

## MISPLACED FEAR

Harvest Missionary Baptist Church Sunday AM, March 19, 2006

### ❑ WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

- ◆ Personal safety is always a source of fear for many people
  - Growing up
    - Threat of nuclear war & a nuclear bomb
    - Polio
  - Then later
    - The war in Vietnam & being drafted
    - Always a fear of “hoods” & muggings
  - Today → Still a fear for personal safety but much more
    - The war in Iraq & fear draft will be reinstated
    - AIDS, Bird Flu, Cancer, MS, Autism, etc.
    - Tsunamis, Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Mud Slides, Forrest Fires, etc.
    - Terrorists, Gangs, Drug Crimes, Drunk Drivers

### ❑ PSALMS 91 **ONE THEME: DON'T BE AFRAID OF TROUBLES**

- ◆ We are under God's shadow
- ◆ God is our refuge & fortress → So we can trust God
- ◆ God will deliver us from the snares & pestilences
  - Two types of calamities that befall mankind
    - Snare → Deliberate acts to harm us
    - Pestilences → Seemingly indiscriminate acts of injury/death
- ◆ God covers us with His feathers → “Under His wings we can trust”
- ◆ God's truth is our shield and buckler
  - Shield → Deflects the enemies attacks
  - Buckler/Bulwark → Solid wall-like defensive structure
- ◆ No fear for night terrors or day arrows (Indiscriminate or Discriminate)
  - Terrorists, Gangs, Crime, Drunk Drivers, (60's) Nuclear Bombs
- ◆ No fear for diseases or disasters
  - Even though 10,000 around you are killed → You're spared
- ◆ You'll see the wicked being punished (Vs 8)
  - “It rains on just & unjust” (Mt 5:45) does not apply to this scenario
    - In Matthew, Jesus told us God's goodness to unjust is our example
- ◆ But no evil befalls you because He's given His angels responsibility for you
  - Remember Satan using this passage on Jesus in temptation
  - Jesus interpreted this for us by saying, “Don't tempt God”
    - Take reasonable precautions
    - But don't be afraid of things you do not control
- ◆ Why? → For two reasons (Cause & effect)
  - We made God our habitation (Vs 9)
  - God loves us (Vs 14)
- ◆ Benefits are:
  - Victory over our enemies

- Deliverance from our troubles
- Answers to our prayers
- Long, satisfying life

### ◆ **TWO POINTS OF CLARIFICATION:**

- We're talking about troubles, not trials
  - Difference is God's purpose
    - One is to punish
    - The other is to strengthen
- These benefits are in this life and are not automatic to all saved
  - Benefits to those abiding in God (making God our habitation)
    - **John 15:1-5 & 7 & 10**
    - Key to getting prayers answered
    - Equated with keeping God's commandments

### ❑ ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14 BE AFRAID OF GOD

- ◆ God will judge all of our works → Good & bad
- ◆ **Jeremiah 32:40** God puts His fear in the hearts of His people
  - **Psalms 36:1-4** By contrast, the wicked do not fear God
- ◆ So, being afraid of God is good!!! → Spiritually & physically healthy!!!
- ❑ **WE OFTEN GIVE INTO TEMPATION / WORLD W/MISPLACED FEAR**
  - ◆ Fearing troubles is a lack of faith → Not pleasing to God
    - Jesus (Matthew 6) → “Are you not much better than they?”
      - “Seek first kingdom of God & His righteousness”
    - Like Peter on water → Keep your eyes on Jesus
      - “O ye of little faith”
  - ◆ Not fearing God is a lack of understanding → Not pleasing to God
  - ◆ We only have so much capacity for managing our fears
    - Unfounded fear (in troubles) will destroy our bodies & our fruit
    - Instead, fear God & keep His commandments
      - This is the only question you will have to ask yourself
    - You won't have to fear troubles
    - This is a promise from God

### SONG # 234 – Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus