

WILL THE LORD FORSAKE?

Today's encouragement: Psalm 94 declares "*The LORD Will Not Forsake His People,*" which is also a theme of this prayer. The psalmist presents five aspects of trusting God amidst difficult circumstances. We have plenty of trouble. Of major concern of every right-thinking citizen is a litigated election, due to massive vote fraud. God's people long for His justice.

Also in November, many churches observe an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, International Orphan Sunday, International Adoption Month, Operation Christmas Child, and many other opportunities to make a difference. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Silence in the face of evil is evil itself." We must pray, and we must act. Make Psalm 94 your prayer.

1- Rise up, O Judge! - The psalmist cries out in distress, "*O LORD, God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, shine forth! Rise up, O judge of the earth; repay to the proud what they deserve!*" For all the injustice and oppression that we see, only God knows all things. Only God is holy. Only He can take truly righteous action. We implore Him to do so, and glorify His name.

Meanwhile, "*O LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult? They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast. They crush Your people, O LORD, and afflict Your heritage.*" Those who wrest power to wield control aim to stamp out the God of the Bible, and all who live their lives according to His written-down revelation of His holy character.

"*They kill the widow and the sojourner, and murder the fatherless; and they say, "The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive."* Evil denies the sanctity of human life. They may pretend to give lip service to God, but wicked actions reveal hearts far from Him.

2- Will you be Wise? - "*Understand, O dullest of the people! Fools, when will you be wise?*" You know those low-information voters, blindly following mass media propagandists who tell them what to think and how to vote. God says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The Lord is our all-knowing teacher. "*He who planted the ear, does He not hear? He who formed the eye, does He not see? He who disciplines the nations, does He not rebuke? He who teaches man knowledge—the LORD—knows the thoughts of man, that they are but a breath.*" In willful pride, mankind rises up to defy the Lord of heaven and earth, to no avail.

3- Justice will Return! - God's will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven, as God's people trust Him and obey Him. "*Blessed is the man whom You discipline, O LORD, and whom You teach out of your law, to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked.*"

Those who defy God deserve the consequences of their actions. Those who trust in God and obey His word are blessed. "*For the LORD will not forsake His people; He will not abandon His heritage; for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it.*" This is a glowing promise to hold onto in dark hours, waiting for the light of the LORD to shine.

4- Cares of my Heart? - In our distress, we look to compatriots for support. "*Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against evildoers? If the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.*" The LORD Himself is our reliable helper, who promises never to leave us.

"*Can wicked rulers be allied with You, those who frame (fashion) injustice by statute? They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.*" Above all, the wicked promote the travesty of abortion and its related billion-dollar industries of death. Primary targets are Christians and all who believe in Constitutionally-recognized liberties of life. And behind the obvious evils of our world lie satanic insurrection, slavery to demonic deceit.

5- God my Stronghold! - The dire straits of life can seem overwhelming at times, because it is spiritual battle first and foremost. We have physical foes, yet our enemies are primarily spiritual. "*But the LORD has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge.*" He provides His spiritual armor to withstand every attack, as we wield the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

The psalmist affirms confidence in God's promises. "*He will bring back on them their iniquity and wipe them out for their wickedness; the LORD our God will wipe them out.*" Scripture says the plans of the wicked will be their own destruction, reaping what they sow. We pray that God would bring the light of His truth and grace to all mankind, as He works out His holy plans! □