

(John 10:27–29, NIV84)

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

Any parent knows that when walking in precarious places with a young child, it's not good enough to have the child hold your hand. The parent needs to hold the child's hand. The child is too small and too weak to ensure a firm grip to keep from falling. Or the child might be distracted, or attracted to something that may put them in danger, so they might carelessly or thoughtlessly let go of the parent's hand. No, the parent will wrap a strong hand around the hand or wrist of their child so as to ensure that the child won't slip or wander away.

The Lord God takes the same approach when it comes to us. As the weak and sinful humans that we are, we are often distracted by the trials and temptations of the world. We often are burdened with sorrow and discouragement. If it were left up to us to ensure that our grip on Jesus never weakened or wavered, we would certainly slip away from our Lord and be lost. But our gracious Lord, who has called us by the gospel and brought us into His family and made us His own children, will hold on to us so that no one and nothing will ever be able to pry us from His omnipotent hand.

Resting with you in God's almighty hand in Christ,
Pastor Golm

June 8

The Purchased Life

Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

One of the greatest sources of strength for the believer is the knowledge that he belongs to Christ. We are his possession, given to him by his Father. In his high-priestly prayer, the Christ places petition after petition before his heavenly Father. But for whom is he praying? "For them which thou hast given me."

We are his by right of purchase. This is what St. Paul means when he says: "Ye are bought with a price." This is what St. Peter means when he says: "Ye are a chosen generation . . . a people of his purchasing." This is what Martin Luther means when he says: "I believe that Jesus Christ . . . has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased, and won me . . . that I may be his own."

Because of that divine transaction—the purchase of all mankind by the death of God's beloved Son —I am his for time and for eternity. Notice the strong claim of possession in the following well-known words of Christ:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life. And they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:27-29).

How different life becomes with every remembrance that we are Christ's, the purchase of his love, and that we are therefore precious in his sight! Let that remembrance go with us throughout the day, granting fresh courage, new strength, and greater victory. Praise God: through Christ we are his, now and forever!

The Lord my Shepherd is, I shall be well supplied.
Since He is mine and I am His, What can I want beside?

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)