

A Lord's Day Snippet!

Biblical And Southern Studies

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How swiftly time's revolving wheels
Have passed another year!
How short is life! my spirit feels
This truth with sacred fear.

Think, O my soul, another year
Of thy short life is past;
I cannot long continue here,
And this may be the last.

Much of my precious time is gone
Ne'er to return again;
How swift my passing moments run,
Of those which yet remain!

My soul awake, with serious care
Thy true condition learn;
What are thy hopes, how sure, how fair;
And what thy chief concern?

Here a new scene of life begins;
O seek afresh for heaven!
Pray for the pardon of thy sins
In Christ so freely given.

Gladly devote thyself to God,
And on his grace depend;
With zeal pursue the heavenly road,
Nor doubt a happy end.

Samuel Medley (1738-1799)

The LORD's Prerogative

"For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off."

Psalm 37:28

Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way who God really was and his lessons on the divine prerogative were verbally expressed, “I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” Yes, Jehovah is the Sovereign of all that exists; therefore, He is the authority, the architect, the administrator, the advocate who is to adjudge all that He has created and maintained! The God who never forsakes his promises.

We must remember Jehovah is the lover of justice. “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” And the expected answer is Yes! He will! The Psalmist points out in our text that Jehovah’s prerogative is (1) to love justice—He cuts off the seeds of the wicked, and (2) to never forsake His saints—He preserves His saints forever. One is reminded that “the Judge of all the earth” will do right. His divine majesty rules heaven and earth.

Jehovah’s prerogative is to love justice—He cuts off the seeds of the wicked. “For the LORD loveth judgment or justice, ... but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.” How often have you thought that this world would be better off without murderers, rapists, child abusers, devil worshippers, etc.? You might pray about it biblically in the sense of the imprecatory Psalms, but you have little recourse otherwise. However, the overwhelming almighty sovereign God can correct all wrongs and defeat all enemies who come against Him. And in His own timing, He will do just that very thing. Rest assured justice shall be done. He will bring to an end the seed of the wicked. How many houses of evil has the LORD terminated that way? Some examples can be found in 1st and 2nd Kings where Jeroboam, Baasha and Ahab’s families were cut off. The Bible revealed the judgment of the LORD, “For the whole house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah: And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her” (2 Kings 9:8-9). “And ... we are no competent judges of God’s dispensations in this kind, because we see providence by pieces, and have not the skill to set them together; but at the day of judgment, when the whole contexture of God’s dealings is laid before us, we shall certainly understand...” [Thomas Manton].

Jehovah’s prerogative is to never forsake His saints—He preserves His saints forever. “For the LORD ... forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever.” Oh, the faithfulness of God which is as sure as His judgment is just. Since God is immutable or unchangeable He cannot be anything but faithful. For God to be unfaithful would require a change in God which would mean He is no longer God. “Any failure within the divine character would

argue imperfection and, since God is perfect, it could not occur. Thus, the attributes explain each other and prove that they are but glimpses the mind enjoys of the absolutely perfect Godhead" [A. W. Tozer]. Jehovah does not forsake His saints, but His faithfulness insures their preservation. Also, since Jehovah is eternal His preservation of His saints is eternal as well. "God is as faithful to the objects of His love as He is just towards all mankind.... A king will not lose his jewels, nor will Jehovah lose His people" [Spurgeon]. It has been said that God's people are immortal till their earthly work is done. Oh, the promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Jehovah does not forsake His saints in time or eternity, but He preserves His elect before their conversion as well as afterward. John Bunyan is the celebrated author of the most well-known allegory in the English language called *Pilgrim's Progress*. Bunyan experienced a number of remarkable deliverances or preservations. Once he fell into the river Ouse; and at another time he fell into the sea narrowly escaping from being drowned. But the most singular instance of his preservation occurred when he was about seventeen years old. At that time, he became a soldier, and was at the siege of Leicester in 1645. He was called out to stand sentinel, but another soldier of the same company wanted to take his place for some reason. So, Bunyan consented and his substitute was shot in the head by a musket ball killing him. Bunyan was again preserved.

Like the circumambient air,
Creation's lucid robe,
Providence is every where,
Around this florid globe:
Every mystic link of love,
In that golden chain I see,
Reaching from the throne above,
And circumvesting me.