

Sermon: Evil Can't Hide

November 8, 2025

Opening Monologue

Welcome to the AVC App, everyone! This is the Sermon and Commentary section, where you'll find spiritual insights and commentary tied to this week's sermon. Scroll down, dive in, and equip yourself with the power of God's Word.

This Sunday's Sermon: "Evil Can't Hide"

This past Thursday, our office was shaken. Police sirens wailed, ambulances flashed, and officers swarmed our neighbor's property. My heart sank, hoping it was just a medical emergency. But the truth was far worse—a disgruntled worker had shot a supervisor. The pain of this tragedy is beyond words, and our hearts break for Trim's Unlimited. Please join us in praying for them.

Evil is not new, but its boldness is growing. Have you noticed? People no longer hide their selfishness, pride, or cruelty—almost as if anything goes, as long as they get their way. So, what do we make of this darkening world? Jesus Himself assures us: "For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open." (Luke 8:17) Evil cannot hide from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! (We'll dive deeper in our sermon.)

God's Word foretold this rise of evil: "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of

godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Satan wants us to cower in fear, to hide in the shadows of this evil world. But faith in Christ rises above fear! God’s Word declares: “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.” Who’s with me in choosing faith over fear?

Join us this Sunday as we dive deeper into God’s Word, equipping ourselves to stand firm in this evil world. Come, be encouraged, and let’s walk boldly in faith together!

**In Christ,
Rev. Brad Standfest**

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Web: <https://www.almontvineyardchurch.org/media>

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Key Sermon Texts

Luke 8:17

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208%3A17%20&version=NIV>

2 Timothy 3:1-5

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%203%3A1-5&version=NIV>

John 8:12b

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A12&version=NIV>

1 John 3:8b

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%203%3A8&version=NIV>

2 Timothy 1:7

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%201%3A7&version=NIV>

Isaiah 41:10

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2041%3A10%20&version=NIV>

John 10:28-29

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A28-29&version=NIV>

Spiritual Reflection: Choosing Faith Over Fear

Evil is not new. From the Garden of Eden to the streets of our cities, the shadow of sin has lingered, seeking to pull us into despair. God's Word warns us clearly: "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive... having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:1-5). We see it all around us—bold, unashamed evil, from senseless violence to selfish ambition. It's enough to make us want to shrink back, to hide in a cave and wait for the storm to pass. But that's exactly what Satan wants. He thrives on our fear, hoping to paralyze us and dim the light God has placed within us.

Yet, we are not called to cower. Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12b). No evil, no matter how dark, can hide from His piercing light. "For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open" (Luke 8:17). Every scheme of the enemy, every secret sin, every act of injustice—Jesus sees it all, and He will bring it to light in His perfect time. This truth anchors us: evil may strut boldly now, but it will not have the final word. Christ does.

So, what do we do in a world where evil persists until Satan is cast into the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:3)? Do we let fear dictate our steps? Never! God's Word assures us, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Fear is not our inheritance—faith is. The same God who promises, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will

strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10), equips us to rise above the chaos. We are called to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14), reflecting Christ’s radiance in a darkened age.

Consider the mission of our Savior: “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work” (1 John 3:8b). Jesus didn’t come to merely oppose evil—He came to dismantle it. Through His death and resurrection, He broke the power of sin and death, and He continues to unravel Satan’s schemes in our lives and world. When we face evil—whether in a tragic headline, a personal betrayal, or a spiritual battle—we stand on this truth: Christ has already won, and we are secure in Him. “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:28-29). No force of evil can pry us from the grip of our Savior.

Psalms 91 paints a vivid picture of God’s protection: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty... He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:1, 11). Even in a world plagued by evil, God surrounds us with His presence and angelic protection. This doesn’t mean we ignore common sense or spiritual wisdom—God calls us to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16). But it does mean we refuse to let fear cripple us. Instead, we proclaim the name of Jesus, choosing faith over fear in every circumstance.

Today, let’s stand on God’s precious promises. When evil looms large, remember that Christ’s light exposes and overcomes it. When fear whispers, answer with the power, love, and sound mind God has given you. When the enemy tries to shake your security, cling to the truth that no one can snatch you from the Father’s hand. Evil is real, but our God is greater. Let’s rise above, walk boldly, and shine His light, knowing that “greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). Choose faith over fear—praise be to God! (1)

THE PRESENCE IN THE STORMS OF OUR LIVES

He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

MARK 4:38

Juan Carlos Ortiz is a well-known preacher, evangelist, and author originally from Argentina. He once related a conversation he had with a circus trapeze artist about the security a safety net provides. The performer said yes, the net does the obvious—it keeps performers from being injured should they fall. But it does much more. “Imagine there is no net,” he said. “We would be so nervous that we would be more likely to miss and fall. If there was not a net, we would not dare to do some of the things we do. But because there’s a net, we dare to make two turns, and once I made three turns—thanks to the net!”

Ortiz saw an application for Christians: “We have security in God. When we are sure in His arms, we dare to attempt big things for God. We dare to be holy. We dare to be obedient. We dare, because we know the eternal arms of God will hold us if we fall.”

The disciples had yet to learn the nature of their “net.” If they’d realized the full power and authority Jesus held, they would have laughed and shouted at the wind, “Bring it on!” Facing a storm is exhilarating when we are protected by something even more powerful.

Our degree of fear is a gauge of our degree of faith. When we’ve trusted Jesus and come through the storm, we become more fearless. If we’ve never really done that, the storm will reduce us to quivering jelly, as it did those disciples.

Some people do believe in the power of God, but they’re not sure about His presence. That’s a significant deficiency in one’s faith. Will He really be there when I’m in a crisis? Does He care about me? We can believe in a powerful God who can create a universe, but if He is absent when needed, how does that belief make a difference? Isn’t His absence basically the same as if He didn’t exist at all?

This was the crisis the disciples faced. They knew that Jesus was there, but apparently they didn’t realize He was God. This meant they were unaware of God’s presence. Thus, they didn’t know what Jesus could and would do. As I witness the fearful lives of many Christians, I’m

convinced that the disciples aren't the only ones in that boat, so to speak.

Remember, the Twelve knew the story of Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. They knew that God could take control over the winds and the seas. But was that same God with them here and now? They did not yet realize that Moses' God and their Master were one and the same. They truly had Immanuel, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

John Paton was a nineteenth-century Scottish missionary who labored for a lifetime among murderous natives of the New Hebrides Islands. He often faced danger as various tribesmen sought to kill him. He wrote, "Without that abiding consciousness of the presence and power of my dear Lord and Saviour, nothing else in all the world could have preserved me from losing my reason and perishing miserably." He said that it was in those most dangerous of moments, when he faced the weapons of men, that he saw the face of Christ most clearly.

On one occasion Paton hid within the branches of a tree as the men below searched for him. He heard their murderous threats, yet he knew he was safe in the arms of Jesus. "Alone, yet not alone!" he recalled. "My comfort and joy sprang from the promise, 'Lo, I am with you always.'"

On the Sea of Galilee, an exhausted Jesus slept on a cushion in the rear of the boat with the waves crashing all about Him. The image is striking. How did the disciples view Him? Apparently, they saw Him as a man much like themselves, even though He possessed the supernatural power to heal the sick and feed the hungry, and—as they would soon find out—the power to calm the wind and the waves. (2)

THE PEACE IN THE STORMS OF OUR LIVES

He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

MARK 4:39

The disciples must have wondered how Jesus could possibly nap with the waves crashing and the wind howling. They shook Him, yelling for Him to wake up: “ ‘Do You not care that we are perishing?’ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm” (Mark 4:38–39). The crisis was at an end. No doubt one could hear the pounding heartbeats of twelve shocked men.

The passage tells us that Jesus rebuked the wind, just as a parent would rebuke an unruly child. He dealt with demons in the same way—He rebuked them (Luke 4:35). And the wind obeyed Him just as demons did. He had power over both the natural and the supernatural.

This enormous display of miraculous power should have quelled any remaining doubts in the minds of the disciples as to who Jesus was. Only God has such authority. The Old Testament tells us that He has power over nature: “He calms the storm, so that its waves are still” (Psalm 107:29; see also Psalm 89:9; 93:4). Before His disciples’ eyes, Jesus demonstrated that He possessed power that could emanate only from God. Apparently they hadn’t grasped this fact until they saw Him halt a storm in its tracks. Some things must be seen to be believed.

During their three years of following Jesus, these men witnessed ever-greater displays of God’s power through Him. They believed, not because they were taught, but because they were shown. The disciples were like newborn spiritual babes whose eyes were slowly opening to the true identity of this Man they followed.

God is committed to developing our spiritual sight as well. And He often uses the storms of life to show us that we can trust Him—His power, love, and wisdom. In his book on the Gospel of Mark, Pastor Tim Keller explains:

You could argue that this world is just the result of a monumental “storm”—you’re here by accident, through blind, violent forces of nature, through the big bang—and when you die, you’ll turn to dust....

However, if Jesus is who he says he is, there’s another way to look at life. If he’s Lord of the storm, then no matter what shape the world is

in—or your life is in—you will find Jesus provides all the healing, all the rest, all the power you could possibly want.

Joni Eareckson Tada illustrates how drawing on the power and peace of Jesus transforms her life:

“O God,” I often pray in the morning, “God, I cannot do this. I cannot do this thing called quadriplegia. I have no resources for this. I have no strength for this—but you do. You’ve got resources. You’ve got strength. I can’t do quadriplegia, but I can do all things through you as you strengthen me [Phil. 4:13]. I have no smile for this woman who’s going to walk into my bedroom in a moment. She could be having coffee with another friend, but she’s chosen to come here to help me get up. Oh, God, please may I borrow your smile?”

Our loving heavenly Father is kind and patient with us when the storms of life overwhelm us and fill us with anxiety. He is gracious to show us His power even when we are beginning to wonder if He is asleep or absent, even when our cries to Him for help are permeated with doubt. But we can face whatever circumstances await us with courage if we just reflect on God’s faithfulness and place our confidence in His great power and loving purpose for our lives. (2)

THE LAST DAYS CHARACTERIZED BY SINFULNESS / 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Paul’s suffering left him with few illusions about his future; he would die before Christ returned. As has already been pointed out, this letter has the recurring tone of someone setting his personal matters in order.

Paul began this chapter with remarks about degenerating conditions in society. Both Paul and Timothy had witnessed how bad “the last days” would become. Paul listed a whole catalog of attitudes and behaviors typical of “last days” people. This list also described the false teachers in Ephesus. Paul characterized them as belonging to the perennial crop of “opposition” leaders who create a following for themselves. Timothy was to resist their methods and their underlying purposes.

3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. This reference to the last days reveals Paul’s sense of urgency.

In his first letter to Timothy, Paul had written, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1 NRSV). But warnings about the last days were certainly not unique to Paul. It was a common theme among the leaders of the early church (see Acts 2:17; James 5:3; 2 Peter 3:3; Jude 18). Terrible times means “hard to bear, dangerous, troublesome.” The same Greek word for “terrible” is used in Matthew 8:28 for the violent demoniacs. Paul’s warning deserves our full attention.

The last days began after Jesus’ resurrection, when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers at Pentecost. The last days will continue until Christ’s second coming. Paul could speak about the last days as a future event (emphasizing conditions present at the close of the last days), or as a present reality (emphasizing the truth that the state of depravity in the world is always ripe for harvest). This means that we are living in the last days. It should not surprise us, then, to see the moral degeneration of society around us. Paul warned us that it would happen, as did Jesus (see Matthew 24).

LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS

If society is doomed to degeneration, what should believers do as they live in the “last days”? Paul offered advice in several of his letters:

Reference & Application

Romans 13:11-14: Keep close to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15: Avoid those masquerading as servants of God.

Ephesians 5:11: Have nothing to do with evildoers and their wicked deeds; instead, expose them. Believers need not allow evil to continue unchecked, but should actively work against it.

Ephesians 5:18 Redeem the time.

Colossians 4:2, 5 Believers are to pray, be watchful, be thankful, and be wise in the way they act toward unbelievers, making the most

of every opportunity to share the gospel.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 Church members who are lazy and idle must be warned. Christians should not be sitting around waiting for the Lord to return, but should continue working in the ministry.

3:2 For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money.

Paul used two close-sounding words in the Greek—philautoi and philarguroi. These first two characteristics of society in the “last days” (Paul’s and Timothy’s day, reaching to our day and into the future) provide the basis for society’s downfall. When people misdirect their love—toward themselves and material pleasures—there can be no love left to direct toward others. Then moral corruption naturally results, as noted in the following characteristics.

Boastful, proud. A heart full of pride manifests itself in outward boastfulness. Such characteristics reveal a person’s inflated self-importance and necessarily leads them to looking down on others. Abusive. Abusive people speak disrespectfully to others, including God. Not only are these people guilty of an overinflated sense of their own importance, they also verbally abuse people around them.

IS IT BAD ENOUGH YET?

Our concerns about the “last days” tend to be very personal. They usually arise, not because we are actually suffering, but because we dread suffering. Concerns focus not so much on the destructiveness of evil around us, but whether or not evil will affect our way of living. Such narrow concerns reveal our blindness to evil. Christians must not withdraw from the world entirely or use the wrong methods to defend themselves against it. Believers who attempt to insulate themselves from the moral degradation of the last days must not insulate themselves from God. Whenever material prosperity or pleasure are used in place of God’s protection, we fool ourselves. But God loves us too much to leave us in our delusion. If it takes the loss of everything to get our attention, God has been known to allow that to happen. Does your life exhibit an awareness of the desperate condition of the world? Are you using God’s methods for dealing with terrible times?

Disobedient to their parents. The extent of moral degeneration

can be seen in the rejection of the most intimate human ties. Parents are not spared from abuse. This behavior willfully breaks the fifth commandment to honor one's father and mother (see Exodus 20:12). The commandment was given because God understood the importance of strong families. To "honor" parents means speaking well of them and politely to them. It also means acting in a way that shows them courtesy and respect. It means following their teaching and example of putting God first. Parents have a special place in God's sight. Even children who find it difficult to get along with their parents are still commanded to honor them. When parents are not respected and honored, disobedience naturally results, and the breakdown of the family easily follows. Paul understood that when families fall apart, "terrible times" (3:1) follow.

Ungrateful. People are in a sad state when they cannot appreciate anything, express thankfulness, or give gratitude for small or large blessings or favors. In Romans 1:21, Paul noted that ingratitude was second only to dishonoring God as a just cause for God's judgment on humanity.

Unholy. People who set aside God in order to live only to please themselves can only go one direction—toward wickedness. They instinctively resist anyone or any ideas that would force them to measure themselves by God's standards.

3:3 Unloving. The same word (*astorgoi*) is used in only one other place in the New Testament (Romans 1:31), in a passage where Paul listed the characteristics of people who refuse God and follow their own inclinations. The NRSV translates this as "inhuman." Indeed, because these people love only themselves and their money (possessions), as Paul noted in verse 2, they are unloving toward everyone and everything else.

Unforgiving. Unforgiving people cannot allow for other people's mistakes or weaknesses. They are unyielding, unrelenting, and often are filled with extreme bitterness and anger over their own hurts. They simply refuse to forgive, even if presented with the opportunity. Eventually, they become unable to forgive, even when they might acknowledge the need to do so.

Slandorous. This in Greek is *diaboloi*, which contains the root word for

“devil.” Here it is used as an adjective—such people are quick to spread falsehoods. Slanderers enjoy spreading gossip and malicious reports about others. Destroying another’s good reputation gives them perverse pleasure.

Without self-control. These people cannot restrain their actions, their feelings, or their words. The NRSV translates this as “profligates”—people who are thoroughly and shamelessly immoral. Their character is completely debased.

Brutal. The opposite is tame or civilized. Brutal people (“brutes” NRSV) are like untamed animals, or “uncivilized” people. They are insensitive and crude, even savage and cruel.

Haters of good. These people are so evil that they actually hate (despise, see NKJV) anything good.

CHECK THE LIST

In many parts of the world today, it’s not too tough to be a follower of Christ—Christians aren’t jailed for reading the Bible or executed for preaching Christ. But Paul’s descriptive list of behavior in the last days describes our society—even, unfortunately, the behavior of some Christians. Every one of these can be found in churches today. Check your life against Paul’s list. Don’t give in to society’s pressures. Don’t settle for comfort without commitment. Stand up against evil by living as God would have his people live.

The next two characteristics begin with the pro- prefix in Greek, indicating a disposition toward some behavior or attitude.

3:4 Treacherous. Treacherous people are traitors—ready and willing to betray anyone. In some cases, betrayal of another might enhance a person’s standing or enrich him or her; at other times, the betrayal could be a vengeful act. Combined with slander (3:3), truth goes by the wayside.

Reckless. This characteristic can also be translated “headstrong” (NKJV) and “rash” (NIV). Such people act foolishly and carelessly, completely unconcerned about the consequences for themselves or others. The word headstrong includes their determination to have their

own way, regardless of advice to the contrary.

Conceited. Such people have a puffed up opinion of themselves. The NRSV gives the sense by translating the term *tetuphomenoi* as “swollen with conceit.” People with this trait have an exaggerated opinion of their importance, intelligence, wit, appearance, etc. The idea differs from “lovers of self” in verse 2, for that trait can at least be concealed, while the very nature of conceit involves being noticed by others.

Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. The list ends, as it began, with those whose love has become so misdirected that they can only think of their own desires. Those who fail to acknowledge God eventually aren’t able to love God.

3:5 Having a form of godliness but denying its power. Often these evil characteristics appear in a context of respectability. Religion is not gone; in fact, these character qualities are frequently exhibited by people known for their “religiousness.” However, as Paul wrote, they practice a form of godliness—that is, using godliness as a cloak of respectability while denying God’s power over their lives. The “form” or appearance of godliness includes going to church, knowing Christian doctrine, using Christian cliché’s, and following a community’s Christian traditions. Such practices can make a person outwardly look good, but if the inner attitudes of belief, love, and worship are lacking, the public appearance is hollow, meaningless.

Such persons deny the power of godliness in two ways:

1. Their lives act out denial. This denying was addressed by Paul in 2:12, where he described the inevitable result for those who “disown” God; they will themselves experience being disowned by God.
2. When confronted, their inability to express their faith will reveal that beneath the “form of godliness” there is only a vacuum of unbelief.

Have nothing to do with them. Although Paul’s words in verse 1 seem to focus on future events, he obviously realized that evil was already at work in the Ephesian church. Paul warned Timothy not to be

deceived by people who only appear to be Christians. It may be difficult to distinguish them from true Christians at first, but their daily behavior will give them away. The characteristics described in 3:2-4 are unmistakable. In fact, the false teachers plaguing the Ephesian church most likely exemplified many of those characteristics that Paul listed above. Paul had already advised Timothy to “have nothing to do with” these troublemakers (2:23)—which probably meant excommunication.

Spiritual Application: God’s Protection Over Our Lives (Psalm 91)

In a world where evil casts a long shadow, Psalm 91 shines as a beacon of hope, declaring God’s unshakable protection over those who trust in Him. The psalm opens with a powerful promise: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust’” (Psalm 91:1-2, NIV 1984). Evil is not new—it’s a reality we face daily. The enemy wants us to shrink back, to hide in fear as if evil has the upper hand. But Psalm 91 calls us to a different response: to dwell in God’s presence and choose faith over fear.

A Shield Against Evil: The psalm assures us, “Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart” (Psalm 91:3-4). The “fowler’s snare” and “deadly pestilence” symbolize the traps and dangers of this world—whether violence, deception, or personal struggles. God doesn’t promise a life free from evil’s presence, as it will persist until Christ’s return. Yet, He vows to be our refuge, covering us with His faithfulness like a shield. When we hear of evil acts or face personal trials, we can run to God’s shelter, trusting that His protection surrounds us.

Freedom from Fear: Psalm 91 boldly declares, “You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday” (Psalm 91:5-6). This isn’t a denial of evil’s reality but a call to rise above it through faith. Instead of letting fear paralyze us—whether

from news of violence or personal anxieties—we can anchor ourselves in God’s promise to be our fortress. Practically, this might mean pausing in a moment of fear to pray, “Lord, you are my refuge,” and picturing His wings shielding you from harm. By dwelling in His presence, we find the courage to face the darkness without being consumed by it.

Angelic Protection and Divine Care: One of the most comforting images in Psalm 91 is God’s promise: “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone” (Psalm 91:11-12). Imagine—God assigns His angels to watch over you, guarding your steps as you navigate a world where evil is bold. This doesn’t mean we’ll never face challenges, but it assures us that God’s care is constant. When evil feels overwhelming, we can trust that His angels are near, lifting us above dangers seen and unseen.

Living in God’s Shelter: To experience God’s protection, we must choose to “dwell in the shelter of the Most High” (Psalm 91:1). This isn’t a passive act but an intentional daily choice to abide in God through prayer, worship, and trust. Here are practical ways to apply Psalm 91:

Pray the Psalm: Start each day by declaring Psalm 91:2: “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Let these words shape your mindset.

- **Replace Fear with Faith:** When fear arises (e.g., after hearing tragic news), write down Psalm 91:5-6 and reflect on how God has protected you before.
- **Visualize God’s Protection:** In moments of anxiety, picture God’s angels surrounding you or His wings covering you, as Psalm 91:4 describes.
- **Proclaim His Name:** When evil seems to loom large, boldly say, “The Lord is my refuge,” and trust He is at your side.

God’s Personal Promise: The psalm closes with God’s own voice: “Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will

answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him” (Psalm 91:14-15). This is personal—God knows you by name and promises to be with you in every trial. Evil may be real, but God’s protection is greater. As you face the challenges of this world, choose to dwell in His shelter, proclaim His name, and rest in His promise: “The Lord is my refuge, and no evil can overcome His protection over my life.”

The Power of God’s Word, His Protection, and His Defeat of Evil

Evil is a stark reality in our world, casting its shadow through violence, injustice, and personal struggles. The enemy wants us to shrink back, to let fear dim our hope and silence our faith. But God’s Word breaks through this darkness with unstoppable power, offering protection and the assurance of His victory. John 1:5 declares, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness could not overpower it.” Jesus, the living Word, is that light—radiant and unconquerable. No matter how boldly evil rises in the world, it cannot overcome the brilliance of Christ’s presence in our lives and in creation.

This truth is magnified in 1 John 3:8b: “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” Jesus came not just to oppose evil but to dismantle it. Through His life, death, and resurrection, He shattered the power of Satan’s schemes, ensuring that evil’s hold on this world is temporary. When we witness darkness—whether through global conflicts, societal brokenness, or personal trials—we can stand firm, knowing Christ has already won the victory. The devil’s work may persist until Christ’s return, but it is no match for the One who shines as the light of the world.

God’s Word not only assures us of victory but equips us to live without fear. As 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.” Fear is the enemy’s tool to paralyze us, but God’s Spirit fills us with power to stand, love to reflect His heart, and a sound mind to discern His truth. When evil seems to loom large across the world, we can reject fear by anchoring ourselves in God’s Word, which shines as a beacon in the darkest moments. Practically, this means pausing amidst anxiety to declare, “The darkness cannot overpower Christ’s light,” and asking the Holy

Spirit to fill you with His strength and clarity.

God's promises of protection extend to all who trust in Him, covering us amidst the world's turmoil. Isaiah 41:10 proclaims, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." This is a promise for every believer, in every corner of the earth—God is with us, strengthening us through every trial. His protection doesn't erase evil's presence, but it ensures that no darkness can separate us from His love or purpose. When fear rises, whether from global crises or personal challenges, meditate on Isaiah 41:10, picturing God's righteous hand upholding you as His light shines through you. (1)

Living in God's Power and Protection: To walk in the power of God's Word, we must actively trust His promises. Here are practical ways to apply these scriptures:

- **Declare Christ's Victory:** When confronted with evil in the world, pray 1 John 3:8b, thanking Jesus for destroying the devil's work and asking Him to manifest His victory in global and personal situations.
- **Shine His Light:** Memorize John 1:5 and speak it aloud when fear or darkness looms: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness could not overpower it." Let this truth guide your response to evil.
- **Reject Fear:** When anxiety strikes, quote 2 Timothy 1:7 and ask God for His power, love, and sound mind to replace fear with faith.
- **Rest in His Presence:** Reflect on Isaiah 41:10 daily, writing down one way God has strengthened or helped you, reinforcing His promise to be with you.

God's Word is a light that evil cannot overpower, a promise that protects us, and a power that defeats the enemy. In a world where evil is real, we don't hide—we shine. We stand on the truth that Jesus has destroyed the devil's work, that God's Spirit empowers us, and that His presence upholds us. Choose faith over fear, and let His light radiate through you, proclaiming His victory and protection over the world. (1)

John 10:28-29

10:27-28 Of those who do believe Jesus and are his sheep, Jesus says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.” In this grand statement, Jesus summarized the blessings of those who truly listen to and believe the gospel. The believer in Jesus knows him personally, has eternal life, will not perish, and is secure in his care. But many of those who heard had no intention of truly listening. It is also true that those refusing to listen to Jesus’ voice are not his sheep. We recognize Christ’s voice when he speaks to us through the Bible. Are we truly listening for it?

10:29 “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all.” The ancient manuscripts record this statement in three ways. The first, as just cited; the second, “My Father, as to that which he has given me, is greater than all”; the third, “That which the Father has given me is greater than all.” The first reading has early manuscript support and makes good sense. The second reading strains the Greek language. The last reading is the most difficult (and is therefore considered by some scholars to be the original); it speaks of the Father’s gift to the Son (i.e., the believers) as being able to overcome all outside forces. In any case, the point is that God’s power guards and preserves the flock for salvation.

10:30 “I and the Father are one.” Jesus did not mean that he and the Father are the same person, because the word for “one” in Greek is neuter. The Father and the Son are two persons in the Trinity, but they are one in essence. Given this essential oneness, the Father and Son act as one—what the Father does, the Son does, and vice versa. This is one of the clearest affirmations of Jesus’ divinity in the whole Bible. Thus Jesus is not merely a good teacher—he is God. His claim to be God was unmistakable. The religious leaders wanted to kill him because their laws said that anyone claiming to be God should die for blasphemy. Nothing could persuade them that Jesus’ claim was true.

Reflection on John 10:28-29

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch

them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand." (John 10:28-29, NIV)

These verses from John's Gospel offer a profound assurance of the security and eternal protection provided to those who belong to Jesus Christ. Spoken in the context of Jesus describing Himself as the Good Shepherd, they emphasize the unyielding strength and love of both the Son and the Father in safeguarding believers.

The Promise of Eternal Security

Jesus declares that He gives His sheep—those who follow Him—eternal life, and they “shall never perish.” This is a powerful promise of eternal security. The gift of eternal life is not temporary or fragile; it is an irrevocable gift rooted in Christ's divine authority. The phrase “no one will snatch them out of my hand” underscores the absolute protection Jesus provides. No external force, not even Satan himself, has the power to wrest a believer from Christ's grasp. This reflects the omnipotent strength of Jesus, who, as the Good Shepherd, guards His flock with unwavering commitment.

The Father's Greater Power

The assurance deepens in verse 29, where Jesus points to the Father's role: “My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all.” The believers are a gift from the Father to the Son, a sacred trust. The Father's sovereignty and supreme power ensure that no one can snatch them from His hand either. This dual imagery of the hands of Jesus and the Father enveloping the believer paints a picture of double assurance—an unbreakable bond between the believer, the Son, and the Father. The Father's greatness surpasses any opposing force, including Satan, rendering the believer's salvation secure.

Satan's Powerlessness

While Satan is a real and active adversary, described elsewhere as a “roaring lion” seeking to devour (1 Peter 5:8), John 10:28-29 makes it clear that his power is limited. He cannot override the divine protection of God. This does not mean believers are immune to temptation or spiritual attack—Satan may try to deceive or discourage—but the ultimate outcome of their salvation is secure. The enemy cannot undo what God has established. This truth offers immense comfort, especially in moments of doubt or spiritual warfare, reminding us that

our salvation rests not in our own strength but in the unassailable power of God. (1)

Living in the Assurance

This passage invites believers to live with confidence and peace. Knowing that no one can snatch us from the hands of Jesus and the Father frees us from fear of loss or abandonment. It calls us to trust deeply in God's love and power, even when life feels uncertain or when spiritual battles arise. At the same time, this assurance is not a license for complacency. Jesus' earlier words in John 10 emphasize that His sheep hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:27). Our security is intertwined with a relationship of faith, obedience, and communion with Christ. (1)

Resources: Rev. Brad Standfest, (1) Logos Bible Program, Walter A. Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort, Guzik, David, Life Application Bible Commentary, Factbook Logos bible, Barton, Bruce B., and Philip Wesley Comfort. 1995. Barton, Bruce B. 1993. John. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House. Barton, Bruce B. 1993. John. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House. Barton, Bruce B., David Veerman, and Neil S. Wilson. 1993. 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers. Jeremiah, (2) David. 2013. What Are You Afraid of? Facing down Your Fears with Faith. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Momentum.

Sermon Notes:

Good Morning, Everyone, and Blessings to all joining us online!

Speaking of online, here are the AVC Connections: YouTube, App, Facebook/Website

[Let's Pray] Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your presence and Your Word that guides us. Shine Your light into our hearts today, exposing truth and strengthening our faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

I titled today's sermon: Evil Can't Hide.

I'll be honest—it's been a heavy week. On Wednesday, I came to work and saw police cars and ambulances at our neighbors' business next door. My first thought was, Oh my goodness, someone must've had a medical emergency. But no, it was much worse.

A disgruntled employee, recently fired, came back to target his supervisor. Tragically, that young man lost his life. Talk about shock and anger—no way did that just happen in our little town of Almont!

We need to keep praying for our neighbors next door, and we'll do this at the close of service today. Before I move on, I want to make something perfectly clear:

[AVC has Security- Explain]

Have you noticed? Evil isn't hiding anymore. It's screaming, throwing temper tantrums everywhere—on the news, in our communities, even next door.

Jesus said it plainly in Luke 8:17: "For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open."

Jesus is saying that all secrets, all evil deeds, will be revealed by His light.

But I hate to tell you this: evil isn't going anywhere until Satan and his demons are thrown into the bottomless pit, as Revelation 20 describes. Evil has always existed, but we're seeing more radical things than ever before.

Guess what? The Bible tells us exactly what's going on. Listen to this prophetic word from nearly 2,000 years ago in 2 Timothy 3:1-5: "There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them."

Here's what's sad: Satan has desensitized us. We see violence, corruption, and godlessness daily—on our screens, in our world—and we've grown numb. Friends, this side of heaven, an evil-free paradise

doesn't exist.

But this isn't meant to instill fear or leave you hopeless—quite the opposite!

Here's the good news straight from Jesus' mouth in John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Do you understand this? We have the Light of Life—Jesus—living in us! Scripture says in John 1:5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overpower it."

Evil can't hide! 1 John 3:8 tells us: "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

We stand on God's Word and His precious promises. 2

Timothy 1:7 declares, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." And Isaiah 41:10 says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

What about Psalm 91? It's been a refuge for God's people:

"Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield... No harm will befall you, and no disaster will come near your tent."

So, Christians, we have a choice to make. I'm not going to live in fear—Satan wants that! Yeah, we use common sense, but I'm not going to live in fear. I'm choosing faith in Christ over fear. Who's with me?!

Listen, this is critical in closing: As followers of Jesus, Satan does not control your destiny.

He can't control whether you live or die. I close with this powerful truth from John 10:28-29, where Jesus says: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

Devotional Questions to Overcome Evil and Rest in Christ's Assurance

1. Reflecting on Evil's Exposure (Luke 8:17)

Jesus says, "For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open" (Luke 8:17). How does knowing that God sees all evil, even what is hidden, give you confidence to trust Him in the face of injustice or wrongdoing? What personal situations can you bring before Him, trusting that no evil can hide from His justice?

2. Recognizing the Signs of Evil (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Paul describes the characteristics of evil in the last days, such as people being "lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive." How do you see these traits in the world today? What practical steps can you take to "have nothing to do with them" while still showing Christ's love to those around you?

3. Walking in Christ's Light (John 8:12b)

Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12b). How does following Jesus as the light of the world help you navigate the darkness of evil in your daily life? What specific areas of your life need His light to overcome fear or temptation?

4. Trusting Christ's Victory Over Evil (1 John 3:8b)

1 John 3:8b states, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." How does this truth reassure you when you face the effects of evil in your life or community? Spend time thanking Jesus for His victory over Satan's schemes and ask Him to show you where He is already at work destroying evil around you.

5. Embracing God's Spirit of Power (2 Timothy 1:7)

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). When you encounter evil or feel afraid, how can you rely on the Holy Spirit's power, love, and sound mind to respond with courage and wisdom? Reflect on a recent situation where fear tempted you—how can you choose faith instead?

6. Resting in God's Strength (Isaiah 41:10)

God promises, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10). How does this promise encourage you to face evil without being overwhelmed? Write down one way you can lean on God's strength this week when confronted with evil or hardship.

7. Finding Refuge in God (Psalm 91)

Psalm 91 describes God as our refuge and fortress, promising protection from harm and evil for those who dwell in Him. Which verses in Psalm 91 resonate most with you when you think about the evils of this world? How can you "dwell in the shelter of the Most High" practically through prayer, scripture, or worship to find peace amidst chaos?

8. Holding Fast to Christ's Security (John 10:28-29)

Jesus assures us, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:28-29). How does this promise of eternal security in Christ give you confidence to stand firm against evil? Reflect on a time when you felt vulnerable—how does knowing you're held in God's hand change your perspective?

9. Countering Evil with Good (2 Timothy 3:1-5 and 1 John 3:8b)

The characteristics of evil in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 contrast sharply with Christ's mission to destroy the devil's work (1 John 3:8b). How can you actively counter the selfish, unloving behaviors described in 2 Timothy with actions that reflect Christ's love, humility, and goodness? Identify one specific way you can show Christ's light in a dark situation this week.

10. Living Boldly in Faith (Psalm 91 and 2 Timothy 1:7)

Psalm 91 promises God's protection, and 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us we have a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind. How can these truths inspire you to live boldly for Christ, even in a world filled with evil?