

God's Thorn of Grace

"... There was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice... And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

Take it from Paul who struggled in pain,
Though he sought God thrice, it was all in vain.
Nothing had changed; he was still in God's hand;
Abundant grace was what God had planned.

We don't know for sure what was Paul's thorn,
But God gave him grace that it might be borne.
Paul kept the thorn, seeing God in it all;
Sufficient grace was God's gift to Paul.

What do you bear as your thorn in the flesh?
God's purpose for it keeps your soul's focus fresh.
See it from God's view—what He has allowed—
Lift up your eyes as you keep your knees bowed.

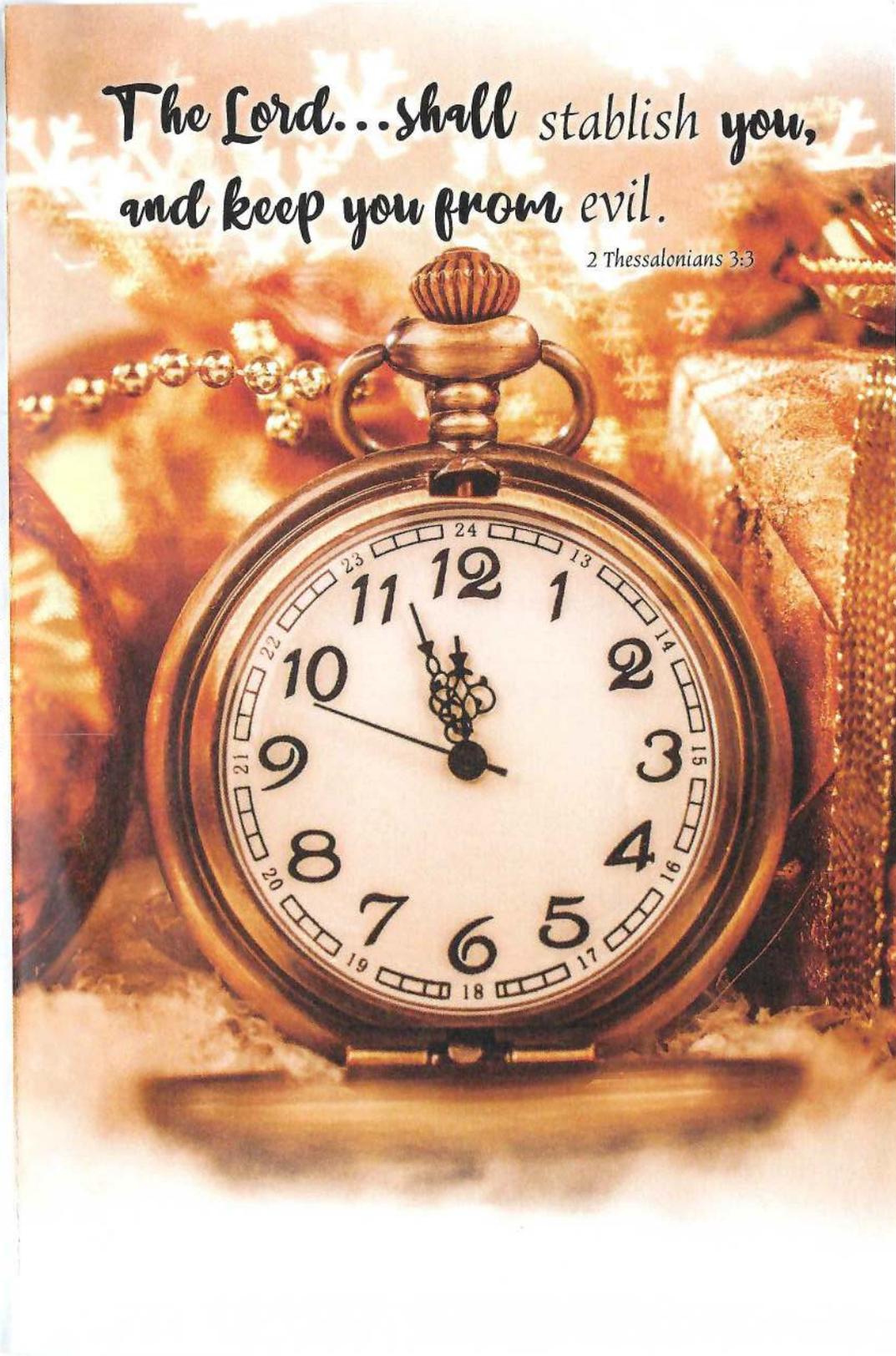
My grace is sufficient; take that truth to heart.
God's presence and love will never depart.
God is thoroughly aware of the trials we face,
And through them He's given the gift of His grace.

Dean Beaty

The Lord... shall stablish you,
and keep you from evil.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

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Happy New Year!

January 1, 2023

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading #162

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #277 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Welcome and Announcements

Ron Marks

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn #273 Good Christian Men Rejoice

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sermon:

Pastor Don Mauldin

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn # 263 What Can I Give Him?

Pastor Don Mauldin

352-262-5349

Covenant News

Start off the New Year with a Laugh.

The Methodist Minister had been summoned to the bedside of a Baptist woman who was very ill. As he went up the walk, he met the daughter and said to her, "I am very glad your mother remembered me in her illness. Is your minister out of town?" "No," she answered, "he's at home. We thought it might be something contagious and we didn't want to expose him to it."

10 Positive Things to Say to Make a Difference

1. You inspire me to be a better person.
2. I appreciate you.
3. Your smile makes me smile.
4. You are a good listener.
5. You're so kind.
6. You bring so much joy to my life.
7. The world needs more people like you.
8. You set such a good example.
9. Your happiness is contagious.
10. You are wise beyond your years.