

**Text: Psalm 11:1-7**

**Title: “Homeland Security”**

**VIDEO ILLUSTRATION** – Over the past year there has been a fascinating, and yet heartbreaking story developing down on Lake Whitney, just about an hour south of us. Several years ago some absolutely beautiful homes were built on a high cliff overlooking the lake. However, a year ago a large crack developed near the edge of the cliff ... a crack that ran right under the foundation of one home, causing the owners to have to move out. As the cliff crumbled parts of the beautiful house began to fall into the lake far below. Soon they had to deliberately set the house on fire before the whole thing fell into the lake. Now another home is threatened by the same crack. Here’s the news story. [SHOW VIDEO](#).

Today as I conclude this series called “Home/Hope” I couldn’t help but think that that story is a powerful illustration of what we are facing today here in our nation. The Supreme Court’s ruling legalizing gay marriage in all states is the latest reminder that the moral foundation of our nation is being destroyed and we are left wondering what are we to do, how are we to respond, and how should we protect our families. Well, we are not the first ones to face such a dilemma. Open your Bibles to Psalm 11. David composed this song at a dreadful time in his nation’s history, as well as in his own personal life. It may have taken place when David’s own son Absalom led a rebellion to remove David as king of Israel ... a rebellion that threatened to destroy the nation. So it’s during this dangerous, devastating period in his life that David wrote Psalm 11. Let’s read it.

While the Supreme Court’s ruling wasn’t a total surprise to many of us, it’s still a dreadful day in the life of our nation and for the institution of marriage. Marriage between a man and a woman was the first institution established by God in Creation. For thousands of years it has been defined as such. The very straightforward meaning of the Bible teaches us that marriage is designed by God exclusively for a man and a woman. This is integral to the message of the Gospel where the marriage relationship displays the love relationship between Christ and His bride the Church. So now the foundation of the sanctity of marriage in our nation’s laws is being destroyed. And along with that we see the very evident erosion of the basic right of religious liberty to where we as Christians may be threatened if we speak out against such things as gay marriage. So we find ourselves asking the question of ...

**Psalm 11:3 - When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?”**

Well I can tell you what we will *not* do. We will not be silenced. We will continue to hold up God’s enduring standard for the marriage relationship. Whatever the cost we will not abandon the truth of God’s Word. Having said that we are taking steps to protect our church in this climate where we could be sued for not sanctioning or conducting a gay marriage ceremony. But we will continue to be unmoved in our conviction of the truth and sufficiency of God’s Word in this matter.

**Psalm 11:3 - When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?”**

That question was asked by David's friends. The foundations spoken of here are the firm footing of truth and right, of law and justice. The security of the nation was threatened. Homeland security was in danger. Everyone feared that the nation would crumble. And the wickedness was so strong and the future was so gloomy that some of David's friends advised him that all hope was lost ... that there was nothing he could do. And we understand that feeling, don't we?

This is personal for David. His friends remind him that powerfully wicked people are after David and the people of God...

**Psalm 11:2 - For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.**

In the moral climate of our land today we may feel like targets are being placed on our backs as followers of Jesus, and on our homes. We feel like that everything is against us. But we have to be careful. Times like this reveal what we know and believe about God. They reveal much about our confidence in God. So what are the righteous to do? We are to...

## **1. TRUST IN GOD**

**... KEEPS US FROM BEING FEARFUL.**

**Psalm 11:1 - In the LORD I take refuge. How then can you say to me: "Flee like a bird to your mountain.**

David's friends were counseling him to fly away and escape the danger. And that's a very real temptation for us as the people of God when the forces of evil are fierce. We're tempted to just pull into a shell and hide. But David had already established one certain truth in his life ... "In the Lord I take refuge."

To take refuge in the Lord is to literally trust in the Lord. The only proper place for us to flee is to the throne of God in prayer. The source of our courage in perilous times is the Lord God. He is trustworthy; He is a strong and safe refuge.

**Psalm 91:1-2 - He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."**

**Psalm 118:8-9 - It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.**

This is not a time for us to be fearful. We must continue to hold up and hold to the truth of God's Word. We are right in this, no matter what the majority of Americans believe or what the

Supreme Court decided. We do not have to be fearful. We can courageously live our lives on the truth.

Note: We are in the midst of a sexual revolution in our nation. I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that in the years to come I believe we will see refugees fleeing the atrocities of sexual perversion that will destroy families. As we continue to boldly live out the truth and the Gospel in our marriages we will be a lighthouse for those refugees.

So as we trust in God it keeps us from being fearful. But exactly what is that we trust about God. Well we...

## **2. TRUST IN THE RULE OF GOD**

**... KEEPS US FROM BEING HOPELESS.**

**Psalm 11:4a - The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne.**

David's skeptical, fearful friends are saying, "There is no hope. The foundations are being destroyed. There's nothing we can do. Everything is out of control." And that leads them to their hopeless conclusion, "When the foundations are being destroyed what can the righteous do?"

Listen, the Supreme Court of the United States is not the Supreme Court of the Universe. The Lord is in His holy temple; He is seated on His heavenly throne. God is in control, no matter how out-of-control things may seem. Nothing happens that God hasn't performed or permitted. It's all in His hands. And He will work all these things according to His glorious purposes.

Church, it is no accident that we live here in the United States of America in this day. It is no coincidence that we happen to be saved in this era. It is no accident that we are on duty in this hour. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is still the greatest hope for man. As tragic as this ruling is, it's not what people believe about marriage that makes the difference for their eternity ... it is what they believe about Jesus Christ. The Gospel is still true ... John 3:16 is still true ... "whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" is still true! God is still on His throne. And there's still hope in Jesus.

So we trust in God ... in the rule of God, but also we...

## **3. TRUST IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

**... KEEPS US FROM BEING PRIDEFUL.**

You see, God knows. He's got His eye on everything and everyone.

**Psalm 11:4b - He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them.**

What people think, do or say even in the shadows is known by God. The picture here is of God contracting is eyelids like one who is examining something closely. He sees and He knows!

God sees my sin and your sin. He sees the sin of sexual immorality in society, but He also sees the lust or bitterness in our hearts. The Bible says there is none righteous, not one. The question is do we hate our own sin as much as we hate other people's sin. We must be humble.

But God deals with us as believers ("the righteous") differently than He deals with the wicked.

**Psalm 11:5 - The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates.**

When it says that God "examines the righteous" it's the same verb used in v. 4 but it has a little different meaning here. It means "to examine in order to approve." It's the process of God testing and purifying and perfecting His people. He loves us like a Father who disciplines His children. One of the things that God will do in these difficult days is that He will purify us as individual believers and He will purify the Church. These are times of testing that will reveal true believers.

**2 Chronicles 16:9a - For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.**

But God is also well aware of the wicked and what they are doing. He sets Himself against all who choose wickedness and violence in opposition to His will. He hates sin ... but He hates all sin. So we are not to be arrogant or prideful because there's something else we trust about God. We...

#### **4. TRUST IN THE JUSTICE OF GOD**

**... KEEPS US FROM BEING HATEFUL.**

God will ultimately do the judging. That's not our job. The worst thing we can do today is to be hateful toward anyone. One of the slogans of gay marriage advocates after the Supreme Court ruling is "Love Wins." And you know what, they are right, but not in the way they think they are. The kind of "love" they are talking about can only lead to disaster. But the love of Jesus Christ displayed through believers is what will ultimately win. Not matter what happens we must always show love.

That allows us to leave all justice and all judging in God's hands.

**Psalm 11:6 - On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot.**

David is not taking matters into his own hands. He is confident that God will take matters into His hand and do the just and right thing. And God will. The raining of fiery coals, burning sulfur and scorching wind paints a picture a volcanic eruption of God's wrath against evil. Remember how God dealt with Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis. God will have the final word one day.

And may I say that we are only shielded from this by the redemption of Jesus Christ. The Bible says that all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And the wages of sin is this death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. And that is only by the grace and mercy of God that we are spared the judgment of God. And we must leave judgment in the hands of God.

In these days we need to heed the counsel of Romans 12:

**Romans 12:17 - Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.**

**Romans 12:18 - If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**

**Romans 12:19 - Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.**

**Romans 12:21 - Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

We must love justice and leave justice in the hands of God.

Then there's this final word of hope.

**Psalm 11:7 - For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.**

To see God's face is to experience the Lord's favor. It means to have access to His presence and to experience his grace. And the only way we can be upright ... to come into the presence of God ... to see His face ... is to be made new through the blood of Jesus Christ.

What are the righteous to do when the foundations are being destroyed? We are not to be fearful or hopeless or prideful or hateful. We trust in God ... in God's rule, in God's knowledge and in God's ultimate justice.

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our foundation. He will not be moved; and we must not be moved.