

"FACING THE CHALLENGES AHEAD"

The invariable changes in the world that are rippling through churches is daunting. What we once thought Christianity should be is being replaced by ever changing personal self-willed ethics. It leaves us bewildered as we look for a place of refuge in world with crumbling foundations. Sometimes I think I have the answer. Simply go back to the good old days when things were much simpler. Simply roll the clock backward. Yet, I realize, we must face the challenges head on. The psalmist is asked a question in Psalms 11:3, "**When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?**" This question comes out of despair.

"WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?"**"TRUST IN THE LORD"**

Proverbs 3:5-6- "**Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.**"

"DO NOT COMPROMISE THE FAITH"

Hebrews 10:38 – "**Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My shall have no pleasure in him.**"

"ABIDE IN HIM"

(Psalm 18:2) "**The LORD is my Rock, my Fortress and my Deliverer; my God is my Rock, in Whom I take refuge, my Shield and the Horn of my Salvation, my Stronghold.**"

"BE A OVERCOMER"

Our sojourn on earth isn't any different than the faithful long ago. We are no different than Abraham's people facing the dangers of the nomadic desert ranges. Our lives are caught up in a world's foundation that seems to be crumbling all around us. If it isn't the political chaos, it is economic pandemonium. The axis of world powers is in a state of upheaval. The social structure seems to be disappearing. The family unit is being challenged to the core with man made laws that go against the very essence of God's laws. To whom or to what shall we turn? Should we seek to flee the troubles we face? In First Samuel we find an answer. 1 Samuel 2:8-9 "**For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; upon them He has set the world. He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness.**" The Lord gave us a sound, yet simple theology to live by no matter how bad things get. (Revelation 12:11) "**And they overcame him because of the Blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.**" We are now entering uncharted waters and we need Jesus as our navigator to guide us safely through the storms ahead.



1 Samuel 3:1-3 – "**Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"**"

God's Word was precious in those days was because there was no open vision. In other words, there was no one preaching the Word, there was no fresh revelation, and there was no prophet of God speaking to the people of God. Due to Israel's spiritual decline, God used Hannah to birth a new and fresh messenger, the prophet Samuel. Unfortunately there is a famine of God's Word in our Nation today and it is a two-fold tragedy.

"GENERATIONS WITHOUT GOD"

1) We have generations of children who grew up with no knowledge of God's Holy Word (unchurched). (Hosea 4:6) "**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.**" Teenagers rebel not only against their parents today but against authority itself. Parents are at a lost today because like their children they were raised without knowledge of God's Word. Without God's Word there is no (LIGHT, TRUTH, DIRECTION, SALVATION, WISDOM, FAITH, UNDERSTANDING, KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND DISCIPLINE). Society has been left to raise the last few generations in a spiritual vacuum. (Void of God)

"A LOSS OF SPIRITUAL SIGHT"

2) Our Society has forsaken God and His Word. It appears no one fears God anymore. When the Light of Christ has been removed from any Nation then darkness will flood the gateways of that nation. (John 8:12) "**Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I Am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the Light of life."** The Bible says that Eli's eyes began to wax dim so that he could not see. Once the light of God's Holy Word goes out, men will undoubtedly loose their spiritual sight. Once spiritual blindness has taken over a nation and its leadership, men will fall into chaos and judgment. When the light of Jesus Christ goes out people will also depart from the faith. (This has happened throughout the history of God's people.)