

Reading: Luke 23:44-56

“Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit” (Lk 23:46)

The sayings of Jesus on the Cross were not yet over when He uttered the victorious words, “It is finished.” The only begotten Son of God left His home in glory and came into this world to offer His own precious life as a ransom for man’s salvation. After fulfilling the perfect will of His Father, remembering Psalm 31:5, Jesus commended His spirit into the hands of His Heavenly Father. No one was able to take the life of Jesus. It was His own freewill offering.

We don’t need to fear about tomorrow because Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is the one who was, who is and who is to come. He is the “A” and the “Z.”

Jesus said, “I give My sheep eternal life and they shall never perish. Neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand” (Jn 10:28,29). In the hands of Jesus! And in the hands of the Father! Absolute safety!

So Paul declared with perfect confidence, “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Tim 1:12). God has not chosen us to leave or lose us in the middle. “Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:39).

God is able to keep us from stumbling, and present us faultless before the presence of His glory (Jude 24).

There arises a question: Once saved, always safe? Can a person lose his salvation? The Bible scholars are divided on this issue. On one side we have the Calvinists and on the other the Armenians. The first group emphasises what God does, and the second what man should do. Bring both together and you get the balanced Biblical truth. God is able and willing to keep. The devil cannot snatch me from God. But I must be willing to hold on to His hand. Without me God *will not*; without God I *cannot!*

*Safe am I, safe am I in the hollow of His hand;
Sheltered o’er, sheltered o’er with His love for ever more.
No ill can harm me, no fear alarm me,
For He keeps both day and night,
Safe am I, safe am I in the hollow of His hand!*

MARCH 27

PRAYER

Subject: Salvation

Reading: Lk 23:44-56

Memorising: Lk 23:46

"Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit!"

Gracious Heavenly Father,

We worship You as the Creator and Owner of all men and women in the world. We are all Your handiwork. You have adopted us as Your children because of Jesus who, as the Son of God and the Son of Man, redeemed us from our sins by His precious blood shed on the Cross. What a privilege, O God, to become members of Your family!

We thank You, O God, for the assuring words of Your Son that we are in Your hands and in His hands! Yes, Lord, no one or no power on earth can snatch us from Your hand. You who are in us are greater and stronger than the devil and all his hellish powers. Forgive us, O God, for forgetting this solemn truth too often and shudder at the devil's threats. Without Your permission no one can touch us. You have counted even our hairs. You watch over us without sleeping or slumbering.

We join the Psalmist and confess that You are our Refuge and You are our Fortress. We dwell under Your shadow. You are covering us with Your feathers. Your truth is our shield and buckler. You are our habitation. You will give Your angels charge over us, to keep us in all our ways. You are watching over us without sleep or slumber. Hallelujah!

We thank You, Father, for the assurance of Salvation. Thank You for Your Word and Your Spirit which testify with our spirit that we are Your children. We know, Lord, that what You have begun in us will be completed and perfected. With this understanding, O Lord, help us to walk with holy fear and reverence. We thank You for Your Scriptures and Your Spirit which expose to us the lies of the devil. Let us continuously enjoy the blessings of Your liberating truth.

Almighty God, we rely on Your power and strength to stand against the forces of darkness which try to separate us from Your love. We rejoice that neither death nor life, principalities nor powers, things present nor things to come, height of delight nor depth of sorrow can do that! We shall abide forever in Your presence because we stand on Your Word which abides forever and ever. We are in Your hands!

We declare this in Jesus' victorious Name! Amen!

*(Isa 64:8; Acts 17:24-26; Eph 2:13; Jn 1:12; Heb 9:11,12; Jn 10:28,29; 1 Jn 4:4; Lk 12:7;
Psa 121:4; 18:2; 91:1,2,4,11,12; Rom 8:16; Phil 1:6; Jn 8:32; Rom 8:36-39)*