

PRESERVATION

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1991

1. DEFINING "PRESERVATION"

A. Dictionary:

1. to protect from injury, peril, or other adversity; maintain safety.
2. to keep in perfect or unaltered condition.
3. to keep or maintain intact

B. Biblical understanding: "Preservation is God's maintaining His creation in existence. It involves God's protection of His creation against harm and destruction, and his provision for the needs of the elements or members of the creation."

(Christian Theology, Millard Erickson, Baker: Grand Rapids, 1985, p. 388)

(Note: God is not the celestial repairman and God does not keep all dangers or calamities from happening under His preservation.)

2. GOD'S INVOLVEMENT IN PRESERVATION

There are two factors that govern God's involvement.

- A. God has established the longevity of each individual.
- B. God's grace protects within the situations that challenge the quality of life.

3. ISSUES SURROUNDING PRESERVATION

There are seven factors that have an effect on the quality or longevity of life.

- A. Creation's influence (natural disasters, diseases etc.)
- B. The consequences of our own sinful choices.
- C. Satanic attacks upon our life.
- D. Persecution from sinful individuals.
- E. Premature death
- F. God's testing
- G. The world system (stress, economics, etc.)

4. FOCUSING ON PRESERVATION

There is a difference between the Old and New Testament focus.

A. Under the Old Testament, Israel enjoyed a quality and longevity of life on earth because of the Abrahamic Covenant blessing, (Genesis 12:)

B. Under the New Testament, the church has much more to enjoy going to be with the Lord than living here on earth, (Phil. 1:21-23; 1 Corinthians 2:9).

Conclusion: God will take care and preserve us:

1. There is a promise not to avoid persecution or suffering, but to prevail over it, Matthew 24:15-31; 1 Peter 1:6, 4:12.

2. We do not need to be anxious about food, clothing, shelter, Matthew 6:26-33.

3. We have the enablement to endure and survive any trial, 1 Corinthians 10:13.

4. Testify of God's greatness within our maturing years, Psalm 148:12-13;

5. Live our life to satisfy the Lord, Psalm 91:16.

6. Experience the joy of helping others in their quality and longevity of life.