

Pastor's Corner

The Shell Around Us

December 9, 2009

Dear Friend,

Recently the wind blew some of the trees down across a trail near where I live, and so I went out to clear them away yesterday. One was still partially standing, leaning up against another tree so I cut it down with the chainsaw and used the tractor to drag it away. After clearing away all three of the trees, I was picking up the broken branches and clearing the area when I noticed a pretty deep hole in the ground caused by one of the trunks of the tree as it fell. This hole was several inches deep, and looking into it I noticed what looked like a bowl in the bottom. "Hmm, that's weird," I thought as I took the toe of my boot and tried to dig it out. I was startled as it moved; it was a turtle! I guess he was in the wrong place at the wrong time, because that tree had landed right on top of him and pushed him several inches into the ground. I was afraid he was hurt or his shell was cracked, but after carefully digging him out and putting him to the side, a few minutes later he poked out his legs and head and ambled off into the woods.

As I was getting back to work I thought about that turtle and the Christian walk. His shell is what protected him from that heavy oak tree that fell and landed on him. The reason he wasn't squashed like a frog or bird or my foot was because of the protection of his shell. And as Christians we have a shell as well. It's God's protection, which includes the Holy Spirit and His holy angels. You can read more about this protection that God gave to Job in [Job 1, 2](#) and [Daniel 3](#).

Think about God's protection as a shell about you as you read this from Psalm 91:



Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him. He will cover you with His feathers. He will shelter you with His wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. . . If you make the LORD your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For He will order His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. . . The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love Me. I will protect those who trust in My name. When they call on Me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. I will reward them with a long life and give them My salvation."

[Psalm 91, NLT](#)

Remember to commit your heart to Christ every single day, and you can rest assured that His protection will surround you as well.

Have a great week; we're praying for you!

Mark