

Faith Christian Fellowship
November 5, 2017

Surely: Things You Can Count on in Turbulent Times
3: What Do You Say?

TEXT: Psalms 91:1-8 / Hebrews 12:27-29 MSG The phrase "one last shaking" means a thorough housecleaning, getting rid of all the historical and religious junk so that the unshakable essentials stand clear and uncluttered. (28) Do you see what we've got? An unshakable kingdom! And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander. (29) He's actively cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and he won't quit until it's all cleansed. God himself is Fire!

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. We found that since the Lord is our Shepherd, goodness and mercy are following us, that deliverance is near. Along those same lines, Psalm 91 promises the surety of deliverance in some very specific ways.

Note Verse 1 Tells us where we live, verse 2 tells us what we say, and verse three give the promise of deliverance. Verses 4-8 expound on that deliverance in some specifics that impact us particularly today

- 1) Verse 1. Dwelling in the secret place
 - a) This Psalm enjoys remarkable benefits. Are you qualified?
 - i) Dwelling in the secret place: To have an attitude of rest and repose in the holy of holies, the intimate presence of God. Ps 27:4-5. Compare Ps 31:20; Ps 32:7.
 - ii) Abide under the shadow of His wings: Take up residence, a dwelling place not a vacation home, under the wings of the Cherubim around the very throne of God. Psalms 17:8
 - b) "He that" means that this relationship is available to anyone who will desire it. We can live in the presence of God.
- 2) Verse 2. What do you say?
 - a) Listen up: in the day we live, this is going to be the difference in life and death for many. Mk 11:23
 - b) It matters what you say about the LORD (Jehovah).

- i) It's OK to not understand. It is not OK to question His mercy and goodness. We all have questions, but only some of us are destroyed by them.
- ii) **He is my refuge.** (mah'seh: A refuge, shelter. It indicates a place of safety and protection, security. I can run to Him when trouble comes. Ps 46:1-3
- iii) **He is my fortress** (mes'ûgâh: A stronghold. It refers to wilderness or mountainous places for hiding, defense, and gathering supplies for battle : I don't have to defend myself, the Lord will protect me. Psalms 71:3
- iv) **My God** (Elohim: the God of gods, of creation and justice) : Not just a god, He is the God. I owe loyalty and worship to no other. Psalms 100:3
- v) In Him will I trust
 - (1) I make a willful decision to trust in Him. Psalms 56:3-4
 - (2) I say it out loud. "I trust the Lord."

3) Verses. 3-8. Surely

- a) Verse 3 gives the broad strokes:
 - i) Delivered from the snare of the fowler:
 - (1) The devil uses tricks to entice us: Eph 6:11/2 Cor 2:11
 - (2) When we dwell in the secret place, we see the bait and avoid the trap. (Col 4:2)
 - ii) and from the noisome pestilence: a plague.
- b) Verse 4 We can live under the protection of His wings, safe from unseen dangers that lurk and cast shadows of fear.
- c) Verse 5. Things we are not to fear:
 - i) The terror by night: We can sleep soundly: Ps 3:5/4:8/127:2
 - ii) The arrows in the day: Darts of the enemy: Ps 57:4-6 / 112:7-8
 - iii) Diseases that get worse at night. Often refers to the awful judgment of God: (Exo 12:29-30; 2Ki 19:35)
 - iv) The destruction that wastes in the noonday: Problems that just seem to keep getting larger. God's protection is 24/7
 - v) Verses 7-8. We are not terrified by the calamity of others.
 - (1) We can see the chaos around us without fearing it.
 - (2) **We are mobilized by compassion, not frozen in fear.**