

## Jesus Cares for His Own

Good evening! Let us take a few moments to read a passage of Scripture from God's word found in Psalm 91:1-16.

***1 ¶ He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. 3 Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.***

***5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.***

***9 ¶ Because Thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, Thy habitation; 10 There shall no evil befall Thee, neither shall any plague come nigh Thy dwelling. 11 For He shall give His angels charge over Thee, to keep Thee in all Thy ways. 12 They shall bear Thee up in their hands, lest Thou dash Thy foot against a stone. 13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt Thou trample under feet.***

***14 Because He hath set His love upon Me, therefore will I deliver Him: I will set Him on high, because He hath known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer Him: I will be with Him in trouble; I will deliver Him, and honour Him. 16 With long life will I satisfy Him, and shew Him my salvation.***

One of the most comforting thoughts we have to take into the New Year is that Jesus cares for us. There is not a person upon the Earth for which He fails to care, yet, there are many people with an empty and meaningless life, thinking no one cares.

Some folks think believers are like sheep or cattle who are bought and then turned loose to graze or make it the best way they can. No, we are not alone as God's little children.

If a person seeks to live the Christian life without a knowledge of God's care and leadership, he or she is destined to fail in his or her Christian living.

Many verses in the Bible speak to us of God's care for His own. Matthew 10:29-31 says: ***"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall***

***not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."***

If God knows when every sparrow falls to the ground, and He cares about the birds, how much more does He care about us, whom He has made in His own image.

When David found out about Miphibosheth, Jonathan's son, at Lodebar, the place of no pasture, he sent for him and brought him to the presence of the King's table to eat daily. The goods that Miphibosheth had lost were restored to him. All that the lame Miphobosheth needed was found at the palace of the King.

That is what Jesus did for us. He has saved us with His own blood and makes the provisions we need for our growth, safety and our welfare, all the way to the end of our Christian journey. God cares about you more than you will ever imagine. Calvary alone should be sufficient proof of the care and love of God for a sinful mankind. Paul wrote in Romans 5:8, ***"But God commendeth (demonstrates) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."***

Calvary alone should settle the question about whether God loves every person born of Adam's race or not, because the Bible says of Jesus Christ ***"That He by the grace of God should taste death for every man"*** (Hebrews 2:9). He gave Himself for the literate and the illiterate, for the educated and the uneducated, for the rich and for the poor, and for the cultured and the crude. Christ died ***"for every man"*** (Hebrews 2:9).

Christ cares for us in His heart. How do I know that? Listen to the following verse: ***"And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy [place], for a memorial before the LORD continually"*** (Exodus 28:29). When the high priest of Israel went before God, he had a breastplate which had written the names of the tribes of Israel written over his heart. The heart speaks of tender love and affection. The breastplate was a type of Christ caring for His people.

Christ in the New Testament spoke of gathering Israel as, ***"A hen would gather her chicks under her wings"*** (Matthew 23:37). A chick has a sense of security under its mother's wings. What Jesus said of Israel, is true also of the church. He wants to give all of us a place of refuge to give us security throughout the year into which we will be entering.

God hides you and me in the secret of His presence. The Bible says in Psalm 31:20: ***"Thou shalt hide them in the secret of Thy presence."*** We are not hidden in darkness, we are hidden in His glorious and marvelous light. Our God

is a caring and tender God and is full of love for us. Even when He chastises us, He does it because He loves us.

Because He has us in His heart, there are at least five things that are true:

He is **"great in faithfulness."** 1 Corinthians. 1:9 says, **"God is faithful by Whom ye were called into the fellowship of His Son."** Some mothers might forget their children, some even dump them in garbage cans immediately after they are born, but God will **NEVER** forget His own. Even when we seem faithless to Him, He is faithful to us. That is because we are in His heart.

He is **"endless in love."** Jesus said in John 13:1, **"Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end."** Nothing, I mean nothing, can separate us from the love of God that is found in Christ Jesus our blessed Lord. Tribulation, famine, sword, pestilence, none of these can separate us. Disease can come but it cannot separate us from the love of God which is in Christ. His love never ends.

He is **"tender in His mercies."** Luke 1:78 tells us that God would give: **"Knowledge of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins through the tender mercies of God."** So many imagine God as a cruel master standing over His slaves with a large whip. We are His servants, but we are not serving One Who has no regard for us, for He has us in His heart. He is **"Touched with the feeling of our infirmities"** (Hebrews 4:15). He knows our frame and is touched by our needs. His yoke is easy.

He is **"gracious in pity."** Psalm 103:13 declares, **"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him."** Our God is our Father. No earthly father, though many deeply care for their own, could care to the extent that God cares for us. He has a sharper compassion, and a wiser leadership, than any earthly Father.

How precious are those words to us, **"Like as a father."** Jesus spoke of God as His Father, even so can we who are redeemed by the grace of God. Jesus is to us all that the Father is toward His sons, and much more than we can imagine.

Christ cares for us as He carries us on His shoulders. Luke 15:5 says, **"And when he hath found it (that is the lost sheep), he layeth it on his shoulder."**

Luke 15 records three precious parables. They are the *Parable of the Lost Coin*, the *Parable of the Lost Son*, and the *Parable of the Lost Sheep*. A sheep got lost, so the shepherd went out looking for it. He found his sheep far from the place it should have been, away from the fold. The shepherd picked it up, put it on his shoulder and brought it home. **The shoulder is a place of strength.** That is where the high priest of the Old Testament wore the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. He not only has us "under His wings" but He also "carries us on

His wings." Deuteronomy 32:11-12 states, ***"As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the Lord did lead him."***

A loving father has a deep regard and affection for his son and seeks the child's welfare continually. Even so does God.

God is stronger than we could ever fully imagine or comprehend. You have all heard about Samson and his great strength. Christ is our Samson. Samson was an extremely strong man. No one could bind him. He could pick up the heavy gates of the city and carry them upon his shoulders. He could lean on the huge pillars of the temple and bring them to the ground.

Christ is able to bear all of our burdens if we will just cast them upon Him. He is the "Mighty Savior." He can push every obstacle out of His way and show forth His everlasting strength. He is our Samson, but even more so, for He is mightier than Samson.

Christ is our David. David, you recall, was the one that went forth to meet the giant, Goliath. He overthrew him with a smooth stone, cut off his head with a sword, and sent the enemies of Israel to flight.

We have a "Heavenly David." He will meet our enemy for us and make us victorious in every conflict in which we find ourselves engaged. We are, ***"More than conquerors through Him that loved us."*** Christ has already met our greatest foe, Satan, and has defeated Him, when He cried at the cross, ***"It is finished"*** (John 19:30).

Do you recall from the Old Testament how Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor: ***"Come, let us go over against the host of these uncircumcised"***? Jonathan realized that it was nothing with the Lord to save, whether it was a few or whether it was many. They overcame the mightiest warriors of their day, the Philistines, because of the strength and courage of Jonathan who trusted in the Lord.

Christ is our Heavenly Jonathan. He can take care of those who make themselves our enemies. They will run from before the presence of the Lord. He will take us to the place of victory in this upcoming new year. He can shelter us and also carry us through every battle and difficulty that we will encounter along the way.

Christ cares for us because He helps us with His hand. The Scripture declares in Isaiah 41:10, ***"Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness."***

To be dismayed means to "look about with anxiety or worry." It seems to express a condition that is an ongoing problem. God says in Isaiah 41:13, ***"For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, 'Fear not; I will help thee.'"***

In the *Book of Acts* Peter saw the beggar sitting at the gate called Beautiful at the Temple. He was begging alms of those who came by. Peter looked down at him with compassion and said, ***"Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*** Peter took him by the hand and lifted the man up.

God does not just expect us to stand up and walk after having been paralyzed and lame through a fall, that is, through sin. Like Peter did to the man begging alms, Jesus reaches down, takes us by the hand and helps us to walk.

The Hebrews writer stated in Hebrews 13:6, ***"The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man shall do unto me."*** While Paul journeyed, this fact gave him comfort. There was One Who was His constant companion, when others thought he was by himself. God is able to make us to stand.

There are five wonderful Scriptures I feel you should see to begin the new year:

Matthew 28:20, ***"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."*** Remember, we never walk alone. The Lord is always by our side and even in us. He will hold our hand and handle our conflicts unto the end of this age.

Genesis 28:15, ***"Behold I am with thee and will keep thee in all places, whithersoever thou goest . . . I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."*** God spoke to Jacob after Jacob saw a vision of a ladder reaching from Earth to Heaven. God gave Jacob comfort and told him He would be with Him, at his side, holding him by the hand. There is nothing more comforting as we wade our way through the darkness of this world, than to know our Lord is near. We can feel the touch of His hand.

Acts 18:9-10 says, ***"Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace, for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee."*** When enemies surround us, when persecutions come, when we begin to sense we are being overwhelmed by something we should not be, we feel the "touch of His hand." An old song says:

*"The touch of his hand, means so much to me,  
I'll cling to Him now, for He walks with me,  
I'll make it through, to Heaven's bright land,  
For I'm led by the touch of God's mighty hand."*

2 Timothy 4:16-17 tells us, **"At my first answer, no man stood with me, but all men forsook me . . . not withstanding, the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, that by me the preaching might be fully known."** The Apostle Paul understood what it was to have the Lord Jesus walking by his side and standing with him. God encouraged and delivered the apostle. God had a strong grip on his hand. That kept Paul from stumbling.

Isaiah 43:2 says, **"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."** When the waters dash high, and rivers in life run swiftly, and the fire is kindled so very hot, our God can still lead us through it all.

As a shepherd does his sheep, He calls us out and goes before us. A song says:

*I have Somebody with me, to share the heavy load, I feel His presence near me every day, though troubles overtake us, along this pilgrim way, I have somebody with me all the way.*

We are here as ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ, and He gives a great work. Jesus said in John 14:12, **"And greater works than these shall ye do, because I go unto My Father."** Christ did many signs, miracles and wonders, but today He is working through His children by the Holy Spirit. He is not in one locality working upon the Earth, but now He is in Christians all around the world working. He is in every land through many believers scattered around the world.

He gives a continuing work. Jesus began the work that we are doing, but went back to the Father's house, and assigned us the responsibility of representing Him in this world. Now that He is "taken up" He has left us to complete the work that He began.

He gave us a definite work. According to Mark 13:14, He gives to every man **"to every one his work."** We are all sent of God to do a specific work for Him in this world. He cares for us because He backs us with His power. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, **"All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in Earth."** He gives power for the work. Christ does not just tell us about how He is with us but He wants us to know that all authority and power are in His hands. Our service is backed with His power.

Jesus cares for us because He undergirds us with His arms. To undergird with the arms speaks of God's tender love for His children. Deuteronomy 32:27 says, **"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."** Our God goes before us. He is behind us, He is within us and He is also beneath us. Everlasting arms are constantly under us. Do you often sense that when you are about ready to fall from exhaustion spiritually? If you do, those are the loving arms of our Savior holding you and comforting you!