

*God [is] our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalms 46:1)*

Trouble is inevitable. Avoid it, we cannot. It will come. None shall be deprived of it. It is also imminent. However blue may be the sky, no enemy in sight or sorrow imaginable, trouble is just around the corner. It is also perennial. We are never rid of it. Victory over one will usher in another shortly.

Because of trouble, men must have a refuge. When we discover their refuge by where they run in trouble, we shall have found their god.

The Eternal God is our refuge. He is a *very* present help. Immanuel is His name. He is *with* us, and vigorously caring for us in the trouble. He is a "help." We are "helped" in the trouble. When it passes, and it will, we shall find that we are *better* off than before it came. The "refuges" of men all leave the worse for it.

What a God! What a Salvation! What ground for abiding peace!

-C.M.