

Destiny Newsletter

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“I CHARGE YOU, THEREFORE . . .”

by
Dave Breese

DIAMARTUROMAI

There is a solemn assignment which is pressed upon us in the Word of God. In Paul's last message to the Church he said, *“I charge you therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom”* (II Tim. 4:1).

What an awesome statement! The great apostle is now going to deliver a commission to us which he introduces by saying he is doing this before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. We can now, therefore, expect a set of instructions that may be the most important we have ever heard in all of life. What instructions are of such great consequence that he introduces

“The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.”

them like this?

The first is, *“Preach the word”* (II Tim. 4:2). In the preceding chapter, Paul has reminded us of the perils that shall come upon the world and, therefore, the only message to be brought to the world, namely the words of Holy Scripture. He reminds us that they are given to us by inspiration of God (II Tim. 3:16). Therefore, the primary point of Paul's commission is that we are to communicate the Word. The Bible must be presented earnestly, energetically and correctly.

This is a serious note that should be heeded by every pastor, evangelist, missionary, Sunday School teacher, Christian witness. There are interesting theories and colorful illustrations which are flying about the Church of our time in great numbers. Along with clever sermons, they color the landscape.

But about everything we hear we should ask, “Is it the Word of God?” Many an evangelistic message would suffer somewhat under the pressing question of, “But is it the Gospel?” Indeed, too many versions of the Gospel are given credentials in our time. The final result will surely be merely nominal Christians who

need to be saved. The Bible warns us away from *“any other Gospel”* (Gal. 1:8).

Secondly, Paul says, *“Be instant in season, out of season”* (II Tim. 4:2). This means, of course, that we should serve Christ when we feel like it and when we don't. Summer, winter, spring or fall - all of these are *“in season”* for the Gospel. That single great theme - the Gospel of the grace of God - should be on the instant lips of every believer. We must be everlastingly at it! Beware of spiritual fatigue.

Then we have the word, *“reprove”* (II Tim. 4:2). By so speaking, the Scriptures recommend a gentle admonition to those who in some small way are diverging from the faith in teaching or in life. The faithful reproof of a friend, given in time, can save a lifetime of ministry. *“A stitch in time saves nine.”*

But then strongly, Paul says, *“Rebuke”* (II Tim. 4:2). Yes, there are some blossoming heretics in the Church who should not be the object of our congratulation and forbearance. They should be rebuked, that the Church may be sound in the faith. *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend”* (Prov. 27:6).

Exhortation is then in order. This should be done with

patience and with the application of sound doctrine. Alas, the time has come upon us when the suggestion of "sound doctrine" has become an irritant to many accommodating Christian leaders. Indeed, many necessary doctrines of the Christian faith are now being sacrificed to the popular call to "unity." We must remind ourselves again that it is far better to divide over the truth than it is to unite over error. Almost all unity movements become theologically round at the corners lest some potential supporters become displeased. True unity cannot be organized into existence. It just "happens" when believers find themselves in warm agreement with the message and the mission. Organized unity as expressed by "covenants" and "manifestos" soon palls.

Paul then warns us all that "the time will come when they (the Church) will not endure sound doctrine" (II Tim. 4:3). Rather, it will have fascinations about one thing or another and hire clever teachers to approve of these doctrinal fascinations. Finally, there will be a rebellion against truth, and fables will become the material in the pulpits of the Church.

Who can doubt that the vast majority of churches and people who are now a part of "the Christian religion" have long since defected from the faith. It is easily provable that 90% of the Christian religionists in our time believe one or more heretical propositions that presently are being touted as the truth.

We should not be surprised

at this development. Because, of course, spiritual treason is predicted in the Word of God as coming to pass at the end of the age. In fact, Paul has already warned Timothy by saying, "Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons" (I Tim. 4:1).

In response to this, the Apostle Paul earnestly exhorts Timothy and all of us by saying, "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (II Tim. 4:5).

Finally, let us remember that Paul says these things, "before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom" (II Tim. 4:1). Few words in the Epistles could be considered more serious than these. Nevertheless, this admonition has been ignored or deliberately disobeyed by many a Christian and many a Christian leader. As a result, heresies aplenty have infected the Church and alternative causes have subverted the time and energy of the people of God. These words of the Apostle Paul, therefore, should become a great corrective for our time. Good soldiers will heed.

Now — forward to the fray!

. . .

THERE ARE SPIRITUAL LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

from examining the Word of God—especially in the light of the days through which we are passing. The perceptive Christian will take confidence in the following:

JESUS CHRIST PRESIDES ABOVE HISTORY. He therefore is able to say to every Christian, "Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6). He promises, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" and that's the confidence in which we can walk in these times.

THE CHRISTIAN IS NEVER DISCOURAGED BUT ANTICIPATES A FAR BETTER TOMORROW.

The Bible promises that the things of this world are really "our light affliction, which is but for a moment" and it tells us that these things work for us "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (II Cor. 4:17). The ultimate fulfillment in the life of a Christian is not in cooperating circumstances in this world but in the glorious realities of heaven. Because of this we live lives of joy and great anticipation.

THIS IS A GREAT HOUR TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST.

Anxiety in many forms has come upon the lives of people which makes it a tremendous time to tell others about the saving grace of our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ. "Man's extremity is God's opportunity" is an axiom that will surely be fulfilled in our time.

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

THE MANUFACTURE AND PROLIFERATION of tabletop supercomputers has brought to pass amazing new capabilities that could quickly make possible the visual identification of anyone on earth by computer.

The Los Angeles Times reported in January:

"Travelers at the airport here (in Fresno) on the way to Palm Springs or Las Vegas, are encountering something new just beyond the security checkpoint. It looks like a tube of King Kong's lipstick: six feet of brushed aluminum.

As the traveler approaches the device, a loudspeaker tells him to stop and 'look forward.' A camera snaps a series of photographs, which are instantly compared with pictures of known terrorists in a computer database. If there's a match, a siren sounds."

As an example of how it works, a representative of the company manufacturing the device held up a picture of Osama bin Laden before its mechanical eye, and alarms almost immediately began to sound. It doesn't take much imagination to figure out how that could work in the dark, future days of the Tribulation, when the Antichrist seeks to rid the world of all those who will not worship him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS in an article entitled, "EU rips U.S. Mideast policy, offers proposal" that "European Union foreign ministers...criticized the United States' Mideast policies and offered a blueprint for reviving peace talks that envisioned the creation of a Palestinian State that

would be recognized by Israel and admitted to the United Nations." However, the U. S. is balking at this suggestion believing that "the emphasis should be on moving toward a cease-fire and pressing the Palestinians to crack down further on anti-Israel militants" before any further attempt is made at reviving the peace talks.

Even Israel's Prime Minister is insisting on a "period of calm...before any negotiations resume." Although both Israel and the U. S. "have long resisted European attempts at mediation" in this conflict, we know from Bible prophecy that Europe will play an ever-increasing role in future negotiations.

THE RISE OF OCCULT PRACTICES is again to be noted in our time. Television is filled with invitations to call the "psychic television network." One wonders how many young people will be attracted to such things. The resurgence of occult activity, with its mysticism and mayhem, is one of the very dangerous developments of these days. Remember, our destiny is not in the stars, the tea leaves or the incanting priests. Our destiny is in the hands of God. Young people by the millions must be reminded of this.

SPEAKING OF YOUNG PEOPLE... "Much of the debate concerning the Harry Potter books and movie has missed the point. The problem is not the presence of wizards; fantasy characters have

often lived among sorcerers. The problem is that J. K. Rowling has created a character who truly goes where fairy tales have never gone before: Harry, the character every child reader identifies with... is a sorcerer.

Ms. Rowling's innovation becomes clear when we compare her work to J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Madeleine L'Engle, or even L. Frank Baum with his Oz books...

...The line from seeing sorcery to seeing ourselves as sorcerers is not a line our children should cross."

Roberta Green, WORLD magazine, January 26, 2002, p.33. Reprinted with permission, copyright 2002, www.worldmag.com

WHY IS CHRISTIANITY TRUE? is the pressing question of our time. We have one of our Publishers Together booklets on this subject available to you. Write to send **Christian Destiny** and we will send **Why Is Christianity True?** free, with our compliments.

AS THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES continues to roll, we know that each day brings us one step closer to that great moment when we shall be caught up to be with Jesus Christ. Our confidence is not in the fond hope that the affairs of this world will ever be resolved and the world will become a heaven on earth. No indeed, this world will continue to be precarious and that makes it a great place in which to live and work for Christ. Hope for the world is an unrealized illusion. However, hope for the individual is eternal life which comes by faith in Jesus Christ.



THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



*However long, however short,
 However tinged with pain,
 Though rich or poor, the Christian life
 Is never loss, but gain.*

*It may be lived at towering heights
 Or in the valley dim.
 No matter, for the child of God
 Is linked at last to Him.*

*The life of faith considers not
 The ambiance of time.
 For it, the trials, the joys, the tears,
 Are equally sublime.*

*With mind acutely conscious of
 The wonder of it all,
 The Christian oft is mystified
 That life should ever pall.*

*He little cares for lesser things
 That do not fit the plan,
 He knows the best of everything
 God gives to mortal man.*

*So with a bright'ning hope he lives
 In thrall of that great day.
 When Christ the Author of his life
 Will catch the Church away*

*To that bright land where golden dreams
 And earnest hopes come true.
 Where all for which he will have lived
 Is vindicated, too.*

*Each trusting soul or trembling saint
 Will bid this world farewell,
 To move to that celestial home
 Where all is well, is well.*

by David W. Breese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"No one articulates better the message more logically or skillfully than you! As a widower of 78, I loved your "reports" of this last week! They were the BEST!" – Tucson, AZ

"I have just finished reading your latest newsletter, 'The Best Is Yet To Come,' and I am writing to tell you how much I appreciated it. I believe every word in it was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God and I see you as one of God's few Spirit-inspired prophets of our generation. May He continue to work in you and through you to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May God bless you, your family and your ministry with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit!" – Hanston, KS

"I watch your telecast, 'The King is Coming,' through my local cable service. Tell Dr. Breese I really enjoyed the latest issue of the Prophetic News Letter. It was very interesting and informative."
–Enterprise, AL

"From time to time as I see Dave on TV, I never cease to thank God for having had a friend like Dave. Dave spoke at one of my first Joliet Hi C camps. Hi C was the forerunner of the Christian Youth Center. He spoke at our first CYC Promotional Dinner and again just a few years ago. I've enclosed my first attempt at telling the story of CYC. The sequel to it is the REAL Miracles on Manhattan – testimonies of kids that have gone through the Center and are now serving as ministers, youth workers, missionaries and even a Federal Judge and State Representative. God has been good to us and I thank God for the thousands whose lives have been touched by your ministry." – Joliet, IL

"I recently heard your radio broadcast on a local station. It was a 5 minute talk and I enjoyed hearing you, as I have enjoyed viewing your telecasts from World Prophetic Ministry for many years. I have dozens of your video tapes from World Prophetic Ministry and view them as often as I can. It seems that each time I do, some new truth about the Gospel is revealed. My wife, Theresa, and I love you dearly, as a brother in Christ. We will pray for you always. God bless you."
–Bradenton, FL



WORTH QUOTING

"Sincerity is impossible unless it pervades the whole being, and the pretense of it saps the very foundation of character."

— James Russell Lowell

"The ability to keep a cool head in an emergency, maintain poise in the midst of excitement, and to refuse to be stampeded are true marks of leadership."

— R. Shannon

"The first recipe for happiness is: avoid too lengthy meditations on the past." — Andre Maurois

"Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe that something inside them was superior to circumstance."

—Bruce Barton

"A man watches his pear tree day after day, impatient for the ripening of the fruit. Let him attempt to force the process, and he may spoil both fruit and tree. But let him patiently wait, and the fruit at length falls into his lap."

—Abraham Lincoln

"The art of living rightly is like all arts; it must be learned and practiced with incessant care."

— Goethe

But especially,

"To me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. With all the upsets and problems, can we really believe that God is in charge?

A. The Scriptures announce, *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods"* (Psa. 24:1,2). So the Bible teaches that God made the world and it belongs to Him. We can be sure, therefore, that He presides above it all. Paul speaks about Jesus Christ and says, *"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him"* (Col. 1:16). The upsets and problems do not come because God is inattentive or unloving. They come because of the sinfulness of man. The nations of the world and each unsaved individual continually chooses that which is contrary to the will of God. So the Scriptures say, *"There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God"* (Rom. 3:10,11). The wreckage of the culture is allowed by God but is caused by man's wrong choices.

Q. How then can things be

straightened out?

A. Things are in bad shape in the world because *"they are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that does good, no, not one"* (Rom. 3:12). Therefore, things cannot be straightened out until human sin is taken out of the hearts of men and they conduct their lives in accordance with the will of God. Human sin cannot be erased except by the blood of Jesus Christ, which He shed on Calvary. The Scripture teaches that the world, as such, will not believe and turn to God. The world, in fact, is treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. We should labor, therefore, not primarily to straighten out the world, but to prepare individual people for their home in heaven, which will come to all who believe in Christ.

Q. Why does God call us to serve Him? If He is all powerful, why does He need us?

A. God chooses to use redeemed people to preach the Gospel to a lost generation. We are believable conduits of the Gospel. By serving God we become instruments in His hands, witnesses to His grace. We are then also prepared to move from this world into our eternal opportunities, joys and responsibilities in the world

to come. This world is not an end in itself, it is a preparation for heaven.

Q. Isn't it cruel of God to allow His children to suffer and then die in this world?

A. It would seem so, but Paul said, *"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). Until then, we are *"waiting for the adoption, that is, the redemption of our body"* (Rom. 8:23). When we are saved, it is the spirit of man which is redeemed. His body is not yet redeemed, rescued from corruption, but this will happen when Christ comes again for His own. The atonement, therefore, applies to the soul, the spirit of man, but not yet to his physical body.

Q. How can I retain my enthusiasm to live and work for Christ?

A. The Scripture says, *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (Gal. 6:9). The best way to stay enthusiastic for Christ is to *"set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory"* (Col. 3:2-4). Then, best of all, lead a soul to Christ today.

THINKING TOGETHER

by Dave Breese

THAT YOU SORROW NOT

We have recently been in touch with many folks who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Others, even now, pray for dear ones who are on beds of affliction. How do we deal with concern for those in present pain, or who grieve for those who have recently been taken home to heaven?

The answer of the Scripture is that we are to *"sorrow not, even as others which have no hope"* (I Thess. 4:13). Therefore, we are not to grieve excessively, we are not to pine away, we are not to sorrow as if the situation were hopeless.

"But," someone will ask, "how can we avoid being distraught at the presence of suffering and the effect of death?" There are several answers to that understandable question which we do well to keep in mind.

First, heaven is infinitely better than earth. The Scripture says, *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him"* (I Cor. 2:9). The Christian who dies goes immediately to this marvelous place called heaven and is with the Lord. Remembering this, we do not sorrow.

Remember also that many of our loved ones are already in

heaven. Heaven will be the place of grand reunion with those of our beloved circle who have already departed this life. This should produce marvelous anticipation. Yes, heaven should be contemplated with ecstasy by all who know Christ as personal Savior.

Our suffering here is really but *"light affliction."* The Scripture says, *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"* (II Cor. 4:17). For Christians, what we think to be suffering down here in this world is not judgment, it is the prelude to glory.

We must remember as well that suffering in this world is the result of original sin by Adam and Eve and the presence of sin in us all. Sin is progressive in life and when it is finished it brings forth physical death. The spirit of man, however, is already redeemed, but alas, the body awaits *"the adoption... the redemption of our body."* Therefore, being Christians, we should not ask, "What have I done that I should suffer so?" Your suffering is because of what Adam did.

Suffering is tempered by our Heavenly Father. Again and

again the Bible indicates that God, who knows our frame that we are dust, will never allow us to be tempted or tried beyond our ability. When we are tempted to despair, we must always remember that God will provide a way through (I Cor. 10:13).

Suffering is also a testimony to others. The devil often causes the world to believe that people will be true to God only in the days of health, wealth and sunshine. Suffering disproves this treacherous argument by the Devil. The onlooking world sees us retain our integrity during suffering and it is impressed. It looks upon our confidence and our faithfulness in times of trial and must admit that there is nothing like this in the outside world.

Suffering also helps us to more greatly appreciate the memory of sunlit years. The joys of living with a wife, a husband for fifty years should not be cancelled by the pains of physical decline. We are to rejoice in remembering those happy sunlit years and suffering helps us also to anticipate more to come when we are at home with the Lord.

Remember also that there are no tears in heaven. God will wipe them all away and give us joys that will be unmitigated

forever. We can look into the wideness of eternity and know that it contains no terrors for us.

Finally, suffering will prove irrefutably that Christ is with us, both in time and also in eternity. His promise of, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20) is a marvelous and faithful one. He will never leave, He will never forsake, even in the days of trial. All who suffer will experience this.

This is not true about the world which has no hope. For the sinner, these days on earth are the best he will ever know. For the Christian, these days are the worst he will ever know. In this world, we move through the fog and many times stumble at the lack of clarity. But, we can endure it all because we are going to our heavenly home which is far better.

We should be encouraged by these promises from the Word of God. These words are written in the prayerful hope that they will restore the joy of heavenly anticipation with some who may be experiencing the pains of grief today.

One day, perhaps soon, we will be taken to be with Jesus Christ. Therefore, we do not fear but we rejoice in the blessed hope of His glorious appearing. When the Apostle Paul tells us to comfort one another with these words, he was speaking about the Rapture of the Church. Heaven is before us and there, our dear Savior will explain everything.

LOOKING ACROSS THE WORLD continues to be a super fascinating experience, with developments maturing which have international, political and prophetic significance for this exciting age of ours. With the unrest of nations, the infusion of leaders, the large problems which cannot be solved, the shortage of honorable men, sound money and good ideas, one is reminded of the apt description of these times found in the Bible:

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws near" (Luke 21: 25-28).

FINALLY



Dear Friend of Christian Destiny,

Our world needs to understand that without the foundation, which is Jesus Christ, there are no answers. That's why we rejoice that God has given us the opportunity in the ministry of Christian Destiny to bring the answer — the Gospel of the grace of God. Only by understanding that Christ is the foundation of all things can we find our way. Thank you for supporting this ministry and enabling us to reach out with Christ, the answer to life everywhere.

Your support is needed for the ministry of Christian Destiny as we continue to reach out in radio, television, publishing and many related activities. Thank you for being a partner with us. Carol and I are most grateful for your valued support in this outreach for Christ.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese, President
Christian Destiny, Inc.