

God Will Keep Thy Soul
by Tom Wacaster

In times of uncertainty the child of God has a refuge in his heavenly Father. Indeed, the promises that God gives to His children are so abundant that the saint could read one promise a day for the entire year and not have touched the hem of the garment. Psalms 121:7 contains just such a promise:

*The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even
for evermore.*

Having grown up during the tense days of the cold war, I have finally reached retirement age. One thing I have learned is that the uncertainties of the early to mid 60's have not diminished; they have only changed form. Things are as perilous today as they were in those innocent years of the 50's and 60's. Life remains uncertain, riches take wings, and the earthly wisdom continues to prove itself to be devilish and from beneath. Random killings remain a mystery and politicians continue to mystify, whether for the good or bad. There have been two crazed killers in as many days that have, once again, shocked our senses and reminded us that life is not certain. And, again, the pundits and prognosticators are seeking "clues" as to what motivated these two men, in two separate incidents, to take the lives of slightly more than a dozen people. Such random killings are designed to generate fear in the minds of society. Were it not for the fact that God has promised to watch over His children, the crazed mad men of our unstable society might be successful in producing that fear even in the hearts of God's children.

In contrast, consider the promise set forth by the Psalmist. "The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil." To a certain degree God *does* protect us and shield us from the woes of this world, if for no other reason than the fact that seeds of godliness keep us aloof from the troubles that plague most men. I know of no Christian who has been the victim of random shootings. I am not saying no Christian has ever fallen prey to senseless killings; I am just saying I know of none. But the promise that "the Lord shall preserve thee from all evil" finds its fullest application when it comes to preservation of the soul. Regardless of what might happen in this world, the Christian has his hope set on what happens *after* this life. While God is concerned about our well being this side of eternity, He is *more* concerned about the soul, and has promised to keep us from all evil. When traveling, when going home and coming back, everywhere and at all times, God will watch over us. What great comfort there is for the troubled soul in knowing that God cares for us. As one poet put it:

In foreign realms, and lands remote,
Supported by thy care,
Through burning climes they pass unhurt,
And breath in tainted air.

When by the dreadful tempest borne,
High on the broken wave,
They know thou art not slow to hear,
Nor impotent to save.

The storm is laid - the winds retire,
Obedient to thy will;
The seas that roars at thy command,

At thy command is still.

In midst of dangers, fears, and death,
Thy goodness we'll adore;
We'll praise thee for thy mercies past,
And humbly hope for more.

Our life, while thou preserv'st that life,
Thy sacrifice shall be;
And death, when death shall be our lot,
Shall join our souls to thee"

There is no doubt that troublesome times will remain as long as the earth remains; that is just part of life, and part of curse of sin and evil. But let come what may, the child of God rests in the promise that "God will keep thy soul."