

## A Lord's Day Snippet!

### Biblical And Southern Studies

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1 My times are in Thy hand;  
my God, I wish them there!  
My life, my friends, my soul, I leave  
entirely to Your care.

2 My times are in Thy hand  
whatever they may be,  
pleasing or painful, dark or bright,  
as best may seem to Thee.

3 My times are in Thy hand;  
why should I doubt or fear?  
My Father's hand will never cause  
His child a needless tear.

4 My times are in Thy hand:  
Jesus, the Crucified;  
those hands my cruel sins had pierced  
are now my guard and guide.

5 My times are in Thy hand;  
such faith You give to me  
that after death, at Thy right hand  
I shall for ever be.

W. F. Lloyd (1791-1853)

### God Holds His Children by His Hand

*"If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."*

Psalm 139:9-10

The Psalmist is optimistic as he makes his interesting personal quiz, "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost part of the sea," so what could the answer be? It is: "The grip of my God is unfailing." The human extremes of flight from morning light and uttermost distance from everything is still the place of divine preservation. The beams of light are like wings propelling at rapid speed for light is a fast traveler, but nothing outruns God, even His children, for they remain in His grip. The majestic God of

the redeemed has His hand on them and holds them by the hand even in the most distant places and the darkness cannot obscure His hold on His children. There is literally no location or condition or being that can hinder Him or cause Him to lose His grip on His children. This majestic One on high has the hand of His children on earth. The elementary truth here is the picture of a parent tightly gripping the hand of his child. No, it will not do for the child to do the gripping for it might get distracted or excited or drawn away and turn loose of the hand of the parent, so for this reason the parent holds the child's hand as a protective preventive.

God's children are incapable of running away from their Father, just ask Jonah. An earthly father may be escaped, but not the heavenly Father! If that Father's child should ascend up into heaven, there He is; if that child could make his bed in *sheol* there He is; if that child could take the wings of morning sunbeams to instantly speed away at 186,000 miles per second and take up residence in the uttermost parts of the sea there you will still find the Father still holding them by the hand.

“If I could fly with all swiftness, and find a habitation where the mariner has not yet ploughed the deep, yet I could not reach the boundaries of the divine presence. Light flies with inconceivable rapidity, and it flashes far afield beyond all human ken; it illuminates the great and wide sea, and set its waves gleaming after; but its speed would utterly fail if employed in flying from the Lord. Were we to speed on the wings of the morning breeze, and break into oceans unknown to chart and map, yet there we should find the Lord already present. He who saves to the uttermost would be with us in the uttermost parts of the sea” [Spurgeon].

The Psalmist in Psalm 73 was contemplating the age-old issue of why the wicked prospered in this world, when he had sought to cleanse his heart before God. He contemplated: “Had he cleansed his heart in vain for he had been plagued with daily chastening?” The thought of this was very painful to him until he went into the sanctuary of God, it was there he understood the disastrous end of the wicked. It was as though he had awakened from a dream. Then he realized how foolish and ignorant he had been all along and said, “I was as a beast before Thee.” Yes, he confessed that he was like a beast that is without knowledge before his holy God. Suddenly the splendor of his position before his God lit his world, “Nevertheless I am continually with Thee: Thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory” (Ps. 73:23-24). Through his life of struggles and afflictions he had not realized at the time that he was eternally kept by the infinite eternal almighty power of his God who always had him secure in His most powerful right hand! A young man was once asked, “Will you tell me where God is and I will give you an orange.” The young fellow answered,

“If you will tell me where He is *not* I will give you two.” Our everywhere God has the hand of each of His children and will never let go.

Preachers of the gospel are also in the hand of God or they are bogus men. To know Christ is life eternal and every true minister of the grace of God should know the Saviour in pardon and forgiveness of sin. Preachers should heed the memorable words written by Robert Murray McCheyne to the Rev. Dan Edwards on 2 October 1840 after his ordination as a missionary to the Jews: “I trust you will have a pleasant and profitable time in Germany. I know you will apply hard to German; but do not forget the culture of the inner man—I mean of the heart. How diligently the cavalry officer keeps his sabre clean and sharp; every stain he rubs off with the greatest care. Remember you are God’s sword—His instrument—I trust a chosen vessel unto Him to bear His name. In great measure, according to the purity and perfections of the instrument, will be the success. It is not great talents God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God.”

A missionary told of how he was active in China when the country was taken over by communists. The missionary was arrested and subjected to severe questioning and mental torture. Throughout the procedure he would continually utter a quotation from Psalm 31:15, “My times are in your hands.” In what he describes as his “final ordeal,” he was offered a knife and tempted to take his own life. He responded, “My times are in your hands.” He reported, “The screaming voice of the interrogator demanded to know where the words came from, and he threw a Bible before his victim. The Bible fell open at Psalm 31. In the midst of this open Bible was the very quote the missionary had been saying all along: ‘My times are in your hands.’ This was too much for the superstitious interrogator who fled the room.” The missionary was then released and allowed to go home. The interrogator did not come to saving faith as far as we know, but he clearly was convicted of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The child of God is in the hand of the God who will not let go! No! Not ever!