

Introduction

- 3 teams of terrorist attackers targeted Paris on Friday night.
 - ISIS has claimed responsibility.
- Death toll is currently at 129.
- 352 wounded and 99 of those in critical condition.

Introduction

- I don't talk much about politics and I don't intend to do that this morning.
- Instead, I'd like to share my feelings with you all this morning.
- I was scared. For some reason this attack resonated with me more than others.
- Myself and many others were looking for hope.

Hope
During Dark Times

Is it Wrong to Worry?

- Sin is a problem in a nation (Proverbs 14:34). But should we worry?
- Jesus did. Matthew 23:37
- Paul did. Romans 9:1-5
- Lot did. 2 Peter 2:6-8
- No, it is not wrong for us to lament the direction in which we are headed.
- How do we cope with this problem?

What do we do?

- We can't control *when* we live but we can control *how* we live.
- Is sitting, lamenting, and wishing for better days a viable option?
 - It does no good.
 - Numbers 11:4-6
- Jesus' words are timely.
 - Matthew 6:25-27, 30-34

What do we do?

- How about after we assess the situation we rise up and live as we're called to live?
- Daniel did not agree with every policy of the government, yet he served faithfully.
- Timothy lived in tough times (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3, 4). Paul urged him to keep preaching.
- Saints of Smyrna in Revelation 2:8-10.
- Rather than lament the times we live in, why not join in with Mordecai in Esther 4:14?

Things to Remember

1. God rules in the kingdoms of men.
 1. Daniel 2:19-21; 4:28-33; Psalm 2:1-4; Isaiah 40:21-23
2. God requires us to love.
 1. Matthew 7:12; James 2:8

Does this apply to our enemies?

 2. Matthew 5:43-48
3. The most powerful weapon is in our control.
 1. Romans 1:16; 10:14, 15

Conclusion

- Look to God in times of despair.
- In times of comfort, look to Him as well.
- How is your standing before God?