

“One of God’s Great Attributes”

Exodus 14:13-14

Sunday, November 20, 2016

Introduction: One thing I do in November each year is list one thing each day that I am thankful for which means at the end of this month I will have a list of thirty things. I have done this for years and it has been a good thing for me. The list is easy at first, but about the middle of the month it gets harder. You have to do a little more thinking and then you list things you do not usually think about. One of those things is God’s protection. We think of God’s love, God’s mercy, God’s goodness, God’s patience, God’s forgiveness, God’s power, God’s Knowledge, God’s presence, etc. but seldom do we think of God’s protection.

God’s protection is one of His greatest attributes. We see it throughout the Bible. For example, we see God’s protection in the life of Joseph. Read Genesis chapters 37-50 and over and over you see God protecting Joseph. Go to the book of Exodus and you see God’s protection at the Red Sea (Exodus 14: 10-31). Go to the book of 1 Samuel and you see God’s protection when David faced the giant Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

One of the ways God protects us is by closing doors that we hoped would open. We have all had doors that we hoped would open and did not open. When this happens, it can be very discouraging. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Proverbs 16:9. When I have had doors close that I wanted to open and felt were God’s will as best as I could understand, Proverbs 16:9 has really helped me.

“A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:9).

Illustration: Paul and Silas had a door close that they wanted very badly to open. They wanted to go to Asia and preach the gospel, but God closed that door for a while and open the door to go to Macedonia (Acts 16). Later Paul experienced God’s protection when he did get to Asia (Turkey). God protected Paul in Ephesus from being killed by the mob who wanted to kill him.

Illustration: Let me share how God closed a door for me that was His protection. At the time I did not see it, but looking back I thank God that He closed the door. (To hear this story, listen to the sermon on the church web page www.fbp.org).

Conclusion: One of the things that makes God’s protection something we think little about is that most of the time we cannot see it. It may be years later that we see how a door that closed was God protecting us.

Let me share an example in my life where God was protecting me and at the time and for some years later I did not know it. (To hear the story, listen to the sermon on the church web page www.fbp.org).