Destiny Newsletter

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"THE HIGH CALLING"



July 2004

Time For An Elevated Outlook

For most people, when they die, it will be just as though they had never lived. They will have spent the irreplaceable energies of life in trivial discussions, nugatory activities, and tiring pursuits of inferior goals. For them, nothing is particularly important, and no ambition stirs them beyond velleity or mild cynicism. For them, life is one colorless day after another which soon passes into the fog of forgetfulness and is then over. Nothing was ventured, nothing was gained. There is cause for rejoicing in nothing which they can take the trouble to remember.

There are many ways to be dead while yet we live, and a

"There are many ways to be dead while yet we live..."

purposeless, ambitionless life is one of them.

Therefore, to every Christian the Apostle Paul would say, "Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Rom. 13:11). In the same manner, the Scripture says, "Awake you that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light" (Eph. 5:14). The life of the Christian should be exactly the opposite of the spiritual sleepwalking which has become so common in our time. It is not from drowsy boredom that Paul is speaking when he says, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14). Here is one of those stately and inspiring verses in the Word of God that should ignite the imagination and bestir us with new spiritual ambition. "The high calling"-what might be meant by this?

It surely means many things, one of which is to live life for a greater purpose than the sinner could ever know. Something of this is expressed by the Apostle Paul when he said, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all

boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:20-21). Here we have a statement of the clear and sterling purpose that motivated this man to worldchanging accomplishments. His message was to be used of God to profoundly affect a crooked and perverse nation among whom, in similar fashion, we all shine like lights in the world. "Rise up, oh men of God, be done with lesser things," is the admonition of the old hymn. Many people wonder why they do not receive more blessing from God. Could it be that trivial lives are receiving already more blessing than they can use?

The high calling surely also means responding to a more noble summons than the world could ever bring. How sad it is to see any Christian who settles for the hypocritical approval and petty rewards which are the best that the world has to offer. A life is wasted that commits itself to a lesser course than the high and holy purpose which God has for each of us. To every Christian, the Bible says, "But you are a chosen

generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a people of His own; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (I Pet. 2:9). A noble summons this is indeed, to be called into the marvelous light of Christ.

God also calls every Christian up to the life of greatness and real accomplishment. To each believer, the Apostle Paul says, "I call you." If we respond affirmatively to that call, we will fulfill the perfect will of God (Rom. 12:1,2).

The high calling of God also means operating at a towering altitude. The hymn writer said, "My heart has no desire to stay where doubts arise and fears dismay." And to get away from these things he is pressing on to higher ground. Spiritual altitude for a Christian bears marvelous results.

For instance, when presented with temptation and the opportunity to sin against God, the Christian has two answers. He says to the Devil or one of his hirelings, "Yielding to that temptation is both wrong and it is also beneath my dignity." Sin is a tawdry, crummy, grubby thing, whatever the TV sitcoms may assert. We should be offended that the Devil offers such cheap alternatives to the high flight of a Christian. That altitude gives a sense of spiritual sophistication whereby the Christian can say, "I refuse to

waste my time on the cheap little futilities of this world. Be gone, you tempters--I was not made for the low road." Yes, one of the greatest fools in the world is a cheap sinner.

The high calling of God also surely means anticipating a majestic eternity. He believes the Scripture to be true which says, "Eve 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). It is clear then, that the high calling of God simply accomplishment of noble things in this vain world. No indeed! The high calling of God is the commanding invitation by the Lord to move up to the stratosphere of spiritual opportunity in this world and then to arrive at heaven with the surety of eternal commendation and rich, lasting rewards. Concerning the people who have given diligence to make their calling and election sure, the Scriptures say, "For so an entrance shall be ministered to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 1:11).

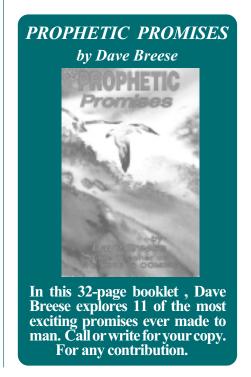
"A life is wasted that commits itself to a lesser course than the high and holy purpose which God has for each of us."

There is no doubt about it! To pursue the high calling of God in Christ Jesus is to live a majestic

life in this world and as a consequence to move into an infinitely more marvelous existence in the world which is to come. Make no mistake about it, it is a glorious thing to be a Christian. It means to travel the high road through the exigencies of this life and to arrive in that day at one of the higher stories of heaven.

How sad that once an author described Christians as "the rabble with their thumb-worn creeds, their large professions, and their little deeds" who "mingle in selfish strife." To the extent that this accusation is true, it should cause us to weep. But more than this, it should fill us with an inexorable purpose to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. There is a prize worth the wise and passionate pursuit of a lifetime.

From the writings of Dave Breese



THE TIDE OF OUR TIM

AMERICAN POLITICS--The American elections are soon upon us. All agree that this political campaign is more than ever

conservatism against liberalism, ideology versus pragmatism, pro-

life against pro-choice.

The Christian must ask the question "Which political position best represents Christian thought, the teachings of the Bible?" "Which party will vouchsafe spiritual opportunity to the Church?" "Which candidate seems the most disposed to talk about God, faith, prayer, salvation in Christ, the individual made in the image of God?" Remember, America will elect in November not only a President but the leader of the free world. Freedom is not It must be defended, asserted, prayed for and constantly nourished. This month, the Church would do well to lift many a prayer for the survival of Christian civilization which is now greatly threatened.

E-MAIL FROM A SOLDIER:

[...]"As I head off to Baghdad for the final weeks of my stay in Iraq, I wanted to say thanks to all of you who did not believe the media. They have done a very poor job of covering everything that has happened.[...]

[...]You can rest at night knowing something is happening in Iraq that is noteworthy. This is the list of things that has happened in Iraq recently (Please share it

with your friends.):

- --Over 4.5 million people have clean drinking water for the first time ever.[...]
- --Over 400,000 kids have up-to-date immunizations.
- --Over 1500 schools have been renovated and ridded of the weapons that were stored there.[...]
- -- The port of Uhm Qasar was renovated so grain can be off-loaded from ships faster.
- --School attendance is up 80% from levels before the war.
- -- The country had its first two billion barrel export of oil in August.
- -- The country now receives two times the electrical power it did before the war.
- -- 100% of the hospitals are open and fully staffed, compared to 35% before the war.

- --Elections are taking place in every major city, and city councils are in place.
- --Sewer and water lines are installed in every major city.
- --Over 60,000 police are patrolling the streets.
- --Over 100,000 Iraqi civil defense police are securing the country.
- --Over 80,000 Iraqi soldiers are patrolling the streets side by side with U.S. soldiers.
- --Over 400,000 people have telephones for the first time ever.
- --Students are taught field sanitation and hand washing techniques to prevent the spread of germs.
- -- An interim constitution has been signed.
- --Girls are allowed to attend school for the first time ever in Iraq.
- -- Textbooks that don't mention Saddam are in schools for the first time in 30 years.

Don't believe for one second that these people do not want us there. I have met many, many people from Iraq that want us there and in a bad way. They say they will never see the freedoms we talk about, but they hope their children will. We are doing a good job in Iraq, and I challenge anyone, anywhere to dispute me on these facts."[...]

"TIME FOR CONGRESS TO

ACT: [...]What we have in Massachusetts is the imposition of same-sex marriage on the unwilling citizenry by a narrow majority of the Judicial Supreme Court acting outside their constitutional authority.[...] The Governor and the state legislature have bent the knee and allowed the court to inaugurate a social revolution that will affect not just Massachusetts, but the nation."[...]Dr.D.James Kennedy Coral Ridge Ministries

"ANTICIPATING WIDER **INTEREST** in the new Europe, especially among Americans of European descent, the Center for Transatlantic Relations Washington recently launched a new bimonthly magazine called TransAtlantic: Europe, America and the World [published by Daniel Hamilton]. designed primarily for the nonspecialist reader.[...]

[Mr. Hamilton] argues that Europe and the United States are so intertwined that there is 'a quasi-domestic' relationship

> between them, and that the resulting frictions affect such fundamental domestic issues as the ways Americans and Europeans are taxed, how our societies are

governed, and how our economiesare

regulated."

AS WE OBSERVE the nations of our present world, we can note qualities which, it is often suggested, produce prosperity and even greatness in present nations and those of an earlier These include large time. populations, natural resources, cooperative climate, high intelligence, clever economics and many other things. All of these qualities are certainly to be considered as one would search for the seeds of greatness in the life of a nation. In the midst of this searching, however, we must not forget the **first**, the paramount principle that, according to the Bible, produces the fate of a nation. This quality, stated in the Word of God, says, "Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). The quality which is of the greatest importance in determining the fate of a nation is, therefore, NATIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS.

THE FATE OF A NATION by Dave Breese

Please call or write for your free copy of this 80-page booklet.



AN INVITATION

Why not take the high road?
We press the point anew
Why not know the grand life
Which God has promised you?

Why not leave the low road
Where dreams and visions die?
Why slither through the mud flats?
The soul was made to fly.

The high road is a runway
From whence the heart may soar,
Upon the wings of purpose
Where failure is no more.

The low road is but swamp land
Where snakes and lizards thrive,
It leads but to the tar pits
And who shall there survive?

The low road has the white stuff
That steals away the brain.
The low road has the dark things,
It's Satan's grim terrain.

He welcomes you to darkness And hisses when he smiles. He sees you as another To poison with his wiles.

The high road is Jehovah's
And He invites His own
To mount the golden stairway
To meet Him at His throne.

To claim then there the great prize
Bestowed in boundless love
To those who take the high road
To dwell with Him above.

So, while you may, resign this, This life of grief and shame. Salute another Captain, Embrace another name.

Come join us on the high road
Where light shines all the way.
Then soon we shall behold it,
That land of perfect day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



"The newsletter received today was, I thought, a very comprehensive view of the state of the Church today. I intend to keep it and share. Carol and all the others – may the Lord continue to bless the work."

- Elberton, GA

"Just a note to tell you I remember how much we in our family enjoyed Dave's 'Dave Breese Reports' every Wednesday evening here in the Chicago area. He wasn't afraid to voice his opinion on the political side too, and that's one of the <u>first</u> things that caught my attention about him, but of course I learned much more! Keep up the outstanding work!"—Arlington Heights, IL

"I have received Christ. I believe He paid for my sin debt but I feel very alone and disconnected in this world. I was divorced seventeen years ago and just feel so alone. Maybe the requested booklet will help me." – Kansas City, MO

"I treasure the writings of Dave Breese. I hear his message every Saturday at 8 a.m.(KPOF). I have learned much from his teaching. I am so thankful we can still hear his word, while he is now with our Lord." – Fort Collins, CO

"Please send me 50 copies of **Life At Its Very Best** booklets. These <u>are</u> the <u>best I've ever read</u>." – Brock, NE

"May God's richest blessings be on your work. We still need the straight honest truth presented to this unbelieving world. Keep up the good work." – North Scituate, RI

"I'm blessed every time I get a letter from you! Hang in there. Watch the clouds. He is coming back the way He left His disciples, in a cloud. God is faithful. His promises are 'in Him, yea and Amen."—Carrier Hills, IL

WORTH QUOTING

"On the whole, human beings want to be good but not quite all the time."--George Orwell

"The hardest people to reach with the love of God is not the bad people. They know they are bad. They have no defense. The hardest ones to win for God are the self-righteous people."

--Charles L. Allen

"Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realize this. For the world was built to develop character, and we must learn that the setbacks and griefs which we endure help us in our marching onward."--Henry Ford

But especially,

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" (I John 3:2).

SOME RECENT MINISTRY VISITORS:

Gordon and Doris Dorian; John and Alene LaFever; Dave Weeden, Producer-Director of *The King Is Coming* telecast; Your Pictures and Some of Our Crew





Y OUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. I have become more interested than ever in my heavenly home. Would you say something about my mansion in John14:2?

A. "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). The basic meaning of the Greek word translated as "mansions" is "a staying, abiding place, abode, or residence." Only time will tell what that home is going to be like. But as we have mentioned. have marvelous description of the New Jerusalem in Revelation Chapters 21 and 22. Here, we find that gold and fine jewels are in great abundance. would be inconsistent for God to make such a fine city without individual dwelling places to match it in splendor. The Christian may rest assured that God is going to provide the very best for each of His children.

Q. When we get to heaven, will we see God as just one Person, or will we see three separate Beings? Or maybe we won't be able to see God at all, because He is a Spirit Being. What do you think?

A. The King James Version

says that God, referring to the Father, is a Spirit: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

Another translation eliminates the little word "a," making it read, "God is Spirit." What this signifies is that God, the Father, does not have a human body. Yet, in the Old Testament, He appeared in various manners. While no man could really see God in all of His fullness and live, Moses was privileged to see the back of God:

"You can not see My face: for there shall no man see Me, and live. And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by: And I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back parts; but My face shall not be seen" (Exodus 33:20-23).

Because God, the Father, is Spirit, it should not be thought that He is an invisible phantom floating through space. On the Mount of Transfiguration, the risen and glorified Jesus was visible to Peter, James, and John. They also saw Moses and Elijah, making it very evident that the spirits in Heaven are clothed

with some kind of visible, glorified body. The Apostle John, in the Book of the Revelation, repeatedly states that he "saw" and proceeds to describe the Son of God, angels, the living creatures, and so on. It becomes apparent that we shall see God and each other in heaven.

The Scriptures teach that God the Father and God the Son are One.

"I and My Father are one" (John 10:30).

However, their unity relates to the oneness of heart, mind, agreement, knowledge, power, holiness, etc... They are two distinct Persons and personalities, and in heaven we will see Jesus Christ in the body with which He ascended, and with which He will return. The Father also will be apprehended by our senses.

The third Person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit. He is called "the Third Person" not because He is lesser or inferior, but because He is the third mentioned Person of the Trinity in the Bible. The Scriptures have little to say about the Holy Spirit in eternity, and there is not even a hint about how He will be revealed in heaven.

THINKING TOGETHER

BREATHLESS WITH ANTICIPATION

We live in a time of fastmoving, swirling events which are coming upon our world with the kind of intensity and rapidity that takes one's breath away. Most of the people of America check the morning news on television with an attitude of "What has taken place during the night that will further destabilize this world of ours?" They are usually not disappointed, because more notable events are occurring in a day than once took place in weeks or months in the slow-moving history of our world. Indeed, history itself seems to be moving faster, which movement, of course, brings us ever closer to the consummation of all things. Because the world senses this, apprehension is certainly the characteristic attitude of the secular mind in our time.

Apprehension, however, should never be the attitude of the believing Christian. For us, life in our time is turning into the great The heart of the adventure. Christian should be filled with delight in that God has called us, privileged us to live in this very provocative generation. We are advised, therefore, in the world to be filled with faith, to be anxious for nothing, to walk with the confidence that only the presence of Christ can bring. By contrast to the troubled spirits of our present age, the Christian should be a towering figure of foundational stability and great purpose. These characteristics will be especially noted and jealously respected by an envious world which has forgotten the Lord who is, alone, the author of stability and serenity. give than Rather way apprehension, the Christian must have a heart filled with anticipation. Indeed, he should be breathless with anticipation in times like these.

Anticipation means "to look forward with delight." What then does the Christian anticipate? In our time especially, he looks forward to great opportunity. To the Church of our time, Christ has already said, "Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it" (Rev. 3:8). Quite obviously, that open door, that opportunity is coming upon us as never before. More and more, the world is saying, "Who can I trust? What can I believe in?" From the world of academia, or politics, or business, or education, no answer appears to be forthcoming to these pressing questions. The answer, of course, can only come from the Word of the living God. Word, articulated from the lips of the witnessing Christian, can do so much in a time like this. purpose of the believer in our time, as in all time, is to hold forth the Word of Life. By so doing, the Bible teaches that he will even be instrumental in influencing the course of a crooked and perverse nation among whom he shines as a light in the world. As the world moves into the gloaming of the afternoon of its history, the shining light of a Christian's testimony will be more apparent, more illuminating than ever. Above every other emotion in life, the Christian should anticipate opportunity.

He should also anticipate challenging problems. This is true because the world of our time is not a simple place in which to live. Its population is increasing at the rate of 15,020 people per hour. Its mental health is daily disturbed by new awesome considerations. Its very crust is troubled upon occasion with ever-increasing earthquakes. Its leaders meet in pathetic summit conferences to make empty, dangerous promises to one another. Its financiers wonder what they

will be worth by noon tomorrow. Its industrialists count their gold coins and newly submit to the lie that these pieces of metal will not, one day, melt and run away.

How shall the Church conduct its ministry in a world like this? The answer is not simple. This means that the Christian leaders of our time must be more thoughtful, yes, more intellectual, more theologically oriented, more doctrinally sound, more perceptive, more prescient, more analytical and more earnest than ever. The pathetic promises of phenomenalists, the empty charade of the exhibitionists, the hopeless delusions of the liberationists will no longer suffice as credentials for Christian leadership. unctuous, torchy song and the vain repetitions of the pulpit will not be adequate to ministry in these days to our perplexed society.

The cheap promise of easy miracle, the religious get-rich-quick schemes, the simplistic slogans presented by many – these will no longer suffice as the Christian message for our time. They never have.

Rather, the challenging problems inherent in the world and which are now facing the Church can only be met by the careful teaching and preaching of the Word of God. The revival we need today is not one hypocritical emotion or crocodile tears, it is the revival of sound doctrine. It is the Word which lives and abides forever. advent of perplexing difficulties should not distress us. Rather, they should press us to levels of prayer and perception which will then lead to greater accomplishments than ever.

Breathless with antic-

ipation--that's what the Christian should be. His anticipation, however, is not for this world alone. It is also anticipation for the glory which is to come. Speaking about this world and the next, the Bible says, "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). This world, at its best, at its brightest, at its most fulfilling, is but a passing scene. One day, we will slip away from this human scene and one day, the whole world itself will be consumed and done away with. It is but the stage, the backdrop for the adventure of living this life within it. Then, we are translated to the glory of heaven. Then, and only then, will we see the final fulfillment, the ultimate perfection for which our hearts long. Then we will be with Christ, and then we will fully understand why it is that God led us through the problems and perplexities of this life.

But remember, then we will also have the opportunity of hearing what may be the greatest words that we shall know in all of eternity. These are the words of Christ in which He speaks of His servants who have represented Him well in this world, saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy lord." What a day that will be! It is that anticipation that must become the surging motivation of the lives that we live today and every day for Christ.

Yes, indeed, the motivation of our lives must not be money, fame, aggrandizement, fulfillment in the narrow scenes of time. For the Christian, there is something infinitely better! It is heaven, it is eternity. The Apostle Paul committed everything that he had to Christ, "against that day" (II Tim. 1:12). That day, the day when eternity supercedes forever the scenes of time – that day may soon be upon us. May we all be ready.

From the writings of Dave Breese

A STRATEGIC COMBINATION

The most remarkable kind of person on earth is the Christian. He is a son of the living God and filled with astonishing potential. While living in time, he can accomplish the things of eternity. He can bring a touch of heaven to the darkness of this earth; he is a human vehicle of the transforming power of God to reach the hearts of a lost mankind.

Why? How does the Christian exercise such great influence?

The answer is most interesting. No Christian can do it all himself. He cannot be a missionary, a preacher, an evangelist, a writer, a broadcaster, a counselor all by himself. God rarely gives one person so many gifts or abilities. How then does the Christian do these necessary things to reach the world?

First—he prays! The Lord of all the harvest has told us to pray that laborers will be sent and that they will be successful.

Second—he gives his money to the support of those who can do what he cannot do. No one would be able to serve without the financial support of others. Just like no soldier goes to battle at his own expense.

This is God's amazing and blessed plan. By this divine method the humblest Christian becomes the articulate speaker, the national broadcaster, the writer of great words for the Savior.

God has ordained, the Bible says, that those who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel (I Cor. 9:14), meaning that the servant of Christ should be supported by those who believe in his ministry and say "Amen" to his message.

We have a most strategic combination—the Christian and his money. The Christian works—literally gives part of his life—to earn money. Then by giving a portion of that money to a servant of Christ, he is also "putting his life in the ministry." He will share in the reward when he stands before the judgment seat of Christ.

The Apostle Paul was given the power to travel, teach, write and lay the foundations of the Church because of his supporting friends. He called this "Your care of me" and rejoiced that, while they had forgotten for awhile, their support had "flourished again" (Phil. 4:10).

FINALLY

Dear Friend of Christian Destiny,

I want to thank you for standing with us in the ministry of Christian Destiny with your prayers, your contributions, and your love. More than ever, we feel that we are walking with destiny, ministering to many who are fearful of the future and desperately in need of Jesus Christ. We want to respond to that desperate need. Continue to pray for us, and we welcome also your continued support.

Sincerely,

Carol Breese

Christian Destiny, Inc.