

The Kind of Church God Builds

A Church of Refuge

I. Introduction

- A. Numbers 35:11 (NAS) *Then you shall select for yourselves cities to be your cities of refuge, that the manslayer who has killed any person unintentionally may flee there.*
- B. Deut. 23:15 (NLT) *"If slaves should escape from their masters and take refuge with you, you must not hand them over to their masters."*
- C. II Samuel 22:3 (NAS) *My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My savior, You save me from violence.*
- D. Psalm 9:9 (NLT) *The LORD is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.*
- E. Psalm 46:1-3, 7 (NLT) *¹God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. ²So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. ³Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge! ⁷The LORD of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.*
- F. John 17:11-15 (NLT) *¹¹"Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. ¹²During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold. ¹³"Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. ¹⁴I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one."*
- G. John 17:15 (NLT) *"I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one."*
- H. Mark 1:39 (NAS) *And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.*

II. Where Do We Find Refuge?

- A. In the blood of Christ.
 - 1. Rev. 12:11a (NLT) *And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony.*
- B. In the intercession of Christ.
 - 1. Heb. 7:25 (NAS) *Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

C. In the church.

1. II Cor. 10:3-5 (NAS) *³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.*

D. By submitting to God.

1. James 4:7 (NAS) *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

III. Conclusion

Upcoming Messages:

11/21-22/2009 "A Church That Is Missional"

11/28-29/2009 "A Church That Fosters Community"

12/5-6/2009 "A Church That Fosters Community (Part 2)"

12/19-20/2009 "A Church of Hospitality"