



NSD

NEWSLETTER

Sunday, September 14, 2008

BIBLE STUDY..... 10 a.m.

“Gospel of Luke”

MORNING WORSHIP..... 11 a.m.

Speaker: Dan Austin

EVENING SERVICE.... 6 p.m.

Speaker: Dan Austin

WEDNESDAY MEETING..... 7 p.m.

“The Parables of Jesus”

News & Notes

Welcome Visitors. If you are a visitor in our congregation today we welcome you and invite you to stay for a while after service so we can get to know you.

Please pray for **Sam Barton** who is still deployed and for his family.

And, continue to pray for those who are sick or ailing: **Martha Holloway**, **Dema Franklin**, Marie Adams, Benjamin Hoskins (**Daniel's** father.)

Our thanks to **Earnest Peoples** for his sermon last Sunday morning.

Updated directory pages (new email addresses) for the **Holloways** are on the back table. If you haven't already done so, be sure to take one and update your copy of the Member Directory.

HEBREWS 6:13-18

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for **refuge** to lay hold of the hope set before us.

NKJV

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus name
On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

Edward Mote/Wm. B. Bradbury

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where the Bible is the source of faith, where Jesus is Lord, where Christianity is a way of life!

God Our Refuge

W. Frank Walton

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble" (Psa 46:1).

This Psalm's context is a time of national invasion or calamity. In times of upheaval, there are inexplicable problems that surround us. The newspapers tell of murder and mayhem, of wars and wickedness, of sickness and suffering.

Yet, the Psalmist said, even if the world seems about to fall apart, *'We will not fear'* (**Psa 46:2**). Why? Our security is not in our national economy or army or prosperous circumstances but is gladly anchored in our Almighty God (**Psa 46:3-5**).

In crisis, do we turn to God or go to pieces? The Lord of heaven is our ultimate hope to cope with troubles on earth. "Greater faith is the capacity to trust God while not being able to make sense out of everything" (James Kok).

G. Campbell Morgan observes: "In our days of strain and calamity...[Psalm 46] opens with figurative language, as it describes the convulsions of the most terrible known in Nature, those of the earthquake and tempest, and declares that these cannot produce fear in the hearts of those who know God. Suddenly it introduces the picture of the city of God, gladdened by the river proceeding from the dwelling place of God. Then outside, the nations are pictured in tumultuous upheaval. Over all God is reigning, commanding the tumult to cease, and declaring His determinations to be exalted. The whole song is the result of the vision of God. That is the vision which gives the heart steadiness and strength at all times."

He continues, "To lose that vision is only, sooner or later, to have nothing left to look upon but storm and tempest, wreck and ruin, the anger and brutality of the massed forces of iniquity. To retain the vision of the Almighty, is still to see these things; but it is to see them all under His government, and to discover that they also are compelled to serve His ultimate purpose" (*Life Applications*, p. 166-167).

God calms us: *"Be still and know that I am God"* (**Psa 46:10**). If we see the invisible God by faith, hope and love, then visible calamity will not shake us (**Heb 11:1,27**). God is enthroned above the world of tribulation, ruling the universe on a calm, unruffled sea of glass (**Rev 4**).

Faith in the Lord of circumstance refuses to panic. God can defeat any enemy (**Psa 46:9**). God allows free-will choices of evil men to refine our faith. He also allows physical suffering in this fallen world to test our character, revealing this world is not our home.

"Calamity is virtue's opportunity" (Seneca). How we respond to life's problems will either drive us away from God in disappointment or drive us to Him in greater dependence. *"The LORD of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our stronghold"* (**Psa 46:11**).