

“In God We Trust”  
Psalm 11  
(Preached at Trinity, November 29, 2009)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. On December 2, 2008 the new entryway to the U.S. Capitol opened. A stone marker in the entry prominently displayed the nation’s motto. It read, “E pluribus Unum,” “Out of the many, one.” The problem is this is not our nation’s motto. In 1956 Congress established our national motto as “In God We Trust.” It has been displayed on the U.S. currency. This is yet another testimony to the ever increasing removal of God from every aspect of life in our nation.
2. But for God’s people our trust in God is not just a motto. In God we find our infinite confidence and our greatest comfort.  
It is the essence of our faith.
3. As we begin **Psalm 11** we find a very brief superscription handing the psalm over to the chief musician for use in the corporate worship of Israel and we find the author, David. As the psalm opens we find David making this great declaration:  
**Psalm 11:1** – “In the LORD put I my trust”
  - A. He is under the assaults of Saul. His life is often in danger. Where would he turn for his safety. For David the answer is clear, and it should be clear for us as well.
  - B. Upon where do we find our hope? Upon who else can we find comfort?
  - C. Later David would say:  
**Psalm 118:8-9** – “*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.* <sup>9</sup> *It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.*”  
**Psalm 20:7** – “Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”
4. In this psalm we find four areas of trust in which we find great comfort in our great God.  
We trust His preserving protection – **Verse 2**  
We trust His powerful providence – **Verse 3**  
We trust His personal presence – **Verse 4**  
We trust His perfect pronouncements – **Verses 5-7**
  - I. We trust Him for His preserving protection – **Verse 2**
    - A. David begins by making a statement to those who might suggest fleeing in fear  
**Psalm 11:1-2** – “how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? 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.”
      1. In the first three verses David is being tempted to turn from God and place his confidence elsewhere.
      2. It may have been the advice of well-meaning friends.
        - a. Like Job’s wife, sometimes well-meaning people tell us to place our confidence in sources apart from God – to flee to some other refuge. They were telling David, “Run for your life.”

- b. This is the mindset of this world. We must always see wise counsel. Those who will direct us to God's Word
  - 3. It may have been the taunts of his enemies.
    - a. Flee David!! There's no one who can help you
    - b. It was like the voice of Sennacherib years later as the Assyrians threatened Israel.
 

**Isaiah 36:14-16** – “Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you. <sup>15</sup> Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us: this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. <sup>16</sup> Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make *an agreement with me*”
  - 3. This is the issue we face continually
    - a. Well meaning friends and family give us worldly counsel
    - b. Satan whispers in our ears – no one will help you. You have to trust in your own resources. Use your own wisdom.
    - c. Our own heart tempts us to fear and fills our hearts with anxiety
- B. Rather than listen to the voice of others David trusted in the living God for his preserving protection
  - 1. Though the enemy was set with their arrows pointed in deadly ambush, David knew the source of his protection
  - 2. The arrows may take many forms
    - They may be words of discouragement
    - They may be assaults upon our character
    - They may be wicked men seeking to usurp our position
    - They may be the countless difficulties and struggles of life
  - 3. Through every trial God tells us, “Flee to Me, I am your refuge and your strength
 

**Psalms 91:2** – “I will say of the LORD, *He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.*”

## II. We trust His powerful providence in the midst of our evil world – **Verse 3**

**Psalms 11:3** – “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

- A. This statement is a continuation of the negative statements of **Verses 1-2**
  - 1. The implication is that the foundations have crumbled – evil was all around him, lawlessness was prevailing, justice was being forsaken
  - 2. What is the possible relief from such – “**what can the righteous do?**”
- B. We are facing this very issue today – “foundations” is a metaphor for social order
  - 1. Wickedness seems to be prevailing
    - a. Politicians seem to be completely void of morality
    - b. Business executives seem to be governed only by the law of greed
    - c. Judges are more concerned about their agenda than justice
    - d. Inner cities have become warzones
    - e. Abortion, homosexuality, adultery, gambling, drunkenness – there is no end to the vices of the human heart
    - f. The family is suffering greatly. Between divorce and unwed pregnancies few children know the blessing of two parents.
    - g. Worst of all, many churches have ceased to be the pillar of truth.

2. What are we to do when the very foundation of our culture is crumbling?
3. And this isn't just a American problem. What are the righteous to do when Moslem's kill Christians and burn their homes in Pakistan while the authorities look the other way? There is much suffering today among the Christian community. What are the righteous to do?
4. The answer is clear – we take refuge in Christ.
  - a. He is the ruler of this world. Nothing happens outside of His infinite dominion.  
**Isaiah 9:6** – “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”  
 “Government” – all power and dominion rests on Him
  - b. We stand strong upon a firm foundation. He has all authority, rules with all power.  
 Christ is a solid Rock - we can stand resolute upon Him
  - c. And He knows those who belong to Him. He will sustain them through every condition  
**2 Timothy 2:19** – “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.”

### III. We trust Him in His personal presence – Verse 4

**Psalms 11:4** – “The LORD *is* in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne *is* in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.”

God's powerful presence is always with us. He never slumbers, never sleeps

A. In our darkest hour, Christ is there

**Matthew 28:20** – “and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world.”

**Hebrews 13:5** – “Let *your* conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

**Psalms 145:18** – “The LORD *is* nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.”

**Isaiah 43:2** – “When thou passest through the waters, I *will* be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

1. In our deepest trial, we look upward to Christ sitting upon His throne.
2. What a glorious God – what a wonderful Savior.  
 The Christian is never alone – God has the night watch, always vigilant
3. We can take great comfort in God's careful watch over us
  - a. We are uniquely blessed of God. Jesus spoke of our privilege: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"
  - b. God's ever watchful eye is always upon us

- B. God is always present and beholds the affairs of men  
**Psalm 11:4** – “his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.”
1. For the lost person this should bring terror. God’ ever watching eye beholds every offense. Every sin only increases God’s judgment.
  2. For the believer this brings wonderful peace. God is beholding us. Watching over us as a parent watches over his child.
  3. We have all of His divine care and protection  
 We have access to His throne of grace – When we go to Him in prayer we never find Him sleeping.
- C. As we go through the fiery trials of life we can have confidence that God is mindful of us.
1. He never takes His eye off of us.  
**Verse 7** - his countenance doth behold the upright.”
  2. He is working on our behalf. He has nothing but good things for us.
  3. When we go into every battle we go with the most powerful Defender by our side  
**Isaiah 43:2** – “When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”  
**Psalm 46:1-2** – “God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;”

IV. We trust Him in His perfect pronouncements – **Verses 5-7**

- A. God examines the hearts of all men
1. He examines the righteous – “The LORD trieth the righteous”
    - a. He observes. He knows.
    - b. He knows everything we have thought, everything we have ever done.  
**Matthew 16:27** – “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”
    - c. The word, “trieth” might imply trial. He is examining us through fire.
  2. God also examines the wicked
    - a. They may be living in luxury but they are being tried.
    - b. Upon examining the lost man God sees only wickedness - continually  
**Genesis 6:5** – “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.”

- B. God's pronouncement brings us great comfort
1. It may seem like the very foundations have crumbled but God will set all things right. His judgments are perfect. His judgments upon the wicked remind us that He is a holy God.  
**Psalm 11:5-6** – “but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. <sup>6</sup> Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: *this shall be* the portion of their cup.”
  2. We weep for the lost but we rejoice on God's perfect judgment
  3. And we rejoice in God's perfect pronouncement upon the righteous  
**Psalm 11:7** – “For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.”

**Conclusion:**

1. What shall the righteous do in a wicked world? We press on. We continue to look to Christ. We continue to trust in Him. “In God we trust.”
2. What shall the righteous do? They continue in righteousness, “for the righteous LORD loveth righteousness.”
3. What shall the righteous do? They will continue under the kind providence of God – “his countenance doth behold the upright.”
4. What shall the righteous do? They shall see Christ face to face. He beholds us and we shall behold Him.