attack: Did we evolve or were we created? Is the Word of God trustworthy in our day or not? The list goes on and on. Troubling as these questions can be, it is another thing altogether when the *shaking is close to home!*

I am talking about when the shaking is on the inside—within our personal world—rather than something coming at us from the outside. For example, how potentially shaken can we be when we get a bad diagnosis from the doctor, when a tragedy of some kind occurs in our extended family, when we experience a serious financial setback, or we face any number of other things that can turn our personal world upside down?

Common Responses

When these kinds of events occur in our lives, there are a number of things that are very easy to do. See if you have succumbed to one or more of them yourself:

- **Feel despair.** Oh no, I don't know what to do or where to turn. If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do. . .?
- **Cry unfair.** God, how could you let this happen? And, although we don't say it, the unspoken part of that question is ... after all I have done for You?

- **Become a problem solver.** OK, here is how we are going to get through this! We are going to start lining up resources and we'll get through it!
- **Dictate terms to God.** We do exactly what we should, turn the whole situation over to God in prayer. Then, we mistakenly start to describe to God, in detail, what a good outcome looks like.
- **Give up.** Throw in the towel like Jonah did:
... O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live! Jonah 4:3

None of these are the kind of approach God wants us to take. In fact, no matter how our personal world is being shaken, there are most certainly some unshakeable foundations upon which we can rest.

Assumptions for This Study

Before going into detail, let me share the assumptions from which I am approaching this subject. First, your world really can be shaken. Your health, prosperity, extended family—and the like—are not unshakable, for they can be shaken greatly in a lost and fallen world. Christians are not immune despite the false narrative of the so-called prosperity Gospel. We must be very clear on this point, we are not necessarily the least bit unspiritual because trials do come our way! So then, when the world seems to be spinning out of control, what we want to do is to find those immovable, unshakeable things to which we can hold tight—no matter what!

Second, before we begin, I want to draw your attention to the word *rest*. When I use this term I am thinking about the text of Hebrews Chapters 3-4. Here is the background: The author of Hebrews is writing to a saved and Jewish audience and making use of the well-known

experiences of the Exodus generation. They were brought out of Egypt by the:

... outstretched arm of God and mighty acts of judgment ...

Exodus 6:6

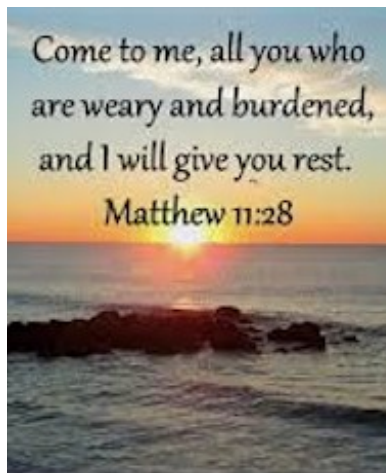
Yet, they failed to develop a walk of faith, which is clearly evident in their panic on the borders of the Promised Land. For, in their thinking, the giants loomed larger than the capability of their God. As a result, the entire generation of adults, except for two men, was prohibited from entering the Promised Land.

The reason God left them to wander in the wilderness is because they never arrived at the point where they trusted God in the face of challenging circumstances. What the writer of Hebrews is doing in these two chapters is forcefully warning a group of Jewish Christians: "Don't let this happen to you!" Let me show you a portion of the admonition from the writer of Hebrews:

Therefore, since the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. . . the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. . .

There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Hebrews 4:1-11



The King James Version has "*labor*" while the Scripture quote on the previous page translates the same word as "*make every effort*." I like the challenge to direct our labors at the right object—that is the promises of God!

So where does the concept of *rest* come into play? Consider these observations:

1. This rest is still available to us today—during the time of the Church—but we, too, can fall short of entering into the rest of God.
2. God's promises are more than adequate to take us through every single day given to us by the Lord and every single circumstance we encounter in this world. But, those promises will be of no value to us if we don't combine them with faith.
3. We enter the rest of God when we cease from our own work—just as God did on the seventh day of creation. Therefore, the rest of God is the place where we are trusting in God and His promises rather than becoming distraught over circumstances. Stated another way: We enter that rest when we reach the point of faith where God and His promises loom larger in our thinking than our circumstances.
4. This place of rest does not come naturally to us. That is why the Scripture tells us that we are going to have to *labor* to enter this place of calm trust.



5. The alternative to resting in the Lord is disobedience—and all that comes with it. Because the Scripture lays it out so clearly, there is only one choice to make. That choice is that we must labor to rest!

With these assumptions in mind, let's consider what the Word of God prescribes as unshakeable foundations.

Unshakeable Foundations Upon Which We Can Rest!

The remainder of this study explores ten unshakeable foundations—the promises of God—on which we can rest in all circumstances of life.

1. God Is on His Throne

In the midst of turbulent times, grab a lifeline. Scripture is full of general, but helpful, promises that will bring stability to any situation. We have already seen this in our summary from the text of Psalm 11:

The Lord is on the throne, He is fully aware of the situation, justice will be served, His plans and purposes will stand, and He loves the righteous!

This covers every situation. It is like grabbing hold of a lifeline. Now consider this from Psalm 121.

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

In our earlier study on foundations, we explored the unshakeable nature of God as creator. I trust you can see just how critical that is. For, if God did not really speak this material universe into being, then He does not have the power to help when you are in trouble. On the other

hand, if the sovereign, omnipotent Creator of all things has promised to help, then we can rest in the fact that He will keep His Word and that He is more than a match for our circumstances.

2. Our Acceptance Is Settled

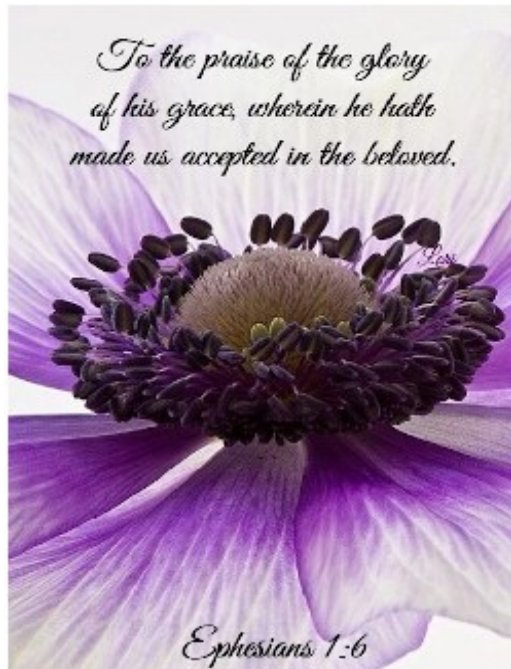
No matter what is going on, our acceptance in the Beloved is a settled issue, as it is for every person who has placed his or her faith in Christ! You may think, "No, not me!" It is very common to question God's attitude in a crisis situation. When things are not going well, it is easy to ask things like: "Why is He ignoring me?"

"Doesn't He see what's going on?"
"Is He mad at me?"
Does He still love me?"

Let's go first to a New Testament verse:

... according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:6



God has done something for us that not only gives Him pleasure to do, but is to the praise of His glorious grace. Specifically, He has made you, me, and every child of God accepted in the Beloved, where the Beloved is His

dear Son! So, if you are wondering how God feels about you, reflect on how He feels about His Son. Does He love you? Ask yourself, "Does He love His Son?" Do you see it? God feels the same way about those who are *in Christ*, as He does about Christ Himself.

Now let's consider an Old Testament passage:

"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty One who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing." Zephaniah 3:17

Now, in context, this passage refers to a yet future time and God's attitude toward Israel. But can it be any less for those *in Christ*, which is something never claimed for the Israelites? If so, then God is mighty to save—and He most certainly was at the cross.

Finally, consider this behavior on God's part toward those who are His: He rejoices over us, He will quiet our hearts with His love, and He will exult over us with loud singing! What, exult over me? Yes, that's exactly what it says. This is God's attitude toward us because we are in His Son. Spend time reflecting on this every day throughout the next week, so that you are ready to come back to it the next time you are overtaken by an earthly crisis.

3. Jesus Intercedes for Us

Jesus always lives to intercede, to advocate, for us. The next time you find yourself in the midst of a foundation-shattering event, know this: The Lord Jesus Christ is already interceding for you!

Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25

And if that were not enough—

... the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

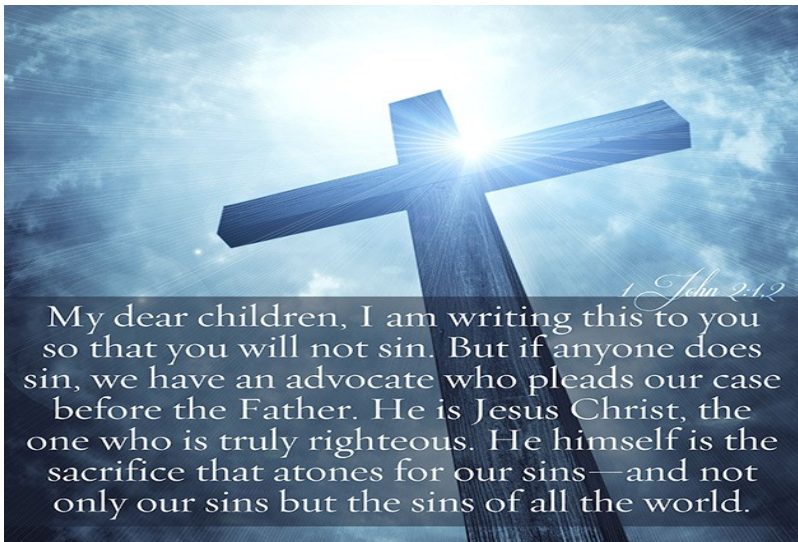
Romans 8:26

Surely, it is cause to rest in the love of God when two members of the Trinity are interceding on your behalf. They actually know the extent of your problems more fully than you do, and They are interceding to the omnipotent Creator of all things. Is it any wonder that we can be *saved completely* out of any and every situation? Note, there is one condition. The promise of intercession is for those who are God's children by virtue of having come to Him through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Perhaps the foundation-shaking circumstances are the result of sin. What then? Again, we are to turn our eyes upon Jesus.

But if anyone does sin, we have One who speaks to the Father in our defense (an Advocate)—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

I John 2:1



My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

The context of the I John passage assumes that we have acknowledged and confessed our sin; and, when we do, no accusation can stand. For the Lord Jesus Christ Himself steps forward on our behalf. Praise God we have a perfectly righteous Advocate whose blood has washed away our sins so that the Father will forgive. For the work of Christ on the cross was sufficient payment for all sin. Our sin debt was *paid in full*, as Christ Himself indicated when He said:

... **"It is finished!"**

John 19:30

This is the reason, that once we are accepted in the Beloved, we are always accepted.

4. His Plans Are Perfect

Jesus is interceding for us, but His requests might be a bit different than ours. We do well to align ourselves with His ministry on our behalf! Consider the way that Jesus prayed for us just prior to His crucifixion:

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that you have sent Me."

John 17:20-21

First, notice how this is a prayer, not just for the 11 believing disciples, but also for us. Now when you and I are in the midst of a problem, our prayers typically consist of a plea to God to make the problem go away. It is not that there is anything inherently wrong with that, but contrast our typical prayers against the way that Jesus prayed for us. He asked for a oneness like that between the Father and Son; an abiding in the Lord like that between the members of the Trinity; and a resultant

witness to the watching world that makes it clear God is at work. Wow! That brings about a totally different perspective in trials, doesn't it?

I think if we adjust our perspective, and align with the Lord's prayer for us, then we will start to experience the promise of John 14:27 in the midst of any trial:

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

So, we should not be praying for the absence of trials, but instead that we would have the peace of the Lord in the midst of our trials.

5. God Is a Refuge Like None Other

In our day and in our relatively comfortable circumstances, there are many, many places in which we can take refuge. What I am suggesting is that, tempting as it might be, when personal trials come, forsake every place of refuge but one.

You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the LORD, the LORD Himself is the Rock eternal.

Isaiah 26:3-4

This is the passage that serves as the inspiration for the hymn *Rock of Ages*, for the Lord, Jehovah, is the Rock down through the ages! The constant declaration of Scripture is that our great God is the place of refuge and safety in the face of difficulties:

The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and they are safe.

Proverbs 18:10

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Psalms 9:9

Then, add one more passage, one of my favorites for the vivid images it brings to mind:

I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the Rock that is higher than I. For You have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. ... I long ... to take refuge in the shelter of Your wings ... give me the heritage of those who fear Your Name.

Psalm 61:2-5



6. We Are to Walk by Faith

Our call isn't necessarily to solve problems, but to stand and walk by faith. For many of us, it is our nature to try and solve problems and return to the status quo. And, if things get really tough, it is common for us, as Christians,

to turn to God and tell Him how to fix things. This is quite understandable, but we need to learn that the Bible paints a totally different picture. Start with:

My righteous ones will walk by faith. Habakkuk 2:4

This Old Testament passage is quoted three times in the New Testament: Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38. This emphasis by repetition underscores its importance for the people of God.

I dare say that many of the trials and tribulations of this life are intended by God to develop our walk of faith. I am not saying these trials are good, I am saying that God desires to use them for good in terms of developing us as individuals who learn to trust Him through thick and thin. I learned this concept in this way,

*Learn to trust God for the bite of the mosquito,
so that you are ready to do so for the charge of
the elephant!*

Proverbs 24:10 addresses this topic from another angle:

If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength!

This passage is talking about strength in a spiritual context. So then, to falter is to fail to trust God, to fail to depend upon Him! When we thus fail, our spiritual strength is small.

Finally, consider God's command to Joshua just prior to entering the Promised Land—a land of giants:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

There is only one way we are going to be strong and courageous in the face of obstacles—because we trust that the Lord our God is with us. The alternative to trusting Him is to be frightened and dismayed in the face of life-shaking events. So, in short, when outward appearances threaten to overcome us, there is a way for us to move forward, a way to get past the outward. The way forward is the right kind of walk:

We walk by faith (trusting in the love, power, faithfulness, and capability of our God) **and not by outward appearances.**

I Corinthians 5:7



7. Trust God's Calling

The *brokenness* aspect of God's calling can be very hard. What I mean by this is a simple, but a personally challenging, concept. Specifically, in order to be used by God to accomplish all that He desires to do through us, it typically is necessary for there to be a certain brokenness with respect to self-dependence. In other words, our dependence upon ourselves needs to be set aside in favor of our dependence upon God.

The problem is that self doesn't go easily. Therefore, in order for self-dependence to go, it often takes a world-shattering set of circumstances. Let me show you this in the life of Paul. He starts by saying:

Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

II Corinthians 1:9

First, the self-reliance has to go. Then ministry can flow:

Praise be ... to the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

II Corinthians 1:3-5

You see when we become God-dependent, when we learn how He can see us through each and every trial, it prepares us to minister to others. Perhaps my favorite example of this difficult lesson involves the Apostle Peter. Have you ever noted that the Lord Jesus did not commission Peter to pastoral and teaching ministry after his self-confident declaration? Peter vowed:

Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.

Matthew 26:33



On the contrary, Jesus commissioned Peter to feed and care for His sheep after Peter's three-time denial and the soul bitterness of failing his Lord. The brash Peter was gone and a humble servant to the Lord was ready for ministry. And, sometimes the same thing has to happen to us! If it does, we can trust God to use our trial for His purposes, and, if He allows, to minister to others.

8. Count On Our Fall-Back Position

We have an unshakeable, unassailable fall-back position! This point is summed up by Paul's declaration:

For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

In other words, even if the worst happens from a human perspective—referring to physical death—ours will be gain! Paul says it this way in II Corinthians:

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. II Corinthians 4:16-18

Notice, this passage doesn't speak to all of your problems going away, it speaks of the contrast between the body and the soul, the seen and the unseen, the temporal and the eternal. So, even when our personal world is shaken, we have something to which we can hold. For the soul is eternal and the soul of the Christian has been transferred into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The unseen spiritual blessings that are ours as part of being in Christ are not in the least threatened by circumstances. When you are forced to choose between eternal and

temporal things, always let go of the temporal and hold onto the eternal. It is no wonder that Jesus said:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms ... I am going there to prepare a place for you ... that you also may be where I am."

John 14:1-3

That place Jesus has prepared for us may be unseen now, but it is nonetheless an eternal home with the Savior of our souls. With that in mind, it is no wonder Paul can call our trials *"light and momentary afflictions"* without knowing our individual circumstances or the heartache through which we might be struggling.

9. Trust in Our Covering

We are completely *covered* to the end—and beyond! This point has a few components that must be drawn together.

Subordinate Our Will. First, we must understand our need to subordinate to the will of God.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.

I John 5:14-15

We often come to God in prayer—which is good—but then we pray as if we are dictating terms. Or, we pray as if our circumstances are the only thing that matters in the plan of God. Now, let me be clear, there is absolutely nothing wrong with pouring out our hearts at the feet of our Lord and making our requests to Him. In fact, I encourage you to do so—regularly! But there comes a point in our prayer life where we need to step

back and remind ourselves: God is on His sovereign throne, He loves those involved more than we do, and recognize that His will is involved. We don't have the big picture, but He does. He is working toward His glory—and we need to be satisfied with that. In short, as we just read on the previous page:

... if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. . .



We have to leave room for His will in every prayer we lift up to Him. This isn't a cop-out if our prayers aren't answered, this is a matter of trusting in the One who has already demonstrated His infinite love towards us!

Understand God's Refuge. Second, we must understand the full extent of the refuge that God provides. Let's start by considering this passage from Psalm 57—another of my favorites.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in You my soul takes refuge. And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge until these calamities have passed by. I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills His purpose for me.

Psalm 57:1-2

As we have already learned, God is the perfect place for our soul to take refuge when the foundations are crumbling. And then, the next two sentences open the door

on a new consideration. The idea of taking refuge under the wings of the Almighty until the calamity has passed is a marvelous metaphor. It brings a great image of

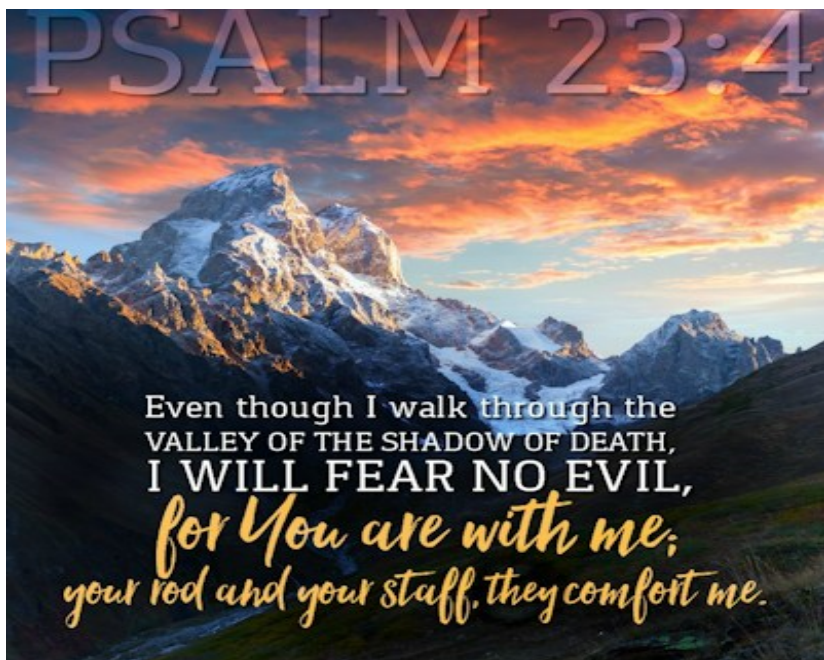


comfort to mind. Then this wonderful image is followed by the truth that the sovereign, omnipotent Creator of this universe is going to fulfill His purpose for you and me.

But then, let me lay out an additional consideration—every Wednesday night we pray for the many needs within our fellowship. And, we have seen a great number of answered prayers—those on our hearts and in our prayers come through surgeries, recover from many ailments, and countless other answers to prayer. But then, someone becomes ill and dies. What then? Did the refuge fail? Was God unable to fulfill His purpose for the departed individual? To attempt to answer these very important questions, let's add one more verse of Scripture:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4



This passage gives us comfort even as we pass through a time that appears to be the close of our time on this earth—for the shadow of death lays heavy upon the author. I believe these two passages from the Psalms should be viewed together and, when they are, it becomes so precious. Do you see it? We have the promise of shelter under the wings of the Almighty—even when our calamity is physical death.

At some point in our lives, God's purpose for us is going to be to come home to Him! With this understanding, it makes perfect sense for Paul to say to the Church:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

10. You Are a Child of God

As a most fitting way to end our list, it is certainly appropriate to remind you that, if you are a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ, then Jesus loves you! If Jesus loves you, the Father loves you for They are one.

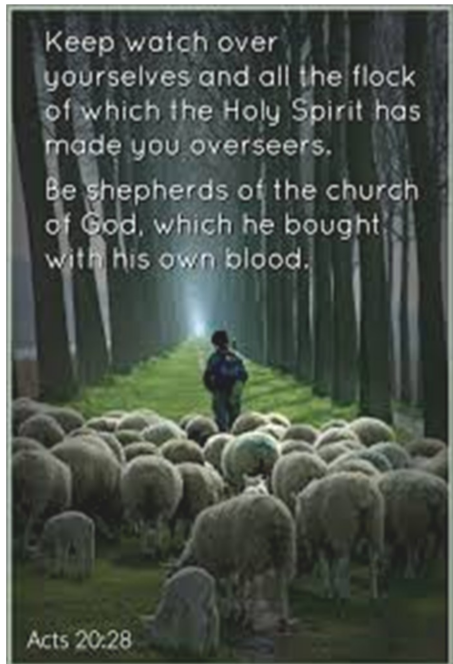
"... you may know and believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him." John 10:38

Let me break this down for you a little bit further:

- **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** Romans 5:8

In fact, every single member of the Church, His body, was "*bought with His own blood.*" (Acts 20:28) Before we had done anything for Him—good or bad—He died for us. And, if that's the case, then how should we anticipate the future playing out?

- **For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son (and we were), how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!** Romans 5:10



In Greek, this passage follows a format that can be described as *most—much more!*"

In other words, if Jesus Christ did the most for you in bearing your sins upon His body while you were an enemy, how can He not do even much more than that since you are now a reconciled child of God. Of course, this holds even in the midst of devastating personal circumstances.

- This is what God wants in the midst of every circumstance we go through—the good, the bad, and the devastating:

And I pray that you being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-29

You see, as new creations in Christ, we have been rooted and established in His love. But that knowledge can fade or come under attack. Paul's fervent prayer is that we would know this love in a way that surpasses simple academic understanding, but instead becomes something woven into the very fabric of our lives. For, His love is wide enough to cover every single one of life's circumstances, long enough to cover every day we live on this earth, deep enough to handle our moments of greatest despair, and high enough to be our constant companion even in times of triumph. This kind of love cannot be touched or diminished by life-shaking circumstances, for it depends upon the sovereign, omnipotent, loving Creator of all things. It depends upon our loving God, who knows the extent and circumstances of our days, before one of them even came to be!

In Closing

I trust you have found this discussion to be of great encouragement. For, although there are many more blessings from God, we have covered a powerful list of ten:

1. God is on His throne.
2. Our acceptance is settled—because every believer's acceptance in Christ is settled.
3. Jesus intercedes for us. He is our constant advocate before the Father.
4. His plans are perfect. When we question our situation, it is we who may need to adjust.
5. God is a refuge like none other.
6. We are to walk by faith. Our call isn't so much to fix problems as it is to walk by faith.
7. Trust God's calling. Brokenness and humility first is God's way—first the cross and then the crown.
8. Count on our fall-back position. In Christ, we have an unshakeable, immovable fall-back position.
9. Trust in our covering. The shelter of the Almighty covers us in this life and on into the next.
10. You are a child of God. Jesus loves us, this we should always know!

And, if you have read this far, let me implore you to make sure the above promises apply to you. For:

... nothing in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

All of the above are ours "*in Christ Jesus*," which means we have to be *in Him*, through faith in the person and work of Christ, in order to be eligible to receive them. Religion can't guarantee these blessing and neither can

good works. The only way to receive them is to be *in Christ!* It then becomes essential to know how we can be certain that we are *in Him*. The answer is simple and straightforward for God has done all of the work of our salvation, ours is only to place our faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Believe in His person—in that He is God incarnate. Believe in His work—in that He died on the cross in our place, bearing our sin, in order to open a way of reconciliation between God and man. There is no other way than believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, for there is no other Savior.

If you and I are truly *in Christ*, then, although all else may be shaken, the love of the Father for those who are in His dear Son will stand firm for all eternity. When it comes to God's offer of salvation, see to it that you do not refuse Him who promised:

"Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also heaven."
Hebrews 12:26

The words "*once more*" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.
Hebrews 12:27-29

As you can see from these quotes from Hebrews 12, all temporal things will be "*shaken*" and only the eternal will remain. So, in your circumstances and mine, we must have: First, faith in the person and work of Christ; then, thanksgiving; then worship of our great God with reverence and awe. As you do these things, you will have found a place that circumstances cannot touch—to the glory of God! And all God's people said, "Amen!"



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