

Destiny Newsletter

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by
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TIME MARCHES ON

It is certain that no one really understands life without realizing that we are moving through a continuum called "time." Yesterday becomes history and tomorrow becomes today. Everything is in motion, including the single life which we spend in the midst of the vicissitudes of time.

This being the case, the most valuable commodity available to us is a wonderful set of facts called Bible prophecy. The Scriptures are not merely history or merely sweet spirituality about our present experience. No, indeed, they present the one key to the future - a most necessary key in life.

A very pointed note of prophecy in this regard is sounded for each of us in the Word of God. So that we may understand where we are in life, the Bible says, "*The day is at hand*" (Rom. 13:12). In this memorable chapter of the Word of God, the Apostle Paul has reminded Christians of many privileges and many responsibilities. He has given them the shorter list as to how to live their lives. He then takes a moment to enhance these earnest calls by saying in most reassuring fashion, "*It is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation*

nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14).

These words should certainly come as good news, like a breath of spring to all believers. The implication is that we have been laboring through the night, but this labor is not forever. No, indeed, the time of perspiration and sacrifice will soon give way to the glorious dawn of a most rewarding eternity. "*The day is at hand*" is the implicit promise of all of these things. The night is not forever, the road has an ending, the glorious rewards of a life spent in service for Christ are soon to be bestowed upon all who have been through the night of labor, of prayer, of sacrifice for the Savior. The day is at hand - what an encouraging promise!

Having reminded us of this promise, the Scripture then gives one last short list of the things that we should do and be in that soon we are going to step into eternity's day. In the light of our early appointment at the Judgment Seat

of Christ, what should be our response? The answer is before us. That answer comes in the form of a telling list.

1. Let us, therefore, cast off the works of darkness. This means, of course, that we should hurl away in disgust any vestige of the mean, lowly, grubby, dark and dirty world with which we may have compromised. Like grave clothes, these associations should be thrown in the ditch beside the highway of life. Too many believers have walked in the counsel of the ungodly, leaned on the arm of flesh, exhausted themselves in the pursuit of human, worthless things. It is time for a repudiation of all of these.

2. Let us put on the armor of light. When we step into heaven's fadeless day, we will be clothed in magnificent splendor. We will live in our glorified bodies and possess apparel like nothing we could have known in this world.

In this world, however, it is time to anticipate that great moment, to live like it, to wear the apparel of heaven while yet we walk in this world. The lives that we live should bring to others the breath of heaven's springtime. We ourselves should be a foretaste of glory in the lives of others.

3. Let us walk honestly as in the day. How sad that the Bible speaks of those who handle the Word of God deceitfully and even others who steal and lie.

These characteristics of the old life should be put away. They should have no place in our present lives and certainly will have no place in heaven. Even in this world, honesty is not only the best policy, but it should be our only policy.

4. Not in rioting and drunkenness. Our present generation is more and more characterized by the leadership of the violent, the radical, the brutal, the drunken and the addicted. These have no place in the life of a Christian. The Christian, walking in civility and reasonableness, will thus be an even better testimony for Christ.

5. Not in chambering and wantonness. The immoral lives that some people live should not be mentioned even once in the life and conversation of a Christian. Sexual immorality is ruining our world and the Church is not without its damage. For this, many will bow in shame before their Lord.

6. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh. What is the attitude and the posture of life that is a contrast to the wickedness of the world? How can we know and present this kind of contrasting righteousness in our time? The answer is, pointedly, that we should put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible describes the Christian as being "*in Christ*" and it also reminds us that we fulfill the picture of "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" The most intimate relationship which the Christian has is with Jesus Christ, his Lord.

The implication of this verse is that we should regularly check ourselves to see if we are wearing properly the clothing, the

adornment which is Christ. Is our testimony bright and clean and, when the world looks at us, do they see Christ? They should, the Bible says. In fact, if we are to influence this world for Christ, they must.

The meaning of "*make not provision for the flesh*" is perfectly clear to anyone who is not a fool. The Bible hereby implies that acts of sin rarely overtake the Christian by surprise. Rather, the Christian, giving place to his weakness, anticipates sin as an opportunity. He makes provision for it. Indeed, most of sex education in our time is merely making provision for the lust of the flesh. It is anticipating the fulfillment of human lust. This, of course, is utterly repudiated by the Word of God. It is a gross violation of the will of Christ for our lives.

We must remember again then that the Bible says, "*The night is far spent, the day is at hand.*" That means, of course, that soon is the day of reunion with Jesus Christ. We are close to the time of the light and life of eternity, rather than the dark environs of this closet called earth. In that the day is at hand, no Christian will ever be sorry for purifying his life and being ready to meet Christ face-to-face. By so doing, he will miss nothing but the disapproval of our Lord. He will gain everything, including the congratulation of Jesus Christ on the Judgment Day - which is everything. In that "*the day is at hand,*" we must conduct ourselves so that when we stand in the presence of our Savior, we may hear Him say, "*Well done.*" The day of that congratulation could be tomorrow. In fact, it could be today.

PIERCING THE FUTURE *Prophecy and the New Millennium*

Gain a thought-provoking comprehension about what lies ahead for you and those you love in this dawning millennium and beyond. See the enclosed insert to order this exciting new book.

ARE WE APPROACHING THE END OF HISTORY?

This is being asked by more millions of people in today's world than ever. Many look at the critical issues of our time — economic, military, medical, political — and fail to see how the course of this earth's life can move along much further. The promises of the politicians seem very empty and the assurances of the religionists empty as well. What is the answer to this question?

First of all, we should remember that the last days of earth will indeed come. The Apostle Peter says, "*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up*" (II Pet. 3:10).

There is no doubt, therefore, that the final days of earth will come, inevitably and inexorably. In His infinite wisdom, God has not told us exactly when that day will be. This because we are to be looking up and laboring for Christ every day. But Peter continues saying, "*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?*" (II Pet. 3:11).

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

CAMPAIGN 2000 is under way, bringing to mind the old adage that “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” And despite all of the promises that this campaign will be marked by millennial enlightenment, focusing on issues rather than personalities, it has already degenerated into a campaign of mudslinging at its very worst.

Many times in the past, it has been the case that candidates of similar viewpoint would “cannibalize” one another, littering the airwaves with personal assaults that would gut the very heart from the cause which, in an ideal world, should unite them. But this is not, yet, an ideal world. It is a world in which “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (II Tim. 3:13). So it is, that even seemingly good men are drawn into a frenzy of electioneering hype, sacrificing their principles on the altar of political expediency. And yet somehow, upon their election, we are expected to trust them to provide leadership and a moral compass for the nation they will lead!

THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION is even closer than that of the United States. There, the illusion of a truly free and democratic election grows terribly thin. Acting President Vladimir Putin, a former member of the KGB and recent head of its successor, the Federal Security Service

(the FSB), has shown masterful control over the media. In classic Soviet style, those who would oppose him have been snubbed by the state-controlled media, and often have been subjected to midnight searches and intimidation by the FSB. As of this writing, it is reported that most Russians have resigned themselves to the anticipation of a lopsided victory for Putin, who is arguably now the most popular politician in all of Russia.



STANDING UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE, however, continues to be the way to go here in the United States. As you must have heard by now, the Federal Communications Commission in December issued new and more restrictive “guidelines” as to what type of religious programming could be shown on educational TV stations. It was, in essence, a full-frontal assault on our religious freedoms.

But the good news is, that there arose such a hue and cry, that the veritable melee of objection deafened the ears of the FCC, jamming phone and fax lines. The activities of the FCC came to a grinding halt. As a result, we received word in February that the FCC had reversed its decision. It was a tremendous victory for Christians, and serves to remind us that we are not to spend our days as Christian ostriches, hiding our heads in the sand as we fearfully await the return of Christ. Rather, we are to be Christian soldiers, fighting the ever increasing darkness with the light of Gospel truth.

GOOD GRIEF! On Saturday, February 12, Charlie Brown’s creator, Charles Shultz, passed into eternity. It was such an ending as no one would have dared to write. The final episode of the “Peanuts” comic strip was to be published on Sunday, February 13.

In a gentle yet powerful way, Charles Shultz many times represented the Gospel message through his comic strip, touching millions of people who otherwise might not have heard the Good News of Jesus Christ.

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF SOCIETY. Yet today in America, fewer people than ever are “taking the plunge,” while more people than ever are ending the marriages that do take place, in divorce. That, taken in concert with the increasing pressure in many states to permit “same-sex” marriages, leads one to wonder where it all will end. The dissolution of the family unit has already been shown to be a contributing factor to the decay of our society and the alienation of our youth. We, therefore, would ask ourselves what we can do, that will bring romance, love, faith and fidelity back into vogue. Let’s work together, shall we, to find new and effective ways to accomplish that lofty goal. In so doing, we might yet impact upon the tide of our times, bringing a ray of light and hope to our generation, while there is yet time.

OPPORTUNITY



*The highest wave of any tide
Breaks only once upon the sand.
Each billow that is subsequent
But marks the sea's receding hand
In lingering isometric lines
Etched by the foam upon the shore,
A record written down the beach
Of fullness once, that is no more.*

*Does not the sea in this conspire
To illustrate God's way with men,
How life presents one highest hour
To make the thrust with sword or pen,
Or valiant deed, or act of love,
Or sacrifice, or gift, or word,
Or consecration of this life
To serve beside our glorious Lord?*

*And is it not apparent, too,
That other moments, other days,
That come beyond that highest hour,
Though lovely in a hundred ways,
Do hardly match the quality
Or privilege and hope sublime
That in our heart of hearts we knew
Within that pinnacle of time?*

*Who then can calculate the loss
To heaven and earth and in the soul
When youthful heart, preoccupied,
Says "no" to God's benign control,
To flounder on through wasted years
Consumed by ravages of sin
With vacant heart and vacuous mind
To dream of life that might have been?*

by Dave Breese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Just a note to thank you for your wonderful ministry. Your radio messages are so clear and easy to understand. The great truths you bring out are such a blessing.” – Hagerstown, MD

“We had always hoped we would get to meet you when you came to the Youth for Christ TV studio but were never able to. However, we have been pleased to support your ministry in reaching the unsaved and informing Christians. We feel that in a very small way God is allowing us to be missionaries through you and you are a wonderful representative.”
– Kansas City, MO

“I can never thank you enough for the blessing you bring to me through your ministry. Your program is becoming a must in my life and in many other lives as you bring to my attention the trying times we live in and point us to the coming Rapture. We all need to put our trust in Him. Also we need to see your program to continue that perhaps millions will come out of the darkness and into the light.” – Hays, KS

“We enjoy being a part of your fine ministry of Christian outreach. We look forward to receiving your Destiny Bulletin and agree with so many of the things you say, especially the fact that a nation must be built on a spiritual basis.”
– Allentown, PA

“It was through your program that I realized my salvation was secure. May God bless you and keep you in the hollow of His hand.” – Albuquerque, NM

“Thank you for your book **Seven Men Who Rule the World from the Grave**. This will help me to stand up for the Lord in biology and psychology.” – Woodland Park, CO



WORTH QUOTING

"It is permitted to the Christian to think of death; he is even represented as praying that God would teach him to number his days. Words are given him, *'Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.'* And though the thought of death brings the thought of judgment, it also brings to the Christian the thought of Him who died, who rose again for the justification of those who believe in Him." — *Michael Faraday*

"Nature is but the name of an effect, whose cause is God."
— *William Cowper*

"Education is useless without the Bible." — *Noah Webster*

"Had the doctrines of Jesus been preached always as pure as they came from His lips, the whole civilized world would now have been Christian."
— *Thomas Jefferson*

"The great act of faith is when man decides that he is not God."
— *Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.*

"I am a firm believer in the divine teachings, perfect example and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. I believe also in the Holy Scriptures as the revealed Word of God to the world for its enlightenment and salvation."
— *President Rutherford B. Hayes*

But especially,

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. Does Jesus' statement in John 6:40 mean that the Rapture will not happen until just prior to His return at Armageddon?

A. This verse reads: "And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:40). The terms "last day" and "last days" are used frequently in the Bible to refer to different points of end-time prophecy. Therefore, one must look carefully at the context of each instance, to determine its true meaning. In this particular case, Jesus was discussing those who would obtain salvation through belief in Him. In other words, He was talking about members of the Church, which is His Body. The "last day" of the Church Age is the day when Jesus returns for us at the Rapture and Resurrection. At that time, He will take the Church home to be with Him in heaven.

Christ's Second Advent, at the conclusion of the Tribulation, may be construed by some as being the "last day" of the Tribulation. But more importantly it is a "first day" as well, as it marks the beginning of His 1,000 year millennial reign. This is an additional reason why we believe that the statement in John 6:40 more properly refers to the Rapture and resurrection.

Q. Why should I pray, since it seems like God never answers?

A. Almost all prayers are answered

by the words "better" and "later." God normally gives us something much better than we have requested. Usually, His answers come later as well. This is the case because patience is also a virtue that He is developing in us. In the meantime, never stop praying and believing, for the Scripture says, "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." There are a number of good books out on the subject of prayer that may be helpful to you. Your local Christian bookstore should have most of these.

Q. Why doesn't God help me more if He really loves me?

A. First of all, be sure that God really loves you, for He has said this many times in His Word, "But God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). We are even called "beloved" in the Bible (I Jn. 3:2). Sometimes, however, excessive help is not love, but indulgence. Sending His Son to die for us is the greatest love. In His Son, if we believe in Him, He also gives us all things (Rom. 8:32).

Q. How come the Bible is so hard to understand?

A. Often, this appears to be the case because the Bible doesn't say what we think it should say. For instance, the Bible says that we are saved by grace rather than by personal goodness (Eph. 2:8,9) and this is confusing to many who think of themselves as being good.

My suggestion, first read the things in the Bible that you do understand. You may find that you will come to understand more than you can imagine. Just as a child

does not understand adult matters, so we need to be spiritually mature to understand the Bible. This understanding becomes knowledge that turns out to be most exciting.

Q. What is the standard of success in the ministry?

A. Paul gave us help on this when he said about Jesus Christ, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Col. 1:28). For Paul then, success was not huge, impressive corporate success. It was not big things, but the production of individual competence. If a Christian leader is not producing individual capability, he is really not doing very much. Today's Christianity militates against this by inveighing against "individualism." But really, individual spiritual competence should be the goal of all efforts for Christ.

Q. Sometimes I doubt my salvation. What shall I do?

A. The assurance of salvation comes from knowing the basis of salvation in the first place. Do not look at your life but rather remember that you are saved purely by the grace of God. Human works, before, during, or after salvation, are not what get us to heaven. We are saved, "not by works of righteousness which we have done." The guarantee of your salvation is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Q. When is it best to pray?

A. Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." Pray, therefore, at all times. Earnest prayer produces daily guidance and needed strength.

THINKING TOGETHER

ALMOST THE GOSPEL

There are millions of Christians in today's world who are "almost" effective. This because they believe a message which is "almost" the Gospel. In the same vein, there are thousands of churches that are "almost" successful. This because they hear Sunday-by-Sunday a message that purports to come from the Word of God, which is "almost" the Gospel. Many an evangelist assembles a crowd with great cost and effort and then preaches to that crowd an articulate message characterized by moving illustrations. The problem is that the message is not quite but "almost" the Gospel.

The word "almost" is a beguiling thing because it means "nearly," "not quite," "just about." This reminds one of the unfortunate King Agrippa, whose testimony was "*Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian*" (Acts 26:28). Agrippa was almost saved, but not quite. How sad!

Agrippa's problem, however, was not that he had heard "almost the Gospel." He had heard the Gospel thoroughly, but only allowed himself to be almost persuaded. In our time, too many people hear "almost the Gospel" and so they face the liability of insufficient conviction because they have heard an insufficient Gospel.

What then is the Gospel? Let us remind ourselves again that the Gospel is categorically defined as being the message that "*Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3,4). When one presents the message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he is preaching the Gospel. He then can invite the hearer to believe that Christ is the Son of God and that His death on the cross was sufficient. This simple message becomes the "*power of God unto salvation.*"

The problem is that much preaching purports to be the Gospel but it comes short or goes beyond the message of true salvation. It then becomes an "almost" Gospel. There are many versions of this going in our day.

One is the message that, "Yes, Christ died for our sins on the cross and by believing in Him we have everlasting life. We must, however, like the rich young ruler, sell all that we have and give to the poor and come and follow Christ." In this invitation, grace is lost and the message and the earning of salvation become human works.

Another says, "Yes, Christ came into the world to save us, but He saves us from sin by His life, not by His death on the cross." The problem is that this message is partly true. Christ saves us from the penalty of sin by His death on the cross. Then He is able to save us from the power of sin by His present life. We are saved from hell by the death of the Lord Jesus and saved from sin's continued power by His present life within us.

by Dave Breese

Salvation from hell by the life of Christ is "almost" the Gospel.

Another says that, "We are saved by Jesus Christ, but not without the proof that comes in water baptism." Here the value of the death of the Savior is eroded in favor of an ecclesiastical experience. Salvation is not by faith plus baptism. It is by faith alone. Faith, plus anything, is not the Gospel, it is "almost" the Gospel.

It is even said by some that, "The death of Christ was simply His example that we, too, should be willing to give ourselves for the fulfillment of great spiritual purposes." Salvation, therefore, is not "*faith in His blood.*" Rather, it is commitment to live for the things for which Christ lived and died.

Christ is, indeed, the example for the life of the Christian. We are not, however, saved by following that example, we are saved by faith in His blood.

It is also suggested that, "Individual salvation is fine, but really, there is no salvation outside of the Church." The people who preach this doctrine are rarely referring to "*the Church which is His body.*" Rather, they are demanding membership in some organized religion that purports to be Christian. The fact is that we are not saved by membership in anything, but rather saved by the efficacy of the death and resurrection of Christ.

There are even others who insist that, "We are saved by

Christ plus we must add a lifetime of good works." These people forget that the Bible says, "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us*" (Tit. 3:5).

So it is that one or another form of human responsibility is placed upon the package called salvation. Salvation then comes as a result of faith in Christ plus obedience to the Law. How sad then is the slavery that follows, for the Scripture says, "*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith*" (Gal. 3:10,11).

Many insist that salvation consists in the observing of various religious days. Conversely, the Apostle Paul said, "*Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain*" (Gal. 4:10,11).

It would be easy to point up a score of other instances where the message being preached is "almost" the Gospel. How sad that something beside faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ then becomes the basis of eternal life. In our time we have salvation by discipleship, by probation, by good works, by church membership, by religious practice, by human faithfulness, by tithing, by charitable activity and by many other things. None of these can be included in the meriting of the gift of God, which is eternal life. To lose the Gospel is to lose it all. An "almost" Gospel is no Gospel at all. "Almost" cannot avail. "Almost" is but to fail.

FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

The tide of our times breaks upon us, bringing with it change, challenge, and opportunity. Change often comes without warning, frequently presenting a challenge to the comfort of our status quo. The mark of our lives will not be that we never faced adversity, but how we met and overcame our challenges, turning them into bright possibilities for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Through the years, that has been how the Lord has moved in the ministry of Christian Destiny. He has taken our humble efforts, refined them in the crucible that we call life, and produced many amazing results for Christ. You are one of our very special friends, and it is a great encouragement to know that you stand with us.

I would especially appreciate your prayers on my behalf at this time. As you may have heard, not long ago I experienced a mild stroke, which has presented quite a challenge to me, and to the wonderful staff who work with me at Christian Destiny. The good news is that God has already brought me far along the road to full recovery and we anticipate a timely return to work at the office. In the meantime, God has blessed us to be able to continue with our writings and the many other aspects of our outreach. My dear wife, Carol, has stood tirelessly by me, assisting in my recovery while deftly managing, with our staff, the daily tasks of ministry at Christian Destiny.

Dr. Tim LaHaye, a friend of many years, will be doing prophetic updates on the radio and TV broadcasts. We are delighted with this new development.

People around the world now turn to us to hear a message of hope. That message is found in the glorious Good News that Jesus saves and is coming back again. With your continued help, we will be there to bring that message to the world.

Thank you for standing so faithfully with us. We appreciate your fellowship in the Gospel, and thank God for sending you to be a part of our vital, end time outreach. If you should choose to send a few words of encouragement when you write this month, I know it will be a tremendous blessing to all of us here at Christian Destiny. Let's continue to work together for the Lord, shall we? I believe the days to come will be marked by many exciting victories for Christ. May God bless and prosper you in all that you do for Him this month.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese, President
Christian Destiny, Inc.