

Series: Psalms  
Title: Preserved by the LORD  
Text: Psalm 12: 7  
Date: September 30, 2012  
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**Our subject:** Preserved by the LORD--**Psalm 12: 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.**

Preserved means: to guard, to protect, to attend to, too keep safe. Parents—when we were children—our parents preserved us. Children—you depend upon your parents to preserve you from danger, to attend to you, to keep you safe. Our pets depend upon us to preserve them from danger. So do we have the concept of preservation: to guard, to protect, to attend to, too keep safe?

**Proposition:** The reason the believer perseveres in faith unto the end is because God preserves us: God guards, protects, attends to, keeps safe—each of his redeemed children.

We will take this one sentence word by word for our divisions this morning. But we will start with this question:

**WHO WILL THE LORD PRESERVE THE BELIEVER FROM?—from this generation**

The generation God keeps his children from is the **generation of the wicked**.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Galatians 4: 29: But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now.

Psalm 12: 2: They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

The wicked generation is those who would have our attention focused on anything and everything except Christ. Men and women get so taken up with things other than Christ: worldly things: ambition, honor, lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, the pride of life; even in religion: history, denominations, dispensationalism, prophecy, signs.

Christ was rejected the first time by religious men looking for a temporal kingdom. And he was rejected by those looking for signs.

Matthew 12: 38: Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An **evil and adulterous generation** seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Isaiah 7: 14: Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Satan is subtle. He's got a million noble causes to entangle you in. Paul said,

2 Corinthians 11: 3: But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4: For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Believers have but one object to keep our eye of faith fastened upon—the Lord Jesus Christ. The simplicity of Christ is salvation by Christ. **Christ is All.** Of God we are in Christ Jesus; of God we have the mind of Christ—Christ is made unto us Wisdom; of God Christ is made unto us Righteousness—the LORD our Righteousness; of God Christ is made unto us Sanctification—both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all OF ONE; of God Christ is made unto us Redemption—we have been “sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” Brethren, when it comes to this wicked generation...

Colossians 2: 8: Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

I doubt Mary knew much at all about the things this vain religious world is taken up with—but she sat at Christ’s feet—the Lord said,

Luke 10:42: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Christ is the Treasure hid in the field; Christ is the Pearl of great price; the apostle Paul said,

Philippians 3: 8: Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, 9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

If a sinner ever meets Righteousness the sinner will lay aside all else and follow him.

Hebrews 12: 1: Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2: Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

God’s called out children are “a CHOSEN GENERATION, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;”—and God will keep his people from this evil generation so “that we show forth the praises OF HIM who hath called us out of darkness into HIS marvellous light:” (1Pe 2:9).

## **II. WHO IS DOING THE PRESERVING?—Psalm 12: 7: THOU—O LORD**

Every point of salvation is of the LORD. If I could sum up to you in one sentence all that this book teaches, all that I believe, preach, and rest in, it would be this:

Jonah 2:9...Salvation *is* of the LORD.

Salvation means sinners are saved by a Savior outside of our selves. Sin and self is what we are being saved from. We need to be made alive spiritually—we can’t do that---**John 3: 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I**

**say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. We need to be made holy—we can't do that—Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. We need to be made perfectly righteous, justified, pardoned of all sin—we can't do that—2 Cor 5: 21: For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. We need to be kept, preserved from all evil—we can't do that—Psalm 12: 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**

Philippians 1: 6: Being confident of this very thing, that HE—HE—HE—which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1: 10: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver *us*;

Salvation is of the Lord—THOU, LORD. God the Father purposed salvation. God the Son purchased salvation. God the Holy Spirit applies salvation.

Psalm 37:39: But the salvation of the righteous IS OF THE LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. 40: And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Psalm 68:20: He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death.

**Illustration:** Robert and Carol working.

Now you appreciate more what your fathers have done in providing for you all these years. Imagine if you had to take on all the responsibility for your families right now. When the sinner is shown how great the work of redeeming and keeping a sinner is, we are so thankful salvation is of the Lord.

## **II. SHALT—THOU SHALT**

God only works in absolutes. Whatever God purposes and promises to do, he does. He never speaks in maybes—only shalls and wills.

2 Corinthians 1: 20: For all the promises of God in [Christ] *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

1 Corinthians 1: 8 Who SHALL also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

We have been told lies so much and we have lied so much, that we have great difficulty entering into just how pure and true God's words are. But read what God says in verse 6.

Psalm 12: 6: The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

These Scriptures are the words of God, as "silver tried in a furnace, purified seven times." Free from dross—completely, perfectly pure

Proverbs 30: 5: Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

“the sincere milk of the word.”

The words of the Lord are more valuable than silver or gold.

**Illustration:** Imagine if someone gave you a gold mine full of treasures of all kinds. That is what this book is. When is the last time you locked this book away in a safe like we do our valuables. Don't have to—the world doesn't consider these jewels valuable.

Proverbs 8: 10: Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. 11: For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

**Application:** Why do I have you turn to scripture? Why do I urge you to do it? Why do I insist on it that you have a bible and use it when I teach you? I want you to see that the words I speak are not my words but the words of God who sent me to preach this to you. If you will not believe, it is not my words you do not believe, it is the word of God. These are the pure words of the LORD that are sure to everyone that trusts the Lord.

**Psalm 12: 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**

### III. KEEP, PRESERVE THEM

**v7: Them.** Everything God does in salvation he does for a particular people—they. Who are the “them?” --

**v5: For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD**

Oppression: violence, ravaging destruction, robbery, spoiling, wasting—our text particularly speaks of it done with the tongues of men.

Poor and needy: you can be poor and still provide. But to be poor and needy means you are poor and you have no way of providing for yourself or defending yourself.

Believer, we lost all in the fall. Christ said, “Without me ye can do nothing.” Believers are so oppressed, so poor and needy that there could be no perseverance of the saints was it not for God preserving us. But look at this sure word...

**v7: Thou shalt keep them:** to hedge about as with thorns.

**Illustration:** In Africa they often have to build a circle of thorns to protect them from lions.

Satan a **roaring lion** seeking whom he may devour—He said of the LORD's protection of Job, “Hast not thou made an **hedge** about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?”

**v7: Thou shalt preserve them**

**Illustration:** The waterfowl preserve

Lu 5:38: But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. [his Spirit]

Jude 1: 1:...sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

You see the “them” are God’s elect whom he loved from everlasting, the sheep for whom Christ died; members of his body of whom he is Head, those of whom Christ said, “None shall be lost.”

Christ justified us; God remembers our sin no more. If one were to perish God’s glory would be blemished. We have been called and trust the word of the Lord that he will do as he says he will. Therefore God shall do as he says he will.

Romans 8: 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

#### **IV. HOW LONG WILL THE LORD DO THIS FOR THOSE WHO TRUST HIM?—V7:...FOR EVER.**

As long as we need to be preserved, God shall preserve us.

Psalm 121:8: The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

When you meet someone you can trust, who loves you, who protects you—you are drawn to them because of their love and trustworthiness. That is our God. I do pray he will convince you of his faithfulness and goodness and draw you to himself.

**Psalm 12: 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**

Amen!