**Safety**

**And you will have confidence, because there is hope;**

**you will be protected and take your rest in safety.**

**(Job 11:18)**

**“I will now rise up,” says the Lord;**

**“I will place them in the safety for which they long.”**

**(Psalm 12:5)**

**You might not have realized it, but America is getting safer every day. How can that be? you might ask. Didn’t the murder rate soar 30 percent in 2020, and isn’t violent crime up nearly everywhere? Isn’t there, on average, more than one mass shooting of four or more people every day – including a crazed gunman’s barrage of 33 shots in a New York City subway this week? Yes, true enough, but look at the bright side: The sale of deadly weapons has been surging at a record pace for years, with nearly 40 million firearms sold in 2020 and 2021. Better yet, in 25 states, you can now legally buy and carry a firearm without a permit, testing, or training. For decades, the National Rifle Association and Second Amendment absolutists have assured us that the more guns there are in our communities, the safer – and “more polite,” lol! – we’ll all be. With nearly 400 million guns now in American hands, surely we must be the safest nation in the world. Actually, no. All those guns have turned our streets, schools, and homes into a 21st century version of the Wild West, with tens of thousands of casualties. Nine mass shootings erupted on a recent weekend, leaving eight dead and 60 wounded, including a gunfight at a car show in Arkansas that left 27 people – including six children – injured. Road-rage shootings have become daily events. When people feel disrespected on the road, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said, “now instead of throwing up the finger, they’re pulling out the gun and shooting.” In NRA doctrine, the best response to this endless carnage is to arm yourself and prepare to shoot back. So, when a “bad guy” sprays bullets in a crowded bar, theater, school, workspace, or subway, “good guys” can whip out their guns and return fire, while the unarmed dive under chairs. Doesn’t that vision fill you with warm feelings of safety? *(William Falk, in the Week magazine, April 22, 2022)***

**The beaten path is the safest, but the traffic’s terrible. (Jeff Taylor, entrepreneur, who started monster.com at his dining-room table after dreaming about building a giant job-openings bulletin board online)**

**It is a great advantage to a president, and a major source of safety to the country, for him to know he is not a great man. *(Calvin Coolidge, former U.S. president)***

**During the Civil War a man from a border state decided to play it safe and remain neutral. To show his impartiality he dressed himself in Confederate trousers and a Union jacket. As a result the Confederates shot him in the chest and the Union soldiers shot him in the seat! *(Bits & Pieces)***

**In skating over thin ice, our safety is in our speed. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**Liberty is always dangerous – but it is the safest thing we have. (Harry Emerson Fosdick)**

**Americans lost an estimated $560 million last year to Internet fraud, the FBI reported. The most common frauds involved scammers impersonating FBI agents. (Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 26, 2010)**

**Where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe. (Thomas Jefferson)**

**The "Lion's King's Kenya: The original "Lion King" wouldn't be the same movie without its setting, and the real-life inspiration is "no less majestic," said Abigail Higgins in NationalGeographic.com. Before inventing the film's iconic Pride Rock, Disney's animators traveled to Kenya's Hell's Gate National Park, a section of the Great Rift Valley where cliffs ring a prehistoric lake bed. Visitors won't see Simba (which means "lion" in Swahili), but that's a good thing: Because there are no big cats, Hell's Gate is one of the few parks in East Africa you can safely hike from end to end. "You're likely to see animals all day, such as families of warthogs dashing across the road, or herds of gazelles frolicking through acacias." And instead of peeking out the top of a Jeep, you can take a safari on bicycles. "There's nothing like pedaling past a herd of zebras or trying to keep pace with a galloping giraffe. The park's volcanic landscapes also offer excellent rock climbing. (The Week magazine, August 9, 2019)**

**The average man does not want to be free. He simply wants to be safe. (H. L. Mencken)**

**The best car-safety device is a rearview mirror with a cop in it. (Dudley Moore)**

**Dennis looks around and says to his friends: “This looks like a safe place to play, boys. I don’t see any windows.” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Detective Harvey Schlossberg, a psychologist in the New York City Police Department, tells about his early days on the police force: "It could only happen to a Jewish rookie. The first day that I was walking my beat in Bedford-Stuyvesant, in Brooklyn, I looked back and saw a familiar car -- my father's purple-and-white Packard. (You could spot that car a mile away. It was one of the few remaining Packards in the city, for the company had stopped producing them.) My father was at the wheel, my mother and sister beside him and, to add insult to injury, on my sister's lap was the baby. As I walked along, they followed slowly. They were protecting me!' (Psychologist With a Gun)**

**A condemned man is given the choice of three rooms: one full of raging fires, another packed with armed assassins and a third full of lions that haven’t eaten in three years. Which room is safest? The third room. Lions that haven’t eaten in three years are dead. (Rocky Mountain News)**

**About 45 million Americans still do not use their seat belts, says the federal government. An average of 38 unbelted people die in traffic accidents every day. (Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 4, 2010)**

**It’s a very sobering feeling to be up in space and realize that one’s safety factor was determined by the lowest bidder on a government contract. *(Alan Shepard, astronaut)***

**A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for. *(John G. Shedd, philanthropist)***

**Why are societies with the most freedom never the safest ones? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Based on the incidence of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, blizzards, and wildfires, the two states where a person is least likely to die in a national disaster are Rhode Island and Connecticut. (Slate.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 30, 2005)**

**Stewart's escape from his father: Patrick Stewart is awfully active for an 80-year-old, said Kirsty Lang in The Times (U.K). Every day of the pandemic, the British actor has given inspiration to his 5 million social media followers by posting one of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets. He's also starring in the latest Star Trek revival, persuaded by CBS to reprise his role as the captain of the starship Enterprise. Acting has been a safe haven for Stewart since childhood in West Yorkshire, England, where he grew up in a home with no indoor bathroom. His mother, Gladys, worked in a textile factory while his father, Alfred, was off fighting the war. His first five years were happy, but things changed when Alfred returned. "We barely knew him," Stewart says. "He'd drink, get angry, and hit my mother. I would put my body between them to protect her." Sometimes they'd have to call the police. "We asked her to leave him, but she wouldn't," he says. "She adored him." It wasn't until 2012 that he learned that his father, a war hero, suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, what used to be called "combat fatigue." Stewart became an actor to escape his father. "The first moment that I walked onto the school stage," he says, "it was the safest place I'd ever been." (The Week magazine, August 21, 2020)**

**It’s always safer to do nothing – because whatever you do may have consequences you can’t possibly predict. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

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