



Super Senior Scoop

Parkside Bible Church

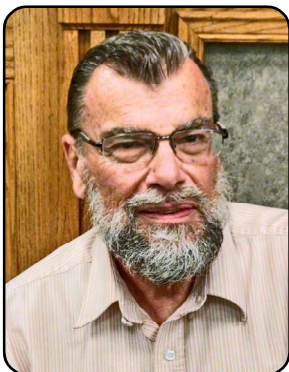
Fall 2020

A Messge from Pastor Apel

“What Can the Righteous Do?”

“When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

Psalm 11:3



Pastor Craig Apel

We live in tumultuous, troubling times. All around us, be it government, family, education, religion, law, the economy, or any number of other values and institutions we believe essential to our national well-being, we see the foundations crumbling. What can we do?

The question posed by our text, when quoted out of context as it often is, suggests there is really nothing we can do to counteract the national decay we are experiencing. And this may be how we feel. The forces at work are too great for us to think we can possibly stem the tide. So what should we do, find a hole to crawl into and hunker down until either Christ returns or we die to go and be with Him? While truly, this is what we long for as Christians, I don't believe between now and then it's God's desire for us is to live wringing our hands in helpless despair. And I don't think that's what David intended when he wrote it.

Our text seems to come at the tail end of a suggestion David heard from some in his kingdom at a time it was in serious danger of collapse. We can't connect the Psalm to any specific event, but that really doesn't matter, as it is adaptable to many desperate situations. It was clearly a time of national crisis. However, the superscription which tells us David was the writer, also tells us it was written *“for the director of music”* i.e. as a song to be sung in worship. This alone suggests its purpose was to be of encouragement to God's people. I'm sure it was then, and I'm sure it can also be for us now.

It begins with a declaration of David's faith, *“In the Lord I take refuge.”* Whatever the crisis was, David was confident that in the presence of the Lord he was safe and secure. And that being so he goes on to quote and rebuke the doomsayers whose lack of faith filled them with fear.

1 How then can you say to me:

“Flee like a bird to your mountain.

2 For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings

to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart

3 When the foundations are being destroyed, What can the righteous do?”

The advice of the doomsayers was to run and hide because destruction would come unexpectedly. *“When the foundations are being destroyed what can the righteous do?”* To them the obvious answer was noth-

ing!” But that was not David’s mind set. He responds with three observations by which he encouraged himself and should be of great encouragement to us also.

1. *“The Lord is in his holy temple.” verse 4*

He reminds himself and us that the Lord is God and to be worshiped. For as we fix our eyes upon the person and greatness of God and in response we worship Him, our trials are diminished in comparison.

2. *“The Lord is on his heavenly throne.” verse 4*

Here David clings to the truth of God’s sovereign rule over all things, *“in heaven and earth, visible and invisible”* (Colossians 1:16). That being so we are assured that in every circumstance of our lives God is involved, either causing or permitting it to occur. And everything He does has as its goal His eternal glory and our eternal joy (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

3. *“He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them.*

The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion.

On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot.

For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.” verses 4-7

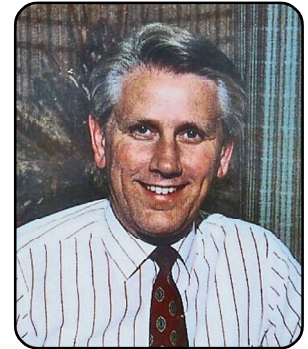
David consoles himself with the truth of God’s righteousness and justice. God is not unaware. He sees the deeds of the wicked and will ultimately punish them as surely as the upright will be rewarded.

And so in summery, this song of Israel’s worship gives three responses for the people of God during times of trial. Worship God as greater than our circumstances. Trust God as sovereign and in control of everything about us. And believe God will justly punish the wicked and reward the righteous. Without the music this isn’t a song we can sing. But the lyrics we need to take to heart.

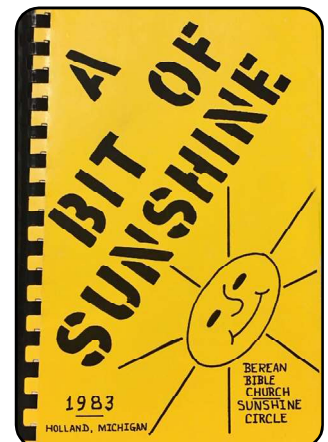
Parkside History The 1980s

The decade of the 1980s began with a focus on finishing up the new James Street building after its dedication the previous October. There was some internal work to be completed and installation of the cornerstone was arranged in addition to landscaping and exterior lighting. In a letter to the congregation with an update on church construction and financial obligations the cost of the building including the furnishings, parking lot and sign was \$384,000. Both mortgages and promissory notes were used to finance the construction. Pastor Boeck attended the mid-year (1980) Grace Gospel Fellowship Convention in Colorado where he was a featured speaker. A report by the Five Year Growth Committee featured three areas: plans for new facilities, additional staff - especially for youth work and visiting new people - and progress in the music ministry.

Late in 1980, Bob Prock joined the staff as Director of Youth and Assistant to Pastor Boeck. The motion to purchase a van for \$3,000 was approved by the Board with the condition that the young people will raise the funds. One van fundraising project sold 940 sub-sandwiches! In response to requests the Board approved a volleyball court on church property and a basketball net adjacent to the parking lot. After considerable discussion the Board decided that the Monday night exercise class (aerobics “dancing”) was not dancing, but indeed exercise. The Glory Guild continued sponsoring a Christmas Bazaar in October or No-



James Boeck



Sunshine Circle Cookbook



member during the early 1980s.

Early the next year Pastor Boeck accompanied the youth group on a trip to Newark and New York. In a letter from U. S. Representative

Guy Vander Jagt it was announced that a flag would be flown over the U.S. Capitol then presented to the church. That was done on July 3, 1982 and the flag with a document to that effect was sent to the church. A Heritage Day Sunday celebration began in the late 1970s and continued annually for ten years to remind the congregation of its Dutch history. Daniel Reed had a twelve months internship and after graduating from GBC served three years (October 1984 - November 1988) ministering full-time in Education and Outreach. Starting in the late 1980s a weekly youth club program (similar to Awana emphasizing memorization and games) entitled "Coached by Christ" was adopted.



Daniel and Mary Sue Reed

Kids Mini Camp

The Kids Camp planned for the last week of July was a victim of the shutdown of all activities at Parkside Bible Church this spring. It was canceled due to the uncertainty of what would be permitted later in the summer.

In an effort to provide some activities a Kids' Mini



Officer Spyke passing out ice cream

Camp was organized for the four Wednesdays in August. A team of workers lead by Kelly Defrell began planning activities, reviewing ideas and assembling materials for each of the gatherings. The workers - there were over thirty - arrived at 8:30 am for a brief devotional followed by the check-in and registration of kids. Kids arriving early participated in silly songs and games with Pastor Joe. At 9 am a

twenty minute song event was followed by teaching time with kids divided into Pre-K/1st Grade and 2nd - 6th Grade groups.

At 10:15 am thirty minutes of games for both groups was followed by a snack time. The service portion of Kids Mini Camp featured Care Package Construction for Missionaries, those in the community with needs, Holland Police Officers and the Holland Township Fire Department. Each participant prepared a picture or message to include in the Care Packages they filled with a wide range of items.

On the 3rd Wednesday a special treat featured two Holland Policemen. The kids were excited to learn about what a police officer does and especially all the items on their equipment belt. They brought the Department's Polar Patrol ice cream van and passed out vanilla and mint ice cream cups. Kids Mini Camp wrapped up on Monday, August 24, as some of the area schools began to open the final week of the month. About forty kids attended each of the four sessions.



Filling Care Packages

Super Seniors Planning Committee

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Please contact a committee member with your ideas/suggestions for future activities.