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forethought and effort that it happened the way it did? Not so! God was in overall control!

Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world (Acts 15:18). It is He who sees the end from the beginning, who keeps His eyes on things great and small, even from eternity to eternity. Everything happens according to His good will and foreknowledge. Do you know this great God as your Saviour Lord, and Master? In Him you may have absolute confidence and trust, for with Him there are no emergencies, no accidents, no surprises. He knows your entire life, every event from the cradle to the grave. Did you know, dear believer, He thought of you and included you in His plan, long before you were born!

A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE

God has His TIME-TABLE. Even the school child will understand this. We all function according to a time-table — more or less. But God's TIME-TABLE is better than ours! Infinitely better! He never needs to alter it, or update it from year to year. He keeps His appointments "to the dot of the hour." He is never late, and never too early. Our God is always just on time! How marvellous! That's why He is God. He never makes mistakes, is never taken by surprise.

So there was a season for Israel to sojourn in Egypt and a season for Israel to be delivered. Moses tried 40 years before the time. He failed miserably. But when God's time came, "on the self-same day" the hosts of the LORD went out of Egypt, not a day late! (Ex 12:41) In the fulness of time, the Saviour came (Gal 4:4). Before the appointed time, none could lay hands on Jesus, but when His time was come, He laid down His life. Soon He's coming again — when the time is fulfilled. Do you know the time and season?

PRAYER: Lord, teach me to discern the time and season.

THOUGHT: Even so, Lord Jesus, come!

3. A TIME TO BE BORN (Job 1:21; Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)

This one greatest event in Man's life is utterly and totally beyond his control. A time to come into

this world! What a moment! To think of it, this miracle of life is repeated a quarter million times a day. With a cry, another child of Adam announces its entry onto the stage of life.

Why was I born? Did you ever ask this question? How do you view your birth? Was it a good event, or bad, or indifferent? Some curse the day of their birth or, like Voltaire, say with regret, I wish I had never been born. But we recognise the hand of God, as the Psalmist has said, "*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well ... How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God*" (Ps 139:14,17).

A TIME TO SERVE HIM

He who formed us and gave us this earthly life surely has a higher purpose for each of us. He made us for His own glory. What am I doing about it? What have I done for God, for my own soul, and for my fellowmen? God has given us the capacity to do good. Therein lies the duty for each of us to do.

Dear reader, did you know that this life brought with it both duty and privilege? Our Lord and Maker expect it from you and me. Life is real, life is earnest! Awake to its opportunities and challenges! In the morning, awakening, say "Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee!"

The Lord is looking for earnest, willing, daring men and women to be His representatives — ambassadors for Christ; men and women who wait on Him daily for "marching orders," who keep close touch with Him every day; men and women who live and work for eternity; men and women who strive their utmost to make their lives count for Him. Are you willing to be counted among their ranks?

QUIZ: How can you make your birth and life a significant event in God's plan?

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, for giving me the breath of life.

God bless you dear readers.

*Yours faithfully in the Saviour's Service,
Dr SH Tow, Founding Pastor*



CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO BUT TO MINISTER"

201 Pandan Gardens
Singapore 609337
Tel: 65603885
Fax: 6566 3806
Email: enquiry@calvarypandan.sg
Website: http://calvarypandan.sg

THEME: "The LORD Knoweth the Way
of the Righteous" (Psalm 1:6)

Founding Pastor: Rev Dr Tow Siang Hwa
Pastor: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

LORD'S DAY, 15 April 2018

PANDAN NEWS WEEKLY

Vol. 15 (44) No. 16

My dear readers,

*(Extracts from RPG Workbook Vol III No. 12,
Oct 28 – Nov 24, 1984, edited by Dr SH Tow)*

1. NOTHING BETTER THAN EAT AND DRINK (Luke 22:29, 30; Ecclesiastes 2:24-26)

At first reading of verse 24, Solomon seems to be sounding the call to men to live merely for this present perishing world — "... *Let us eat and drink: for to morrow we die*" (1 Cor 15:32). Did Solomon really mean that there was nothing better for a man than to appease his sensual appetite? Far from it!

Let us read again that verse and ponder its deeper meaning. Solomon is here speaking of the proper enjoyment of earthly things. Are not these also God's provision for our earthly sojourn? Indeed, yes! "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights ...*" (James 1:17). This also I saw, says Solomon, that it was from the hand of God.

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS!

The hand of God! That's it, that's where every good gift and every perfect gift comes from. Are you aware of this great fact? Do you constantly give thanks? Did you thank God for your food — breakfast, lunch, dinner? Do you thank God for your appetite? Your health? Think of the owner of the supermarket afflicted with cancer. Each treatment with radiotherapy and chemotherapy deadens his taste buds and robs him of all sense of taste. The most savoury and appetising food to him tastes like paper and sawdust. He has all the food in the world, but not the appetite.

Are you, dear reader, brooding over some setback or disappointment? Have you lost your appetite because you missed a promotion? Are you groaning because you haven't the money to buy a good pair of shoes? Think of the Lord Jesus Christ who came down from heaven to suffer and die for you. Count it all joy and privilege when you are asked by your heavenly Father to suffer for Christ today. Think! and not complain.

Solomon says to us: enjoy what you have received from God. "*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God*" (1 Cor 10:31). The Christian has a legitimate share of the world's enjoyments, but he makes all its pleasures subordinate — to the glory of God. The Christian believer can sit down to an earthly feast, with the bright prospect of one day eating and drinking with our Lord in his kingdom (Lk 22:28-30).

QUIZ: When you eat your next meal, will you think of inviting someone to the heavenly banquet?

2. TO EVERYTHING A SEASON (Romans 13:11,12; Ecclesiastes 3:1-22)

Everything around us is in a perpetual state of flux and change. We see one vast shifting scene. To the world, the constant motion is part of fate and chance. Not so, says the Preacher. To everything, there is a season; to every change an unseen Hand is in control. All events, whether the most casual or the most carefully contrived, are over-ruled. To everything there is a time fixed and predetermined. Did you think that it was by your careful planning,

Continued on Page 4

**A very warm welcome to visitors and friends in the name of
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**

PANDAN FACTS & FIGURES

Ring Pastor Quek 6650 8489; Mobile - 9671 9310 any time; Email - suanyew@gmail.com

9.50 am Pre-Service Prayer Meeting: Main Sanctuary Cry Room
Today: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew; N/W: Preacher Joshua Yong

10.15 am Pre-Service Singspiration: Today: Dn Chia Chung Seng; N/W: Dn Milton Ang

10.30 am Lord's Day
Today: **Worship Leaders : Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew / * Dn Han Whie Kwang**
(L/S) **Speaker : Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew**
Message : Trust in God's Mercy – Psalm 13:1-6

N/W: **Worship Leaders : Preacher Joshua Yong /* Dn Chia Chung Seng**
Speaker : Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew
Message : The Fool says there is No God — Psalm 14:1-7

Last Week's (8 April) Attendances and Offerings

English Worship	10.30 am	1002
Junior Worship		121
Mandarin Worship	8.00 am	169
Mandarin JW		17
SGH	6.00 pm	
Prayer Meeting (Tues)	8.15 pm	118

Lord's Day Activities

Junior Worship 11.15am to 12.15pm
 Pre-school: 2-3 years old, Tiny Tots room #04-03
 4 years old, Nursery room (ground floor, next to stage)
 5-6 years old, Kindergarten rooms (ground floor)
 Primary 7-12 years old, JW Sanctuary #02-03

Indonesian Bible Study 11.15 am -12.15 pm, Room #04-04 (CMC Room)
 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm, Room #04-06 (1st Saturday)

Myanmar Bible Study 11.15 am -12.15 pm, Room #02-12 (Kindergarten Computer Rm)

Basic Bible Knowledge 12.15 pm - 1.15 pm, JW Sanctuary #02-03
Today: Lesson 15: Importance of Knowing God's Word
 i/c Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew
N/W: Lesson 16: Witnessing for Christ
 i/c Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

Adult Bible Classes (ABC) 12.15pm - 1.15pm
 Rooms #02-05-07 (Book of Obadiah) - Eld Chew Chong Kiat
 Main Sanctuary (Book of 1 Kings) - Eld Ko SC / Dn Yap Wai Ho
 Cry Room (Gospel of Matthew) - Eld Goh KT / Eld Lee KS

Teens' Meeting 12.15 pm - 1.15 pm, JW Annex, #02-04

Young People Discn 12.15 pm - 1.15 pm, New Sanctuary Cry Room, Level 3
 (17-23 years old)

AV Library 12.15 pm -1.15 pm, Room #02-02

Library 12.15 pm -1.30 pm, Room #03-04

Choir 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm, Main Sanctuary (#02-08)

Tracting 2.00 pm, Main Sanctuary Cry Room
 (2nd & 4th week)

SGH Children Ministry 6.00 pm, Nursery room (ground floor, next to stage)
 (4 - 9 years old)

Lord's Day Duties

	15 April	22 April
Musicians <i>Morning</i>	Ong Su Ling / Rachel Han	Ko Lingwei / Adrian Ho
<i>SGH (6 pm)</i>	Eileen Poh / Elizabeth Tan	Adrian Ho / Lim Zhongyan
Greeters	Dn Adrian Poh, Eileen & family	Dn Chia Chung Seng & Lenny
Welcomers	Harry Kwa & family	William & Lynette Fang
Welcomers (Session)	Dn Milton Ang	Preacher Joshua Yong
	Dn Lim Ah Sang	Dn Leong Chee Meng
Lunch Coupon Sale	Philip, Cheryl & family	Michael, Florence Yip & family
Ushers	Steven Lee, Philip Fang, Ming Kin, Timothy Tan, John Fong, Eng Cheow, Tye Law, Bo Thong, Ernest Chan, Mark Woo, Saravanan, Ray Tan, Joel Koh	Steven Lee, Woon Chin, Nam Moon, Dn Lim Ah Sang, Joe Chan, Liem Seng, Andrew Tay, James Lim, Dn Peck Thian Guan, Chee Weng, Kum Luen, EdgarTeo, Wei Jun, Yee Shen
Kitchen Duty	YAF	AF
SGH Singspiration	Elder Chew Chong Kiat	Elder Chew Chong Kiat
SGH Ushers	AF	YAF
SGH Greeters	Lee Seck Eng & Ann	YF
SGH Welcomers / Dinner Coupon Sales	Dn Lim Ah Sang & Joel Teo	Adrian, Carolyn Ho & family
SGH Kitchen Duty	SAF	YAF

Activities for the week (16 - 21 Apr)

Tues 8.15 pm **PRAYER MEETING:** Sanctuary, 2nd level, i/c Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

Wed 8.30 pm **THE HILLSIDE CONTACT GROUP** at the Residence of Dr and Mrs Thomas Quah. Address: Block 343, The Hillside Condominium, Upper BukitTimah Rd, #09-04. Pastor Quek Suan Yew
 For enquiries, please contact Dr Thomas Quah: 98344292 / 63107516 (H)

Thurs 1.30 pm **LADIES' FELLOWSHIP:** Lounge, Rm #02-14 (left of Tabernacle Bkrm)
 Crucifixion, Death & Burial of Christ Pastor Quek Suan Yew
 (John 19:1-42)

Fri 8.00 pm **HELPMEEET CG** meets in the home of Sister Fiona Boi. Address: Blk138C, Yuan Ching Road #08-145, S613138
 "First Love, Faithful Unto Death, Pastor Quek Suan Yew
 Overcome & Hold Fast!" Revelation 2
 All ladies are welcome! Please contact Winnie (90434053) or Rachel (96652477) for more details.

Sat 2.30 pm **CMC** (Calvary Mission to Children)

Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM)

Saturday 28 April 2018, 7.30 pm

Please collect your copy of the AGR outside the Sanctuary for the meeting.

- Sat 5.00 pm **YOUNG ADULTS FELLOWSHIP:** Cottage Meeting @ Hillview Green Condo Multipurpose Hall, 73 Hume Ave.
 "In God's Hand" (Proverbs 21:1) Dn Eugene Goh
 Dinner will be provided.
 For enquiries, please contact Zhongyan @ 93876290 or Benjamin @ 90481094.
- 5.00 pm **SENIOR ADULTS FELLOWSHIP:** Main Sanctuary, Level 2
 The Armour of God 2: Preacher Joshua Yong
 Breastplate of Righteousness
All are welcome to attend and join us for dinner fellowship after the meeting

News & Announcements

- Last week's LOVE GIFTS TO DESIGNATED OFFERINGS: \$2,439.00**
Bethel DC-Chiang Rai 50=\$50.00; **Bethel DC-Warunee** 50=\$50.00; **Bible College East Africa-Kenya** 70+30+50=\$150.00; **CMC** 50+50=\$100.00; **Eben Yoon** 50+100=\$150.00; **Koh KH's Mother-in-law** 50=\$50.00; **FEBC** 50+25=\$75.00; **Golden Yrs Fellowship** 12+50+202=\$264.00; **Joshua Yong** 50+150=\$200.00; **Kathmandu BPC - Nepal** 35+50=\$85.00; **Ko Ling Kang** 50=\$50.00; **Ling Soon Ing-Sibu** 100=\$100.00; **Peter Yoksan & family** 30+100=\$130.00; **Pontianak-Zakharria** 100=\$100.00; **Pontianak, Kalimantan** 50+100=\$150.00; **Quek Suan Yew** 50+10+50=\$110.00; **RPG-English/Chinese** 5+150+10+10+200=\$375.00; **Tow Siang Hwa, Dr** 50=\$50.00; **Baby Grace** 50=\$50.00; **Others:** \$150
- DESIGNATED OFFERING GUIDELINES** -- In light of the pervasive falling away in the last days, and to protect CPBPC's stand on holiness and obedience to the doctrine of biblical separation, the BOE has decided that any future designated offering to person or churches or ministries or groups that are unbiblical will be redirected to the general fund, from 5th November 2017 onwards.

<p>VBS 2018 will be held from 5-7 June. Registration is now open for children from K1 to P6. Register online at http://vbs.calvarypandan.sg. Hardcopy forms are also available. We are seeking class helpers and bus leaders for the following areas:</p> <p>Bukit Batok Choa Chu Kang Clementi Dover Jurong East and West Queensway West Coast</p> <p>If you're able to serve in these areas, please contact Lemuel Lee at 91779722. For any other enquiries, please email pandanvbs@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Teenz Retreat 18 to 21 June 2018</p> <p>Theme: "Relating to Relations" Speaker: Preacher Ko Ling Kang Venue: Calvary Tengah BPC Fees: \$35</p> <p>For enquiries, please contact Chloe Tan: 91788633</p>
<p>SUNSET GOSPEL HOUR (SGH) Theme: "Know Your Saviour!"</p>	
<p>Topic: <i>15 April (6.00 pm)</i> "Christ's Resurrection" – John 20:11-18</p> <p>Preacher: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew Chairman: Preacher Joshua Yong</p>	<p>Topic: <i>22 April (6.00 pm)</i> "Christ's Ascension" – Acts 1:9-11</p> <p>Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo Preacher Ko Ling Kang</p>

- PRE-WORSHIP PRAYER MEETING** -- All who serve the Lord on the Lord's Day are required to attend this pre-worship prayer meeting. The purpose is to pray for the Lord's blessings as we all serve Him together. The chairman for that morning will be in charge. It is held in the cry room at the back of the main sanctuary. All other worshippers are welcome to attend.
- FOR THOSE STAYING BACK FOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP**, please help yourselves to ice cream at the kitchen counter.
- LIVELY STONES CONTACT GROUP** meets **today**, 1.45pm in the New Cryoom, #02-10 for Bible Study on the Book of Galatians led by Dn Yap Wai Ho. All are welcome.
- TEENZ RETREAT** will be held **today** in the home of Chloe Tan. Add: 77 Poh Huat Road #01-20 (S) 546785. Topic: Wounds of a friend? Speaker: Dn Eugene Goh. Bus leaves church at 1.45 pm sharp.
- ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (ACM)** on Saturday 28 April 2018, 7.30 pm. Please collect your copy of the AGR outside the Sanctuary for the meeting.
- BAPTISMAL SERVICE** - If you intend to be baptised/reaffirmed/transferred on 24 Jun, please complete the Application Forms and submit them to the church office by 15 Apr. Forms are available in the church office. Thank you.
- CALVARY PANDAN KINDERGARTEN** is looking for a qualified Chinese Language Teacher. Candidates who are willing to attend training (if necessary) and are called by God to serve Him, please call CPK office at 65603884 for more details. Thank you.
- DROP OFF BEFORE MWS** -- To worshippers who take Taxis, Uber & Grab to Morning Worship Service, we seek your understanding to alight outside the church gate. With double-parking, there is no through road to leave the church. Special arrangements can be made for those with special needs. Thank you for your cooperation.
- YOUR CO-OPERATION WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED** - After the worship service and before you leave the sanctuary every Lord's Day, please check that no litter has been left behind and that the hymnals/songbooks/Bibles are placed neatly. Thank you.

<p>FEBC DAILY VACATION BIBLE COLLEGE 30 April - 5 May 2018</p> <p>Speaker: Preacher Ko Ling Kang</p> <p>Topic: "CALVINISM: THE OLD VERSUS THE NEW"</p> <p>Venue: FEBC, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063</p> <p><i>Registration forms are available from RPG rack and Tabernacle Books</i></p>	<p>CHURCH VISITATION MINISTRY WORKSHOP Topic: Depression Date: 26 May 2018 (Saturday) Time: 1.30pm-4pm (Lunch starts at 12.30pm) Venue: Level 3 Sanctuary Speaker: Pastor Quek</p> <p>Program: Lunch fellowship, workshop with case study + discussion, message and Q & A.</p> <p>Registration: all who are called to minister and are able to attend, please register with Sis Jean (church office) by 5 May 2018</p> <p>Further queries or clarification: please contact Dn Ah Sang (98205421/limahsang@gmail.com) or Dn Adrian Poh (90305803/hiswayisperfectforme@gmail.com)</p>
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blessings when they bring spiritual blessings to himself and others because they are used properly. In themselves they are not a blessing unlike for the believers who lived in Israel in OT times.

The seed of believers will also be blessed because their spiritual blessings are imparted to their children. They provide a godly home so that their children are immersed in a godly environment from their birth. They will experience God and Christ in their lives before they become children of God. They experience what heaven is like at home before they enter heaven themselves because of their parents' godly testimonies in bringing them up.

Verse 27 (synthetic parallelism) – The result is that all children of God must “depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.” David encouraged all believers to not return evil with evil. This is only possible when like David they are able to see that injustices and pain they experience do not come by chance or from man but from their loving heavenly Father. These trials are meant to drive them closer to God and farther from the world, and also to awaken children of God to the dangers of carnality that surrounds them and the constant need for spiritual fellowship with God in prayer and trust. That is why all believers must depart from evil. When believers fall into sin in times of trial they have failed. The real test in trials is not flesh and blood but spiritual. They must not sin in mind, heart and life. The moment they do, they have failed. They need to repent. The best response as a reflection of trust in the LORD is to keep on doing good to those who hurt God's children. David did not lift a finger to hurt King Saul when the opportunities were there, for he and

his men knew that their miserable life as fugitives would end immediately upon the death of King Saul. But David stopped himself and his men from taking Saul's life. David told them that no man is guiltless who touches the Lord's anointed. God alone will end Saul's life as He was the One who anointed him, so only He can touch him. David waited patiently for the day of deliverance.

David will live forevermore in heaven. This is one of the marks of a child of God who is able to see the hand of God in his life especially in times of fiery trials. This is what believers need today because of the last days they are living in. The health and wealth gospel is pandemic. Conservative Christianity where suffering for Christ is a part is no longer believed. The life of health and wealth is pulling many away from the life of holiness and godliness. This evidence of an unconditional trusting in the LORD daily to provide in times of persecution is shunned by God's people. They like to hear preaching that focuses on love, health and wealth but not on suffering for Christ, holy living and trust in times of pain and sorrow. Therefore the evidence of life forevermore in the believer's life is no longer experienced in the face of such carnality. It has been replaced by the desire to have heaven on earth (a luxurious life) as well as heaven in heaven! This is another gospel that is not the gospel of Christ.

[to be continued]

*N/W: Preacher Joshua Yong
F/W: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew*

III. The Reason to Trust – 37:23-33 –
The new nature of every believer is seen in the new Person that He trusts. He wants his steps to be order by the LORD. No longer does he desire to walk his own steps or do whatever his heart desires. There is a new Master in his life whose voice is heard and whose wish is now his command. He is called a good man by God. This means that he is a child of God. No man is good except one who has all his sins cleansed by the blood of Christ. This is the best reason for the child of God to trust in the LORD. He has a new relationship with God as His child.

God said that his steps are ordered by Him. Everyone walks by taking one step at a time. Steps are used to capture the intimacy and personal care of the LORD in the believer's life. Every step is ordered, i.e. established by the LORD. There are no “wrong” steps taken by the child of God. There is no step that God cannot control. This is not possible for all human beings, for the LORD God almighty is all powerful. The difference between the good man and the “bad” man is that the good man is able to follow and take good steps leading to the good life which points others to Christ. The “bad” man who is an unbeliever is not able to do that. His life is one of spiritual darkness and nothing good can come out of him. The opposite is true of the believer. His life is led and established by the LORD. If he is wayward and sins against God, the LORD will chastise him and bring him back to the path of righteousness. This is good for him as he will bear a holy witness for Christ once more. If he is holy and walking right with the

LORD he will continue to do so as he prays without ceasing seeking to obey the Word of God at all costs. The LORD leads by the revelation of God's holy and perfect Word!

The second part of the verse can be understood as the child of God delighting in the way that the LORD leads him on; or it could mean that the LORD delights in the way of the child of God. The literal translation of the verse is, “By the LORD are the steps of a good man ordered, and his way he shall delight.” The literal translation appears to be the better understanding even though both are doctrinally correct. The emphasis here is that the way or life of the good man whose steps are ordered by the LORD will be pleasing to Him. This is the assurance of a godly life that all believers need to know from the LORD. This is the use of synthetic parallelism. The life of the believer is a life of sacrifice whereby he is prepared to give up everything and everyone for the sake of Christ as his life is lived according to Holy Scriptures! But if he is not sure that the LORD is pleased with him and his life, even though he tries to live according to the Bible, then he will continue to live in doubt and will only find out at death. God does not wish this for all His children when they live for Him. This verse is a wonderful assurance from the LORD to all His children so that they will trust Him long and deep, regardless of the sacrifice.

Verse 24 (synthetic parallelism) – The life and witness of the good man is not without stumbling and persecutions. On top of the persecution experienced by all who live on this sin-filled earth, the believer will add to

the sufferings that he now has to endure for Christ when he lives the life ordered by the LORD. The world will hate him, for the god of this world (Satan) will try to destroy his holy life. This means that the child of God will sometimes fall into sin. His witness for Christ is tarnished as long as he remains in sin. He has to repent and return back to the path of holiness to restore his life of holy witness. Verse 23 promises this. It says that though the child of God falls, he shall not be utterly cast down, which means there is a way back to Christ. All sins can be forgiven by God through Christ. There is no such as thing as an unpardonable sin that the blood of Christ cannot cleanse. The child of God will repent and return to the LORD so that his witness for Christ can be restored. There is no other way to repair the damage to the image of Christ when a child of God sins except through genuine sincere repentance and bearing its consequence. When the child of God is disobedient to God's Word for whatever reason, he will be disciplined by God. The discipline would include being cast down so that he will stop sinning. But the casting down is to humble him so that he will come back to the LORD. It is not meant to destroy but to restore him. That is why God says here that though he falls he will not be utterly cast down. He is down but not out is the modern interpretation.

The reason is that the LORD will be near him to pick him up. It is like the miracle of Peter walking on water. He was doing fine until he took his eyes off Christ and began to see the storm and waves all around him. He started to sink. But Christ was near him to lift him up and into the safety of the ship. Christ will always be with His disciples. No matter where

they are and what they have done, He will never desert them. He will always be there to strengthen and keep them. This is what "upholdeth" means. It is as if the believer cannot stand on his own anymore because of the trial but the LORD will be there to carry His disciple through the trial. This is His promise to all His disciples. **Matthew 28:18-20** "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." [emphasis added]

Verse 25 (synthetic parallelism) – David suddenly shifted the focus to a personal testimony. He says, "I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Reflecting on his growing up years and remembering the LORD's provision and protection in his life, David assured all readers that he was not writing something theoretical but factual and personal. He was a young shepherd boy looking after his father's sheep when the lion and bear came to attack him. The LORD delivered him from these dangers. **1 Samuel 17:34-36** "And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: **35** And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. **36** Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied

the armies of the living God." Throughout his life from young to old, even as king of Israel with his many trials which included his life as a fugitive when king Saul and all Israel were against him, the LORD was there to save and deliver David, and made him king of Israel as He promised. Subsequently when David's own son, Absalom, rebelled and ousted him from the palace and wanted to kill him, the LORD again delivered David when he prayed. These were very trying times in David's life but the LORD was there for him.

There were times when David had no home or food, yet the LORD sustained him. The LORD will never forsake his children. Whenever they suffer it is to strengthen their faith when they are not suffering as a form of chastisement for sins committed. The righteous referred to here are the believers only. They are God's children. They are left behind on earth after their salvation to witness for Christ. For this purpose, the LORD and Christ promised all believers that they will never serve and witness alone. God will always be there to hold their hand and lead them in the right path. David said that he did not see God's seed begging bread. It does not mean that God's children will not experience hunger which was what David experienced when he fled for his life from King Saul. The ones who begged for bread in Israel were the orphans and widows because they did not have anyone to care for them and provide for their daily needs. What God means here is that God's children will never feel as if they are unwanted and uncared for orphans. They will always be watched over by the LORD regardless of how dire their circumstances might be. They might sometimes feel as if God has deserted them

because of the suffering, pain and fear that grip their hearts; but the LORD is still near them. He knows that it is not time for the deliverance. The deliverance will be just on time where the faith of God's children will be strengthened fully and their walk with the LORD strengthened and raised to the next level of trust and faith!

Verse 26 (synthetic parallelism) – "The LORD is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed." The LORD will show His grace to His children daily. All the goodness of God that He bestows will surely be given to His children as they suffer and face trials every day. The word merciful means "to be gracious." Literally it means "to bend and stoop in kindness to one who is inferior." God bends and stoops down in kindness to us as we serve and witness on earth for Christ. We do not deserve such kindness from the LORD but He daily gives it to His children. This testimony from David comes from his heart and out of the many painful and lonely experiences in his life. The word "lendeth" here does not refer to the LORD lending to His children but rather that His children will be graciously supplied by the LORD so that they will lend to others who are in need. This is true of those who serve the LORD faithfully in Israel. The national witness for the LORD will receive both spiritual and physical blessings (cf. Lev 26 and Deu 28) but this does not apply to believers in the church witness. In the church witness, the blessings are only spiritual. Those who think of blessings from God in terms of health and wealth today are living in the wrong period of time. More often than not, more money and health have resulted in more carnality in the believer's life. These physical "responsibilities" can become

