

## SIN SHALL NOT HAVE DOMINION

*“As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even forever. For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.”* (Psalm 125:3)

The Almighty Who, has undertaken to rescue an elect remnant from their sins and consequent eternal ruin, has taken measures to ensure the sacrificial suffering and obedience of His beloved Son shall not be in vain. Our Lord’s intercessory prayer in the garden committed us to His keeping. That we might be cheered, encouraged and assured of this divine security, He has repeatedly told us He will never leave or forsake us. Zion, the church of the living God, the saints, are portrayed as a mountain secure...now, tomorrow, forever! This is not something entrusted into the hands of angels. Jehovah Himself surrounds us!

This is not an outward, objective protection only. It is that but much more. God is not protecting us without our willful participation in the warfare. He is governing our circumstances in such a way that we do not willfully depart from Him *“put forth their hands unto iniquity”*.

The phrase “rod of the wicked” speaks of the scepter of dominion, of government. It shall not rest on the lot of the redeemed. Wickedness may, and does indeed, assail us, threaten us, do us superficial evil, tempt us, sorely try us. God permits the world, the flesh and the devil at times to test us to the limit of endurance, but not beyond that, and not without a way of escape. Wickedness, sin shall not triumph, conquer, rule or have dominion. We are told the old man has been crucified with Christ, put to death, eliminated, that the body of sin, our unredeemed flesh should be rendered impotent (Rom. 6:6) that we should no longer be slaves of sin. Sin shall not have dominion over us, for God has delivered us from the impotent government of law and put us under the abounding power of grace in Christ Jesus (Rom. 5:20; 6:14). So far from being under the dominion of sin, we are rendered slaves of righteousness (Rom. 6:18). The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the overthrow and conquering of every thought and notion that rises up against the knowledge of God and obedience to Christ (I Cor. 10:3-5). In all of this we are kept by the power of God *through faith* (I Peter 1:5).

Lest we should presume upon this assurance of God’s keeping power, we are warned by the example of those who do willfully turn back into sin. (Hebrews 10:26, 38-39). These are they who “turn aside to crooked ways”. Such “crooked ways” do not usually begin with something drastic and outrageous, but a minor variation from the straight path the Lord has set before us. These crooked ways are their own ways, and betray a wicked unsundered heart. Let us make certain that we have been given one heart and one way so that we will not depart from the Lord forever (Jer. 32:39-40). -C. M.