



Sunday, August 8, 2010: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Scripture: Psalm 46 Speaker: Scott Masson

Sermon Notes:

1. Contemporary Christians have grown uncomfortable with the idea of being in a battle: our songs don't sing of it, our Christian images don't contain it.
2. The book of Revelation is the scene of a battle between the forces of Light and the forces of Darkness. This battle is happening now.
3. The King is here now. He is reigning at God's right hand now.
4. We live in the in-between times: the battle has been won, but the devil is desperate to defraud the King of His glory and deny that the battle has been won.
5. Our enemies are not flesh and blood; they are not of this world (Ephesians 6:12).
6. The church militant refers to the church in the world besieged by her enemies.
7. We may lose our lives, but we cannot lose the kingdom of God because it has already been won.
8. In our Canadian culture, the idea of battle is distant and foreign. Christians in other countries however face persecution and death for their faith.
9. We don't like to speak of those who oppose God as our enemies. But because they hate Christ, they also hate us. We need to recognize that, and stop deluding ourselves that we can remove the offense of the Gospel.
10. The opposition that confronts us in Canada is most often in the form of political correctness. It's a gag order on Christians.
11. The only bias that is tolerated in our society is to ridicule Christ and His people.
12. Prayer is the only weapon we have in our battle, but we don't pray.
13. Hebrews 10:19-22. The author tells us to pray with confidence, assurance, and boldness.

14. Lloyd-Jones. Everyone who doesn't know that prayer is difficult has never tried to pray.
15. There are three realities that make prayer so difficult:
 - i) vv. 19-20 When we pray, we enter into the presence of the holy God.
 - ii) v. 22 We have an evil conscience. When we encounter God in prayer, we know that there is nothing we can say against Him, because He is the Holy One, and we are the sinners.
 - iii) v. 22. We have an intuitive sense of uncleanness.
16. Our evil conscience blots out the reality of what we have done until our sin is brought to our attention (e.g. David).
17. David desired to commit sin despite knowing what it was and the evil of it.
18. Our sin prevents us from praying.
19. Psalm 51. God's cleansing was the only solution to David's plight.
20. If we want full assurance in prayer, we need first to repent and seek cleansing.
21. Psalm 46:1-3. Evil conscience and uncleanness are pictured by chaos, by the sea. By contrast, mountains are places of security, stability.
22. The mountains are being engulfed by the sea, but God is our refuge. God cannot be shaken.
23. V4-7. The city referred to is not just Jerusalem, but the city of God spoken of in Revelation.
24. The commander of our city is Christ Himself. Let us be assured.
25. V8-11. To God's enemies: Be still. That is, stop your futile resistance against God. The battle is won. What appear to be battles are mere skirmishes on the plain of victory.
26. When we avail ourselves of the power of God, we will see God moving mightily.

Application Questions:

1. How are we to pray? See Hebrews 10:19-22.
2. What are the obstacles to prayer? (See Psalm 66:18, 1 Peter 3:7, etc.)
3. What does the phrase "Church Militant" refer to?
4. Do I recognize that as a Christian I am involved in a spiritual battle? Do I know what spiritual weapons are available to me and do I use them?
5. Am I ready to die for the sake of Christ? Am I ready to be ridiculed and rejected by my peers, colleagues, co-workers, friends for the sake of Christ?

