

The Right Hand

“Fare well’ in any Language”

One of the most prevalent languages in the world is Spanish. My Spanish-speaking friends are always somewhat startled when I say “*Farewell*” to them in two Spanish words (“*A Dios*”) and gesture upwards towards the heavens. They immediately recognize that “*Adios*” is a contraction, and that it refers specifically to God. French-speakers also have the same reaction when being reminded that “*Adieu*” is a contraction, routinely uttered with no thought as to its referent.

English-speakers are equally startled when being informed that “*Good-bye*” is actually a contraction of “*God-be-with-you*” and that it commends them to God. We so routinely take God for granted, and yet we cannot draw a single breath or stand securely on the earth without His provision! We take God so for granted....

And so, the uttering of “*Fare well*” (“*Good-bye*”) to loved ones is both a parting declaration and a commendation of them to the Lord of the universe, routinely though it may be. Perhaps, in the future, the utterance will not be so routine for you! Commending others to God is a good and noble thing....

At no time in this life are others so important to us as when we are parting. Fortunately, for we who embrace eternal life, absence is only temporary....

“May God keep us from complacency, and may we press on to know Him more deeply and obey Him more fully.” More next week! In Deo speramus.

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