OUR TIMES OF TROUBLE

**DATE: 9/25/2011 am**

**TEXT: Psalm 10:1**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Psalm 10** gives us a very descriptive account of the wicked

We live in a world full of trouble

And a world full of wickedness

You might ask why does God allow such wickedness to continue?

God will one day deal with wickedness

But until then, God uses wickedness as a purging influence upon His children

He desires for wickedness to cause us to trust Him

And to have faith that He will deal with this wicked world in His perfect time

Our text this morning begin with a question

***“Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?”***

The word ***“trouble”*** here is referring to *the trouble* we have with other people (not things or health)

But before we begin our message this morning I want to try and help you

I want to try and help you to know -

*What to do, when trouble comes*

**1.** Consider your Salvation

When trouble comes to the believer,

The first thing to do is to consider your salvation

If you are a child of God, nothing can take that from you

**John 10:27-29 – *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me:”
“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand”
“My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand”***

**2.** Develop a Grateful Heart

The Devil wants us to think that God has not been good to us

When trouble comes, work on having a grateful heart

The first thing we are tempted to do is to start griping and complaining

Satan begin to work on the mind

Because he knows that the goodness of God leads us to repentance

Ingratitude becomes a garden from which all kinds of evil fruit grows

**3.** Seek Counsel from God

In times of trouble, do not run from the Lord; run to the Lord

Our tendency is to run away, we need to Seek Him

How does God speak to us?

He speaks -

Through His Word

Through Other believers

To us, in prayer

**4.** Listen for God’s Voice

Read you Bible and Listen,

Then look for the Lord Jesus in you trouble

As you seek Him, you will find Him

**Jeremiah 29:13 – *“And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart”***

Look for Christ in your trouble

With that in mind, let’s pray and then think about –

***“Our Times of Trouble”***

**~~~PRAYER~~~**

**I. THE “WORLD”** (In Which We Live)

The world in which we live is *a world of trouble*

**A. ‘Where’ is God?**

In **v.1**, the psalmist says –

*“It seems to me as if God is not around”*

At first glance, it may appear that God has withdrawn Himself

But that’s not true

**Jeremiah 23:23 – *“Am I (not) a God at hand … and not a God afar off?”***

There are times when it *seems* *like …*

God is nowhere to be found

But, I can assure you God knows exactly what you are going through

**Job 23:10 – *“But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold”***

So the answer to our question - **‘Where’ is God?**

I think can be found in –

**Psalm 34:18 – *“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit”***

Which leads us to the question –

**B. ‘Why’ is God?**

So ‘Why’ does there seem like times that God is so far away?

Why does God do this? (stand at a distant)

There is a couple of reasons -

**1.** God uses the wicked in the world as a *purging influence* on His children

Not a polluting influence

Satan uses the world to pollute

God uses trouble in the world to *purge us*

**(Purge** – remove something undesirable)

**Proverbs 25:4 – *“Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer”***

God is not trying to destroy us by allowing trouble!

He is trying to build us

Turn to **John 17:14-17**

He can use the world like sandpaper …

To get the rough edges off our lives

We are left in the world to witness to others concerning the world to come

**2.** Also, God is conforming us to the image of His Son while we are in this world

**Romans 8:29 – *“For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”***

**Romans 5:3, 4 – *“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;”
“And patience, experience; and experience, hope:”***

The Lord seems to be at a distance in order to cause us to realize without Him we can do nothing

The Lord is using the World in which we live to purge us of all the junk that is still in our lives

**THE “WORLD” IN WHICH WE LIVE**

**II. THE “WICKED”** (With Which We Must Deal)

Some have called the **10th Psalm -**

*“The Psalm of the Antichrist”*

They believe this description in **vs. 2-11** to be a description of the antichrist

Who is the antichrist?

**II Thessalonians 2:3, 4 *–“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a***

***falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”
“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God”***

Let’s continue to look at our text and see the Bible’s description of the wicked

**A. Persecutes the Poor – v.2a**

***“The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor:”***

***“The poor”*** here are not just people who have no money

They are the vulnerable, those that have no one to help them in their need (women, children, handicapped etc.)

For some reason the wicked seem to target these folks

Notice how God starts

Notice the phrase – ***“The wicked in his pride”***

Where does wickedness come from?

It comes from the pride in his heart; does it not?

**B. Boast of their Heart’s desire – v. 3**

He said that the wicked boasts about what he desires in his heart

**Jeremiah 17:9 – *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”***

**Mark 7:21 – 23 – *“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,”
“Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:”
“All these evil things come from within, and defile the man”***

Which is exactly opposite of what God would have us to do!

And he boasts about it

**C. Will not seek after God – v.4**

The wicked man will not seek after God

He has consciously made the decision to reject God

God says that the wicked man, having his thoughts examined, has no thought of God!

**D. Who’s way are Grievous – v.5**

The wicked man is full of himself

He is puffed up

Everything he does causes grief or sorrow

Everything he does is grievous, to him and others

**E. Shall not be Moved – v.6**

He says, *“I am not going to be changed”* *“I’m going to continue as I please” “I’m going to live anyway I feel like living”*

We are living in a world exactly like that!

**F. Their Mouths are Full of Cursing – v.7**

We see his ways, his heart, his cursing and deceitful mouth

He cannot tell the truth and he will not tell the truth

What he does is deceitful and mischievous, vain and empty

**G. They are Lurking – vs. 8-10**

Someone who is ***“Lurking”*** is an unsuspected threat or danger

He slips around secretly, behind the scenes trying to put an end to life

He is a murder of the innocent

There are wicked people all over just waiting to steal the innocent of our children

There are those who think nothing of taking a life for profit!

They are setting traps and just waiting for the innocent to come by

Like a beast, he is ready to pounce on his prey

**H. They Accuse God – v. 11**

The wicked says, *“I don’t have to worry about God” “I’m never going to get caught”*

He says, *“Look at what I’ve done” “Look at how I live”*

*“I’ve done as I pleased and God hasn’t stop me!” “And he is not going to stop me now!”*

The wicked become bolder and bolder in their wickedness

This is the kind of world in which we live

And this is the kind of wickedness and wicked people with which we deal

The wicked are headed toward hell and destruction

We have looked at –

**THE “WORLD” IN WHICH WE LIVE**

**THE “WICKED” WITH WHICH WE MUST DEAL**

Finally, let’s look at -

**III. THE “WORK”** (of the Lord)

The Bible says in **v.12 –**

***“Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble”***

What does God do in response to all this?

(the attitude of the wicked)

The Bible says – He lifts up His hand

**A. God Does Not Forget the Humble**

In v**.11** the wicked say that God has forgotten

***“He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: He hideth his face; He will never see it”***

But, in **v.12** the psalmist asks God to – ***“forget not the humble”***

Can I say that God HAS NOT forgotten!

His work is not to forget

**God Does Not Forget**, but …

**B. God Does Forget our Sin**

God has promised not to forget us, Amen!

**Deuteronomy 4:31 – *“(For the Lord thy God is a merciful God;) He will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which He sware unto them”***

**But**, He has promised to forget our sins

**Jeremiah 31:34 – *“And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”***

**Hebrews 10:17 – *“And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more”***

**Micah 7:19 – *“He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea”***

God has promised never to forget **us**,

But He has promised to forget all our **sin!**

He will not forget the humble

**God Does Not Forget**

**God Does Forget our Sin**

**C. God will not Forget His Judgment – vs. 13-15**

The writer of this psalm reminds God one more time of the attitude of the wicked

And in **v.15** asks Him to –

***“Break thou the arm of the wicked”***

The psalmist is asking God to destroy their strength and their ability to do anything

Remember one day wicked men are going to cry out for the rocks to fall on them, instead of facing God

Remember one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God the Father

There is a Great humbling coming

**v. 15b – *“seek out his wickedness till thou find none”***

God is going call them all out

In God’s great search, He will uncover everything

No stone will be left unturned by the time God is finished

He is thorough

That is His work

One of these days, God is going to lift His hand and say –

***“That is enough”***

The Bible says that God’s work is to bring the wicked to judgment

The wicked think they will get by

But God will perform His work of Judgment in His perfect time

We need to have faith and confidence that God will do what only He can do in His time

**CONCLUSION**

In closing look at **v.16** with me –

***“The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of His land”***

Just like that, they are gone

**Psalm 37:10 – *“For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be”***

The psalm concludes with **vs. 17 & 18**

***“LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:”***

***“To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress”***

This is what God does

Have you had to deal with some of the wicked behavior?

Does it seem that God is a little late in arriving to help?

Many have said ‘Yes’

So what are we to do?

We are to put our faith and confidence in God …

That He will do only what He can do in His time

Do not be shaken

He may seem far off for the time

But there is no doubt that He will be faithful to accomplish His work in His time

**CLOSING PRAYER AND INVITATION**

**THE “WORLD” IN WHICH WE LIVE**

**THE “WICKED” WITH WHICH WE MUST DEAL**

**THE “WORK” OF THE LORD**