

The Comfort of God's Keeping Power

Introduction

A. The Christian is one who has been redeemed by the grace of God. The Lord Jesus Christ did not have to come into the world and die as our Substitute on the Cross, but He did, and the value of His death is the provision of salvation.

For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. Eph. 2:8,9

B. It is the promise of God that He will keep all those who receive Him as Savior and Lord. In the area of salvation this keeping power is complete. In the area of the daily life the degree whereby we are kept depends on our honesty and cooperation with God.

I. The Old Testament Benediction Refers to God's Keeping Power, Numbers 6:24.

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

Observation: God instructed Moses to set up the Levitical Priesthood. As a part of their work they were to pronounce a benediction upon the people of God. The Lord called this placing His Name upon the children of Israel. For the Old Testament saint to belong to God meant simply – he was one kept by God.

II. David, the Psalmist, Described How God Desires to Keep His People, Psalm 17:8.

Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of Thy wings.

Observation: As we seek to protect our eyes and cover them at the slightest provocation – so God states through David that His people are as precious to Him as the eye and He will keep them as instinctively.

III. God's Keeping Power in Regard to Salvation.

A. The Lord Jesus prayed that we would be kept saved, John 17:11,15.

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own Name, those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as we are.

I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil (one).

Observation: This promise of keeping power is related to every believer. The promise is without qualification. This does not mean that a person who continues to be characterized by known sin may use this for comfort. Such a person has yet to become a Christian (I John 3:9).

B. The Apostle Peter described the Christian as one who was kept by God, I Peter 1:5.

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Observation: From the Bible it is dear that to be a Christian is to be kept by God. It is God's power which keeps us. The reference to "faith" in the verse reminds us that God's keeping power has to do with only those who are related to Him by faith.

IV. God's Keeping Power in Regard to the Daily life.

A. God's promise is that our hearts and minds may be kept by peace, Phil. 4:6,7.

Be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Observation: The term "keep*" in this verse is a military word meaning to "guard" or "keep secure". As we learn to walk with God in prayer and thanksgiving – He promises to guard our hearts and minds with His peace.

B. God's promise is that we may be kept from evil, II Thess. 3:3.

But the Lord is faithful, Who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Observation: The word "evil" can be either neuter or masculine. The KJV translates it neuter "evil" and the RV translates it masculine "evil one". From the context Paul is referring to wicked men (V2) and from disorderly brethren (VS6-11). He probably is thinking of evil as related to the problems of daily life. God desires to keep us out of trouble.

C. God's promise is that we may be kept faithful until death, II Timothy 1:12.

For the which cause I also suffer these things, nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.

Observation: That which Paul committed to God was seemingly his ministry -- the work God had given him to do. This should be an encouragement to every believer. God desires to enable us to fulfill our calling and commission which He has given us.

D. God's promise is that we may be kept from falling, Jude 24.

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy*

Observation: The term "falling" is really "stumbling". Jude is here presenting the believer's whole life. All during this life God is able to keep us from stumbling and at the end present us faultless. Note that this work is God's joy!

Conclusion: Let's thank God for keeping power and seek in every way to live so that His goodness, grace and love may be seen in our daily lives.