

The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

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Can A New Doorbell Make Your Life Secure?

If you watch any television at all, you've likely seen one of the "RING" doorbell security commercials. The thugs are approaching your porch to steal the presents you ordered from *Amazon* or *EBay*, which *FedEx* delivered to you earlier. Little do they know your doorbell is embedded with a miniature camera. It has just alerted you via your cell phone that you're about to be robbed. However, you're actually watching the thieves approach when you "light up" the place with high intensity floodlights, ear-splitting klaxons, and a vocal warning about how you've already notified the police, who are on their way to arrest the hapless criminals. It's one of those, "make my day," or "you messed with the wrong doorbell" moments. If you're an entrepreneur, the first time you saw it, you probably thought, "why didn't I think of that?"

Physical security is important to all of us. In fact, according to Abraham Maslow's psychological research into the hierarchy of human needs, our need for security is second only to our survival needs for air, water and food. Americans annually spend billions of dollars "in search of" security. We are the most protected and insured nation on the face of the earth, with warranties on everything from appliances to socks, and insurance on everything from auto accidents to even malpractice coverage for preachers (no, I don't have any, so please don't sue me!) The legislative branches of our state and federal governments have inundated us with laws to protect us from everything from unsafe air to unsafe toys. Why, they even force us to "buckle up" so we will be secure when we drive, and to leave our nail-clippers at home when we fly, so no terrorist can give us a manicure at 40,000 feet!

Yet, the truth of the matter is, there really isn't any "absolute security" in the physical realm. All of the warranties, bank accounts, insurance, legislation, and airport scanners in the world cannot provide any real guarantee of security. That's because a sudden economic depression, unexpected illness (think "Ebola"), terrible accident, or catastrophic terrorist attack could come at any time and take away our lives, or wipe out every bit of the material security we have amassed in this life. That little bit of absolute truth, that there is no ultimate security in the physical world, brings me to the whole point of this article, that being, that **Jesus Christ** is the only real and lasting security for us in any realm.

In Christ we find security because "in Christ" we transcend the material "rat race" to find happiness, peace, and hope in the spiritual realm. The security of a life lived faithfully "in Christ" cannot be destroyed or removed by any force. Nuclear war holds no threat; terrorists pose no harm; neither financial reversals nor total economic collapse bring any fear; not even sudden illness or death can destroy the Christian's security, for in death we are only that much nearer to the Giver of eternal peace.

As Paul said, "for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). In fact our spiritual security "in Christ" is so great, it permeates every facet of our lives, even to the point of providing us security in the physical realm. The best job security in the world is the Lord's promises to care for His children in both good times and bad (Mt. 6:33, Rms. 8:28, I Pet. 5:7). Likewise the Christian marriage finds its security in the mutual commitment of husband and wife to the Lord's standard of faithfulness "till death do us part" (Mt. 19:6, Rms. 7:1-3). Finally the assurance of a meaningful and purposeful life in Christ provides for Christians a point of reference that is like a lighthouse in the storms of life (John 10:10).

A new doorbell may keep your Amazon purchases secure on your front porch, but only Christ can keep you safe from every worldly fear (2 Tim. 1:7). "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe" (Prov. 29:25).

David A. McCain