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Our God is Able

Creekview

BULIFTIN

God "is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us" (Eph. 3:20). What great power He has! Therefore, know that God is able to provide your every need today and eternal life in Christ Jesus for eternity.

Closed for COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 among us, we will not assemble again until Sunday, November 22. Bible studies will be streamed Sunday at 10AM and Wednesday at 7PM on the Facebook page of the church.

NOVEMBER

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SERVICE TIMES SUNDAYS: WORSHIP: 9:00 AM

Bible Study: 10:00 AM Worship: 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS: BIBLE STUDY: 7:00 PM

What Can the Righteous Do?

When it appears that wickedness has won, what can the righteous do? If society seems to be hopelessly lost, shall the righteous give up the fight? Shall they flee from the battle and concede to the enemy?

In Psalm 11, David rebuked the notion of the righteous conceding defeat to the wicked. Instead, he trusted in God for protection and deliverance. For David, this was not hypothetical. For years, he lived as a fugitive from his own king, who relentlessly hunted him. Even so, David trusted in God, who had anointed him to be the next king of Israel.

In this psalm, David responded to the advice of either well-meaning friends or possibly even his own imagination. This advice is stated in verses 1-3:

"Flee as a bird to your mountain; ²for, behold, the wicked bend the bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string to shoot in darkness at the upright in heart. ³If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

From this perspective, David's situation seemed hopeless. His death at the hands of the wicked appeared imminent. The "foundations" were destroyed, for Saul's kingdom was corrupted, and there was no justice in Israel for David. What could a righteous man such as David do? There was nothing left but to flee.

David rejected this advice out of hand. He answered in verse 1, "In the Lord I take refuge; how can you say [this] to my soul?" Contrary to the hopeless, defeated perspective of his counselors, David gave the faithful view not only of his own situation but also of the worldwide conflict of the righteous versus the wicked. Notice verses 4-7:

⁴The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

⁵The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates.

⁶Upon the wicked He will rain snares; fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.

⁷For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face.

David was not hopeless or defeated because he took refuge in God. He knew that God is enthroned in His temple in heaven far above the earth and that He determines the fate of men. The wicked cannot prevail because it is God whom they oppose. Moreover, the righteous cannot fail because God, who is righteous and loves righteousness, will preserve them. Indeed, "the upright will behold His face."

Dear Christians, adopt the perspective of David for yourself. You must not ever

feel hopeless or defeated. Wicked men may appear victorious in this world, but God is still on His throne in His holy temple of heaven. The wicked will not prevail against Him nor against those who take refuge in Him. Therefore, reject every notion of conceding defeat or fleeing from the conflict.

What then can the righteous do? The foundations of our society are being destroyed, so how shall we respond? We can take refuge in God by trusting in the Lord's promised outcome: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). We can continue to "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness" (1Tim. 6:11). We can "fight the good fight" (1Tim. 6:12) by being strong, putting on the armor of God, and standing firm against the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:10-17).

If we do these things, then we are invincible in Christ Jesus. Why then should we ever despair? Why should we ever flee? Instead, let us be steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the work of the Lord, for our toil will never be in vain (1Cor. 15:58).

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news & notes

- Kirk and Jenny Webb are both suffering from COVID-19. Please pray for them.
- Jim Barton is recovering from blood clots in his lungs. Keep him in your prayers.
- Ralph Anderson went home on Thursday. Praise God for answering our prayers.
- Please also pray for the following members: Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, and Laurie Polchek. Also pray for Jody Baize, Wayne Wright, Dot Long's sister Melissa, Pat Ridings' brother, and Donella Jones' daughter Mishae Neville.

reading plan

meetings

None to announce

Sunday - 1Peter 4-5 Monday – Deut. 13-15 Tuesday - Ezra 1-5 Wednesday – Ps. 131-133 Thursday - Ecclesiastes 7-8 Friday - Zechariah 1-7 Saturday - Acts 15-16