

## December 17

**John 10: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.**

Each time we step out into the cold morning we see the entirety of our life as the vapor appears from our heated breath then vanishes in an instant. We are that last brown leaf shivering on the branch within one sharp gust of joining our fallen friends on the frozen ground below. Unable to purchase life, unable to stop time, unable to rise above this dying dust, but we have a great Shepherd who says, "I give unto them eternal life." What vibrant colors to wash out every grey page of bad news this world has to report!

"I give", Christ says. How thankful we are this is a gift because the gifts of God shall never be taken back. (Rom 11: 29) Let the clock tick, let the sands pour through the hour glass. Time-life must bow to "Eternal life!" When our teary eyes look upon our withered skin, remember the Redeemer's promise, "And they shall never perish!" What trouble? Does it matter what trouble? The sovereign Savior says, "Neither shall any pluck them out of my hand." Any is a mighty broad word. Trial, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, things seen or unseen, things present or things to come, angels, principalities or powers, in the heights or in the depths, life or death—"neither shall any pluck them out of my hand." (Rom 8: 35-39) What about that hand? It is the same hand that measured the waters in its hollow and spread out heaven with the span of his fingers; it is the hand that weighed the dust and the mountains and the hills. (Is 40: 11-12) Better still it is the hand of him who says, "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands." (Is 49: 16) This is the hand of him who bought his people with his own blood!

Christ Jesus has all authority and right as King of kings and Lord of lords, as the risen Redeemer, as the great Shepherd of his sheep, as God our Savior to declare with unwavering, everlasting certainty, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand." This temporary life of sorrow, sin and sickness will not even be a memory when we are in the bliss of eternal life with him.