



God's Providential Care: A Gift for all Ages

Paul Harvey, in his book *More of Paul Harvey's The Rest of the Story*, tells of a time when God's providential care was clearly seen in the lives of the eighteen choir members of West Side Baptist Church in Beatrice, Nebraska. It was March 1, 1950, and their practice should have started at 7:30 on the nose, yet it didn't because every single member, for one reason or another, was running late. Their excuses included oversleeping, difficult homework, car trouble, cold weather, child care issues, and the inaccuracy of a wristwatch which was always accurate. All eighteen members had just as valid of an excuse as these, and yet "never before nor since had each and every choir member of West Side Baptist Church been late for choir practice on the same evening."

That evening, at the exact time when their practice should have begun, a natural-gas leak—surfacing in the basement of the church—was ignited by an old furnace. The following explosion demolished the entire building. That old furnace, the igniter of this bomb, was located directly below the empty choir loft. Accident? Perhaps according to this world's manner of thinking, but not according to the teachings of the Bible.

Just as with the members of this choir, God's promise to us, his children, is his protective care. Today, on 9/11, we can be thankful to know that God has legions of angels under his charge, and if He chooses to protect us supernaturally, then all the demons of hell must flee...terrorists included! In 1950, God chose to protect the choir members of West Side Baptist Church; on September 11, He allowed the Twin Towers to fall. The key here, to both instances, is the sovereignty of God. In His sovereignty, God chose to protect one but not the other. This is a concept many Christians today seem to ignore. They believe and teach that nothing bad can ever happen to a dedicated Christian, yet that's not biblically accurate...as seen in the life of Job. There were many Christians who lost their lives when the Twin Towers fell, and they died, not because of their own wickedness, but because of the wickedness of evil terrorists. Could God have prevented those towers from falling? Absolutely! Yet for some reason, a reason we may never understand on this side of Heaven, He chose not to intervene. Remember, God thinks in terms of eternity, we don't!!!