

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

October 28-29, 2017

INTRODUCTION: October 31, 1517

Psalm 46:1 (All Verses from the New International Version 1984)
God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Good News: God is...

- Psalm 46:1 ***God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.***
- Psalm 46:2a ***Therefore we will not fear...***

Bad News: Life will bring storms and reasons to fear.

- Psalm 46:2b-3 ***2b ...Though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah***

Scripture Alone: Knowledge of who God is and what God desires for our lives comes to us through Scripture and Scripture alone.

Grace Alone: Only by God's grace are we reconciled to God. Nothing we do can earn God's favor.

Faith Alone: Only trusting in Jesus puts us right with God.

The Most Important Question: Who's your God?

- Psalm 46:4-5 ⁴ ***There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.***
- Psalm 46:6-7 ⁶ ***Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah***

The Art of Stillness I: Don't let current storms blind you to God's grace in this moment (past, present, and future).

- Psalm 46:8-9 ⁸ ***Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.***

The Art of Stillness II: Trust God in the storm.

- Psalm 46:10-11 ¹⁰ ***"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*** ¹¹ ***The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah***

CONCLUSION: My Favorite Luther Quote

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.

Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

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This week's G.P.S. invites you to pray through the five "clues" questions discussed in the message, asking God to reveal the mystery He wants us to know – His will being done in our lives.

Day 1: Read *Psalm 46:1-2a*. How do you complete the sentence: God is ...? Luther moved from a God he feared and at times even hated, to a God he trusted, loved, and followed. How has this concept of Luther's changed, revised, and grown over the last 5-10 years?

Day 2: Read *Psalm 46:2b-3*. The Good News in Psalm 46 is that "God is our refuge". The Bad News: Life will bring storms. What storms have you been through or are going through? How has God been your refuge?

Day 3: Read *Psalm 46:4-5*. When tough times come, when life shakes you to the core, are you with God or without God? Where do you need to remind yourself that God is with you and He is your solid foundation?

Day 4: Read *Psalm 46:6-7*. Dave Dravecky wrote, “*In America, Christians pray for the burden of suffering to be lifted from their backs. In the rest of the world, Christians pray for stronger backs so they can bear their suffering.*” Where do you need to pray for a stronger back? Who can you pray for who needs a stronger back?

Day 5: Read *Psalm 46:8-9*. When everything was shaking in his life, Luther discovered God remains unshaken. Why? He didn’t let “life storms” in the moment blind Him to God’s grace for all His moments. Where have current storms blinded you in the past? Where has God’s grace given you the power to get through those storms?

Day 6: Read *Psalm 46:10-11*. How does the psalmist advise to “trust God in the storm”? When is your “*be still*” time with God? (“*Be still*” means to cease striving! And yes, GPS time counts!)

Going Deeper:

Book: *Here I Stand* by Roland Blanton (classic book)

Book: *Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World* by Eric Metaxas (October 2017)

Movie: *Luther* (2003)

Next Week: Matthew 6:13b **Family Prayer: Deliver Us from Evil: Protect Us from All that Pulls Us Away from You**