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OUR SECURITY IN THE NEW YEAR

(Psalm 91)

...We live in an increasingly dangerous world. Don't be naïve. Evil men lurk about seeking to harm, diseases strike, accidents seem to find us, and political enemies desire our destruction. We need MORE than the Department Home Land Security.

...In our attempt feel secure, many place their security in passing things. These may have limited benefits, but ultimately and finally they are only allusions. (money, insurance, education, health, job, friends, abilities, and youthfulness) However, when the rough winds blow, all of these will fail us.

...Psalm 91 provides the answer to our security. It is found only in God. This Psalm is written to urge you to trust and cling to the Lord in all circumstances. Psalm 91 is "bright, simple, and exudes with cheerful trust."

TWO ASSURANCES OF THE SAFETY PROVIDED FOR US WHEN WE WALK CLOSELY WITH THE LORD. May 2008 find us walking in the shadow of the Almighty!

I. God Assures That Those Of Us Who Walk Closely With Him Will Be Protected From Many Dangers. (vv.1-8)

- A. The writer(Moses?), begins with his theme and then breaks into a personal confession. (vv1-2)
1. To find this security, one must "dwell near the Lord." This means that you must live your life walking daily in close fellowship with Him.
 2. How does one do this? He prays, reads God's Word, and strives to please the Lord in all of life. This is a life of obedience. It is the blessed life. Rest comes to such ones.
 3. The Psalmist expresses his personal faith in God. (v. 2) "He is my refuge, my fortress ...before commending this trust in God to us, he breaks in to tell of his own faith...
...This sounds like Thomas' confession in the Upper Room. (John 20:28) "My Lord..."
 4. Can you say that Jesus Christ is your Lord and God? These promises are only for you if He is your Lord and Savior. You must "be born again."
- B. We are urged to trust Lord who is both willing and able to protect us from the many threatening things found in the world. (vv. 3-8) The striking thing here is the use of the singular pronoun, "you." It is a way of saying each of these truths are for each person individually.
1. First, we are protected from the subtle traps of our enemies. (traps...catch birds)
 2. Next, God keeps us from sickness and disease. (v. 3)
..."this does not mean we will never die by disease or suffer from an enemy's plot...but that our entire lives are filled with deliverances until God takes us to be with Him."
 3. God protects us from the "terror of the night." (v. 5) Lurking things at nighttime...
"the shadow of the Almighty removes all gloom from the shadow of the night."
 4. God protects us from the dangers of the day. "the arrow that flies by day." (v.5)
...this is any sudden lethal attack.
 5. God Himself promises to keep us unscathed. He is our shield.
...He protects us like a mother bird with her young & like armor around us.
...He protects us even when in an inescapable situation with 1000s falling around us. (7)

II. God Assures Us Of Victory And Protection Over Menacing Beasts.(9-16)(Satan)

- A. This protection is not automatic for all Christians. There is a condition attached to it. "If" (9)
...you must be one who knows Christ and lives daily in close fellowship with Him.
- B. God's angels are sent by God to protect us from these dangers. (vv11-13)
1. The angels are pictured as "holding us up from harm." Like a parent with a child...
 2. Even the beasts, like lions and snakes, which symbolize the danger that hides and suddenly pounces or strikes us. We are safe! (1 Peter 5:7 "Satan...roaring lion...)
 3. Satan quoted these verses to tempt Jesus to sin. (Matthew 4:7)
- C. Finally, God Himself breaks into the Psalm and speaks assuring us that He will protect those who love Him. What wonderful verses these are. (vv. 13-16) Notice the pronoun, "I."
...The Lord is not only the object of our FAITH, but also our LOVE.
...As a Christian, you need to rest in God continually, and trust Him at all times. This means living all of life "in God." "In Him we live, move, and have our being." (Acts 17)

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES: