**Title: OUR PROTECTION / SECURITY…..**

Text: Ps. 5:11-12; Prov. 14:26; Job 1:1-12; Jn. 16:33;

Ps. 112:6-8; 1 Co. 10:13; Ps. 46:1-3; Deut. 31:8

 Introduction: This morning I want to talk about protection.

 Most of the time protection equals security.

 We have brave men and women today serving in our armed forces overseas who are protecting our country against potential terrorism being imported to our own shores so that we can feel more secure here at home.

 We have men and women in our police forces that are there to help protect us in our communities so we can feel more secure in our day to day lives.

 Those that take their 2nd amendment rights seriously and own and or carry firearms do so for the potential protection of themselves and their loved ones so that they can feel more secure in what is becoming a more and more violent world.

 When we feel protected we feel more secure….That is just the way that it is.

Scripture speaks much about protection and security…

**Psalms 5:11-12(NIV)**  **11But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.**  **12For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.**

**Proverbs 14:26(NIV)**  **26He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.**

 As we make Jesus our Lord He then becomes our refuge, protector and our security…

To see a great illustration of this we can go to the book of Job…

**Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.**

 This is our introduction to the man Job--- blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

 Then we are told about Job’s wealth and standing in his community…
**2And seven sons and three daughters were born to him.** **3Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.**

Job was a wealthy man greatly blessed by God with a large family and great possessions.

 Then we learn a little about the character of Job..

**4And his sons would go and feast *in their* houses, each on his *appointed* day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.
5So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did regularly.**

 Job was a very devout man of God and was greatly concerned for the spiritual welfare of his children…

And then we come to possibly one of the greatest faith’s that we find in all of Scripture—the faith of this man called Job….

**6Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.**

**7And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”**

**8Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”
9So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing?
10Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?**

 **You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”**

 According to the Lord’s own testimony Job is the most righteous man alive on earth at this particular time.

 We see God acting like a proud father or grandfather…

**“Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”**

 So, Satan challenges the Lord God as to Job’s degree of faithfulness.

**9So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing?
10Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.
11But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”**

The Lord takes up the challenge….

 **12And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person.*” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.**

 As we read on we find that all hell breaks out in Job’s life.

 He loses most of his possessions, all his sons and daughters are killed, and finally Job’s health is taken away from him and he is reduced to sitting in an ash heap scraping painful boils that have broken out from head to foot on his body.

 How does Job respond to all this sudden disaster in his life?

**20Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.
21And he said:      “Naked I came from my mother’s womb,     And naked shall I return there.     The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;     Blessed be the name of the Lord.”
22In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.**

There is a myriad of things that we can learn from the book of Job but I want to just focus on a couple this morning.

 Let me stop and ask a question….As a Christian do you ever fear the enemy, the devil, Satan?

 If so, why?

This first chapter of Job reveals an amazing truth that should give all of us, as believers, an amazing sense of security where the devil and his possible attacks are concerned…

**Job 1: 9So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing?
10Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?**

 **You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”**

**10Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?**

 **You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.**

What we need to see here is that Satan could not come against Job without first getting Gods permission to do so!

 It says that God had a hedge of protection placed around Job and all that Job had.

 That hedge was placed on every side! God’s protection was complete!

The Hebrew word for hedge is:

***sook***

**A primitive root; to *entwine*, that is, *shut* in (for formation, protection or restraint):—fence. (make an hedge).**

 Because of Job’s relationship with God, God had placed around Job and his family and his possessions a hedge of protection that the enemy could not penetrate….

 Through Job’s righteousness, his right standing with God, Job was protected by God from the enemy of mankind and what resulted was Job’s security….

 Some might say but just look at all Job went through, all that God allowed Job to go through, by giving Satan permission to attack Job.

 But the point is that God allowed it and without Gods approval Satan can do nothing to a child of God…

 So does that mean that God allows all suffering and all evil in our world? No!

 The suffering we face in this world will find its origin from one of two sources.

1. An attack from the enemy that God has allowed into our life for His purposes to advance the Kingdom of God.

2. Or, from the result of sin and living in a world that has fallen to sin.

For the Christian, I believe, the first is pretty rare..

The second we will all face whether Christian or not.

Jesus says this in:
**John 16:33(NIV)**  **33“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”**

**In this world you will have trouble.**

*Trouble=*

***thlip'-sis* From G2346; *pressure* (literally or figuratively):—afflicted, (-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.**

 Here Jesus is referring to the trouble that is just a natural result from living in a world that is fallen to sin.

 In the Garden of Eden when man was created we see the world that God intended.

 In the first 2 chapters of Genesis we see what kind of world God originally intended for man.

 It was perfect in every aspect—perfect climate, no storms but the ground was watered from the dew that would come up from the ground every morning.

 No weeds, thistles, or thorns but just lush green grasses and fruit bearing trees.

 No sickness, sorrow, pain or death but only perfect immortal life.

 Then through mans free moral agency, their free will that God created within us to enable us to have relationship with Himself man made a choice opposed to God.

 Man sinned and when he did all creation fell into sin also.

 It was then that storms started and weeds, thorns and thistles began to infest the earth. It was then that sickness, sorrow, pain and even death came into our world..

 All of these things are the result of mans disobedience and the Devil had nothing to do with it other than to offer a temptation to man. but man made the choice to disobey in and of himself.

 All of these things have become a part of our world and they are the “trouble” that Jesus was speaking of.

**33“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”**

 In rare instances sickness, sorrow, pain and death can be a direct attack of the enemy that God may allow for His own purpose in the life a Christian but I believe that is very, very rare..

 Most of the time when we face these things in life it is simply because we live in this world that is fallen to sin and these things are just a big part of a sin filled world.

 Many times, through prayer and petition God will heal and deliver us from these worldly ramifications of sin.

 But in the example of Job something that often gets overlooked is this…..

 When Satan was allowed to come against Job all hell broke loose on Jobs life….He lost everything! Possessions, family and finally personal health.

 What we often miss in the example of Job is that this is exactly what each of our lives would be like every day of our existence if it were not for God’s restraining hand of protection against these attacks of the enemy!

 Picture Job sitting on a heap of ashes with a piece of broken pottery scraping boils that have broken out on his body from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet, while deep inside mourning the loss of all his children asking God why he was ever born.

Then realize that that would be you and I today if it was not for Gods restraining hand of protection upon our lives.

 As far as the attacks of the enemy go, as a child of God, we have the same hedge of protection around us that was around Job that the enemy could not penetrate until he got special permission from God to do so…..

**10Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?**

 We may not always feel this hedge of protection and certainly cannot see it but as a child of God it is there none the less.

Have you heard the story of how boys were initiated into manhood and admitted to the circle of braves in many of the American Indian tribes?

The small boy was taken from his family and led out into the forest. Then he was told that he must spend the entire night there alone—and left to his own devices.

You can imagine what an ordeal this would be. To untrained senses and an unleashed imagination, every sound would seem to foretell an attack by some fearsome night predator, and every shadow would conjure up a huge monster.

But, as day broke and the sun rose over the mountains, the boy’s first sight would be his father.

All night long, in the silence and just out of the boy’s vision, his father had stood, bow and arrow ready, watching over and protecting his son.

With incredible delight, the boy would run to his father, shouting, “Father, you were there all along!”

I believe this is a good illustration of how God watches over us as a christian….

How does that knowledge make you feel?

Does it give you a since of security?

 I believe David had this security in his heart when he wrote:

**Psalms 112:6-8(NIV)**  **6Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever.**  **7He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.**  **8His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes.**

A quote Attributed to St. Patrick,

*“I arise today Through God’s strength to direct me, God’s might to uphold me, God’s wisdom to guide me, God’s eye to look before, God’s ear to hear me, God’s word to speak to me, God’s hand to guard me, God’s way to lie before me, God’s shield to protect me, God’s hosts to save me from snares of devils*

Do you have this kind of security in the protection of the Lord upon your life this morning?

Jesus said:**33“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”**

 We will face trouble in our life from time to time. That is just what a world fallen to sin is like.

 On rare occasions God may even allow the enemy to attack us in some way…. But only because He knows that our faith is greater than any attack that the enemy may bring.

 **1 Corinthians 10:13(NIV)**  **13No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**

The Greek word for temptation used here is:

***pi-ras-mos'* a putting to *proof* (by experiment of good], *experience* [of evil], solicitation, discipline or provocation); by implication *adversity:*—temptation, X try.**

**13No temptation** (no provocation, no adversity) **has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.**

Any attack of the enemy that is allowed through ,God has already equipped us to handle…

 Of all the trail and tribulations that we face in this world fallen to sin we have the promise of one day rising victoriously over it all….

 **I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”**

As we place ourselves “in Christ” we will have peace!

Peace=***i-rah'-nay***

***peace* (literally or figuratively); by implication *prosperity:*— peace, quietness, rest, + set at one again.**

**In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”**

And just as Jesus has overcome the world we have that same promise of one day overcoming this world with all of its troubles as well!

**Psalms 46:1-3(NIV)**  **1God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
2Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
3though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. *Selah***

As a child of God we need not fear whatever the source of our trial or tribulations becauseGod is our refuge and strength, and He is an ever-present help in trouble.

**Deuteronomy 31:8(NIV)
8The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”**

Do you feel secure in the Lord this morning?

 Have you allowed Him to become your refuge and strength and an ever-present help in your time of trouble?