

God Delivers and Protects

(Updated 12/2020; Dr. Baines, Jr.)

Read: Psalms 91:1-6, 9-16

Summary Highlights: In vss. 1-6 the anonymous writer talks about his confidence in the Lord. He talks about hiding in the secret place and under the shadow of God. He is trusting God to deliver him from the attack of enemies – snare of fowlers, noisome (i.e., very offensive or harmful) pestilence, etc.

In vss. 9-13 the anonymous writer speaks to an anonymous listener. The writer tells the listener that because of the listener's trust in God, no evil will befall the listener or overtake him. Angels will minister to and support the listener.

In vss. 14-16 God speaks. He talks about what He will do for the writer because of the writer's love of God. God will deliver the writer. Long life is promised.

Introduction: A key idea of today's lesson is that God takes great care of His own. Prayerfully, we will be challenged to make sure that we belong to God and that we are living accordingly.

Applications:

1. Believing and depending on the Lord. Notice in vss. 1-6 that God is pictured as a place of protection. On one hand, the closer we get to God, the more we can expect that enemies and negativity will come our way. The devil doesn't give much attention to those who don't pose much of a threat to him. But on the other hand, thank God, whatever the enemy throws at us, God is able to protect His own. God is bigger and tougher than anything this world can throw at us. *Let's live as if we believe and depend on the protection of God.* Such living should be known for confidence, joy, and we will talk about obedience next.

2. Trust and obedience. Notice in vs. 2 that the writer talks about his trust in God. Hebrews 11:6 teaches that without faith (i.e., trust) it is impossible to please God. James 2:17 teaches that faith (i.e., trust) without works is dead. In order to claim the great things of this lesson like God's protection, it is important for us to demonstrate obedient trust in God. *Let's work on demonstrating an obedient trust in God.* One of the reasons that the Pastor pounds away at such foundational issues like study, serve, and give is because obedience is the key to us getting what we want. Without obedience, our financial, relational, and health challenges keep getting worst and worst.

3. Handling truth with care. Notice in vs. 4 the mention of God's truth. In Ephesians 6:17 we see that God's word is pictured as a sword. As helpful as a weapon can be in the time of war, it can also cause us great harm. With a pistol, we can shoot the enemy, shoot ourselves, or shoot our allies. *Let's work on studying the proper application of God's word, so it can help, instead of hurt us.* Using the three study questions and four study tools with the Sunday School and Bible Study material are great places to start. Just remember

that the more we learn, the more God expects us to grow in our obedience. For example, the more we learn about loving people and worshipping God, the more we should love people and worship God.

4. Encourage one another. Notice in vss. 9-10 that the unknown writer seems to be encouraging someone else about the comfort found in the Lord. The more we learn about God and His goodness, the more we should share it with others. *Let's work on encourage one another to trust the goodness of God.* Woe unto us if we either are not growing or we are growing but not sharing.

5. Treat people right. Notice in vs. 11 the mention of angels. Passages like Hebrews 13:2 should urge us to treat people right, because we never know who God is using to send our next blessing through. *Let's work on treating people right.* And we should let God use us to be a blessing to others as well.

6. When evil does come. Notice in vss. 10-13 the great promises of the text. Yet many, if not most, of us have experienced these and similar problems. What are we to do when evil befalls us, in spite of such a promise? *Let's learn to trust God to work all things out for the good of His people.* Whatever evil or negativity comes into our lives, we must learn to trust God to use it for our good somehow and some way.

7. Love and know God. Notice in vss. 14-16 that there are great benefits to loving and knowing God. This text talks about answered prayer and long satisfying lives. On one hand, *let's work on prayerfully studying and obeying God's word.* In this way we will nurture our knowing and loving Him. But on the other hand, we must be careful about expecting God to do whatever we ask Him to do and expecting to see a long life. Some of the stuff that we want is not good for us, and if we live long enough, we will thank God that He did not give us what we used to ask Him for. As for long life, we just have to trust the timing of God. There seems to be some people who live too long, if longevity is based on godliness. And there are others who seem to die so soon. Remember, however, there is a way that seems right unto a person that ends in death. That is why we walk by faith and not by sight.