

Sunday Night Message

September 23, 2012

*Psalm 11 – Don't Run*

Series – The Psalms

**Text – Psalm 11**

### **Introduction**

The Psalmist does not tell us the context surrounding this particular Psalm, yet it is clear that this was written while David was under a great deal of pressure from his enemies.

One possibility is that this was written during the time that King Saul was chasing David around the wilderness.

Another possibility is that this Psalm was written when David's son Absalom was leading a rebellion against his father, and had actually forced him to leave the city of Jerusalem. (See 2 Samuel 16 – 18)

Yet another possibility is that this Psalm refers to the account of all of the priests being murdered by Doeg the Edomite, by the command of Saul.

From Treasury of David

*SUBJECT. Charles Simeon gives an excellent summary of this Psalm in the following sentences:—"The Psalms are a rich repository of experimental knowledge. David, at the different periods of his life, was placed in almost every situation in which a believer, whether rich or poor, can be placed; in these heavenly compositions he delineates all the workings of the heart. He introduces, too, the sentiments and conduct of the various persons who were accessory either to his troubles or his joys; and thus sets before us a compendium of all that is passing in the hearts of men throughout the world. When he penned this Psalm he was under persecution from Saul, who sought his life, and hunted him 'as a partridge upon the mountains.' His timid friends were alarmed for his safety, and recommended him to flee to some mountain where he had a hiding-place, and thus to conceal himself from the rage of Saul. But David, being strong in faith, spurned the idea of resorting to any such pusillanimous expedients, and determined confidently to repose his trust in God."*

*To assist us to remember this short, but sweet Psalm, we will give it*

*the name of "THE SONG OF THE STEADFAST."*

*DIVISION. From 1 to 3, David describes the temptation with which he was assailed, and from 4 to 7, the arguments by which his courage was sustained.*

The bottom line of this Psalm is that David was not about to run away from his troubles – he trusted in God’s deliverance.

## **I The Counsel of The Faithless (vs. 1 – 3)**

*"[To the chief Musician, [A Psalm of David.]] In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?" - (Psalm 11:1)*

Notice that it was a counselor of some sort that tried to get David to run. Satan will try to get you to quit, and he will sometimes use people to discourage you as well.

*"For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart." - (Psalm 11:2)*

These counselors make a pretty good argument, but they leave God out of the equation.

*"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" - (Psalm 11:3)*

It all depends on who is asking this question. Was it the faithless counselor, or was it David?

If it was the counselor, he may have been implying that David’s cause was hopeless, and that all was lost.

If it was David, he may have been saying, “if I run, what will the rest of the people do”.

What is the foundation that he is speaking of?

In the context, it very well may be speaking of the Temple; or possibly even the entire City Of Jerusalem. Jerusalem and the temple were at the very center of the Jewish culture and certainly at the center of worship.

If this passage is in fact referencing the rebellion of Absalom, it could be that David was refusing to heed the counselors that were trying to get him to abandon the City of Jerusalem altogether.

But what else does the Bible refer to as foundations:

### The Righteous

"As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation." - (Proverbs 10:25)

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." - (2 Timothy 2:19)

### Salvation

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God," - (Hebrews 6:1)

### The Lord

"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." - (Isaiah 28:16)

### The Church

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:" - (Ephesians 2:19-21)

When a foundation is destroyed, everything that it is built on top of that foundation will be destroyed as well.

Illustrate – the foundation of the parsonage.

This constitutional republic called America is under attack in its very foundation. This nation was built upon the principles contained in the Word of God, and it was also built upon a solid constitution. But both the

Bible and the Constitution are under attack today. When these two cornerstones are removed the nation is doomed.

There are also some important foundations that we must never abandon as a Church.

The Lord is the cornerstone – the apostles and prophets (the Bible) make up the rest of the foundation. And this foundation supports the pillars that make up the framework of who we are.

**Biblical Authority** in all matters of faith and practice. We believe the Bible is inspired and infallible and is the final authority. It is from God's Word that we understand and teach the fundamental doctrines of our faith as well as pattern our church polity. (See 2 Timothy 3:16; John 17:17; Acts 17:11; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20–21.)

**Autonomy** or self governing power of the local church. We believe that every local church should be independent of a hierarchical framework or outside governmental structure. (See Colossians 1:18; Acts 13–14, 20:19–30; Ephesians 1:22–23.)

**Priesthood** of believers. God's Word assures believers that we have direct access to God through our relationship with Christ. We believe and teach that the priesthood of the believer is the unspeakably precious privilege of every child of God. (See Hebrews 4:14–16; 1 Timothy 2:5–6; 1 Peter 2:5–10.)

**Two offices** within the church. Scripture only mentions two church offices—pastor (also referred to as elder or bishop) and deacon. These two offices are to be filled by godly men of integrity in each local church. (See Philippians 1:1; Acts 6:1–7; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:6–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4.)

**Individual soul liberty.** We believe that each person must make a personal decision of repentance and faith in Christ. (See Romans 10:9–17, 14:1–23.)

**Separation of church and state.** The state should have no power to intervene in the free expression of religious liberty. (See Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29–31; Romans 13:1–4.)

**Two ordinances**—baptism and the Lord's Table (also called communion). These ordinances have no part in salvation and only serve as pictures of what Christ did for us. (See Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; Acts 2:38–43, 8:36–38; Romans 6:1–6)

**Separation** and personal holiness. We believe that Christ's ultimate sacrifice demands our complete consecration, and we desire that our daily living would reflect the holiness of our great God. (See 2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Peter

1:16.)

I'm thankful to carry the name *Baptist*, and I'm thankful for the privilege to preach the Gospel of Christ and to teach others to build their lives on the inerrant foundation of God's Word.

## **II The Confidence of the Faithful (vs. 4 - 7)**

Notice the confidence that David expresses in His God. He knew that the victory was assured as long as God was on their side.

*"The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." - (Psalm 11:4)*

*"The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth." - (Psalm 11:5)*

*"Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup." - (Psalm 11:6)*

*"For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright." - (Psalm 11:7)*

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." - (1 Corinthians 15:58)*

Don't let the faithless counselors shake your confidence in the Lord.

And by the way, God's foundation cannot be destroyed!