

Help for our Times

I. -based on Psalm 12:1 *"Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men."* (NKJV)

II. Topic somewhat related to Islam

1. Why? as your leadership has discussed possible topics idea of Islam came up - since 9-11
2. consolation of history - 1700s: "world swimming in Europeans"
3. We'll consider issues related to Islam through history

B. -also related to current cultural climate - gender issues

1. natural law, common sense has been thrown out window
2. what one feels is more true than physical realities like DNA or physical body

C. WHAT DO WE DO?!

III. The Litany

A. Prayer in general

1. Lord's Prayer
 - a) deliverance from evil
2. only offensive weapon is Sword of Spirit, which is put into practice both by speaking to others & through prayer for God's deliverance (Eph. 6:17-18)

B. Historical Context - challenges of their day

1. Suleiman the Magnificent (Ottoman Emperor, 1520-1566)
2. growth of Ottoman Empire
3. Red Beard - Ottoman Admiral & pirate Hayreddin Barbarossa (1478-1545) - *the "Terror of Europe"*
4. assaults on Vienna
 - a) 1529 - *The Litany* goes into use

- b) 1532 - acts of God
- C. Holy Roman Emperor Charles V & Luther's response
 - 1. Diet of Augsburg - Augsburg Confession
 - 2. historical results
- D. walk through of "The Litany"
- E. chant it
- IV. Lord Keep us Steadfast in Your Word (1541)
 - A. History: Ottoman aggression
 - B. This time Luther pens this hymn
 - C. Comparison of English version in our hymnals to original version
 - D. prayer for deliverance
 - E. Sing it
- V. Conclusion: Battle Hymn of the Reformation
 - A. O Lord, Look Down from Heaven Behold
 - B. Comparison of Psalm 12
 - C. help for our time: praying the psalms
 - D. Sing the hymn
- VI. Closing Prayer