

Series: John

Title: Kept

Text: John 17: 11-16

Date: Sept 11, 2022

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John 17: 11: And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. 12: While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13: And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14: I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15: I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16: They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Believer, you are not of the world. Those born again of the Spirit of God are not of the world. Christ said, *“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”* By our first birth we were born of Adam: we were only flesh, so we were of the world.

But Christ is not of this world. His human body was not born of Adam. He is God come down. He is the Holy One. Christ is God in sinless human flesh. Now he is risen, glorified, in the same sinless body.

Therefore, the new man created in you is spirit. The new man in the believer is created of the Spirit of Christ by a heavenly birth. That is the real “you.” So you are not of the world, even as Christ is not of the world.

But we are still in the world. He said, *“And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee.”* So we need to be kept. This is our Savior’s intercession for his people to the Father. He prayed this for his apostles but he intercedes the same for his people today. Christ prayed,

John 17: 11...Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. 12: While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled...

“Keeping” means there is danger. To be kept by God means we cannot of ourselves by ourselves keep ourselves. Since we are not of the world, we have many enemies in the world. The unregenerate world whose minds are enmity against God, also hate us. He prayed,

John 17: 14: I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

He does not pray we be taken out of the world but that we be kept from the evil while in the world.

John 17: 15: I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

EVERY BORN-AGAIN CHILD HAS A NEED TO BE KEPT BY GOD

Our great High Priest does not pray that we might be rich or given great honor in the world. But that they might be kept from sin, kept from the world, kept from the evil. We must be kept from our sin-nature and from the devil and from the enemies of Christ. We need to be kept in faith so that we follow our great Shepherd. We need to be kept together, kept in oneness. Christ prayed we be kept for this reason, *“that they may be one, as we are.”* We need to be kept by God so that we have Christ’s joy fulfilled in us. So that we rejoice in Christ even as Christ rejoiced in the Father. He prayed, *“And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”* He prays not for our carnal prosperity but for our spiritual prosperity. Matthew Henry said, “The prosperity of the soul is the best prosperity.”

We are sheep and we always need the Shepherd to keep us. We never grow beyond needing God our Father and his Son to keep us by the Spirit. We need to be preserved from doubting as Thomas did. Our need is for God to keep us from being rash and impetuous as Peter. We need to be kept from crying down fire on our enemies as John wanted to do. We are dust. Every born-again child of God still has a sin-nature. Therefore, we have many failings. If not for God's keeping hand, we would perish in an instant. But our God keeps each of his children personally so that not one shall perish.

John 10: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29: My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. 30: I and *my* Father are one.

While in this world, we see that Christ himself kept his apostles. Christ kept them each one personally. We see how they needed to be kept when we see how they denied knowing the Lord and fled. But we also see how Christ kept them each one personally. He came to them and restored them. Not one was lost except the son of perdition, and that only to fulfill the scripture.

Now, our Redeemer has gone to the cross and made his people the righteousness of God in him by his obedience unto death. He has ascended to the Father where he everliveth to make intercession for us. Christ has prepared a place for his people by accomplishing our redemption. Our salvation is ready. It is salvation ready to be revealed. So he shall keep each of his redeemed personally. He shall keep us in faith by his power because salvation is ready to be revealed in the last day.

1 Peter 1: 5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

THE ASSURANCE WE SHALL BE KEPT

John 17: 11...Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

We see why we can be assured that God shall keep each regenerated child of God when we see what Christ prayed. Notice, how our Intercessor prays to God. This is the assurance we have that he shall keep his people. He prayed, "*Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*"

One, Christ speaks of *God as Holy*. We have the assurance that the Father will keep those who believe on his Son due to God's own holiness. He has sworn by his holiness that he will keep his people in Christ.

Psalm 89: 35: Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. 36: His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.

Hebrews 6: 13: For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, 14: Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. 15: And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16: For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation *is* to them an end of all strife. 17: Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath: 18: That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20: Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Two, our great High Priest prays to God, not only as holy, but *as our Father*. Oh, child of God, you have a Father in heaven. God will keep his children. From eternity, God the Father loved his children because he would. He loves us with an everlasting love. He will keep his children

Three, Christ asks God the Father to keep us *through his name*. He asks God to keep us for the glory of his name, for his name's sake. God does everything for the glory of his name. He shall keep us for his name's sake.

1 Samuel 12:22: For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

Psalms 79:9: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

Isaiah 48: 9: For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off. 10: Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. 11: For mine own sake, *even* for mine own sake, will I do *it*: for how should *my name* be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another. 12: Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; *I am* he; *I am* the first, I also *am* the last...

Four, our Savior speaks of God as having *given his people to Christ*. You who the Spirit has given faith are Christ's inheritance. God the Father will give his Son his portion forever.

This is our assurance we shall be kept: God being holy, God being our Father, God being zealous of his great name and God having given us to Christ. We can be assured that he will keep those he has sanctified in Christ and keep us sanctified unto him through faith.

NOTE WHAT HE KEEPS US *IN* AND *FROM*

John 17: 11...Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*...15: I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

First, Christ intercedes that we be kept in something: *in oneness*. God shall keep his people in oneness. Christ intercedes for his people with the Father "*that they may be one, as we are.*"

Sin separated us from God and from men. The world would separate us from each other. But Christ, by his Righteousness and by his Spirit creating us anew in his holiness, has made us one. And it is by his intercession and power that he keeps us one. Brethren, he has made us one in him, even as he and the Father are one.

Ephesians 4: 4: *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6: One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

The world is not one. The world agrees on nothing but it's hatred for God and his Christ and his people. Yet, despite our differences, our sins, our misunderstandings, God keeps his people one. May God keep us praying for oneness by his Spirit and keep us endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Secondly, Christ prays we be kept from something: *from the evil*. Christ does not pray that we should be taken out of the world but that we should be *kept from the evil*.

We must be kept by God *from the evil sin of preaching a false gospel*. God has left us in this world to preach his gospel. He saved us to save others as he uses us to preach the gospel. God shall keep us preaching the gospel of Christ and him crucified by which it pleased God to save. So God keeps us from the evil of turning to another gospel and from preaching another gospel, which is not another. The gospel may grow old to unregenerate religion but God keeps the gospel new in our hearts day by day. It is because God will have his holy name exalted in the person of his dear Son. He shall call out his people by the message that exalts his Son.

We must be kept from the *evil sin of turning to ourselves*. God left us in this world to teach us his grace and his faithfulness. He by the Spirit, by trials, by the word is growing us in the grace and knowledge of

our Redeemer. He chose to do it by cementing us together with other believing sinners. By this God is teaching us our Redeemer liveth. He teaches us his word is living. Christ is teaching us his grace and power is actively working in us to keep us and teach us and grow us. We learn this through many offenses and falls. But what wisdom to do it by uniting us together in one body in the church.

God left us in this world to teach us the evil of our sin as he keeps us from *the evil of our sin*. The devil is the evil one. Christ teaches us the only way to resist him is through faith in Christ. Peter learned this. He had boasted of his strength. Peter was not submitting to God his Savior's might hand. But Peter learned it only through faith in Christ that we can resist the devil. Christ is our Shield, our Refuge, our Defender through faith in him. Spurgeon said, "He permitted Job to be tempted by the devil, that all the world might see how God can enable a man, by patience, to triumph." Peter wrote what he learned,

1 Peter 5: 5...Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Not only the devil but our own sin is evil. Believer, do you find yourself hating your own sin more and more? God left us in this world to teach us he alone keeps us from falling away. He keeps us sanctified in Christ from the evil of our sin. It is one reason Christ taught us to pray, "*Deliver us from evil.*" We are utterly dependent upon Christ. Thank God through Christ his Son that he keeps us from falling away in our sin.

Brethren, flee from sin to Christ. We are entirely in Christ's hands to keep us and bring us to God unblameable in his righteousness. Ask for the Spirit to help you mortify the deeds of the flesh. Christ shall intercede and keep us from our sin and keep us from falling away due to our sin.

1 Samuel 2:9: He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

Psalms 37: 23: The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. 24: Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him* with his hand.

God will keep us from the *evil sin of making this world our home and carnal things our treasure*. God left us in this world to teach us more that true worship is spiritual. His blessings are spiritual. This world and all things in it are perishing. He may give us temporal riches or he may make us have less of temporal things. God may give us temporal joy or he may give us sorrow in this life. But through it all we shall find that our true joy, our true peace, our true comfort, yes, all our salvation is Christ alone!

Even after God blessed Job's latter end more than the beginning, Job died! So shall we. But there is a new man in every believer that is spiritual. By Christ putting away our sin and making us the righteousness of God in him, death has no more sting. When the hour of death comes, he shall keep us from the evil. When our bodies die and return to the dust, we shall be with the Lord in spirit in the new man Christ has created in us. Then we shall behold Christ as he is. Our new man is spiritual and our worship of God is in spirit and in truth. "We are the circumcision who worship God in Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" (Php 3:3).

The apostle Paul suffered for preaching the gospel of Christ. So shall we. Christ promised that in the world ye shall have tribulation. But Christ is our Peace. Listen to Paul's word to Timothy. Paul was persuaded God was able to keep him. Are we persuaded God is able to keep us? God is able! Listen to this word.

2 Timothy 1: 6: Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 7: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 8: Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9: Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according

to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10: But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 12: For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know WHOM I have believed, and am persuaded that HE IS ABLE TO KEEP that which I have committed unto him against that day. 13: Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Jude 24: Now unto HIM THAT IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM FALLING, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25: To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen!

Amen!