

Sermon ~ Sunday, July 19, 2020 by Pastor, D. Benoit

Text: Psalms 18: 2, 3

KJV ~ “**The LORD is my ROCK, and my FORTRESS, and my DELIVERER; my GOD, my STRENGTH, in WHOM I will trust; my BUCKLER, and The HORN of my Salvation, and my HIGH TOWER. I WILL CALL UPON The LORD, WHO is WORTHY to be praised: so shall I be saved from... mine enemies.**”

Title: “WHO Can You Trust, in Perilous Times?”

WHO? Sir Winston Churchill? Albert Einstein? Bill Cosby? Barack Hussein Obama? Donald J. Trump? Already your minds have formulated thoughts and opinions concerning these *names* mentioned, such as (I hear you thinking) ... that’s because a person’s *name* reflects far more, than mere identity.

The *name* suggests, *character* and *personality*, the sum of each, person’s being.

“WHO Can You Trust, in Perilous Times?”

Perilous times...

Not that we can forget... we bare the *scars, fears* and *wounds, that are still healing...* just a few years ago, Hurricane Harvey—a devastating Category 4 hurricane made landfall on Texas and Louisiana in August 2017... causing catastrophic flooding—deaths untold--\$125 Billion dollars’ worth of damages (remember, all of our Church-house facilities/properties, our communities, our families, neighborhoods, our Brothers who died of heart-attacks all stress related...

Perilous times...

Coronavirus Diseases 2020... Total cases to date, 3, 236, 130... Total Deaths, approximately 134,572... in Texas total case 250, 462... Across Jefferson County, the number of cases confirmed in nearly every City is rising faster than has been seen before. Beaumont, with nearly half of the population, accounts for about 75% of the 1,701 confirmed cases here so far. One out of every 100 Americans tested, test positive.

Perilous times...

For parents... due to the COVID-19 fears/frets it has brought on the Academic Educating of our Children, such as: the loss of inter-personal skills; the average parent, not educationally equip to assist with home-studies and the fears of unknown tutors; parents have to work, if there is work available; added Food expenses; the emotional toll/stresses; no physical activities other than the use of fingers, eyes and minds with ‘social-media devices’; no extra-curriculum like football/volleyball/basketball/band; what about Awards/Recognition/Scholarships/Graduations influencing and encouraging for their futures.

For Teachers... what if they get sick and bring home the virus to there families; what about Hazard pay; what if the teacher, the administrator, the cafeteria workers, janitor, crossing-guard, get sick with the Virus, they must quarantine, get tested, endure the sickness, but what about, sick leave time or other compensations—GOD forbid they die; what about the lack of Funding for adequate resources; what about Standardized Testing (STARRS); what about enough School-space for practicing distancing; what about Title 1 Funding (LSES—Low Socio-Economic Status) communities...

Who among us isn’t longing for safety? Trying everyday to make it? Ill health and physical discomforts? Relational stress and alienation? Financial tensions, that seem to have no end?

“WHO Can You Trust, in Perilous Times?”

From *The Voice of The CHURCH, The ROCK of AGES...* from *knees bent and bodies bound* positions, we *the saints*, hear the shouts from Heaven’s Table-land; from the burning *convicting experiences* and testimonies of ‘yesterday’ — ‘I know **The LORD did it!**

The LORD did for me! The LORD did it again! HE did for me and I know HE’LL do it for you!

In these *Perilous times*, between *prayer petitions* and *praises*, here **The WORD of GOD...**

“**The LORD is my ROCK, and my FORTRESS, and my DELIVERER; my GOD, my STRENGTH, in WHOM I will trust; my BUCKLER, and The HORN of my Salvation, and my HIGH TOWER. I WILL CALL UPON The LORD, WHO is WORTHY to be praised: so shall I be saved from... mine enemies.**”

If you don’t know **JESUS**, as your *personal LORD and SAVIOR; in times like these*, if you *need Salvation...* if you really *need* an **ANCHOR**, that holds and grip **The SOLID ROCK...** It’s comforting to know that **GOD is LORD over pandemics**, but more comforting to know, **HE’S not** some ‘superhero’ who shows up when *life’s villains* make their *occasional appearances*, but HE is here right now—that **GOD don’t take vacations during dark days**—you are crazy to think, you don’t need **The LORD**; telling yourself, “*I got this!*” Or, you don’t know that hymn, “**I need THEE, O LORD, I Need THEE! Every day and every hour, I Need THEE...**”

This Psalm starts with *Praise*, but it’s really a *Prayer...*

V. 1, “*I will love THEE, O LORD... GOD LOVES us! Will we Love HIM?*”

V. 2, **WHO is HE?** My **ROCK**—HE can’t be penetrated by any who will harm us!

My **FORTRESS**—My place of safety where the enemy can’t follow; My **BUCKLER or SHIELD**—that is between us and the *thief*, who comes but for to steal—that is *distract, kill*, that is rob me of **this JOY GOD** gave me, and to destroy, that is, tear up my relationships;

My **HORN of Salvation**—symbol of **MIGHT** and **POWER** unmatched; My **HIGH TOWER**—you can’t touch me, I’m too high and lifted up, that is, Secure/Protected in **HIM!**

V. 3, “*I will call upon The LORD*—that is ‘*trust HIM!*’... *stop waiting on HIM and Obey HIM!*” *Stop* calling on the Government, the County Judge, the Major... lack of appeal to **GOD** in trouble denotes a lack of *Faith/Trust* in **GOD!**

“**WHO is Worthy to be praised...**” **PRAISE HIM...**

We have this assurance in our Praise— “So shall I be saved from... **HE** surely died— “O death where is thy sting?” **HE** surely was buried— “O grave where is thy victory?”

Surely, HE is ALIVE—**GOD raise HIM** from the dead! You ask me how I know **HE Lives...**

“WHO Can You Trust, in Perilous Times?”

JESUS, JESUS, JESUS! JESUS, JESUS, JESUS! JESUS, JESUS, JESUS! JESUS, JESUS, JESUS!

My **DELIVERER: RESCURER, SAVIOR, HELPER!**

My **GOD: EL OLAM**—The Everlasting and Eternal **GOD**; **EL SHADDA**—**GOD ALMIGHTY**;

EL ELYON—**GOD MOST HIGH**; **JEHOVAH**—The **SELF-EXISTENT ONE**

JEHOVAH-JIRA—**GOD WHO Will Provide!!!**

“WHO Can You Trust, in Perilous Times?”

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