

VOTC.4

Psalm 10

Text: Psalm 10: 16-18.

One of the great struggles of mankind is to find a society where there is true justice. Even if the highest level of government is filled with a good man, injustice will still exist. There are always those men who are undermining justice.

We have a description of the wicked man in Ps. 10. The wicked man hotly pursues the poor. He boasts in the desires of his own soul; that means that he boasts in drunkenness, sexual conquest, and other perversities. He is full of cursing and deceit and oppression. Under his tongue are mischief and iniquity. We might say that we read mischief and iniquity in between the lines that he is saying. The problem is that these people flourish. They flourish in our own country as well, though they have to do a good job of hiding their cruel ambitions.

The author of this Psalm, David, was king over Israel. He was largely a good king. Even under his reign, these type of men flourished. Think about it. It takes hard work and patience to develop yourself through honest means. We are deeply blessed in Canada where that hard work and patience is still rewarded. The evil man uses lies and dishonest means to get ahead. He doesn't mind ripping off somebody who is powerless. And so he ends up doing well. David prays in this Psalm that such men may receive their due reward. Even as king, he is not able to ensure that every injustice is answered. He is also a man.

He trusts that God will give the wicked their reward because he knows that God is the king who reigns forever and ever. On the other hand, nations perish. Nations don't last. When you think of mighty nations, you probably think of the United States. Today it has the most power. You don't think of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. Those were the mighty nations of the past. They are gone. God is still king.

And we may cry to him for justice. God promises that he will listen. If we recognize our mortality and our sin, he will hear our desire. The Psalm says, "he hears the desires of the afflicted." Now, that doesn't mean that God is going to bring justice tomorrow. God is patient. He even looks for repentance from the wicked men that are described in this Psalm.

If you have received injustice, if you are afflicted, look to God. He promises that at his coming he will judge the nations. Of course, this means that you are going to have to deal with your own sin and your own wickedness. God has given you what you need to deal with that on the cross of Jesus Christ. By looking to him, you may crucify your sin on his cross. There is still a lot of injustice out there that needs to be dealt with.

God promises that if you wait on him, he will strengthen your heart. He promises that even now he is working to overcome injustice in our land. He also promises that there will come a time, when he will raise you from the dead and you will be part of a kingdom where there is no injustice. This is a kingdom where those who are of the earth may strike terror no more.

Now this phrase “men who are of the earth,” is a very interesting phrase. It reveals something about the nature of the wicked who find success.

The phrase demonstrates where they find the strength for their success. They do not look to God and the Holy Spirit for their success. Rather they look to their strength and their stability for their success. They are of the earth rather than of heaven. This is in contrast to those who look to God for their strength. They find their strength in heavenly things.

This phrase also points to what people are made of. We are of the earth. God tells Adam “dust you are and to dust you shall return.” God made Adam of the dust. In Hebrew, the word ground is “adamah.” Adam is from the “adamah.” The Psalmist unveils the true nature of men. Without God they are nothing. They are mere dirt, mere men. God will ensure that these dirtbags will no longer strike terror in the hearts of those who are afflicted.

God has established the beginnings of the just society on this earth; the church. The church is God’s new creation. You may be surprised by that when you consider all the wicked things that have happened in the church. The church is made up of people who continue to struggle with sin. There are also hypocrites in the church. This is unavoidable since the men who rule in the church cannot examine people’s hearts. God is working in this society by his Spirit so that his church will be transformed into the just society that he desires.

However, if you find a church where the Bible is treated as teaching from the mouth of God and where the pastor carefully explains the Bible every week, I encourage you to seek to join that church. These people are given to you, with all their faults, to strengthen you as you wait on God. There you will find a little taste of what God’s just society looks like. It will not be perfect by any means, but it will be a beginning. That is a community where you can live in the hope of the fullness of God’s justice. In that fullness, men who are of the earth will strike terror no more.