

KEEP THEM

JOHN 17

Text: John 17:11

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¹¹ 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*.

John 17:15

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Introduction:

In our Lord's prayer, He prayed for His disciples and followers. He is praying for us today. In these verses the Lord prays that the Father would keep those that He was leaving behind.

The word 'keep' means to guard from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon; hold fast, watch.

As God keeps us or watches over us we have His:

1. PROTECTION

Read Pslams 17

David prays that God would keep him, with as much care as a man keeps the apple of his eye.

David futher prays “Lord keep me from the wicked, from men of the world, from being and doing like them, from walking in their counsel, and standing in their way, and eating their portions.

A. Our Problem - The enemy

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

As a roaring lion - Satan tempts under three forms:

- The subtle serpent; to beguile our senses, pervert our judgment, and enchant our imagination.
- As an angel of light; to deceive us with false views of spiritual things, refinements in religion, and presumption on the providence and grace of God.

- As a roaring lion; to bear us down, and destroy us by violent opposition, persecution, and death. Thus he was acting towards the followers of God at Pontus, etc., who were now suffering a grievous persecution.

Seeking whom he may devour - Whom he may gulp down. It is not every one that he can swallow down: those who are sober and vigilant are proof against him, these he May Not swallow down; those who are drunken with the cares of this world, etc., and are unwatchful, these he may swallow down.

B. His Presence - Our Savior

Matthew 28:20

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

2. PROVISIONS

Psalm 23:1-5

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. [2] He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. [3] He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. [4] Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. [5] Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

A. I shall not want

When the Lord is my Shepherd he is able to supply my needs, and He is certainly willing to do so.

I shall not lack for temporal things. Does He feeds the ravens, and causes the lillies to grow? How then, can He leave His children to starve?

I shall not want for spiritual things. His grace is sufficient. Resting in Him he will say,

Deut. 33:25

..... and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.

We may not possess all that I wish for, but “I shall not want.”

B. Green pastures, and still waters.

C. Restoreth my soul

When the soul grows sorrowful he revives it; when it is sinful he sanctifies it; when it is weak he strengthens it. “He” does it.

D. Leads us in the paths of righteousness, - for His name sake.

E. The rod and staff comfort me - even in the valley of the shadow of death.

Yea, though I walk,” as if the believer did not quicken his pace when he came to die, but still calmly walked with God. To walk indicates the steady advance of a soul which knows its road, knows its end, resolves to follow the path, feels quite safe, and is therefore perfectly calm and composed.

This dying is called a valley. The storm breaks and beats on the mountain, but the valley is the place of solitude and safety, and thus often the last days of the Christian are the most peaceful of their whole life; the mountain is bleak and bare, but the valley is rich with golden sheaves, and many a saint has reaped more joy and

knowledge when he came to die than he ever knew while he lived.

It is not “the valley of death,” but “the valley of the shadow of death,” for death in its substance has been removed, and only the shadow of it remains. Nobody is afraid of a shadow, for a shadow cannot stop a man's pathway even for a moment. The shadow of a dog cannot bite; the shadow of a sword cannot kill; the shadow of death cannot destroy us.

F. He prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies.

As God keeps us, He Protects us, and provides for us.

As God keeps us and watches over us we also enjoy Peace.

3. PEACE

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

My peace - Such as I only can impart. The special peace which my religion is fitted to impart.

Not as the world -

- Not the objects which men commonly seek - pleasure, fame, wealth. They leave care, anxiety, remorse. They don't meet the desires, and they are incapable of affording that peace which the soul needs.

- Not as the men of the world give. They salute you with empty and flattering words, but their professed friendship is often reigned and has no sincerity. You cannot be sure that they are sincere, but I am.

- Not as systems of philosophy and false religion give. They profess to give peace, but it is not real. It does not still the voice of conscience; it does not take away sin; it does not reconcile the soul to God.

- My peace is such as meets all the wants of the soul, silences the alarms of conscience, is fixed and sure amid all external changes, and will abide in the hour of death and forever. How desirable, in a world of anxiety and care, to possess this peace! and how should all who have it not, seek that which the world can neither give nor take away!

Peace with God

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Ephes. 2:14-17

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; [15] Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; [16] And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: [17] And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Peace of God

Philip. 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. [5] Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. [6] Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. [7] And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

His peace passes all understanding. The peace when we have no anxious care about the supply of our needs

and when we can go confidently and commit everything in the hands of God.

One Cannot Enjoy the Peace of God until they Have Made Peace with God!

Close:

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John 17:15

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The Lord is praying for each of us today. He is praying that His Father keep us.

- Have you trusted Him as your personal Saviour?
- Remember His name is at stake - what is it that others think and see of our Savior in and through your life each day?