

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE



Sermon Date: 03/05/2020

Text(s): Psalm 91

Title: Psalm 91 and Pandemics

Preacher: Rev Jason Phua

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

(Read the Bible texts, quietly or aloud)

Psalm 91 (ESV)

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge—

10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

12 On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

13 You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

14 "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.

15 When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

16 With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."



REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text)

- 1. In all the ages and in every continent, many people have been afraid of demons and diseases. In the sermon, we are told that in the 5th century, people inscribed verses from Psalm 91 onto silver amulets and bowls. One bowl even has an incantation that says “suppressed are all demons, all no-good ones, all pebble-spirits, and liliths, and mevakkaltas, and idols and goddesses”. People believed that these objects had magical power to protect them against evil spirits and illnesses. Why do you think people from every age and background have a tendency to put their trust in objects and incantations? What does this say about us human beings in general?**
- 2. Do we see examples in the Bible of God’s people choosing to put their trust in a man-made object? Do we see examples in our modern time of Christians putting their trust in some form of object to protect them from evil?**
- 3. The preacher explained that the book of Psalms is an inspired collection of Hebrew prayers and songs. Many of the psalms are what the people of old said to God about God. Psalms are metaphorical (a metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable). Psalm 91:1–2 picture God as a shelter, a shadow, a refuge and a fortress. How do these pictures speak to you? What do you feel in your heart as you read these two verses?**

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate and apply God’s word to our daily lives)

- 1. While the writer of Psalm 91 did say that God is all powerful and is able to protect them, he also pointed to the people how they cannot benefit from God’s might if they do not dwell in Him. In other words, the Israelites cannot expect God to be their refuge if they refuse to come and abide in Him in the first place. What do the words ‘dwell’ and ‘abide’ mean to you? What does ‘dwelling’ or ‘abiding’ in God mean to you? How do you actually live this out?**
- 2. In the Old Testament, we see the Israelites turning to worship man-made objects and false prophets time and again even though they had a covenant with God (often referred to as the Mosaic Covenant because it came through Moses). In the last 2000 years of church history, we also see Christians turning to believe in man-made objects and false teachers even though we have a New Covenant through Christ Jesus. Why do we see this pattern repeating again and again? And how can we prevent ourselves from making the same mistake?**
- 3. As we continue to stay at home, what can we do to “make it count” so that we may truly dwell in God and grow in spiritually maturity?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)



- Pray for one another to have an assurance of God's love and care and to trust Him to see us through to overcome this pandemic.
- Pray for others in your family or circle of friends who need prayer support. Let us continue to pray for the migrant workers in Singapore.
- Remember to pray for our church and churches in Singapore to continue as godly witnesses to Singapore and beyond.