

INTRODUCTION

Today I am not addressing you from the next part of the scriptures on "a bishop must be blameless." Instead, I am addressing you from a place in one of the Psalms. Let me tell you briefly how that came about. It has to do with two things going on this week, which were filling my mind last week.

As you know, today after lunch is the church's annual congregational meeting. As I thought about that earlier this week, my every thought was of how much our Lord Jesus has done for us, His church, since the church's last annual meeting a year ago! The church was in such trouble then. Since then, the Lord has delivered us from those troubles and set us in a position of amazing blessedness. Early last week, when I tried to work on the sermon from 1 Timothy, the Lord's blessing of this church over the past year filled my mind.

As you also know, the election is this Tuesday. Last week, with the election approaching, I was tempted to be anxious, to worry myself, about the results of the election, and especially about what people would do after the election, and what degree of upheaval there might be.

As thoughts about those two things were competing for my attention, one of the church members sent me a note pointing me to two lines in a Psalm. There, in those two lines, I found expression for the joy welling up in my heart AND help in not worrying about the results of the election. So blessed was I by those lines, I decided to preach to you today from those lines, Psalm 94:18-19.

TEXT

Psalm 94:18-19

KJV When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up. 19 In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.

NKJV If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up. 19 In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.

ESV When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. 19 When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

BODY

- I. There Are Times We Feel Trouble Is Upon Us
 - A. In what actually is happening: “My foot slips”
 1. in the case of David, the primary reference would be to the warrior’s foot slipping in battle
 2. the dangers all around us in this present fallen world come closer than usual to hurting us, or actually do hurt us
 3. the loss of our good position or situation, which is always a possibility, seems about to happen, or actually happens
 4. the efforts of our enemies to harm us, which are always a threat, seem about to succeed, or actually do succeed in harming us
 5. the effects of my own sin, which always could destroy my happiness and that of others, seem actually about to destroy, or actually do destroy my happiness or that of others
 6. the unstable circumstances, which could at any time deprive me and my family of what we need, seem about to do that, or actually do deprive us of what we need
 - B. In thoughts about what has happened, or what might happen: thoughts, anxieties, cares
 1. when something bad has happened, we may feel like it is still upon us, even when it has passed
 2. however close we might be to disaster, or however far we might be from disaster, we may feel like disaster is upon us and is unavoidable
 3. instead of being able easily to focus on our daily work during the day, and instead of being able peacefully to sleep at night, we have many thoughts that intrude into our minds; those thoughts are anxious; they worry or trouble us
 - a) we think with regret about what we didn’t do that we should have, or what we did that we should not have done; we yearn repeatedly to be able to go back and do it differently
 - b) we think with fear about the things that might happen; many scenarios play out in our minds, each one worse than the one before
 - c) e.g. Often I have told my dear wife that when I lie down to sleep, my mind is racing
 4. in all those thoughts, cares, anxieties about things that have happened, and things that might happen, we can feel many of the emotions that accompany such things, even just sitting at home or in the car

There are times we feel trouble is upon us
-in what actually is happening, or
-in thoughts about what has happened, or what might happen.

II. In Such Times, God Is Our Help

A. Regarding the things that actually are happening, the Lord holds us up

1. here the Bible says that the Lord's mercy or love held me up or holds me up
 - a) Hebrew *hesed* - combination of mercy, love, steadfastness; all God's perfections shown in how He deals with us, His people
2. this language about the foot slipping appears several times in the Bible as God causing our feet not to slip - Psalms 121:2-4 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.
 - a) our help is from the one who made heaven and earth
 - b) He does not sleep!
3. our salvation is not really about us keeping our footing, but about God holding us up,
 - a) see here how it is said that the Lord held me up or will hold me up
4. the Bible takes this concept even further, from God holding us up to God even carrying us - Isaiah 46:3-7 "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: 4 Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you. 5 "To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike? 6 They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. 7 They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it And set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though one cries out to it, yet it cannot answer Nor save him out of his trouble.
 - a) worshipers of false gods have to make their gods and then carry them
 - b) but worshipers of the one true God acknowledge that they are made by God and carried by Him

- B. Regarding our thoughts about things that might happen, the Lord's comforts delight the soul
1. His past deliverances
 - a) in the Bible
 - b) in our own experience
 2. His promises
 - a) faith in those already accomplished
 - (1) forgiveness of sins
 - (2) justification
 - (3) the presence of the Holy Spirit
 - b) hope in those still to come when the Lord Jesus comes back
 - (1) glorification of the body
 - (2) wiping away of all tears
 - (3) end of all partings
 - (4)
 3. His many exhortations that we "fear not"
 4. His providence
 5. the church ordinances
 - a) baptism
 - b) the Lord's Supper
 6. Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior
 - a) His person
 - b) His offices: Prophet, Priest, King
 - c) His works

CONCLUSION

There are times we feel trouble is upon us

-in what actually is happening, or

-in thoughts about what might happen.

In such times, God is our help

-He helps us with whatever actually is happening

-His comforts delight our souls

Habakkuk 3:17-19a Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls-- 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 69 "Lord, with Glowing Heart"

Anna - Trinity 580 "It Is Well With My Soul"

Anna - Trinity 420 "Blessed Lord, In Thee Is Refuge"

Thad - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer: Psalm 40:1-3

~~Reel~~ Jeff - Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:14-33

Chris - Congregational Prayer

Jeff - Benediction: Psalm 94:22

Deuteronomy 32:35 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Psalms 38:15-22 For in You, O LORD, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. 16 For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me." 17 For I am ready to fall, And my sorrow is continually before me. 18 For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. 19 But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; And those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. 20 Those also who render evil for good, They are my adversaries, because I follow what is good. 21 Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me! 22 Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Habakkuk 3:17-19 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.