

“What Can the Righteous Do?”

Psalm 11

Central Idea: No matter what is happening in the world, the righteous can trust the Lord to protect them.

I. Timeless Principle of David (1a)

- “In the Lord I take refuge”
 - This trust is foundational for David and this psalm
 - It is the guiding principle of his life

II. Temptation from Poor Counsel (1b-3)

- Advice from the Faint-Hearted (1b)
 - David’s counselors say to run and hide
 - To flee as a bird is to escape quickly to a secure place
 - Their advice is that of self-preservation
 - David regards the Lord as safer than any physical place
 - His response shows his wisdom
 - He knows what is best in each situation
- Actions of the Wicked (2)
 - The wicked are preparing, and ready, for war
 - They attack the upright, David in particular
 - Whether the attack is with harmful words or harmful weapons David trusts God to protect him
- Asked Question of the Faint-Hearted (3)
 - David’s counselors feel like the foundations of the nation are being destroyed
 - The law and order of society is being done away with
 - This distresses them to the point of distraction
 - Their advice is based on fear
 - Specifically fear of the wicked

III. Truth About God (4-7)

- Where God Is (4a)
 - On His throne in heaven
 - Exalted and ruling with authority over everything
 - Far from the wicked and the danger they bring
- What God Does (4b-7)
 - With Everyone (4b-5a)
 - God sees everyone and everything
 - He examines everyone, both righteous and wicked
 - God possesses careful awareness and precise knowledge of everything
 - With the Wicked (5b-6)
 - God is against those who love violence, the wicked
 - God will punish those who oppose Him
 - A swift, fiery judgement awaits the wicked
 - Like that of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - With the Upright (7)
 - God will admit the upright into His presence
 - They enjoy fellowship, protection, and favor with God

Application:

- Focus on the Lord, what He’s done, and what He will do
- Prayer is the best way to accomplish this

Discussion Questions:

- Where do you see Jesus in this Psalm?
- Why is it important to be discerning when receiving advice?
- Does the description of God change your view of Him?
- How does this psalm impact how you look at current events?