

The Lord our Keeper- Psalm 121

By
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We live in dangerous world. There is danger at home, on the street, at work, in cars, in planes, and in trains. Wherever we are, wherever we go, however we get there, and whatever we are doing, there is a possibility that something bad might happen to us. Most people don't realize this or pay attention to it, but that is becoming increasingly harder to do with the COVID-19 pandemic. We all know that there is a good chance that we could contract this virus, which could kill us and our loved ones. That is why the entire country has screeched to a halt and we are all practicing social distancing. We now feel anxious and fearful.

As God's redeemed and beloved people in Christ, we have nothing to fear because, as Psalm 121 reminds us, God is watching over us. There are three things that the Psalmist emphasizes in this brief Psalm: God, keep, and you. "God" is mentioned 10 times; "keep" six times; and "you" ten times. The main point of this psalm is that God is your keeper.

God is the one who made heaven and earth (vs. 2). This is God's world. He made it, and he rules over it. Everything, including deadly viruses, is in his hand and under his control. This is why God is able to do whatever he pleases (Ps. 115:3). He is subject to no one or nothing. He is God Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth.

God *keeps* you. He helps, watches and protects you, not by removing you from the danger, but by preserving you through it. God keeps you from every real and imaginary danger (vv. 6-7). There are no exceptions or qualifications. God keeps you around the clock, (vs. 4). He doesn't go home at 5 or show up for work at midnight. He takes all the shifts. God keeps you wherever you are and wherever you go (vs. 8). God keeps you forever (vs. 8). There is no expiration date to God's protection.

You are kept. God won't let *your* foot be moved. He is *your* keeper and *your* shade on your right hand. God will keep *your* life. God is watching over you personally.

An eight-year old boy from Western PA walking in the crowded streets of NYC would be deeply anxious and fearful if he were there all by himself. But if he were there holding his father's hand, he wouldn't be afraid at all. Indeed, he might be having the time of his life. God, the maker of heaven and earth, is holding our hand. That is why we do not have to be fearful or anxious.

Does this mean that we and our loved ones won't contract COVID-19? Not necessarily. God may certainly, in answer to our prayers, protect us from the virus. But he also may take us through a time of suffering and death. If he does the latter, which he will sooner or later, he will continue to watch over us and see us through it. Jesus, the good shepherd who laid down his life for us, has given us eternal life and he will not allow us to perish, and no one will snatch us out of his hand (John 10:27-29). He will "keep your life...from this time forth and forevermore."