

How Happy is the Surrounded Believer!

Psalm 32:1-11

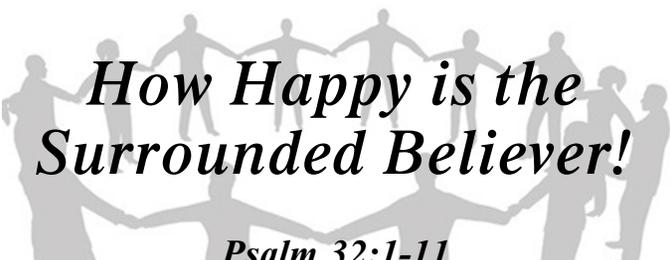
Being surrounded can be a frightful experience. Elisha's servant was terrified one day when he discovered the city was surrounded by the enemy's great army with numerous chariots and horses (*2 Kings 6:14-15*). The LORD of hosts solved that problem in a remarkable way (*2 Kings 6:16-18*). On the other hand, being surrounded can be a blessed experience for those who have come to trust under the shelter of the Almighty. Here are three examples:

1) Surrounded by God Himself. "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about His people from henceforth even forever" (*Psalm 125:2*). Jerusalem is surrounded by mountains on every side. So also, God totally surrounds the trusting soul, providing protection on every side. God has a hedge about His own (*Job 1:10*). Nothing can reach the believer unless it is permitted by our all-wise and loving Heavenly Father.

2) Surrounded by songs of deliverance. "Thou art my hiding place; Thou shalt preserve me from trouble; Thou shalt compass me about with songs [shouts] of deliverance" (*Psalm 32:7*). We can be surrounded by troubles to the point where it seems we are overwhelmed, yet God intervenes: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all" (*Psalm 34:19*). With each deliverance, He gives a song of praise, a shout of victory. The trusting believer is "encircled in song, surrounded by dancing mercies, all of them proclaiming the triumphs of grace" (Spurgeon).

3) Surrounded by mercy. In the world we shall have tribulation and trouble and trials, "but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about" (*Psalm 32:10*), and this should once again result in a song of deliverance: "Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart" (*Psalm 32:11*).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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