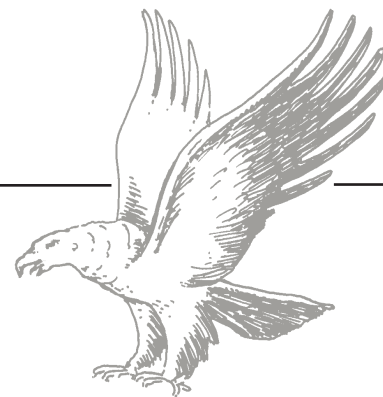


Wings

*"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



July 5, 2015

If the Foundations Are Destroyed

The recent Supreme Court decision on gay marriage may discourage us, but we should take comfort in the words of an old Psalm. God has not been dethroned, and will—as always—have the last word.

*"If the foundations are destroyed,
what can the righteous do?" (Psa. 11:3).*



With the recent Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage, those who respect God and His word have yet another reason to be disheartened. The moral foundation of our nation is crumbling before our eyes, and we seem powerless to stem the tide of moral lawlessness that is overwhelming us. How should we respond?

Actually, this development is nothing new. Other nations in history have passed through the same kind of moral freefall that we are experiencing, and God's people in those generations have struggled with the same question: *"what can the righteous do?"* This Psalm speaks directly to our fears.

Our first task is to remind ourselves that regardless of how degenerate our society may become, *"The Lord is in His holy temple"* (v. 4). No President, Supreme Court, Congress, nor any other ruling power can take God's place in His universe. It really doesn't matter what men in their arrogance may decree; God

still rules and someday will have the last word. Setting our heart on that bedrock truth will go a long way toward giving us peace of mind.

As the ultimate authority, God is not indifferent to what goes on in this world. *"His eyes behold"* everything that happens, whether good or bad (v. 4), and He is keeping score. We can be confident that no one will get away with anything.

For those who flaunt God's law, this will not end well. *"The wicked . . . His soul hates"* (v. 5), and someday *"upon the wicked He will rain coals; fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup"* (v. 6). In this life they can presume to abrogate power to themselves and force their will upon others. But in the end, God will render the final verdict. (Notice that this is God's doing, not ours. We cannot—*must not*—take it upon ourselves to dish out punishment upon the wicked. Judgment is God's prerogative, and we must leave it in His capable hands.)

So what happens to His people, who have to suffer through the depravity of this world? God does not forget us, but

neither will He pamper us: *"The Lord tests the righteous"* (v. 5). That is, He leaves us exposed to the hard edges of life. He wants us to face these setbacks head on, not to beat us down, but to make our faith stronger.

Here is the conclusion: *"The Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright"* (v. 7). When the proud and haughty strut about, waving their legal victories in our faces, it's hard to see any good coming from it. But we have to understand that there is a much bigger plan unfolding, the details of which we cannot see. It's all playing out under the watchful eye of a God who truly has our best interests at heart. We have to trust Him to know what is best.

In the meantime, our job is to keep the faith, love our enemies, and teach our children the truth about moral standards. We cannot force God's will upon the rest of society, but we can live it in our own lives, and prepare the next generation to do the same. Our options may be limited, but God's are not, and someday He will set right everything that is now so twisted. Believe it!

— David King