

Psalm 91 (NIV84)

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- 5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
- 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- 7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
- 8 You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

- 9 If you make the Most High your dwelling- even the LORD, who is my refuge-
- 10 then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.
- 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;
- 12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
- 13 You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
- 14 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
- 15 He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

As we see evidence of every day, there is a lot of fear of "the deadly pestilence," also known as COVID-19. People are ordering their lives (and the people in their lives) based on their fears. The temptation for all of us is to give way to fear and to disregard the fact that God is in control of all our circumstances.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, pray for peace -- the peace of mind that only Jesus can give -- peace in the face of fear, peace in the face of trouble, peace in the face of uncertainty. Our God will never disappoint us or leave us. No matter what, our Lord will keep His promises. May this truth allow each of us to see past our present circumstances to the reality of our God, so that we may "rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

At rest with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

July 21

Afraid of Misfortune?

Fear not . . . when thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee.

Isaiah 43:1.2

Man is instinctively afraid of misfortune. The millions upon millions of dollars in the vaults of insurance companies are a symbol of man's unspoken dread of an evil day, and of his efforts to soften the blow of calamity whenever it might fall.

The child of God, however, has an assurance which is greater than all the props which men have built to hold back the waters of adversity. No matter how great the misfortune, how stark the tragedy, he has his God, the God revealed in Holy Scripture; and he knows that his God is there-right in the midst of calamity!

"Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord, thy God!"

A believing Christian who had just been informed of the death of his son remarked: "Whenever my tragedy becomes baffling, I lay it against Calvary." There is the real insurance against despair in the midst of misfortune. If God so loved us from eternity that he decreed to give his only begotten Son into the "calamity" of Calvary-so that we might be his own and live under him in his kingdom-then surely he will not allow any tragedy to rob us of the ultimate enjoyment of that blessed promise. No matter what our circumstance, our inmost prayer can always be:

My spirit on Thy care, Blest Savior, I recline.
Thou wilt not leave me to despair, For Thou art Love divine.
Let good or ill befall, It must be good for me; Secure of having Thee in all, Of having all in Thee.

The believer in "that great Shepherd of the sheep" who has died for him need have no fear of the day of misfortune, for he has the guarantee: his Shepherd will be with him.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)