

Security Concerns: Kept & Guarded (Part 2)

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

John 17:11-15

John 17:11–15, *And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except {translated but in KJV/NASB/LSB and others} the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.*

In our Lord's High Priestly prayer, we must continually reinforce our understanding of who He is praying for. He tells us in verse 9, "*I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.*" Jesus is not praying for unbelievers who belong to the world, but rather for true believers in Christ.

His concern on the eve of His crucifixion is for those whom He has been given and whom He has kept and guarded. He is leaving the world to go to the Father and actively transferring oversight to the Father (verse 11).

Now, we understand that it is the Father who keeps and guards us and not ourselves. We are not in charge of our own security; God is. This truth is spoken aloud by Jesus, and His disciples can hear and understand it. May God help us to rest easy in His provision of security.

I. The Example for Us (Acts 20:17-38)

- A. He called the elders of Ephesus to Miletus for his last words to them (17)
- B. Paul recalled his time with these elders
 - 1. He lived among them (18)
 - 2. He served among them (19)
 - 3. He declared truth of repentance and faith (20-21)
 - 4. He informs them of his future (22-27)
- C. Paul then warns the elders (28-30)
- D. Paul instructs the elders (31)

II. The Application To Us

- A. The Christian, by default, is engaged in spiritual battle.
 - 1. Christians do not share the same Lord and Father.
 - 2. Christians do not share the same values
 - 3. Christians do not share the same laws.
- B. The Christian is instructed to suit up for spiritual battle (**Ephesians 6:11-13**)
 - 1. Are we conscious of our position and condition as Christians?
 - 2. Are we aware of our need to be kept, guarded, and protected?
 - 3. Are we aware of the spiritual conflict in which we are engaged?
- C. The Christian has continual spiritual harassment and an accusing enemy (**1 Peter 5:8**)
 - 1. Your adversary, the devil.
 - a) He and his troops are antagonistic and accusing. They are hostile to the Christian.
 - 2. Their pursuit – someone to devour.
 - a) The young; babes in Christ.
 - b) The weak; be strong in the Lord.
 - c) The sick.
 - d) The elderly; no one is safe until they are home.

III. The Forces Arrayed Against Us

- A. The "World" Attack (**1 John 2:15-16; James 1:27; 4:4; Romans 12:2**)
 - 1. In John 17:11-15 – the world is mentioned or implied in every verse.
 - 2. The hate of the world
 - a) The Scriptural Reminder

-
- (1) **John 17:14** *I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*
 - (2) **John 15:19**, *If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*
 - b) What the world does not hate.
 - (1) False teaching
 - (2) High morality in our own power
 - (3) False religion
 - (4) False Christ (the big man upstairs)
 - c) What should be the reason for hate?
 - (1) No oddity or difficulty
 - (2) But godly living (**2 Timothy 3:12**, *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*
 - 3. The “Demas” way (**2 Timothy 4:10**, *For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.*)
 - a) The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life.
 - b) Wealth, position, pomp & show.
 - c) Prosperity (Laodicea -Revelation 3:17)
 - B. The “Barnabas” method – the tendency not to judge spiritually but out of friendship, family, and other considerations (**Acts 15:36-41**)
 - C. Direct Attacks
 - 1. Pride and self-glorification (**Luke 10**)
 - a) How the 72 were dispatched (**Luke 10:1-4**)
 - b) How they returned (**Luke 10:17**)
 - c) How they were warned (**Luke 10:18-20**)
 - 2. We rush ahead of God and His timing
 - a) Become impatient and push ahead without God.
 - b) Pseudo-humility – we take pride in our humility/humbleness, condemning ourselves.
 - 3. We fall prey to fear
 - a) Peter would go from **John 17** and deny he knew the Lord, and the others would forsake Him
 - b) **Matthew 10:28**, *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*
 - 4. We fail to speak the truth (**Acts 20:20-21**)
 - a) Romans – Jude -every letter deals with false teaching and teachers.
 - b) 1 John – anti-Christ teaching.
 - c) 2 Peter 2
 - d) Jude 1, 4, 24.
 - 5. Compromise – rather than a full-frontal assault on truth, compromise becomes more subtle.
 - a) Salvation without dealing with sin.
 - b) Cross without the Curse.
 - c) Church attendance without obedience.
 - 6. Appeal to worldly wisdom
 - a) **2 Corinthians 11:3**, *But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
 - b) **1 Corinthians 2:2**, *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*