

Sermon Notes – June 4, 2015, Pastor Alan Smith

“The Rock”

As they were digging the foundation for my grandfather’s house, they struck rock. This rock was a big piece of slate. They had a choice to use dynamite to break up the slate or build the foundation on top of the piece of slate. My grandfather decided to build on top of the rock because it would give a solid foundation. Our bodies are said to be the temple of God. In other words, the Holy Spirit lives in those of us that have accepted Jesus as their savior. The question I have this morning is what is our house built on?

Jesus teaches this during the Sermon on the Mount.

Mt 7:24–27 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

In this teaching we see that through the hearing and doing of God’s word, we build a firm foundation.

I want us to look at the title of our scripture this morning. It is a song to be sung on the Sabbath Day. These words that the psalmist wrote were for public worship. In the first three verses, we see the praises of God for His unending love and faithfulness. God is eternally consistent in loving us. These verses also tell us that when we worship, we need to worship with different instruments.

There is a joy in our worship of God!

4. You thrill me, LORD, with all you have done for me! I sing for joy because of what you have done.

God thrilled the Psalmist because of the things God has done. The Psalmist also recognized the great works and deep thoughts of God. He also knew that only the foolish would not understand.

5 O LORD, what great works you do! And how deep are your thoughts. 6 Only a simpleton would not know, and only a fool would not understand this: 7 Though the wicked sprout like weeds and evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed forever. 8 But you, O LORD, will be exalted forever. 9 Your enemies, LORD, will surely perish; all evildoers will be scattered.

Remember what Jesus said in Matthew, that everyone that hears and does His word is like the wise builder? The word says that evildoers are short-lived. In our world today there seems to be many evildoers; Many enemies of God. People say we don't want God in our schools or in the public eye at all. There are groups in the world persecuting Christians by putting them in jail or even killing them. In the U.S., Christian companies are being sued and fined for standing on their Biblical principles, some even being forced to go to sensitivity training. How do we continue to stand firm in a world of shifting ideals? How do we stay strong?

We stay strong through having God as our foundation.

10 But you have made me as strong as a wild ox. You have anointed me with the finest oil. 11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the defeat of my wicked opponents. 12 But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. 13 For they are transplanted to the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. 14 Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green.

We see the Psalmist knew where his strength came from. Do we understand where we can stay strong in today's shifting sand? One way to stand on that firm foundation is to stay in God's house. We see in verses 12 & 13 that the Godly will flourish. The Godly are transplanted in the Lord's house. They flourish in God's courts. The Godly flourish because they stay connected to God. They put their trust in God.

15 They will declare, "The LORD is just! He is my rock! There is no evil in him!"

Do we declare that God is our rock? We are blessed if we take refuge in Him.

Psalm 34:8 Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

When life strikes hard we need to know to take refuge in God. If we don't then we will depend on what the world offers. We will be like the foolish builder that built his house on the sand. The storms came and his house crashed. Our lives are like that. When we trust the principles of the world, we stand on shaky shifting ground. We shouldn't wait until we have hardships in our lives before we turn to Him. Now is the time to turn to Him. Now is the time to build on the solid rock!

When we build our lives on the solid rock, it is an adventure that you never will regret.

Isaiah 40:31: 31 But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.