

Be a Refuge for Jesus Christ
(September 15, 2019 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)

The title of today's message is "Be a Refuge for Jesus Christ."

There are so many needs that we face...
This world is not an easy place

Scripture 1: John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you ^[a]will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

It is very easy to get caught on the things we need...
And we should seek the Holy Trinity as our refuge, our deliverer from all trouble...

Scripture 2: Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are ^[a]safe.

Scripture 3: Psalm 46

God the Refuge of His People and Conqueror of the Nations

To the Chief Musician. A *Psalm* of the sons of Korah. A Song for Alamoth.

46 God *is* our refuge and strength,
A ^[a]very present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the ^[b]midst of the sea;
³ *Though* its waters roar *and* be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its swelling. *Selah*

⁴ *There is* a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,
The holy *place* of the ^[c]tabernacle of the Most High.
⁵ God *is* in the midst of her, she shall not be ^[d]moved;
God shall help her, just ^[e]at the break of dawn.

⁶ The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;
He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

⁷ The LORD of hosts *is* with us;
The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. *Selah*

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD,
Who has made desolations in the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariot in the fire.

¹⁰ Be still, and know that I *am* God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!

¹¹ The LORD of hosts *is* with us;
The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. *Selah*

However, if we want to go deeper with the Lord Jesus, if we want to get to know Him better, then we have to move beyond just asking about our needs and wants; we have to go beyond seeking Him to be our refuge...
We have to become a refuge for Him...

Sister Lorena said something the other week that the Holy Spirit brought back to my remembrance...

When she leaves home, she asks the Lord something like, "Who do you want me to minister to today?" She asks God to guide her steps...

Taking this question even deeper, we can ask the Lord Jesus, "You are my refuge. How can I be your refuge today?"

There are some keys for becoming a refuge for the Lord Jesus:

1. It is good to ask Him how He is doing on a daily basis...

Think how good it feels when a child or other young person asks you how you are doing or how your day went...

Think how good it feels when they give you a hug or a kiss...

Think how good it feels when they want to help you...

2. Spend time with Him. Don't get so busy that you don't enjoy His company...

Scripture 4: Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at [\[k\]](#)Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

⁴¹ And [\[l\]](#)Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Scripture 5: Revelation 2:1-7

The Loveless Church

2 "To the [\[a\]](#)angel of the church of Ephesus write,

'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ² "I know your works, your labor, your [\[b\]](#)patience, and that you cannot [\[c\]](#)bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. ⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

3. Make sure to do the basic things that are part of the Christian faith:

Scripture 6a: 1 Timothy 5:3-8

³ Honor widows who are really widows. ⁴ But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is [a]good and acceptable before God. ⁵ Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. ⁶ But she who lives in [b]pleasure is dead while she lives. ⁷ And these things command, that they may be blameless. ⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Scripture 6b: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

¹² And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and [d]admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

¹⁴ Now we [e]exhort you, brethren, warn those who are [f]unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

Scripture 7: James 1:21-27

²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and [d]overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶ If anyone [\[e\]](#)among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Scripture 8: Ephesians 4:25-32

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you* speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. ²⁶ "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give [\[g\]](#)place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary [\[h\]](#)edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, [\[i\]](#)clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Scripture 9: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body [\[a\]](#)to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not [\[b\]](#)puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, [\[c\]](#)thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is [\[d\]](#)perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹² For now

we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

Scripture 10: Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ [\[g\]](#)gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

4. Once you have a handle on the basics of the faith, then you can also reach other people for the Lord Jesus...

Scripture 11: Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous *is a tree of life*,
And he who [\[i\]](#)wins souls *is wise*.

Scripture 12: James 5:19-20

¹⁹ Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save [\[i\]](#)a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.