AN EVER-PRESENT HELP

INTRODUCTION
In the next two weeks we will wrap up our “Summer in the Psalms”

This week Psalm 46 gives a corporate statement of faith

Next week Psalm 16 will give a personal statement of faith

PSALM 46

Setting an Anchor (vs 1-3)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble
refuge and strength

ever-present

help

Therefore we will not fear

Even the total chaos depicted is not fearful

We always have chaos and fear-inducing circumstances around us
me

Pastor Dan

this church

what our history has demonstrated

Living in Paradise (Lost) (vs 4-7)

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place

Most scholars believe this is a reference to Paradise, with its river
Revelation 22:1-2

God is w/i her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress

How do you respond to the world news of the day?
  fear and trembling and worry?

  with a deep desire for God to wrap everything up now?

  with confident hope w/o seeing God’s hand at work?

  God is still with us; do you live as though that is true?

The Culmination (vs 8-11)
We are invited to come see the culmination of human history
  God overpowers all human powers

  God destroys all human means of destruction

God speaks to all humanity
  “Be still!” = Quiet!   Cease and desist!   Peace!

  “Know that I am God” (and know that you are not!)

  the ultimate goal of human history is that all submit to Jesus
  Philippians 2:9-11

  nothing will be able to prevent this

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven
  Matthew 6:10

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress

What is the starting & end point for you?

What is your only comfort in life and in death?
  HC A #1

  Is this reality when life and faith collide?