

Wednesday, July 17, 2013
Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist, Chicago

TOPIC: What it's like to have God as our fortress?

HYMNS 100 293 440

The Bible New Living Bible

Ps 71

1 O LORD, you are my refuge;

2 Rescue me! Save me from my enemies, for you are just. Turn your ear to listen and set me free.

3 Be to me a protecting rock of safety, where I am always welcome. Give the order to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Is 29

5 Suddenly, your ruthless enemies will be driven away like chaff before the wind.

6 In an instant, I, the LORD Almighty, will come against them with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and storm and consuming fire.

7 All the nations fighting against Jerusalem will vanish like a dream! Those who are attacking her walls will vanish like a vision in the night.

Is 30

29 But the people of God will sing a song of joy, like the songs at the holy festivals. You will be filled with joy, as when a flutist leads a group of pilgrims to Jerusalem -- the mountain of the LORD -- to the Rock of Israel.

30 And the LORD will make his majestic voice heard.

Ex 15

1 ...Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;

2 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my victory. He is my God, and I will praise him; he is my father's God, and I will exalt him!

6 "Your right hand, O LORD, is glorious in power. Your right hand, O LORD, dashes the enemy to pieces.

7 In the greatness of your majesty, you overthrew those who rose against you.

9 "The enemy said, 'I will chase them, catch up with them, and destroy them. I will divide the plunder, avenging myself against them. I will unsheath my sword; my power will destroy them.'

10 But with a blast of your breath, the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

11 "Who else among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is glorious in holiness like you -- so awesome in splendor, performing such wonders?

13 "With unfailing love you will lead this people whom you have ransomed. You will guide them in your strength to the place where your holiness dwells.

17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

18 The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

II Samuel 22

1 David sang this song to the LORD after the LORD had rescued him from all his enemies and from Saul.

2 These are the words he sang: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior;

3 my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the strength of my salvation, and my stronghold, my high tower, my savior, the one who saves me from violence.

4 I will call on the LORD, who is worthy of praise, for he saves me from my enemies.

5 "The waves of death surrounded me; the floods of destruction swept over me.

6 The grave wrapped its ropes around me; death itself stared me in the face.

7 But in my distress I cried out to the LORD; yes, I called to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry reached his ears.

18 He delivered me from my powerful enemies, from those who hated me and were too strong for me.

19 They attacked me at a moment when I was weakest, but the LORD upheld me.

20 He led me to a place of safety; he rescued me because he delights in me.

25 The LORD rewarded me for doing right, because of my innocence in his sight.

26 "To the faithful you show yourself faithful; to those with integrity you show integrity.

27 To the pure you show yourself pure...

31"As for God, his way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

32For who is God except the LORD? Who but our God is a solid rock?

33God is my strong fortress; he has made my way safe.

34He makes me as surefooted as a deer, leading me safely along the mountain heights.

36You have given me the shield of your salvation; your help has made me great.

37You have made a wide path for my feet to keep them from slipping.

40You have armed me with strength for the battle; you have subdued my enemies under my feet.

41You made them turn and run;

44"You gave me victory over my accusers.

49You hold me safe beyond the reach of my enemies; you save me from violent opponents.

50For this, O LORD, I will praise you among the nations; I will sing joyfully to your name.

Ps 91

1Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

2This I declare of the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I am trusting him.

SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES

By Mary Baker Eddy

SH 387:27-32

The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs of the supporting influence and protecting power bestowed on man by his heavenly Father, omnipotent Mind, who gives man faith and understanding whereby to defend himself, not only from temptation, but from bodily suffering.

SH 518:13-15

God gives the lesser idea of Himself for a link to the greater, and in return, the higher always protects the lower.

SH 201:7-9

We cannot build safely on false foundations. Truth makes a new creature, in whom old things pass away and "all things are become new."

SH 92:26-9, (np) SH 9315-17, 18-20

The foundation of evil is laid on a belief in something besides God. This belief tends to support two opposite powers, instead of urging the claims of Truth alone. The mistake of thinking that error can be real, when it is merely the absence of truth, leads to belief in the superiority of error.

Do you say the time has not yet come in which to recognize Soul as substantial and able to control the body? Remember Jesus, who nearly nineteen centuries ago demonstrated the power of Spirit and said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also," and who also said, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth." "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," said Paul.

Good does not create a mind susceptible of causing evil, for evil is the opposing error and not the truth of creation. Whatever contradicts the real nature of the divine *Esse*, though human faith may clothe it with angelic vestments, is without foundation.

SH 285:1-31

Matter is not sentient and cannot be cognizant of good or of evil, of pleasure or of pain. Man's individuality is not material. This Science of being obtains not alone hereafter in what men call Paradise, but here and now; it is the great fact of being for time and eternity. What, then, is the material personality which suffers, sins, and dies? It is not man, the image and likeness of God, , but man's counterfeit, the inverted likeness, the *unlikeness* called sin, sickness, and death. The unreality of the claim that a mortal is the true image of God is illustrated by the opposite natures of Spirit and matter, Mind and body, for one is intelligence while the other is non-intelligence.

Is God a physical personality? Spirit is not physical. The belief that a material body is man is a false conception of man. The time has come for a finite conception of the infinite and of a material body as the seat of Mind to give place to a diviner sense of intelligence and its manifestations, —to the better understanding that Science gives of the Supreme Being, or divine Principle, and idea. By interpreting God as a corporeal Saviour but not as the saving Principle, or divine Love, we shall continue to seek salvation through pardon and not through reform, and resort to matter instead of Spirit for the cure of the sick. As mortals reach, through knowledge of Christian Science, a higher sense, they will seek to learn, not from matter, but from the divine Principle, God, how to demonstrate the

Christ, Truth, as the healing and saving power.

SH 231:20-29

To hold yourself superior to sin, because God made you superior to it and governs man, is true wisdom. To fear sin is to misunderstand the power of Love and the divine Science of being in man's relation to God, — to doubt His government and distrust His omnipotent care. To hold yourself superior to sickness and death is equally wise, and is in accordance with divine Science. To fear them is impossible, when you fully apprehend God and know that they are no part of His creation.

SH 11:22-32

We know that a desire for holiness is requisite in order to gain holiness; but if we desire holiness above all else, we shall sacrifice everything for it. We must be willing to do this, that we may walk securely in the only practical road to holiness. Prayer cannot change the unalterable Truth, nor can prayer alone give us an understanding of Truth; but prayer, coupled with a fervent habitual desire to know and do the will of God, will bring us into all Truth. Such a desire has little need of audible expression.

SH 232:3-8

Many theories relative to God and man neither make man harmonious nor God lovable. The beliefs we commonly entertain about happiness and life afford no scatheless and permanent evidence of either. Security for the claims of harmonious and eternal being is found only in divine Science.

SH 414:26-31

Keep in mind the verity of being, — that man is the image and likeness of God, in whom all being is painless and permanent. Remember that man's perfection is real and unimpeachable, whereas imperfection is blameworthy, unreal, and is not brought about by divine Love.

SH 454:4-9, 11-13

Teach your students the omnipotence of Truth, which illustrates the impotence of error. The understanding, even in a degree, of the divine All-power destroys fear, and plants the feet in the true path,— the path which leads to the house built without hands "eternal in the heavens." That evil or matter has neither intelligence nor power, is the doctrine of absolute Christian Science, and this is the great truth which strips all disguise from error.

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