

TEXT: Psalm 55:22

THEME: YOUR PROBLEMS HAVE GOD'S SOLUTION

“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall” (Psalm 55:22).

Dear Faculty, students, parents, friends, and especially our 8th grade graduates:

At first glance, your class verse might strike some people as a bit odd. **“Cast your cares on the Lord”**...what cares do you have as an 8th grade graduate? Your parents provide everything you need—food, clothing, shelter, transportation—and much of what of you want. You don't have to be concerned about making a mortgage payment, paying the utility bills, or buying groceries because that's all done for you by the parents God gave you. This past school year you were at the top of the food chain; there were no older students to get in your way or hassle you. You don't have a fulltime job yet. Man, it seems like you've got it made in the shade.

So why this verse from Scripture? It is a wonderful class verse, but why? It is a psalm of

David and it was probably written about the time that David's son, Absalom, rebelled against him and David realized that his trusted advisor, Ahithophel, had betrayed David and joined Absalom. What a terrible time in David's life! His own son was trying to kill him in order to become king in his father's place, and David's trusted friend was helping Absalom. Earlier in the psalm, David prayed for the defeat of his betrayer and his allies. That prayer was answered when Ahithophel committed suicide after Absalom rejected his advice, and when Absalom and many of his co-conspirators were killed in battle. The Lord sustained David and did not let him fall.

Now, it is not likely that you will have exactly the same kind of cares and concerns that David had when he wrote this psalm by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. However, I know that you have cares and concerns right now, and they are very real. You are about to enter high school. You are going to be a ninth grader, a freshman, and that means you are going back to being the bottom of the food chain in the school setting. You will need to make that transition gracefully. You will be making new friends, hanging out with new people. Choose your friends wisely...friends who will help you stay connected to Jesus, friends who will not betray you by tempting you into sin and away from

your Lord and Savior. Sorry parents, but you graduates may be driving in a year or two. Please, make wise decisions while you are driving because I'm on the road a lot. For your own sake, make wise decisions. In the next four years, you will have to make a decision about college...if you are going and where. You'll need to choose a career or at least determine a direction you are heading in life regarding work. You will probably have to get a job. You'll probably find someone of the opposite gender that you really like...and maybe get your heart broken a few times. I know you have cares and concerns right now, but follow David's advice and **"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."**

Of course, that last part could be a problem, couldn't it? **"He will never let the righteous fall."** You aren't always righteous, are you? You don't always make the right choices. You sin, just like I do and everyone else here this evening. So, does that mean this promise doesn't really apply to you and me?

You know better than that. I know you know better than that, because Pastor Pankow and I and all your teachers here at Trinity have taught you that you are righteous, not because of anything you have done, but all because of Jesus your Savior.

So, in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead, when you have cares and concerns, **"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you."** Every one of your cares, everyone of your problems has God's solution. He already took care of your greatest problem—sin—through your Savior, Jesus. He will lead you to the solution for all your lesser problems too. But he does that through his Word and through fellow Christians using his Word. The only way you can throw all your cares and problems on God is by being in his Word—everyday through your personal Bible study and devotions, every week through faithful worship attendance right here at church, every month through Bible study and fellowship with our youth group. Then you will be able to **"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."** Then you will discover that YOUR PROBLEMS HAVE GOD'S SOLUTION, just as David did. Amen.