

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Turn off the outside "noise" for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God's Word.  
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 46 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> **Nations** are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
he lifts his voice, **the earth** melts.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD Almighty is **WITH** us;  
the God of Jacob is **our fortress**.

<sup>8</sup> **Come and see what the LORD has done,**  
the desolations he has brought on **the earth**.

<sup>9</sup> **He makes wars cease**  
**to the ends of the earth.**  
**He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;**  
**he burns the shields with fire.**

<sup>10</sup> **"BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD;**

**I will be exalted among the nations,**  
**I will be exalted in the earth."**

— PART 2 —

Psalm 46 teaches us that:

- God is with us (vv. 1, 5, 7)
- God is here to help us (vv. 1, 5)
- God will refresh us, cleanse us, replenish us (v. 4)

But God doesn't just care about **us!**

He cares about **the nations** (vv. 6, 10) —

**the earth** (vv. 6, 8, 10) —

and even **the ends of the earth** (v. 9) —

and He also cares about **the nonstop warfare** and **chronic interpersonal malice, unkindness and violence** that spread to "the ends of the earth" — **because these endanger and harm the people of earth, God's beloved sons and daughters** (see vv. 8-9). And that is exactly why...

<sup>9</sup> **He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.**  
**He breaks the bow**  
**and shatters the spear;**  
**he burns the shields with fire.**

...and **He longs to see the nations coming to know him** (v. 10a) **and exalt him** (v. 10b)

and the healing and transformation that will come when they do (v. 10)!

***“I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”***

And so, God loves us, is with us, will help us ... but He will also **SEND us to the nations and the neighbors that are broken, “in uproar”, consumed with warfare and violence — and currently overwhelmed with sickness and disease, anxiety and fear!**

1 CORINTHIANS 10:24 (TNIV)

**<sup>24</sup> No one should seek their own good,  
but the good of others.**

1 CORINTHIANS 10:24 (The Voice)

**<sup>24</sup> We should stop looking out for our own interests  
and instead focus on the people living and breathing around us.**

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So we cry out,

**“God, how can we best serve the most vulnerable among us?**

**How can we best serve our neighbors?**

**How can we best serve our community?**

**How can we best serve our world?**

***Show us, Father.***

***Open our eyes, Spirit of God.***

***Soften our hearts, Lord Jesus.”***

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May God’s joy and gladness be poured out on you today,

Pastor Doug

P.S. We would love to hear from you! How are you doing right now? And we would love to pray for you! Email us at [info@bethanyonline.net](mailto:info@bethanyonline.net)

P.P.S. Keep checking this page — we will try to post fresh encouragement **every day** during this crisis!

P.P.P.S. And watch our **LIVE-STREAM Worship Service** this coming Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for more encouragement.