



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

51 North Franklin Road • Indianapolis, IN 46219 • 317.897.1298

## THE VALLEY OF DEATH



WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE 23RD PSALM'S FOURTH VERSE THAT SPEAKS OF WALKING THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH. DAVID WROTE OF A SCARY PLACE FILLED WITH THIEVES AND HIDDEN DANGERS; A PLACE HE DIDN'T WANT TO PASS THROUGH BUT HAD TO. WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE. WE'VE HAD SERIOUS ILLNESSES OR ADVERSITIES AND HAVE ALSO WATCHED WHILE OTHERS ENDURED THEM. AS I WRITE THIS, MY FATHER-IN-LAW IS NEARING DEATH, AND THE DARKNESS OF THE VALLEY IS DIFFICULT.

WHEN WE FACE THIS VALLEY, LET ME SUGGEST TWO BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES. BE READY AND BE CONFIDENT.

WE'RE READY FOR THE VALLEY WHEN WE KNOW THAT THE LORD IS INDEED OUR SHEPHERD. PAUL WRITES "I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED." (II TIMOTHY 1:12). THOUGH ENDURING SUFFERING, HE KNEW HIS FAITH WAS FIRMLY FOUNDED IN CHRIST. IN I JOHN 5:13 JOHN SAYS, "THESE THINGS I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU WHO BELIEVE IN THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD, SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

ANOTHER ELEMENT OF READINESS IS THAT OF OBEDIENCE. WE DARE NOT BALK OR BACK AWAY JUST BECAUSE A VALLEY IS SCARY. IN ACTS 20:22-24 THE APOSTLE RECOUNTS KNOWING THAT BONDS AND AFFLICTION AWAIT HIM IN JERUSALEM, YET HE STATES "I DO NOT CONSIDER MY LIFE OF ANY ACCOUNT AS DEAR TO MYSELF, SO THAT I MAY FINISH MY COURSE . . .". HE WAS READY AND NOT RETICENT TO SUFFER.

WE CAN ALSO BE CONFIDENT IN THE VALLEY. WE KNOW THAT THIS IS WHERE GOD HAS LED US, AND WE CAN TRUST HIM WITH ALL OF OUR HEART. (SEE PROVERBS 3:5-6). WE KNOW TOO THAT GOD GOES WITH US IN THESE FRIGHTENING TIMES. HEBREWS 13:5-6 REMINDS US THAT HE WILL NEVER FORSAKE NOR LEAVE US. THEREFORE WE CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID" FINALLY WE CAN ALSO BE CERTAIN THAT SOMETHING GOOD IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VALLEY. DAVID WROTE OF A FEAST AND GOD'S FAVOR AT THE END OF THE VALLEY (SEE PSALM 23:5). WE WHO ARE BELIEVERS KNOW THAT WHEN WE DIE WE GO TO A HEAVENLY HOME ESPECIALLY PREPARED FOR US BY JESUS THE MASTER CARPENTER. (SEE JOHN 14:2-3)

VALLEY LIFE CANNOT BE AVOIDED, BUT LET'S BE READY AND CONFIDENT WHEN GOD DIRECTS US THERE.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE