

Destiny Newsletter

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May 2001

by
Dave Breese

BE RICH!

A now familiar expression has worked its way into the parlance of our time. It is usually used to describe the fulfillment of the desires of the achiever who is working toward the day when he will be rich and famous. The expression is called, "having it all." The ambitious man of our world looks forward to the day when his combined accumulations of fame, fortune, possessions will mean that he is looked upon as "having it all."

How many stories of the lives of people have turned into the sad account of a bright beginner who ends up in the ditch next to the road of life! He traveled too fast and ran out beyond any guidance that was available to him. In pursuit of the ambition of having it all, he ended up with nothing. "You can have it all in this world" is the voice of the serpent. It was heard first by Eve in the Garden

"...in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

ALL THE TREASURES

of Eden and went on from there to rule the world.

When, however, we think a little further, we notice that we have the promise of a great treasure which includes everything that matters. The Bible, speaking about Jesus Christ, says, "*In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" (Col. 2:3). Yes, contrary to the lying beguilements of this world, all the treasures are available to the Christian. The believer, united to Jesus Christ, is inseparably connected with the one in whom is hidden every treasure imaginable. "*All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" is really a very spacious expression. We can be encouraged by thinking of just some of those treasures which belong to us because we belong to Christ.

1. The treasure of Salvation.

The person who believes the Gospel of Jesus Christ has now been reconciled to God "*In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in His sight*" (Col. 1:22). Jesus Christ, by His death on Calvary's cross, has promised to us that, having believed in Him, we will one day be presented to God holy, unblamable and unreprouvable. The Christian is the possessor of imputed

righteousness and nothing can be laid to his charge whatsoever. He has perfect standing, complete salvation in the sight of God.

What makes this salvation a great treasure is that it is eternal salvation. It is valuable beyond measure because it never can be taken from us. How sad that the "salvation" in which many Christians believe is frothy and flighty and can disappear in a moment's notice. This is not a treasure, nor is it salvation at all.

2. Sanctification. The person who believes the Gospel has eternal salvation, but also he is set apart eternally to fulfill the purpose of God in his life. It is already true about us that God "*has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus*" (Eph. 2:6,7). Amazingly, the Christian already has a firm and confirmed reservation. It's as if he were already in heaven, seated with Christ. That is what we joyously call "positional sanctification."

3. Wisdom. The treasure of wisdom is ours in Jesus Christ. Here we have a commodity of value so immense that it cannot

be measured. Because there is such an infinite repository of wisdom with God, James is able to say, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him”* (James 1:5). Foolishness, therefore, is not a Christian trait and should be pursued by no believer.

Let us suggest that there are at least two kinds of wisdom which we should desire, one is academic and the other is practical. The wisdom that comes from schooling is marvelously helpful in understanding deeper things. The wisdom that comes from experience enables us to carry on in real life. Both forms of this wonderful thing called wisdom come to us with the compliments of Jesus Christ Himself.

4. Knowledge. This inexhaustible treasure also is hidden in Jesus Christ and comes to us with His compliments. We suggest that there is, first of all, that most necessary knowledge, the knowledge of God. We could really know little about God were it not for the revelation of Jesus Christ. Nature teaches us of the power of God, but tells us, in its capriciousness, little about His love. Jesus Christ, in His person and in His work on the cross, reveals a God who loved us enough to die for us.

In Christ, we also have the knowledge of holy things. One of the grievous problems of our generation is that it is so gross and insensate that nothing is holy. The culture is without

discernment and this is a condition that is not likely to change, apart from the wide dissemination of the knowledge of God. For our world, nothing is good, nothing is bad, nothing is praiseworthy--all this because of the lack of the knowledge of holy things.

5. Friendship. The Bible announces that the believer is *“in Christ”* and also makes clear that Christ is in the believer. Therefore, we who know the Lord Jesus have a way of becoming instant friends with one another. The world knows nothing of what we understand by *“the fellowship of the saints,”* but we surely do. This is because, whatever our status in life, we have been united in the Lord Jesus. We are friends of God and the treasured corollary of this relationship is that we are friends with one another.

We note that Paul has told us of our unity in Jesus Christ, *“lest any man should beguile you with enticing words”* (Col. 2:4). The implication is that when we have Christ, that we have the best that there is. There is nothing better, nothing more beautiful, nothing in the world more wonderful than Jesus Christ Himself. Indeed, the essence of Christianity is not its dogmas, but rather the Person who stands behind it all.

How wonderful that we are promised that we are a part of the kingdom of God’s dear Son, *“In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every*

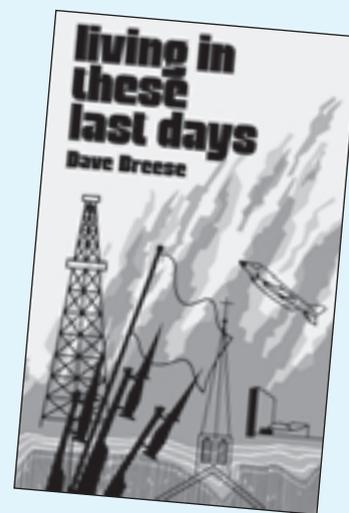
creature” (Col. 1:14,15).

Yes, Jesus Christ is the one in whom all fullness dwells (Col. 1:19). I am His and He is mine.

It is time for each one of us to believe this marvelous truth once again with a total of our faith. The Christian community of our time has a hundred denominations and a thousand programs. All of these things, however, are not to be compared with our association with Jesus Christ, in whom dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. It is, therefore, time to rejoice and to redouble our efforts for Christ that the world may know of Him. Before He comes again, may this be our great commitment.

LIVING IN THESE LAST DAYS

by Dave Breese



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THE TIDE OF OUR TIME

SOME ARE CALLING IT "THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH TODAY"

and it has become a virtual tidal wave of destruction, misery, and addiction sweeping across our nation and world. What is it, you may ask? It is pornography and its corrupting influences are already being felt in a neighborhood near you. Surveys reveal that over "half of all activity on the web right now involves pornography!"

When you consider that the internet is only one of the many mediums through which someone might gain access to ever-increasing volumes of smut, this statistic becomes disheartening—even frightening. It must be said that many people are being caused great, even irreparable, harm, many hearts and homes are being broken, and many lives are being brought to ruin by this plague. And church members are by no means immune. For further examination of this subject, **write for our position paper entitled, "Pornography."**

CONSIDERING THE UNFORTUNATE FACT

of ongoing school shootings, a quote from Newsweek gives valuable insight: "The... murders run deeper than a failure of gun control or trigger locks. We are slapping band-aids on deep gaping wounds when we simply look at the weapons that were used instead of the reason why the boys were motivated to kill." Why are we reaping this whirlwind of violence in our society? The problem can be traced to the crumbling institutions of marriage

and family. These violent acts are being carried out by those who feel "alone, abandoned, and alienated from society in general and their parents specifically. Most live in homes where there are not loving, caring bonds or an intimate connection among family members--particularly fathers." The cure for our society's sickness will only be found when we return to the authority of the Word of God upon which all legitimate human institutions are founded. Let's join in earnest prayer for those institutions and trust the Lord to raise up a generation of Christian believers and their families who will stand fearlessly for Christ and His Word and thereby function, once again, as salt and light in this darkening culture.

WE FIND IT INTERESTING to note that the 140-year-old **Mormon splinter group--the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** has officially changed its name to "Community of Christ" to "more adequately reflect its theology and mission" according to church officials. With this latest bid for mainstream acceptance, the underlying question is, really, whether or not a change of name is necessarily synonymous with a change in essence.

IRAQ'S ABC'S. Among the perils that face Jerusalem today, is the modern-day country of Iraq. Located at the heart of the ancient Babylonian Empire, Iraq has been prophesied to play a telling role in

the end-time attack upon Jerusalem.

Earlier this year, the Reuters News Service reported: "Saddam Hussein may be able to menace Iraq's neighbors with nuclear weapons in three years and fire a missile as far as Europe by 2005, according to a German intelligence assessment."

"Iraq barred U.N. weapons inspectors in 1998, making it extremely difficult to keep track of what the West believes are Baghdad's efforts to menace the Middle East and beyond with ABC--atomic, biological and chemical--weapons."

"Based on information it has gathered, the German BND has drawn the following conclusions..."

"There is evidence that Iraq has resumed its nuclear program and may be capable of producing an atomic bomb in three years. Work has been observed at the El Qaim site, believed to be the center of Baghdad's nuclear program."

Add to that an unconfirmed report by military intelligence resources that has crossed our desk, which states the belief of some of our highest military officials that Iraq already has in its possession one working nuclear bomb. Combined with Saddam's training of a "Jerusalem Army" to "liberate" Jerusalem from Jewish hands, it all adds up to a growing threat to Israel from ancient Babylon. Watch closely, as Iraq continues to work on its ABC's!



HOW SHALL I MEASURE THE MORNING



How shall I measure the morning
 With the gloaming relaxing its hold,
 With the dew diamond-like on the roses,
 With the eastern sky glowing with gold,
 While the night freshened air moves in rivulets
 Bearing perfume from new-opened flowers?
 Ah, the dawn, fresh spring of renewal
 Re-endowing the soul with its powers!

But the morn is not only for beauty,
 It's a foretaste of opportune hours.
 It's a new day of cosmic adventure,
 A vision viewed but from the towers.
 It's eternal potential encapsuled
 In the fleeting moments of time,
 So the aspiring heart is enabled
 To accomplish a purpose sublime.

I shall measure the morn by its prospects,
 For more than the beauty it brings.
 It reopens before us the privilege
 Of serving the Lord of all things,
 For He fashions all of the mornings.
 He causes the new day to be,
 Then fills it with hope and with promise
 Which faith at the dawning can see!

But many shall rise in the morning
 To another day burdened with cares,
 For yesterday's pain is persistent
 While vanished seem yesterday's prayers.
 They feel themselves mocked by the morning,
 For soon comes the heat of the day,
 Then anon the inexorable dimness
 With life itself slipping away.

For them, the light is like darkness,
 The dawn an intrusion as well.
 The notion that God engines nature
 Is nonsense -- like heaven and hell.
 Faithless, they move through the shadows,
 Thinking not that last morn soon shall be,
 When the life of the world is foreshortened
 At the dawn of eternity.

Yes, there shall come a morning more lovely,
 More beautifully scented than these!
 It will be the morning celestial,
 When all of the prospects shall please.
 The light of that morn will be fadeless,
 When we wake on eternity's shore,
 With ne're-ending day now before us,
 With joys that shall be ever more!

by Dave Breese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“What more can I say, David, except to thank you again for your good teaching to a world that so needs it. There is always someone coming along to confuse the flock. It’s no wonder that I appreciate you and a good many others for giving me the truth.”

– Des Moines, IA

“About 12 years ago, I heard Dr. Breese’s message entitled, ‘The Purpose of God in History.’ I believe it is the most important Christian teaching I have ever heard with the exception of the message of salvation. Your ministry has meant so much over the years. You should know what a great impact you have made for good. I’m a registered nurse and see much human tragedy. The words, ‘The Purpose of God in History is to bring many sons into the kingdom,’ echo in my mind as I watch patients and co-workers (and myself) face problems. Thank you very much, words cannot express.”

– E. Columbus, OH

“Thank you so very much for sending me the Bible. So far it has shed a lot of light on subjects that are hard to interpret. The highest of my goals is to understand, be obedient, and to share the precious Word of God. You have helped me more than you could imagine. I pray that you will be blessed as you minister for His glory.”

– Macon, GA

“Enclosed find check to be used for your ministry. I also want to thank you for your monthly newsletter that I look forward to each month. I believe the ministry is making a great impact for the kingdom of God and want to be able to do my part. May God continue to bless the work you are doing.” – Auburn, GA

“I have really enjoyed taking your study courses and hope you will put out more in the future. We were recently blessed by the good Lord Jesus Christ with Sky Angel and now we get to watch “The King is Coming” telecast. We have been blessed by your ministry for years now before we ever got to see ‘The King Is Coming.’ We have used your material to teach prophecy classes in several churches now.” – Beaver Dam, KY

WORTH QUOTING

“He who is taught to live upon little owes more to his father's wisdom than he who has a great deal left him does to his father's care.” — *William Penn*

“If we have no faith in ourselves and in the kind of future we can create together, we are fit only to follow, not to lead. Let us remember that the Bible contains two proverbs we cannot afford to forget. The first is ‘Man does not live by bread alone.’ And the second is ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish.’”
— *Charles Luckmann*

“Decision and determination are the engineer and fireman of our train to opportunity and success.”
— *Bert Lawlor*

“Language is the armory of the human mind, and at once contains the trophies of its past and the weapons of its future conquests.” — *Coleridge*

“The great man is he who does not lose his child’s heart.” — *Mencius*

“Also we need justice. We need toleration, honesty and moral courage. These are modern virtues without which we cannot hope to control the forces science has let loose among us.” — *Iar Wylie*

But especially,

“To Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, And has made us kings and priests to God and His father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”
(Revelation 1:5-6).



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. Why did Christ tell the rich young ruler to sell all that he had and give to the poor if he would inherit eternal life? I thought salvation was by grace.

A. Christ said what He did to the rich young ruler because the doorway to eternal life was through the entrance into the kingdom of heaven. The price of that entrance was total self-denial — spiritual perfection. He who would enter the kingdom of heaven must divest himself of everything and follow the king, Jesus Christ, perfectly and totally.

Alas, the rich young ruler was not willing to make that perfect sacrifice. So, he went away sorrowful because he had many riches.

Are you willing to make that perfect sacrifice, to surrender all to Christ for salvation? Will you keep the law perfectly, no exceptions? If you have the least doubt, you cannot be saved by the law. The kingdom rules will condemn.

Q. How then can a person be saved?

A. He cannot, if good works, law keeping, discipleship and the like are the way of salvation, but, praise the Lord, they are not. Salvation is by grace. This grace now applies to us because Jesus Christ was obedient unto death on our behalf. The blood of Christ applied to us makes it as if we had obeyed the law forever. It is as if we had lived a perfect life always. Because of Calvary, God imputes the righteousness of Christ to us when

we believe. Salvation, therefore, is by faith and not by surrendering all to Christ.

Q. But “faith alone” seems like too little a price to pay for my terrible sins.

A. If you knew how really terrible your sins were, you would immediately drop into the dark abyss of infinite despair. That’s why salvation must be by faith alone. This because there are not enough worlds in the universe to pay for sin. Payment must be something of infinite value. The only such substance in existence is the blood of Christ.

We sinners cannot create anything of comparable value by our works. Being bankrupt, therefore, we have no alternative except to trust in what Christ has done for us by His death on the cross.

Q. We don’t hear much about the grace of God anymore. Why is this the case?

A. This is hard to answer. It may be that the Gospel, because it sets people free, may not be what some religious leaders truly desire. The intention of some seems to be to bring people into bondage, into gradual obligation to some system.

Remember also that all people in religious leadership may not themselves be Christians. The Bible indicates that some “Christian leaders” may be wolves in sheep’s clothing.

Q. But isn’t submission to the Lordship of Christ the way of salvation?

A. The way of salvation is faith in the

shed blood of Jesus Christ. This is the only way that we can pass from death unto life. “Submission to the Lordship of Christ” is an invitation extended to all Christians. Salvation is not by submission or endurance, but by faith in what Christ has already accomplished for us.

Q. How then can I stay saved?

A. Salvation is not a temporary possession, but being a child of God is a permanent condition. Be assured that your salvation is forever. The assurance of salvation comes from knowing the Word of God and, therefore, believing astonishing promises such as, “*I give to them eternal life; and they shall never perish*” (Jn. 10:28).

Q. As a Christian, how can I know the will of God for my life?

A. God has a general will for everyone which is salvation, consecration to Christ, living for Christ, reaching the lost for Him, and preparing to meet Him in heaven. He is even now working to bring “*many sons to glory*” (Heb. 2:10). In addition, God has a specific calling for your life. About this you must pray, think, plan and ask God the question, “Lord, what will You have me to do?” You will then experience the wonderful promise, “*as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God*” (Rom. 8:14).

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THINKING TOGETHER

BEWARE!

There's a word that has fallen out of fashion in our time and which has become conspicuous by its absence. This because, in these positivistic days, everything is fine, wonderful, acceptable, permitted and okay. This generation is taught to accept anything; "whatever is, is right" might well be its motto. Consequently, the horrible sins of yesterday, such as adultery, fornication, sodomy, have been reestablished in the culture and given new names, such as "alternative sexual preferences" and the like. Throwing up is the best answer to those who would assert the legitimacy of these things.

The present condition of our world should cause us to pay new attention to that particular word. The word is "beware." I was struck just recently by the number of times our Lord used the word "beware" to warn His disciples and the outside world of some dreadful things. Some of those are worth noting.

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15). According to the Lord Jesus, false prophets were really terrible people. Again and again, He lashed out most strongly against these spiritual counterfeiters. Christ spoke about these people concerning Judgment Day, *"then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:23).*

Just as false prophets did constantly prey on the vulnerable of Israel, so we are warned of false teachers preying upon the Church today. We are to beware of these people. They are to be instantly and totally rejected by the Church. The

Apostle Peter, addressing Christians, said, *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who secretly shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (II Pet. 2:1,2).* Many are attractive and even convincing. Nevertheless, a false teacher is a false teacher.

"But beware of men; for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues" (Matt. 10:17). Here, Christ is, of course, warning His own not to be too enamored of people, too trusting of this world. The lesson once again is clear—that the world will lie to you if you don't watch out. The world will push its own false truth into your minds and that of your children. If you call these worldly propositions lies, you risk the possibility of prison, of suffering, and even of death. This "politically correct" nonsense is very serious. How many believers died because they resisted the lying ideology of the Communists? Hatred of the Christian faith is still a very common attitude across the world. Our confidence in the promises of men should be no more than very relative. Don't expect a lot of help from this wicked world. Absolute confidence must be reserved to be placed in God Himself.

"Then Jesus said to them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees" (Matt. 16:6). The disciples of Christ were temporarily confused by this warning of the Lord Jesus. They thought He was speaking of bread or some other

by Dave Breese

commodity until Christ explained Himself to them, *"Then understood they how that He bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees" (Matt. 16:12).* The Pharisees and the Sadducees were, of course, the religionists of that day. They passed upon the people burdens that were impossible to carry and they turned the faith into a set of laws that needed to be obeyed in slavish fashion. They were quick to hail men to prison and to death if they disobeyed their burdensome laws. Therefore, we rightfully conclude that *"the leaven of the Pharisees"* is the preaching of religious works as the way of salvation. The Pharisees and the Sadducees would never agree that *"by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9).* They fought against the Lord Jesus for pointing up their religious hypocrisy. They later fought against Saul of Tarsus for preaching salvation by faith alone to the Gentiles. The leaven of the scribes and Pharisees is the religion that preaches salvation by works and denies the grace of our wonderful Lord.

Be very sure that the leaven of the Pharisees is percolating even now in many churches, many denominations, many Christian organizations. The message of salvation by grace alone is deeply resented by the present day Pharisees, of which there are many. This because it is their purpose to make people slaves to religion (even the evangelical religion) rather than free men in Jesus Christ.

"And He said to them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which

he possesses" (Luke 12:15). So we have a warning of Christ, "beware of covetousness," which pierces to the heart of the problem of many people today. It is frightening to notice how many men, women, and young people for whom "money is everything." In fact, surely the philosophy of our world is that "the basis of life is economic." It was this philosophy that Karl Marx preached, and as a result, 60 million people died in Russia. Similarly, it is this philosophy that continues to gain ground in western culture and, sadly, in the church. Today we have the colossal cost of practicing and edificizing the Christian religion as one of the mounting problems of our time.

Remember, the covetous man is never satisfied. Covetousness demands more, more, and more yet. Christ warned us to beware of this attitude because covetousness consumes things without end. The assumptions

of covetousness are false because "a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses." Money and life are not the same things.

"Beware of evil workers" (Phil. 3:2). Could it be that the Apostle Paul is actually saying that there are workers within the ranks of the Christian religion who are evil rather than good? Is their intent to destroy rather than to build up? The answer to that is certainly, yes. Who of us does not know individuals who seem to destroy everything that they touch? Many times their benign suggestions within the Church produce ruin rather than renewal. Evil workers will abound even worse and worse as we move toward the end of the age. We must be discerning about their preachments and beware of them to the extent that we recognize their dreadful activities early on in their subversive careers.

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:8,9).

Here the Apostle Paul warns us that there are things which purport to be "philosophy" but they are nothing more than vain deceit. They are a package of human traditions that are "after the world" and not after Christ. The result will be that those who hear and attempt to believe these philosophies risk the possibility of being spoiled.

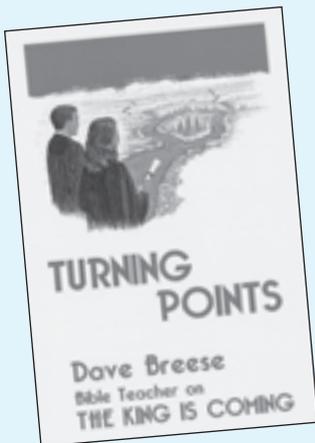
So, again and again, the Bible warns us to beware, to watch, to be careful. The watchful Christian will be spared many a problem and will be a good soldier in many a battle. Those battles are sure to come and, indeed, are upon us now. Be looking up, but keep a sharp eye on the road ahead.

TURNING POINTS

by Dave Breese

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FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

Carol and I certainly wish for you a most wonderful spring season and may it be filled with every blessing, with every good thing from God for you and your family.

We are very grateful to you for your participation in the ministry of Christian Destiny. God has set before us a great open door and you have made it possible for us to step through.

May God be with you and all of us as we labor together for Christ... and think of it, this year may bring the return of Christ for His own. May our hearts be filled with bright anticipation.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese, President
Christian Destiny, Inc.