

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

4/23/18

Psalm 46

There is a lady in our church who is a chaplain with the Billy Graham emergency relief teams. She sent me this note.

Our pastor spoke on Psalm 46 this morning and, as he read it, I flashed back to an early morning a few years ago. That morning, as I opened my Bible and came across Psalm 46, I got chills. At the time I was on chaplain deployment in Darrington, Washington...housed in a cabin just a few miles east of the 530 (Oso) mudslide. 43 lives had been lost in a wall of mud and water as the hillside violently gave way. Though I had read the passage many times, that morning the words of Psalm 46 took on a powerful new meaning to me...

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

What a great illustration of Psalm 46.

It made me think of the things that we believe bring us security, or cause us to feel insecure. The psalmist mentions two: natural and national crisis. He says that though the earth gives way and mountains slide into the seas, or nations totter and fall there is still security in the one who cannot be moved or shaken. This world is not permanent, nor are any of its "kingdoms". As much as we do not like to consider it, we are only here a short time and this world and its systems are only here a short time compared to eternity. They cannot bring ultimate security.

However, there is a rock that endures forever (2 Samuel 22:2-3), and there is one whose thrown endures forever. (Daniel 2:44, Psalm 9:6; Psalm 45:6; Hebrews 1:8) Our security is not in something, it is in someone. The Bible describes that security as a sure hope. (1 Peter 1:13-21)

When I find myself stressed or worried, it is because I am looking for security in the wrong places. Psalm 46 is a great reminder. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." It also gives us a great admonition. "Be still, and know that I am God."

When I begin to "quake" because all around us seems to be quaking, it is time to stop and refocus, and be still and know that He is indeed God.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What things in your life tend to cause you to feel insecure?
2. What does it mean to "be still and know that He is God?"
3. How can you practically apply that this week?