

“God Is with the Righteous Generation”
(Psalm 14)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Today is the four year anniversary of 9/11.
 - a. When the terrorists hijacked the several airliners.
 - b. When they flew then into the twin trader towers and pentagon.
 - c. Why did this happen?

2. Because the world we live in is characterized by darkness.
 - a. It fell under the power of the evil one at the Fall.
 - (i) Adam was the ruler under God.
 - (ii) It was a kingdom of light.
 - (iii) But he surrendered it to the devil when he submitted himself.
 - (iv) And now the world is darkness.

 - b. Scriptural examples:
 - (i) As our text tells us this morning, “The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one” (vv. 2-3).
 - (ii) The world is largely under Satan’s control, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest” (Eph. 2:1-3).

2. It was in the middle of this dark world, God introduced His kingdom.
 - a. He redeemed Adam and Eve.
 - b. He continued it through a specific line in their children.
 - c. He made His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 - d. He made David a promise to seat a descendant on his throne.
 - e. It was brought in by Christ.
 - f. And now it is growing.

B. Preview.

1. Now there are two kingdoms moved by opposing forces: righteousness and evil.
 - a. What happens when you differ in just one opinion with someone?
 - b. How much more when you differ on everything?
 - c. Those who follow Jesus are hated by the world.

- d. And if they had their way, they would destroy us all.
2. But God is with His people in this world.
 - a. He won't let them destroy us.
 - b. He restrains their sins.
 - c. Even when He doesn't, it's so He can show His power in delivering His people – Pharaoh, Babylon, etc.
 - d. We saw the confidence trusting in God's lovingkindness gives.
 - e. Knowing God is with us, as we trust in Christ, strengthens it further.
 3. This morning, I want us to see two things:
 - a. The enemies we have to face.
 - b. But that we don't need to worry because God is with us.

II. Sermon.

A. First, what are God's/our enemies like?

1. First, they are fools.
 - a. "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (v. 1).
 - b. They reject the knowledge of God.
 - (i) They know He is; there's no doubt.
 - (ii) But they will not acknowledge Him (Rom. 1).
 - (iii) They even use their minds to destroy – or argue against – what they do see.
 - b. Some don't explicitly deny Him, but do in their beliefs and actions.
 - (i) Acknowledge a false God: Muslims, Mormons, Jews.
 - (ii) Acknowledge true God, but live as atheists.
 - c. It is foolish to live as though there is no God when there is.
 - (i) He reveals Himself: Creation, Providence, Word.
 - (ii) He reveals His Law.
 - (iii) He reveals judgment for sin.
 - (iv) But men ignore the truth and live as though He doesn't exist.
 - (v) Ignoring the danger, they rush into sin – what will destroy them.
 - (vi) And as 9/11 reminds us, they destroy others.
2. Why do they do this? Because of the sin/moral corruption in their hearts: "They are corrupt" (v. 1).
 - a. There has been a change in their character from the Fall.
 - b. God created man "upright."
 - c. But he has become wicked, depraved.
 - d. It changes the way they think – they hide the truth, put judgment out of mind.
 - e. It changes what they do: This corruption compels them to sin - "They have committed abominable deeds" (v. 1).
 - (i) Not just bad deeds.
 - (ii) But things God abhors.

(iii) He abhors all sin, but some are worse than others.

3. Is everyone in this situation? Apart from the grace of God, yes.

a. It is universal in extent among men.

(i) “There is no one who does good” (v. 1).

(ii) “The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one” (vv. 2-3).

(a) Notice this is God’s perspective, not man’s.

(b) God doesn’t have to look down – He knows.

(c) But He looks down as a witness against them.

(iii) Paul uses this passage to prove universal depravity among all men (Rom. 3:10-12).

b. It is universal in its being throughout the whole man.

(i) It’s not the weakening of good, but the absence of good in man.

(ii) Man sinned and lost the habitation of the Spirit in Adam.

(iii) As a result, his whole being is affected by sin.

(iv) He rejects God; what he knows of God.

(v) He hates those who belong to Him.

(vi) This is why the darkness exists.

(vii) This is why we have the enemies we have.

c. This is the world we live in, a world of darkness, a world of enemies.

(i) This is why there is so much looting and wickedness in the south.

(ii) This is why the Lord’s own people rejected Him.

(iii) This is why Jesus said not to be surprised if the world hates you.

(a) “Do all the workers of wickedness not know, who eat up my people *as* they eat bread, *and* do not call upon the Lord?” (v. 4).

(b) Those who hate Christ will afflict us.

(c) They attacked His apostles.

(d) They have persecuted and killed His saints through the ages.

(e) They will hate us as well.

(f) This is why Jesus prayed and prays for you while you’re in this world.

B. But we don’t need to be afraid. God is with the righteous generation.

1. They should be afraid, not us.

a. “There they are in great dread, for God is with the righteous generation. You would put to shame the counsel of the afflicted, but the Lord is his refuge” (vv. 5-6).

b. They would have us be ashamed of our hope.

c. But our hope will make them ashamed.

d. Our hope/refuge will terrorize them.

2. Even if we don't see the hand of the Lord in our lives, He will come.
 - a. "Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores His captive people, Jacob will rejoice, Israel will be glad" (v. 7).
 - b. His salvation is coming. He is with the righteous.
 - (i) Was this David in the wilderness?
 - (ii) Was it Judah in exile in Babylon? (Maybe not a psalm of David).
 - (iii) The principle still applies: God is with the righteous and will deliver them.
 - (iv) And so the righteous cry that the Lord would come and save.
 - (v) He will hear, for He is with the righteous.

III. Application.

- A. We would all be fools, if not for God's grace.
 1. We would see the revelation of God in nature: everyone does.
 2. But we would reject it, fight against it, tear it down, cover it over.
 - a. When temptation comes, when grace is low, doesn't this happen to some degree in us?
 - b. How much more when there is no grace?
 3. We would not live in the fear of God, we would rebel against Him, fight against His people.
 4. God would in the end destroy us.
- B. But God has been gracious.
 1. Because of His grace our eyes have been opened, our hearts changed, our spirits made willing.
 2. Because of His grace, we are believers, and only by His grace – we could not do it without Him.
 3. Because of His grace, we are righteous in Christ and God is with us.
 - a. We do not need to live in fear.
 - b. Only trust the Lord; He will bring us safely through.
- C. This is the only way to true safety.
 1. If you are righteous in Christ, be thankful.
 - a. He will not leave you to the unbelievers of this world.
 - b. Anyone who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.
 - c. He will be our refuge in this life.
 - d. He will be our refuge in death.
 2. If you are not in Christ, come to Him now, and God will be with you. Amen.