

Fall Missions Festival *Sermon: Refuge to Us, Refuge to All*
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Bible text explored: Psalm 46

- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- ³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*
- ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
- ⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*
- ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
- ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
- ¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
- ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah* [ESV]

Dr. Sills also drew extensively from Psalm 91.

Review and application:

1. Times of trouble are depicted here (vv. 1-3, above) as earthquakes and floods. How are these natural disasters affecting us today?
But these images must also be a metaphor for threatening man-made forces or circumstances. What are some of these?
(Turn also to Psalm 91:3-6.)
2. Do we see God as always ready to help us in times of trouble?
If so, why should “therefore we will not fear” be our logical response?
But is this our instinctive response?
3. Dr. Sills defined trust as not being afraid even when we are vulnerable. He quoted John Calvin as saying, “Giving way to fear is an affront to God.” With nations in chaos and kingdoms crumbling, are we learning (vv. 4-6, above) to rely on God to provide any deliverance essential to our well-being?

4. While God's deliverance is never late, Dr. Sills wryly noted (citing Peter's deliverance in Acts 12:1-11) that it is seldom early. Do we really rely (*vv. 7-9, above*) on the protection of the Lord of Heaven's Armies? (Turn also to Psalm 91:7-8.)
5. The key to overcoming worry is found in *verse 10a, above*. Realize, Dr. Sills said, that "there is a God, and you are not him!" How well are we doing at resting in his ability to resolve our apparently intractable predicaments?
6. "You never know God is all you need," Dr. Sills asserted, "until you have nothing else." What accounts for unprecedented response to the gospel by refugees on the Greek transit island of Levos after fire demolished most of their camp? Why should evangelical Christians be in the forefront of modeling compassion to refugees both here and abroad? And as for us, how can we go beyond turning to God for shelter in times of crisis to making him our day-to-day dwelling place? (Turn to Psalm 91:9-10.)
7. To whom does God intend (*v. 10b, above*) to extend his kingdom?
Whose name (*i.e., character*) must the nations trust?
When they call on him, what will he do?
(Turn to Psalm 91:15-16.)
8. Dr. Sills noted that the gospel is only good news if it arrives in time. Why does that mean that every Christian needs to be either a goer or a sender? (See Romans 10:14-15.)