

Destiny Newsletter

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PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK

by
Dave Breese

We have hardly begun to live until we realize that there are great purposes to fulfill in life. God has put us in this world for reasons more marvelous than most of us have yet seen. In the face of this, it is astonishing that a sense of boredom, even a sense of moral exhaustion, appears to have set in in Western culture and even in Western Christianity. It must be remembered that a sense of futility does not come from the lack of great purposes to be fulfilled. It comes from a lack of moral clarity. When we lose the conviction that we are in a great race and that the finish line is approaching, we are close to the place where we lose the motivation which keeps us going.

The Apostle Paul had no such problem. He said, *"Forgetting those things which are behind, and*

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Phil. 3:14

reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13, 14). Paul then called for every mature believer to be of the same frame of mind, motivated by the same enthusiasm. The invitation to live on earth for heaven's purposes is really the call to think and act like a true Christian. *"Pressing toward the mark"* must, therefore, be more than a slogan, it must be the burning purpose of us all.

The mark, of course, was and is the finish line, the end of the race, the achievement, the realization of the goal for which today's sacrifices are being made. We do well, therefore, to place before ourselves a few "marks," some perceivable and imperative goals which will then be more precisely the object of our striving in this world. May we suggest a few:

1. **The mark of spiritual excellence.** Again and again, the Bible calls for us to be perfect, to be mature, to be dependable, to be competent, to be spiritual. We rejoice that in our time, millions have accepted Christ and become sincere Christians. "Many of them, however," someone has said, "were converted too late in life to ever learn to think like Christians, to develop spiritual maturity." If this

be the case (and it has the frightening ring of truth), we will soon see the results in our churches. Pastors will soon be counselors in a large clinic, rather than generals in an effective army. They will be ministering to the hurting (not, of itself, a bad thing), rather than calling believers to be soldiers for Christ. The cause of Christ will be characterized by strife, division, heresies, immorality and spiritual impotence. Naive Christians will form themselves into admiring cults, following famous personalities, rather than being devoted ambassadors for an absent Christ, who can labor alone if need be. The thirst for "Christian fulfillment" will take the place of the adventure of sacrifice and suffering.

2. **The mark of Biblical knowledge.** Virtually all the other blessings which come to us as Christians are the result of a knowledge of the Word of God. The stability of individual lives, marriages, families, churches and every Christian endeavor will be the result of the Word of God implanted firmly in the lives of believers. Alas, today we have many translations and interpretations, but this is strangely accompanied by a lack of good theology and sound doctrine.

The purpose of teaching and preaching must be to enable believers to study the Bible **for themselves**. Christians would be wise to commit themselves to memorize 100 verses of Scripture this year.

3. The mark of Christian accomplishment. It is well known to us all that we are saved to serve. Christ has won us for the purpose of taking us to heaven one day, but of being an instrument in His hands in the meantime. Having been saved by grace, we are now called upon to live a life of good works, of significant accomplishment. Despite this oft-repeated truth, many believers have floundered on through wasted years without moving appreciably toward the mark of accomplishing something that matters for Christ. We do well to ask ourselves questions, such as, “Am I a good testimony for Christ?”, “Have I exercised some spiritual initiative?”, “How many have I truly won for the Savior?”, “Am I thought of as being a dependable, hard-working Christian?” Over the years, what we have accomplished for Christ becomes apparent to all. Each one would do well to aspire **this year** to move up several steps in his program of spiritual accomplishment.

4. The mark of world knowledge and influence. Christ told His disciples, “*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields.*” In another place, He said, “*The field is the world.*” The mark of a small child is that he knows only that which touches his hands, his feet, his lips.

The bottle or the spoon of food in front of him is the total of his world. The mark that he is growing is that he lives in an expanding circle of awareness.

How large is your circle of awareness? The home, the church, the neighborhood, your section of the city? Few Christians go much beyond this. They have thought little of the Third World, the Moslem world, the Communist world, the pagan world and other massive entities by which so much human destiny is determined. This may be a good year to take an almanac in hand, and a Bible in the other, and do some thinking. What is the population of the world? How fast is it expanding? What are its major religions? What civilizations are rising? Which are falling? What is the purpose of God in history? Believe me, 98 percent of the believers in our time would mark poorly in answer to a simple quiz like this. When Christ died He had a world in mind. He died not for our sins only, but for the sins of the whole world. For want of that same viewpoint, we often become disoriented. Many believers have huge problems which would be seen as mere irritations if they were thought of in terms of the immense challenge of a world in our time which needs Christ. How many concerns beset the minds of believers which would be instantly forgotten if they were to see themselves as being involved in a global struggle for the minds and souls of men?

By using the word “press,” the Apostle Paul is certainly telling us

that life should be lived with intensity. He does not say that he meanders toward the mark, he presses. Daily, hourly, we too ought to think of ourselves as being involved in a great battle, a contest of vast importance and proportion. We are, therefore, not to preoccupy our minds with lesser things, but are to give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings.

There is a great prize awaiting all who serve Him well. It is called “*the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*” The Christian, therefore, who lives courageously in the contest for Christ can anticipate a marvelous moment of congratulations when he stands in the presence of the Great Commander. We must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ and at that time, every person will receive the things done in the body. Soon, the course of this life will move up into the glories of eternity. Then shall we understand! Then all explanations will be available. Then we will realize that the little sacrifice and suffering of this life was as nothing compared to the abundant entrance ministered unto us into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus – there is a goal worth laboring for. Anticipating that golden trophy in eternity should help us more powerfully to press the battle in these days of challenge and immense opportunity.

Editors Note:

This lead article is one of Dave’s timeless messages.--Dave Weeden

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

INTERNET ATTACK is what has taken place in the ministry of Christian Destiny. A computer virus slipped into our system, effectively blocking our Internet access for quite a number of days. We look at this as a careful reminder that no Christian is immune to attack. No one lives far enough away, or is so well guarded, that he is guaranteed easy and safe passage in his outreach for Christ.

We are in a war, a great spiritual battle that is larger than any one of our lives. It has been waged since before mankind was created, but it will conclude one day, perhaps very soon, right here on Planet Earth.

ACCORDING TO A RECENT Time magazine article, Americans are more anxious and fearful than ever--especially since the September 11th terrorist attacks and the subsequent war on terror. The article in the June 10th issue is entitled "The Science of Anxiety" and analyzes the different anxiety conditions, their symptoms and treatments. Unfortunately, although interesting reading and seemingly quite scientific, it really is just another attempt to explain the condition of mankind from a purely humanistic perspective.

It would be greatly beneficial for all of us, but especially for those who suffer from various anxieties and fears to remember what God's Word has to say about worry and fear. *"Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in Me" (John 14:1).*

Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God. He never lied, never was mistaken, died, in fact, on the cross of Calvary for our sins, rose again in triumph over the grave, ascended into heaven and is coming back again. He has promised to give us abundant life in this world, and the unimaginable blessing of eternal life with Him.

Oh, in this world we will have tribulation--yes! We may come under personal attack as Christians--yes! We may even be required to

give our lives for the Savior. But we have the *"hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).* *"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

S A B R E RATTLING AND MOUNTING TENSIONS

have marked the stormy relationship between two of the world's newest nuclear powers. A million troops have been amassed on the border between India and Pakistan. With the threat of nuclear war hanging ominously over the earth, the world is waiting to see what will happen.

What if the unthinkable does happen and these countries exchange a volley of nuclear warheads? Pentagon intelligence reports suggest that the possible death toll could range from 9 to 12 million, but since literally hundreds of millions could be exposed to radioactive fallout, the scope of human suffering would be almost incalculable.

What about increased exposure to radiation here in the U.S.? Health experts agree that due to the "combined effects of distance, dispersion and dilution, the levels of increased radiation in U.S. air would be barely measurable."

ARE "DIRTY BOMBS" COMING? "We have disrupted an unfolding terrorist plot to attack the United States by exploding a radioactive dirty bomb" states U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to do the math. If there are potentially thousands of people out there, each with his own plan to disrupt commerce, kill people, and destroy society, then, despite all our efforts, eventually one or more of



them will be successful. And the question will most assuredly be raised once again, "Are we now in 'The Day of the Lord?'" The answer, of course, will be the same as that given by the Apostle Paul: not unless there has come the Great Apostasy, the revelation of Antichrist, and the Rapture of the Church. So if you're a Christian, and you haven't already been taken in the Rapture, then "The Day of the Lord" hasn't begun. Plain and simple!

A MISSIONARY COUPLE'S YEARLONG NIGHTMARE has finally come to an abrupt and tragic end. New Tribes missionaries, Martin and Gracia Burnham, were kidnapped by a Filipino terrorist group. Literally tens of thousands of Christians around the world had prayed on their behalf, asking God for their safe return to family and friends.

But God, in His infinite wisdom chose to allow both to come home, only not exactly in the way we had hoped. The Lord allowed Gracia to return home to her family and friends in the states, but Martin, who was killed in a rescue attempt by Filipino troops, received a higher summons to his eternal home.

Only in eternity will we fully realize the extent to which God used this tragedy to bring much good to many lives.

A PERSONAL NOTE: When our young grandson heard of Martin's death, he said, "I'll bet grandpa is really shaking hands with Mr. Burnham." That brought us to tears. Dave worked closely with many New Tribes missionaries.

We sorrow with the Burnham family at this tragic development, and encourage your prayers on their behalf.

CONTINUANCE



After the passing of the years,
When sullen earth has ceased its hold
Beyond the reach of human tears,
For us will come the age of gold.

When temporal fads have all expired,
When finest friends have passed away,
When noblest thoughts that once inspired
Are but the words of yesterday.

When human plans and earthly things
Have spent their force and now retire,
When shining hope no longer brings
The flame to set the heart afire.

What then? Are joys forever past?
Is there but the waiting grave?
Is death of everything the last,
No matter how we rage and rave?

Ah no, for in our inner heart
We know, for God helps us to know
That life on earth is but a part,
A launching pad from here below.

From here we rise to heaven's land,
To gold and ivory palaces,
To eat delights on every hand,
To drink from silver chalices.

Then shall we know as long we should
That life on earth must always cease;
That heaven's ahead for all who would,
Life here is but the first small piece.

We therefore shall rejoice, rejoice!
Exulting in our future state;
We'll pay no heed to earth's sad voice
Nor share in mankind's dismal fate.

We'll climb one day the golden stair
That bears us up to realms of glory;
Then shall we know as we are known,
And live the great continued story.

by Dave Breese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your Expressions of Love and Encouragement

“We are saddened by Dr. Breese’s departing from this life, but at the same time we also take comfort in the truth that he is with Christ which is far better, and that his works for the Gospel of Jesus Christ do follow him. His reward will be great because he was faithful and was one of the finest men of God that we have known in our generation. We will personally miss him because he taught us so much. I am convinced that his legacy and his writings will live on and be preserved for future generations of believers if the Lord tarries. If the coming of the Lord is as soon as Dr. Breese believed, and as we also believe, then we shall see him again soon. We pray that the Spirit of the Lord will comfort you all in the loss of your loved one and the presence of the Lord will be especially meaningful to you at this time.”

– Elburn, IL

“His straightforwardness to a relationship with God through Christ versus religiosity/institutions was a true blessing and help to me.” – Manhattan, KS

“Your gentle letter informing me of Dave’s death was received with some joy and some sorrow – sorrow because he had departed from our company on earth for a short while – joy because he now lives in the glorious presence of our Lord. I am confident of this truth. Even though Dave had many souls he loved on earth, as we all do, his love for God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit was even stronger, and now he has made it home to be with them forever – praising God for what has happened in his life and waiting for you and me to follow at a later date... I was glad to hear you plan to continue the ministry of Christian Destiny as I’m sure Dave would have you do. The Spirit of the Lord has touched my life many, many times by your ministry in times past, and I look forward to more in the future. There are so very few these days who are blessed with the Spirit as Dave was, but all of us are to take the talents we have – offer them to the Lord – and let Him break them and feed the multitudes with the Spiritual Bread of Life.” – Hanston, KS



“We pray our gracious Lord bestows his love and protection on your family and all of the Christian Destiny employees. Words cannot describe the comfort and strength Beverly and I receive with every newsletter, telecast and book we receive from you all. Our prayer is for your continued success in spreading God’s love for us in your wonderful ministry. You have enriched and strengthened many lives, especially ours. We will continue to look forward to any and all newsletters from you.” – Leesburg, FL

“My heart goes out to you because I know you have loved and lived with your husband for a long time. He adored his wife and called her his “Golden Girl.” You have been such a wonderful help to him in every way. It is going to be a lonesome world for all of us without Dave. I’ve loved his book of poems and one especially, ‘The Sunward Trail.’ It is so beautiful.” – Wheaton, IL

“Our hearts and prayers go out to you and the family in the loss of Dave. How wonderful he was – his teaching, his impeccable Christian life and his dear manner. He will be thought of always as a great Christian example for us. God bless and keep you and all at Christian Destiny.”

– Gerald, MO

“I had heard yesterday that Dave has gone home to glory. My heart is wrenched with tears of sadness and I will miss him dearly. When he was here I was able to call him at work on Sunday night. He told me there are no secrets to the Christian Life, but make sure you know the Bible thru and thru. Oh how I will miss his sense of humor, his smile and dry wit. He will now be one of the great anticipations of heaven and an example for the work to be done here.”

– St. Louis, MO

“These earthly bodies were not meant to last long, as the Apostle Paul reminded us, and there must be sad farewells; but Dave was such a valiant soldier of the cross and is now enjoying the comfort and rest in the presence of his Lord. I shall miss him.” – Harlan, IA

“We only personally met Dave that one time at the prophecy conference in Niagara Falls, but we loved him instantly. The ensuing years of supporting your ministry, reading his books, watching his television programs, and the correspondence (especially the personal notes from you!) have only served to deepen our love for you both. We can only begin to imagine the sense of loss you must feel.”

– Byron Center, MI

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. How can I retain my faith when so many bad things have happened to me?

A. The Apostle Paul had the answer to this when he said, *“But I would you should understand, brethren, that the things which happened to me have fallen out rather to the furtherance of the gospel”* (Phil. 1:12). Paul wrote these words from a prison cell, which was certainly a painful human experience, but even there he announced that his bonds in Christ became a great testimony for the Lord. Do not think that only pleasurable experiences will be ours as Christians. Paul said, *“For to you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake”* (Phil. 1:29). The spiritually perceptive will always find a way to use the circumstances of life as a testimony of Christ.

Q. Why are so many things about God and Christianity so hard to understand?

A. First of all, we must remember that God is bigger than we are and even if He explained everything, much would still be hard to understand. We do not understand all of the functions of the human body or the nature of light, but still we use and rejoice in the existence of these things. So the Bible says, *“O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? or who has been His counselor?”* (Rom. 11:33,34). Therefore, the Bible tells us that *“The just shall live by faith”* (Rom. 1:17). Indeed, we have no alternative.

Remember also that we are supposed to be studious Christians. In Christ are *“hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”* (Col. 2:3). Searching the Scripture will make many things understandable.

Q. Why are there so many differences between Christians?

A. First of all, we must remind ourselves that some Christians are smarter than others. Some have different gifts, talents, abilities which are not easily understood by their friends. So it is that the Scripture says, *“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit”* (1 Cor. 12:4). Now, despite those diversities, there is to be unity in the Body of Christ, *“For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Greeks, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many”* 1 Cor. 12:12-14). The fact is that there are so many differences between Christians so that, if properly exploited, the Church could

become a positive hotbed of Christian charity.

Q. I’ve heard it said that The Beatitudes are the way of salvation. Is this true?

A. The Beatitudes are the beautiful words with which the Lord Jesus opened His Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:3-12). They have been called by some “the Constitution of the Kingdom of God” which is not an improper designation. They do not tell us, however, about the redemption of Christ purchased for us on Calvary’s cross. They do not present the way of salvation, but if believed, should cause us to quickly run to a place called Calvary, where the righteousness which The Beatitudes demand, was fulfilled on our behalf by the finished work of the Lord Jesus.

Q. How can I become a better Christian?

A. The answer to that question is easy and obvious. It is, *“Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (II Tim. 2:15).

With the help of God and the continued support of our special friends, we will continue the ministry of Christian Destiny to make Dave’s timeless messages available. Dave had many studies that have never been put into print. And the messages of the bright destiny of the Christian must continue in these days to come.

Watch our coming mailings for more of Dave’s teaching. We will also continue to offer prophetic analysis of current events. Pray with us, as we continue the vision that Dave started here at Christian Destiny. Dr. Ed Hindson, Dave Weeden, John Epp, the Christian Destiny Staff and others will be contributing editors. Thank you for your fellowship in the Gospel. I look forward to hearing from you.

THINKING TOGETHER

WELL-DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!



DAVID WILLIAM BREESE
1926-2002

David William Breese was born in Chicago on October 14, 1926. He was the only son among four children born to David and Ruth Breese. They also had a foster son, Bob.

When Dave was a child, his older sisters, Betty, Mary and Marg, became involved in a Hi-C Club, a Christian youth organization. One week, the Hi-C meeting was held at his house. At 16 years of age, Dave had no interest in their religious pursuits and took shelter in the basement. Not to be denied, one of the club members convinced Dave to come upstairs, where he heard Virginia Latham teaching a study on the book of Romans. That was the first time he had heard the Gospel presented clearly. The message struck a chord in his heart, and he began to think in earnest about the claims of Christ.

A couple of weeks later, on a rainy night, while walking on Chicago's North Side, Dave looked up to heaven with tears in

his eyes and said that wonderful "Yes" to Jesus Christ. His life was forever changed!

Those who knew Dave well will remember that he often said, "Good things happen on rainy nights!" And we are reminded that the millions of souls who were touched by Dave's life might never have heard the Gospel message were it not for the spiritual persistence of his older sisters.

Dave attended Lane Technical High School, an all-boys school with 8,000 students. As a youth, Dave had been fascinated by airplanes and flying. During World War II, he entered Pre-Flight Training at Lane Tech, in hopes of serving his country. But God had yet greater things for him to do. When he gave his heart to Christ, he enlisted instead in the service of another kingdom--a spiritual kingdom--becoming instead a great soldier in the battle for souls. Dave completed his studies at Judson College and

Northern Baptist Seminary.

Still, God honored his desire to fly, and Dave eventually earned his multi-engine rating. And oh, how he loved to fly! It was to be a skill that would serve him well, as he piloted his own way to speaking engagements all across the country.

At a meeting in Winona Lake, Indiana, he met a young lady named Carol Flaming. In time, interest turned to love. They were married and blessed with two wonderful daughters, Lynn and Noelle. They also embraced a young Laotian boy, Lomae, who is part of the Breese extended family. Today, the Breese family has blossomed to include two sons-in-law, a grandson-in-law, six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Because of his great success in spreading the Gospel, some might think that Dave had it easy. But talk to his children and you'll hear stories of Dave sitting up late at night, making radio programs on a simple recorder with a blanket over his head, because of the outside noises. At that time he didn't have a recording studio. Some suggest his 5-minute radio format was determined by time availability, but the family has always believed it was the lack of air under that blanket!

Dave was never enamored by material things. His one burning desire was to spread the Good News that Jesus saves and is coming back

again. To put it in his own words, "Everything else was applesauce!"

His credits were impressive and many. Among them, he was:

- A formative force in the early years of Youth For Christ, serving 13 years
- Influential in the establishment of the AWANA Youth Association
- A speaker on Back to the Bible Broadcast's "Pause For Good News" for 13 years
- A member of the Board of The National Religious Broadcasters and the National Association of Evangelicals
- Founder of the ministry of Christian Destiny in 1963
- President and Bible teacher on "The King Is Coming" telecast
- Radio Broadcaster on "Dave Breese Reports" and "Dave Breese Reporting"
- Consultant and friend to presidents, statesmen and religious leaders
- Author of many books and booklets

But, to Dave, all that paled in significance when compared to the joy of leading a single soul to faith in Jesus Christ.

By the 80's, he had gained national prominence via his radio broadcasts "Dave Breese Reports" and "Dave Breese Reporting!" His network of over a hundred stations covered much of the United States. In the mid 80's, Dave accepted the call to

become speaker on "The King is Coming" telecast and later assumed the presidency of the telecast's parent organization, World Prophetic Ministry. His outreach via television spanned the globe, reaching across all of America and into 57 nations of the world.

Then, just as the new millennium was ushered in, Dave suffered a stroke. He had been working so hard, accepting every invitation he could to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ! In an average year, he would travel over 100,000 miles to speak at churches, Bible Conferences, colleges, universities, evangelistic meetings and debates. It was a labor of love, but the busy

schedule had taken its toll.

After his stroke, Dave continued to herald the Gospel through his writings and publications. Today, his message of hope and salvation can still be heard around the world via audio and videotape. That marvelous message of the love of Jesus and His power to save continued to burn within Dave until the day the Lord took him home to heaven on May 3, 2002.

We will continue the broadcasts and ministry of Christian Destiny and World Prophetic Ministry with Dave's timeless messages and with the help of many of his friends.

FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

These have been stunning days for us here at Christian Destiny. We have been overwhelmed by your kindness, your generosity, and your touching words of encouragement. Many have asked that we continue with our important outreach for Christ.

So, with God's blessing and your continued help, that's exactly what we intend to do. Much of Dave's teaching is timeless, and so we will continue to offer it to the world along with new articles and teaching by some of the nation's most powerful and articulate preachers.

Thank you for standing with us at this crucial time in our ministry. God bless you in all that you do for the sake of the Gospel.

Sincerely,

Carol Breese
Christian Destiny, Inc.