

**DELIVERED FROM ALL TROUBLE?
A SONG REVISITED**
(Psalm 91)

...As mentioned, during the past couple of months I have been thinking and rethinking about many things. During my illness I found great comfort in Psalm 91 which I consider to be an old friend. It reminded me that our security and well-being are only found in the Lord and in living in "His shadow."

...Psalm 91, that old song of sheer delight and joy, makes a number of statements that seem to be absolutes, but life, and my life during the hard time seemed to be an exception. God did not do what He promised?

...How does this glorious Psalm square up with life as we know it, even as believers in Christ? How should we understand it? How does it provide us with deep peace during the storms?

TWO QUESTIONS HELPING US ENJOY GOD'S PEACE WHEN THE TROUBLE AND HARD TIMES FALL UPON US.

...This is the most cheerful of all the psalms. Yet, are its promises to be taken as absolute, without qualification?

I. What Does God Tell Us In This Blessed Psalm? (A brief exposition)

- A. God will deliver us from the many dangers of life. (vv.1-8)
1. Moses writes his own testimony telling us that we must live our lives walking daily in close fellowship with the LORD. (vv.1-2) As sheep stay close to the shepherd so...
 2. How do we stay close to the Lord? Read and study His Word daily, strive by His grace to live a life of obedience, serving the Lord.
 3. Moses tells us that the Lord is "my refuge, my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
...His confession sounds almost like Thomas', "My Lord and my God." (John 20:28)
 4. In words that appear as absolutes, Moses lists the many dangers that we as close-dwellers are protected from. (vv.3-8)
...From the subtle traps of our enemies, sickness, and disease...dangers of the day, and dangers of the night. Wow, what a list!
...God "promises" to keep us unscathed. He is our shield. Even if 10,000 soldiers...
- B. God will grant us victory and protection against menacing beasts, even Satan. (9-16)
1. Again, this is not automatic, but the promise is made to believers who live close. (9)
 2. God tells us that He even sends His angels to protect us from danger. (vv.11-13)
...Here angels are described as holding us up from the harm of hitting the ground.
 3. If these words were not enough to comfort us, God breaks into the dialogue and tells of His tender care for us. (vv.14-16) "I will deliver him...I will

protect him...I will answer him, I will rescue Him and honor him and long life I will satisfy him."
...These are some of the most blessed words in the whole Bible. They are for you!!!

II. **What Does This Mean? How Are We To Understand It?** (Perhaps in three ways...)

...For trouble visits all people, even men and women who walk closely with Jesus.

- A. Did the writer (perhaps Moses) get this wrong?
...It is merely a "pie in the sky," expressing a hope that does not exist.
...Many think of the Bible in this way, a book written by men and filled with all kinds of errors.
- B. The promises are true and absolute, but those enduring sickness and trouble are guilty of not being a "close dweller" with the Lord. The promises are binding, and trouble reveals ...
...This is extremely cruel. It does not fit with the rest of Scripture...especially Jesus!
- C. The promises made to us here are qualified, meaning that nothing can come into your life as a close dwelling believer without the permission and design of the Lord Himself.
 1. Remember when Satan quoted this Psalm in tempting Jesus? He treated the promises here as absolutes. "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here...for He will give His angels charge over you to protect you ..."
 2. Jesus, as our wonderful Savior, died at a young age...after great suffering.
 3. Luke 21:16-18 tells that some would be killed, but not a hair on our head will perish."
...We may suffer and even die, but our death immediately brings us into heaven!!!
 4. Therefore, when you find yourself suffering, pray asking for the Lord's deliverance, but always end your prayers with, "Nevertheless, not my will, but your will be done."

SO WHAT? HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE MY LIFE?

1. This wonderful Psalm is not for you if you have never believed upon the Lord Jesus as your Savior and Lord. The safety told of here can only be yours if you have Jesus as your Lord. This morning, pray and ask the Lord for forgive you of your sins and receive Him as your Savior.
2. This Psalm calls each of us as followers of Jesus to live daily close to Him. Begin the day by reading your Bible and spending some time with Him in prayer. This will help keep your life centered, keeping you from wandering away. Be a "close-dweller!"
3. Balance this Psalm with the rest of Scripture, and you will land in the right place of understanding, that is, nothing can come into your life that has not first passed through the hands of our Heavenly Father. Rest in God's care for you. Whatever He does is good, you can trust Him all the way.
4. Even when you come to die, you are safe...for "not a hair of your head will perish."
...In that day, we will be delivered from trouble forever and ever!!!!