

## Introduction

- What do you lean upon?
  - what gives life meaning, purpose, and most of all security?

### Relationships?

- For some it is family, for others that special someone, for others friends
  - perhaps at different stages of life different ones tend to dominate
  - we build friendships, we seek out that precious partner, we delight in time with those we love
  - they are they people we want to spend times of joy with - weddings, parties
  - and they are also the people we turn to in times of sadness, who draw close when illness strikes, or death draws close, or failure or disappointment
- What a wonderful gift from God!
  - for he said "its not good for a man to be alone..." (Genesis 2:18)
- BUT...
  - for all their wonder and promise, relationships alone are a shaky foundation on which to build our life
  - we all know of broken relationships...
  - from divorce and separation
  - through fallout with parents
  - friendships that have turned sour, or disappointed...
- Human relationships are wonderful - but shaky as a foundation!

### Money?

- At other times we are tempted to lean on the promise that money holds out for security and happiness
  - have we a home for the future - money will provide
  - have we activities to fill our time - money will provide
  - have we provided for our children - money will provide
  - have we a way of proving we are of worth - money will provide
- BUT...
  - with credit crunches, falling property values and soaring food prices, we are perhaps more aware just now of just how transient the security that money brings really is...

### Pleasure? - eg holidays

- Promise so much...
- BUT...
  - they come to an end!

### Leaders?

- Or perhaps we place our hope in those we look up to?
  - examples from the secular world like Barack Obama in the USA...
  - but equally our heroes in the Christian world - whether it is Billy Graham, or someone closer to home like a minister or camp leader or YF leader
  - if only they can take power, or if only we can be like them, then "all will be well"...
- BUT...
  - even the best leaders are flawed!
  - Mugabe in Zimbabwe...
  - Christian leaders who we have known and looked up to who have fallen into sin, or failed in their promises...

### Career and learning?

- Value and identity from achievement, from recognition:
  - education, promotion...
- BUT...
  - so often they turn into the rat race
  - there will always be someone else better than us
  - even if we are Sir Steve Redgrave, there will be someone else along behind us

to take our place...

- Show how that is all captured in vs.3-4
  - this is a weak, rickety bridge to true security

## Exposition

- And then(?) dwell upon how trustworthy God is
  - how reliable in rescue, in provision, in justice, in healing, in love (emotion), when outsider or alien, when without family or close relationship

### In rescue

- fancy being rescued by one who can calm a storm? Who made this world and everything in it - from natural forces to human minds and constructions? - v.5,6

### In provision

- who can provide for every need, but the one who has everything? v.7

### In justice

- upholding those who are oppressed, even those who are imprisoned - v.7

### In healing

- he can break into even those situations of bodily or mental brokenness that are impossible for human help - v.8

### In love

- the one who gave his own life for us... v.8

### In alienation

- when without family or close relationships - v.9

## Conclusion

- How do we face the future?
  - this coming year?
  - with the confidence and assurance of v.10?
- *Conclusion: Can we say vs.1b-2?*