

Faith Christian Fellowship

October 22, 2017

Surely: Things You Can Count on in Turbulent Times

1: Goodness and Mercy

TEXT: Hebrews 12:25-29 / Psalm 23:6

In case you hadn't noticed, the world is going nuts. I don't want to do a scare list, but you surely know what I mean. Fear is the theme of the day. Be careful out there. The full story is that there is a great deal of shaking going on. That is not going to change. **It is a great time to build our faith in the things we have which cannot be shaken**, things that are sure for us. We rejoice that we are living in a day when God's voice is shaking the heavens and the earth. Today, we find that if the Lord is our Shepherd, goodness and mercy are surely following us every day.

1) A whole lot of shakin' going on:

- a) Let's read Hebrews 12:25-29: Here it says that it is the voice of God speaking that brings the shaking, and that we can be assured that we are receiving a kingdom which can't be shaken, and grace to serve God
- b) Notice Isaiah 6:3-4. The voice of the Lord shook the very doorposts of Heaven.
- c) The whole earth is in travail, and the contractions are getting closer together. Romans 8:22
- d) There is coming a day when shaking will increase, but there are things we can do when the shaking is going on. We can learn from God's warning s to Judah: Isaiah 24:17-19
 - i) Don't run from the noise of the fear
 - ii) The heavens are open – (Gen 7:11)
 - (1) Wrath to the wicked
 - (2) Blessing to the believing
- e) Our job: Psalm 46:1- 4. Don't fear, there is a river!!!!

2) Expect Goodness, not catastrophe

- a) Jesus is your Shepherd. He is Good. John 10:10-11 / Psalm 23. Therefore you can be sure goodness is following you every day
- b) Goodness: *tob* - An adjective meaning good, well-pleasing, fruitful, morally correct..
- c) Follow: *rāḡap*: A verb meaning to pursue, to chase. Goodness is chasing you. Stop running!!!

d) What can you expect?

- i) Psalm 85:12-13. He will always do what is good, and He will make your harvest great. He goes before you to make a way, and you can follow His footsteps.
- ii) Psalms 143:10. The Spirit of God is good. He will teach you and lead you in His will. Expect guidance and revelation.
- iii) Acts 10:38 / Mark 3:3-4. Healing is good. Expect it. It is time to move from hoping to expecting.
- e) Psalm 145:9. This is not just for an elite group of super-Christians. The fact you exist indicates that **you are qualified to receive**. Colossians 1:12
- f) His invitation is to taste of His goodness: Take a bite. He wants you to experience His goodness. Psalms 34:8 / Psalms 119:103 How sweet Your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey.

3) Mercy is chasing you. Quit running:

- a) Mercy: *H'eseq*: Kindness, lovingkindness, mercy, goodness, faithfulness, love, acts of kindness. This is covenant love – based on His covenant of blood, not your performance. It is the basis of the grace that can be received by faith. Eph 2:8-9
- b) Psalms 13:5-6 He saved you because He is merciful. Not because you are good. Stop struggling and trust in His mercy.
- c) Psalms 25:6-7 He doesn't think of you as you used to be. Let His mercy catch you and change the way you remember you.
- d) Psalms 32:10-11. In the middle of the catastrophe's around you expect mercy to surround you. Stop running, rejoice and shout!!!
- e) When it feels like you are failing and falling, let mercy catch you. Never expect what you deserve!!!!!! Psalms 94:18
- f) Stop daily and get a load of mercy:
 - i) Lamentations 3:22-23 (22) Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. (23) They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.
 - ii) Psalms 118:1-4 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. (2) Let Israel now say, "His mercy endures forever." (3) Let the house of Aaron now say, "His mercy endures forever." (4) Let those who fear the LORD now say, "His mercy endures forever."
Let FCFT say, "His mercy endures forever!!!!!!"

