

WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?

Text: Psalm 11:2-3

INTRO: As far back as David's time, & far beyond, just as now, the devil & those who do his bidding are constantly warring against those who strive to be "upright in heart." This psalm is that to have been written during the time Saul was seeking to kill David. Saul's wickedness & rebellion were eating away at the foundations of that ancient society. What could the righteous do?

I. WE FACE PROBLEMS THAT ARE SIMILAR IN MANY WAYS.

- A. Marriage failures, soaring divorce rates-homosexual unions
- B. General disrespect for authority in the home, in the class room, in government, etc.

C. Breakdown in religion, loss of respect for the Bible, etc.

II. WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO? Any person can do only one of two things: be a part of the problem or a part of the solution.

A. He can be a part of the problem...

1. By becoming bad. We can wreck our own homes, disobey civil laws, cause unrest in the church, violate the trust of our friends, etc. Solomon, Judas, Demas.

2. But there is a far more subtle way of becoming part of the problem--by doing nothing.

"Curse Meroz," said the angel of the Lord.

"Curse its inhabitants bitterly, because they did not come to the help of the Lord... against the mighty." (Judg 5:23).

[To Edom:] In the day that you stood on the other side--in the day that strangers carried captive [Judah's] forces, when foreigners entered his gates & cast lots for Jerusalem--even you were as one of them. (Obad 11).

Edmund Burke: All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

Matt. 12:30

B. On the other hand, we can be a part of the solution. This is what the righteous person must choose.

1. Take a firm stand for what is right. You won't influence everybody but you'll influence somebody

2. DO what is right--set a good example. Show others how to live acceptably in God's sight.

III. WHY SHOULD WE ACTIVELY WORK TOWARD SOLVING THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE MENTIONED?

A. Negative:

1. Not because that is the easy course. It was not easy for Jesus to be crucified. It was not easy for Paul to take the gospel into uncharted territory and present it to hostile audiences.

2. Not because the results will always be everything we had hoped. We have no assurance of winning every battle. Dan. 3:17-18

3. Not because that is the popular course. It seldom is. As Jesus stood before Pilate, the popular thing to do was to stand back & yell "Crucify Him."

B. Positive.

1. We are needed.

The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

(MATT. 9:37-38).

2. It is the right thing to do. There is no other course you can take & be right.
3. It will put you in the best company in the world--& in fellowship with God.
4. Inevitably, success is assured. The truth may not win every battle. Dark clouds may sometimes gather--but truth will win the war. Matt. 24:35.

CONCLUSION: Psalm 11:7, NASB

La Porte, TX, December 18, 1983

Exton, PA, October 6, 1985

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 13, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 26, 2004