

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:13

Date: September 16, 2012

Title: "The Leading and Protection of God"

Focus: God's guidance is a source of protection.

Intro:

1. Being proactive is better than being reactive. It is wiser to never be in a situation than to need extrication from one.

2. The grace of God provides both guidance around danger as well as deliverance from and through difficulty. However, God's provision and protection prove only as good as we avail ourselves of them.

Body:

"Lead us not into temptation....."

Are we to understand from this Jesus asked God to not lead in such a way that we would sin?

- No, because the Bible is clear, God will *never* direct anyone to sin. (James 1:13)

- For those who seek to follow the Leading of God's Spirit, this provides security in life.

- One can be assured that if something is contrary to God's Word, The Bible, is inconsistent with His character, or is against the prompting of the Holy Spirit in your life, it is sin. – (Romans 14:23)

- Sin is not subjective or a mystery. As one's is familiar with the holiness of God, it is revealed.

Jesus was showing us we need help when we not find ourselves in temptation is less obvious times.

- Choosing the *best*, over the *good*.

- Not losing Him in our busyness.

- Avoiding the danger of the Pharisees; becoming so *heavenly minded*, we are no *earthly good*.

- The essence of Jesus' request is that God would lead us away from situation that we might find tempting.

- Keep in mind, temptation is not sin. Sin is the outcome of yielding to temptation. (James 1:14-15)

- Temptation is dangerous because it leads a disciple away from his or her first love. The source of temptation can be either *good* or *bad*.

"...But deliver us from evil (or the evil one)."

- However, despite your best efforts to avoid evil, evil will find you.

- Evil comes because we live in a fallen world system – People are encouraged and rewarded for doing wrong. [The World]

- Evil comes because those with whom you interact may not be seeking to live a godly life. [The Flesh]

- Evil comes because the evil one is on the prowl (1 Peter 5:8) [The Devil]

- Disciples must learn that God is a “*fortress*”, “*shield*”, and “*bulwark*” against evil and the evil one.

Proverbs 18:10; “*The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe.*”

- When we pray for God’s protection, we are seeking shelter in Him.

Closing:

1. Evil is a reality, from within and without.

2. With our proximity to evil, we need guidance to avoid and protection from it, as well as from Satan.

3. Are we aware of God’s provisions? If so, do we seek God’s leading and protection from evil?