

Three things the righteous must do to escape the Covid-19 Pandemic

Sermon notes 03/29/20



In Psalm 11, God is asking a question to the righteous. What is the righteous to do in times when the foundations are destroyed? Right now we can see the foundations of the world's health care system collapsing and the economies of the worlds collapsing. Does the righteous know what to do? Do you know what to do.? Is there a way out? Is there a way of escape?

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Psalm 11:3

Let me show you where the world and many of the church are today.

1 When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. 2 Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. 3 Then the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field. 4 Say to him, "Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. 5 Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, 6 "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it." 7 Yet this is what the Sovereign Lord says : "It will not take place, it will not happen.

8 For the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.9 The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son. 9 If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."

Isaiah 7:1-9

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;

Hebrews 2:1-3

1. **Ahaz and his people were given a negative report**
2. **Their hearts were shaken as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind**
3. **Pay attention, Keep calm, Don't be afraid and Do not lose heart**
4. **This is what God says, It will not take place and it will not happen**
5. **If you do not stand firm in faith, you will not stand at all**

IF YOU DO NOT STAND FIRM IN FAITH, YOU WILL NOT STAND AT ALL

When you are in a crisis stop and listen. Keep calm! Too many are running here and there.

The world is in a crisis. Many in the church are in crisis.

This pandemic has shown a clear distinction between the strong church goers and the strong Word believers.

Church goers do not translate into strong believers.

What you neglect cannot help you

Who you neglect in crisis cannot help you

Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. 7 Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

Psalm 124: 6,7

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:36

You can see the term 'escape' in the Scriptures. We are asked a question from the Lord? When the foundations are destroyed what will you -the righteous- do?

Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. - Psalm 124:6

CONFESSION: GOD WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO ME TO BE A PREY TO THE TEETH OF COVID-19

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

Psalm 42:1

Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

Psalm 124:6, 7

LET'S SAY THIS TOGETHER, 'I WILL NOT BE A PREY TO COVID-19 AND I HAVE ESCAPED THE TEETH OF COVID-19

TO ESCAPE MEANS THAT YOU WILL NOT BE A PREY. IF THE WORD PREY IS USED THEN THERE IS A PREDATOR

I want to look at the deer that the Psalmist is referring to in Psalm 42 who knew how to escape the predator. The deer is symbolic of David or you as a person. The deer is panting for water.

A) FIRST THING TO NOTICE IS THE DEER IS RUNNING.

Why is it running? The deer is not just running because it is thirsty. Of course when the deer is thirsty it will run to the water pond. There is also another reason. A deer is a very delicate animal - although it is very fast but it realizes there is a predator. The deer has enemies. It is conscious that there is a predator and if it does not get away from the predator then it will end up being a prey. How do we connect this with the present situation that we find ourselves in today? As a child of God you must realize that you have an enemy, a predator and he is in hot pursuit of you. If you do not know how to escape the predator then you will be its prey. God forbid!

YOU MUST REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE AN ENEMY, A PREDATOR AND HE IS IN HOT PURSUIT OF YOU.

Who is the predator?

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1 Peter 5:8

The devil is the predator, the devourer and the killer. Jesus said, 'The thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy.' (John 10:10) What Peter is conveying to us is that the devil, the predator is on the prowl. Not only is he on the prowl but he is also hungry and he wants to devour. He is looking for food. The question we must answer is,

'What kind of food does the devil or predator eat?'

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Genesis 3:14

Now we know what kind of food the serpent will eat. It will eat dust all the days of its life! Now I am sure that like me you have seen many programs on television about nature and the serpent and they have never shown you a serpent eating dust for a meal. Whenever you saw a serpent eating, it was eating a rat, a goat or some animal. So what is the 'dust' business that the serpent will eat?

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7

Man's body was made and formed out of the dust of the ground. So when it says the serpent is going to eat dust all the days of its life it is saying it will be eating the bodies of people. Sadly to say, the Covid-19 has been eating bodies all over the world. Disease is the serpent eating people's bodies. We need to understand that! Sickness is not just because of the curse of the original sin, entropy and bad decisions but because the enemy is hungry.

B) SECOND THING TO NOTICE IS THE DEER IS RUNNING FOR WATER

Why is the deer running for water? I want you to be conscious that the deer is running for the water pond. There is a specific reason for that. It is not just because the deer is thirsty but because the deer knows that as long as he is on the ground, on the same playing field of the predator, he is no match for the predator. It does not matter how fast the deer is as long as it is on the same playing field, the predator will get its scent and it will be pursued, till it gets tired and give up.

No matter how fast or slick you are, how long will you fight or run from an invisible predator who is in hot pursuit after you. You don't know where the enemy is hiding and you cannot see his movements. So the deer knows what it has to do. Get away from the same playing field and look for another environment.

He goes for the WATER.

Why water? Because water causes the predator to lose the scent of the deer. The water makes the deer becomes invisible and odorless or unscented to the predator. How does that apply to our lives today?

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Ephesians 5:25, 26

THE WATER OF THE WORD CAUSES THE PREDATOR, SATAN TO LOSE YOUR SCENT SO THAT YOU CANNOT BE HIS PREY

The water of the Word is the secret place to abide in.

C) THIRD THING TO NOTICE IS THE DEER IS THE PHYSICAL BEING BUT DAVID SAYS 'MY SOUL LONGS FOR YOU.'

Why didn't the Psalmist say, 'So my body longs for you' but it says, 'My soul longs for you.'

The word soul in Christendom is a generic term for a person and souls represent people. However in the Scriptures, the word soul specifically refers to the mind, will and emotions. So in referring to the protecting of a body it talks following God with the mind, will and emotions. Why is that? Because it takes the harnessing and controlling of the mind, will and emotions during tough time to see you through to the miracle and breakthrough. Man is a tripartite being made up of spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23) Jesus told the disciples that they needed to possess their souls (mind, will and emotions) in their patience and this is done by what he revealed to the Philadelphian church,

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 3:10

THREE THINGS THE RIGHTEOUS NEEDS TO DO TO ESCAPE THE FOWLER CALLED COVID-19?

1 Affirm and reaffirm what you have learned. Don't neglect what you have learned.

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...

Hebrews 2:1-3

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 4:9

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:14, 15

Notice these words.

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard...How shall we escape if we neglect...

Allow me to affect your mind with these words.

- **How shall we escape sickness if we neglect the so great word of healing?**
- **How shall we escape poverty if we neglect the so great word of prosperity?**
- **How shall we escape fever if we neglect the so great word of faith?**
- **How shall we escape Covid-19 if we neglect the so great word of the Covenant?**
- **How shall we escape Covid-19 if we neglect Psalm 91?**

We cannot escape if we neglect! Neglect is dangerous! Neglect causes the predator to make us its prey. If we want to live in the realities of Psalm 124:5, 6 then we must activate the principle of Hebrews 2:1-3.

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...

Hebrews 2:1-3

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Psalm 124:6, 7

WE CANNOT ESCAPE IF WE NEGLECT

To break the snare of the Covid-19 predator/fowler and escape we must give more earnest heed to the things which we have heard and get a grounded understanding of these things. Here are seven things I want you to be grounded in, understand to the fullest to be operating in strong faith to break the snare of the fowler.

1. Understanding of the new creation
2. Understanding of the integrity of the Word of God
3. Understanding of righteousness
4. Understanding of the name of Jesus
5. Understanding of the blood of Jesus
6. Understanding of the authority of the believer wielded in prayer
7. Understanding of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

2) Pray - Engage intercession, supplication, petition, confession and imprecatory prayers

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:34-36

3) Choose the first voice to be voice of God in your life

Whatever voice you hear first will be the determining factor in your life.

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither: and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne

Revelation 4:1, 2

The moment Eve listened to the serpent, the voice of God and the voice of Adam did not matter. Focus on the voice of God. Whatever you focus on decides what has power over you

Is the first voice that you hear in the morning the voice of faith or the voice of fear? Is the first voice that you hear in the morning the voice of victory or the voice of the virus?

1. **His voice is your access to your victory**
2. **His voice corrects your focus and direction**

WHATEVER YOU FOCUS ON DECIDES WHAT HAS POWER OVER YOU

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