

My Times

Three Views of God's Control in Our Lives

1. God only controls the time of our salvation and death. Otherwise, we are left on our own with every decision. God is absent for us and the world.
2. God controls every aspect of our lives. He is sovereign in every circumstance.
3. God controls certain circumstances in our lives. We control all others. God controls certain circumstances in the world. Man controls all others. The will of man mixes with God's will. This view is more in line with scripture.

"I hear the slander of many; fear is on every side; while they take counsel together against me, they scheme to take away my life. But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me." (Psalm 31:13-15)

1. The Hebrew word for "times" is "ay-eth" which means "events of life." It means specific or certain events or circumstances of our life.
2. The specific events of our lives have been in God's hands.
3. God cause them to work together with those He controls for our good (Romans 8:28).
4. Verse 15 tells us "**my** times" are in God's hands. Not **our** times.

"To everything there is a season (not a day), a time (ay-eth – certain events) for every purpose under heaven: A time [a]to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

1. This not fatalism, a pre-set, or an engraved in concrete plan over which we have on control.
2. God uses our will along with His own to set the course for our life.
3. God helps to steer our life along His course:
 - a. His word is our map. He trusts us daily to follow the word.
 - b. At times, sometime during storms, we drift. He helps bring us back.
 - c. At times we sin. God gives forgiveness for our repentance.

“Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; so, He guides them to their desired haven. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!” (Psalm 107:28-31)

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits...”

“Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies...” (Psalm 103:2, 4)

1. We remember the times of our lives divinely guided by God’s hand:
 - a. Schools we attended. Classes we enrolled in.
 - b. Jobs we are hired to do.
 - c. People we meet.
2. These were all planned and guided by God.
 - a. To help shape our destiny.
 - b. To bring us to the place we are today.