

If the Foundations be Removed....

by Bob Young

April 2010

On the first Sunday of this month (Easter), most Christian churches had their biggest Sunday attendance of the year. No Sunday of the church year surpasses Easter in total attendance. Surveys show that more Christians are in church on Easter than any other Sunday of the year. Not only do most of the church members show up on the same day (!), multitudes of visitors fill our church buildings! Our spirits and hopes are buoyed by what we saw and experienced. We pray that the interest shown is a harbinger of good things to come.

How does the church build on the Easter experience? What can we do to keep the momentum? A helpful understanding emerges in a study of the question posed by the Psalmist: "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (11:3) This question is easily misunderstood apart from its context. David affirms his dependence on and confidence in God, and urges others to find refuge in God. Refuge in God does not depend on absence from this world—it is not necessary to flee like a bird to the secure places. Security and refuge are possible even in the midst of a troubled, threatening world. The forces around us, bent on assaulting the upright in heart, seek to overwhelm us. One may ask with good reason, "What can the righteous do?" When the evil in our world surges and we can no longer depend upon a moral world order, what shall we do? When evil overcomes good, where shall we turn?

Never fear—God is yet in his holy temple, God is on the throne. The challenge that faces the church is to remember and constantly proclaim that God is on the throne! God is in control. Success down at the church house is not built on numbers, but on God. The church must be built on the foundation of God. The world will do its best to destroy the foundations. The church that fails to recognize the need to build on the foundation of the nature of God and his work and presence in this world will not grow in ways that please God.