

## STATEMENTS OF FAITH: "Shelter in Place"

### INTRODUCTION

- **Key Idea:** We should be thankful not only for God's *provision* but also for God's *protection*.

"The thing that struck me was the number of the bullets that missed me." (Soldier who fought in the Vietnam War)

- **Psalm 91** is the "Granddaddy of all the Psalms of Trust." It is a Psalm that gives us *assurance of God's everlasting vigil over His people*.

### THE DELIVERED (PSALM 91:1-2)

- The Psalmist is speaking to himself and for himself. He is a **witness** to God's preserving providence.
- **Secret Place** ("Hiding place") – This carries the idea of hospitality. In the Eastern culture, when someone entered your home, they came under your protection.

To dwell in the secret place means to approach God and come under His protection. It's to draw near to God through prayer and Scripture reading and public fellowship. **The life that is overshadowed by a sense of God's greatness and glory is never overwhelmed by life's reality.**

#### Images in this Passage:

1. **Shadow** (v.1) – The presence of God casts a shadow. There is *safety in the shadow*.
2. **Fortress** (v.2) – The *masada* describes a "massive fortification" in Israel.
3. **Wings** (v.4) – The image of a mother hen who gathers her chicks (Matt 23:37).
4. **Shield** (v.4) – Both the long shield ("shield") and the small shield ("buckler") are described in this verse.

"There are no 'ifs' in God's world. And no places that are safer than other places. The center of His will is our only safety - let us pray that we may always know it!" (Corrie Ten Boom, quoting her sister Betsy)

### THE DELIVERANCE (PSALM 91:3-13)

- Having spoken to himself, the Psalmist wants to encourage others to put their trust in God. In the time of crisis, He didn't feed **fear**, He fed **faith**.
- The deliverance is **required** because the dangers are *many* (snare, pestilence, animals, wicked) and the treat level is *constant* (night and day – verses 5-6).

#### Observations:

1. The **Meaning of the Deliverance** – take care not to over-read the promise. This is not a "get out of jail free card." The Psalmist speaks of a deliverance *in* the trial: a deliverance from **fear** and **spiritual collapse**. God will either deliver us *in* the trial or He will deliver us *from* the trial.
2. The **Means of the Deliverance** – The real security is found in the nature and character of God.
  - A. **Most High** (Elyon) – The God who is above all, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
  - B. **Almighty** (El Shaddai) – The all-sufficient one, adequate for every situation.
  - C. **LORD** (YHWH) – The self-existent one who keeps covenant with His people.
  - D. **God** (Elohim) – The powerful God who surpasses all that we can imagine.

### THE DELIVERER (PSALM 91:14-16)

- The Psalmist now finds *God speaking to Him*. This passage contains a **seven-fold promise of God**.
- This is a pledge of God Almighty to get involved in your life and my life ("I will" – repeated emphasis).

# Sermon Application Questions

April 26, 2020

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

1 Pastor Philip exhorted us to thank God not only for the **things God gives to us**, but also to thank God for the **things He keeps from us**.

1 “When we look back on our life from the perspective of eternity, we are going to see that the power of Satan was so great, that the weakness of our flesh was feeble, and that the hostility of the world was so strong, that every day of our lives – if God had not intervened – we would never have made it through a day.” (John Calvin)

What are the “dangers, toils and snares” in your life that God has given you His **protection** from?

Will you give thanks to God this day for these expressions of His grace?

2 David O. Taylor has written, “Faith happens in a hostile world, not in the mystical ambient light of a gothic cathedral. Faith works itself out in the middle of enemies, not in the silent chambers of the soul or only in the company of folks who were ‘poorly intended.’”

What are your thoughts about this statement?

How does this perspective inform the way we view the current pandemic and its consequences?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1 Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week’s sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

### **Proverbs 18:10**

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

### **Romans 8:31**

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Hebrews 10:19-25**

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Read **Psalm 91:1-2** with a view towards personal application.

Pastor Philip taught us that “real security is found in the nature and the character of God.”

There are four titles for God found in this passage:

- **Most High** (Elyon) – The God who is above all, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- **Almighty** (El Shaddai) – The all-sufficient one, adequate for every situation.
- **LORD** (YHWH) – The self-existent one who keeps covenant with His people.
- **God** (Elohim) – The powerful God who surpasses all that we can imagine.

These are four good reasons for the believer to have hope, and four good reasons for the believer to calm down.

In your own words, write out a prayer of praise for who God is in His unchanging character.

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Pastor Philip exhorted us in this sermon that “the safest place in the world is the center of God’s will, even if that place is dangerous.”

As missionaries have said to their friends, “the most dangerous place is at home outside the will of God.”

What are your own reflections on this theme? How does this truth encourage you in the life situation you are in today?

In **Psalm 91:3-13**, the Psalmist transitions from speaking to himself about God’s preservation to speaking to others to encourage them in the faith.

In light of this passage, Pastor Philip exhorted us to “be a son of encouragement”; to be a Barnabas.

Who will you encourage this week in the faith?

How will you reach out to them? (e.g. Phone call, Email/Text, Online platform, Social Media)

What passages of Scripture will you use to encourage them?