

## **We Are Safe: None Can Perish There**

“Approach, my soul, the mercy-seat  
Where Jesus answers prayer;  
There humbly fall before His feet,  
For none can perish there.”  
John Newton

Most of us remember a time when we were sinners. Bad sinners! Oh yes, I know we are (present tense) sinners (1 Timothy 1:15) but I’m talking about when we knew we were vile and base and living in despair. And do you remember what happened? By His Spirit, the Lord Jesus cut in and led us to the cross and assured us that He had accomplished our salvation.

Then, as believers, by the Spirit and the Word, we were taught precious truths like the Mercy Seat. (Exodus 25:17-22). We learned that it was made of pure gold and thus was a picture of Christ. (Exodus 37:6). It pointed us again to Jesus the only sinless one who ever lived. Indeed, God told Moses He would commune with him from above the Mercy Seat. (Exodus 25:22). It is no wonder then that in John 14:6, Jesus, being the Mercy Seat, said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by Me.”* It is only in Jesus that we commune with and know the Father. Christ is our Mercy Seat.

### **We are safe!**

When we are tempted to doubt and fear and think that the Lord is not hearing us. It’s then we see that Christ has entered once into the Holy place. (Hebrews 9:12). He entered that sacred place for us and represents us, therefore,

### **We are safe!**

And as we grow in grace and the knowledge of God we also discover that we are now settled in the Heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 2:6). What a delightfully precious resting place.

### **We are safe!**

When we at times feel our insecurity and fear that we will never be admitted to glory, it is then we learn to consider His injured hands and feet. As we think about His wounded side and see what our sin has done, and yet know that it was for us He bled and suffered. Then again, we see,

### **We are safe!**

When we are carrying cares for the future. When we worry about our finances as we grow old. It is then we learn to trust tomorrow to His hands; they are strong hands ... very strong.

### **We are safe!**

During the settling of the American West, a group of pioneers was making their way across one of the central plains. They traveled in covered wagons drawn by oxen ... progress was slow.

One day they were horrified to note a long line of smoke in the west, stretching for miles across the prairie, and soon it was evident that the dried grass was burning fiercely and coming toward them rapidly. They had crossed a river the day before, but it would be impossible to go back to that before the flames would be upon them.

One man only seemed to have understood what should be done. He gave the command to set fire to the grass behind them. Then when a space was burned over, the whole company moved back upon it.

As the flames roared on toward them from the west, a little girl cried out in terror, "Are you sure we shall not all be burned up?" The leader replied, "My child, the flames cannot reach us here, for we are standing where the fire has been!"

What a picture of the believer who is safe in Christ! We are standing 'In Christ' and the flames of wrath have been exhausted on Him. None can perish there.

That story reminds me of the hymn, part of which says,

"On Him Almighty vengeance fell,  
Which would have sunk a world to hell.  
He bore it for a chosen race,  
And thus becomes our Hiding Place."

**We are safe!**