

From Pastor's Desk...

## Relax well in trusting our Sovereign God

Psalm 46 begins and ends with the affirmation that God is our refuge. The psalm testifies that Israel's security is in God's power to overcome warring nations. God ends noisy battles as He demonstrates Himself to be the ruler of the universe. This is the psalm that inspired Martin Luther to write the Hymn, 'A mighty fortress is our God' which enabled many to overcome challenges during reformation and post-reformation period.

- We have a quiet confidence in God's power to save in all circumstances. Even if the world were to end, we need not fear because of God's sovereign power (46:2-3). He is abundantly available for help in tight places. We may consider certain things happening as the worst in life but the realization that our safety and protection lie not in riches and powers of the world, instead in God the creator and sustainer, bring the difference.
- We have trust in God of Peace. We live in a world with war and destruction. People fight each other for no valid reason. The enmity between each other prevails everywhere due to selfishness which results in broken relationship between individuals, members in family, leaders of nations and people of different faiths and ideologies. Here comes the awareness in the need of accepting Jesus Christ, the prince of peace in our hearts. When God is enthroned He becomes the fortress for His people. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth (46:9). God of peace is with us despite all threats and challenges in life.
- We have assurance in God of Hope. God will be exalted among the nations and in the earth (46:10). It had been proved during the reign of several emperors in the past and will be the same in the future too. The supremacy of God is affirmed in Isaiah, "I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols" (42:8). Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of Lord will reign over everything at the end.

Psalm 46:10 reminds us to "be still and know" that He is God. The sooner we focus on Him and His power, the quicker we will see relief from our fear and self-pity. Let us wait in silence for the final answer not from any human being but from God. Relax well in trusting our Sovereign God for a meaningful life and witness.

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

Rev. K. P. Mathew

(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

## Trust in Him, He is in Control

Varghese Mathew, Secretary

As a born-again Christian, have you ever doubted about the sovereign control exercised by God when we go through any particular circumstances or difficult situations? When we are engaged in the business of this world for earthly survival, it is quite natural that there may be times we lose our focus on God and get frustrated. But, do not worry too much or devise own schemes to get out these situations. Our God is in control. He is never too late, never too early. Psalm 46:10 says "Be Still and Know that I am God". He is telling us to pause for a moment or stop doing what we are doing. Instead, stay calm and realize that God is in control.

Psalm 46 is written by Sons of Korah, whom had experienced the saving grace of God during troublesome times. + "Be still and know that I am God!" is the first part of Psalm 46:10. Here, the word still comes from a Hebrew word meaning to "let go" or "release." In other words, we need to come to a place where we are willing to submit ourselves to God and acknowledging that He is in sovereign control. When we realize that we are truly incapable of controlling life, we can surrender our will to God's will. It may be a matter of finally saying we trust Him. This will open the door so that we may experience the fullness of all God wants and has for us. After all, He is our Creator and has a perfect plan for us when we let Him orchestrate it.

And the second part which says, "know that I am God" denotes recognition, acknowledgement, and answering God. First, we must know that God is God, the one and only Supreme Being who created all the heavens and earth (Genesis 1:1). We can know Him by having an intimate relationship with Him. That does not come from just knowing about Him, but rather getting to personally know Him by what He says, recognizing the things He does in our lives, and by way of His Holy Spirit who comes to guide and comfort us. There is no need to doubt on our God as He is the ever-powerful God who is:

- Omniscient – all knowing
- Omnipresent – universal presence at the same time.
- Omnipotent – all powerful
- Holy, Faithful, and Sovereign
- Infinite – without measure, forever

As the Psalmist has written, let us wait upon Him patiently, surrendering completely and trusting on his provisions, acknowledging His sovereign authority and control that can turn around any situations in the perfect time so that His name be glorified through us.