

Destiny Newsletter

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LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

STABILITY IN TIMES LIKE THESE

One of the most well-known and moving conversations in the New Testament contains the promise of Christ to His own that is wonderful indeed. Speaking to that inner circle of true believers, Christ addressed them in the midst of a very anxious set of circumstances. He had been speaking to His disciples about the present and the future and even about the fact that He, in His physical presence, would be leaving them. He had discussed the matter of the betrayal of one of the disciples and the temporary failure of another. This conversation took place in the midst of a set of concerns not unlike the ones we often face.

In these concerns, however, Christ makes His disciples the beautiful promise that they never, never need to be overly concerned. Their hearts were to be an island of tranquility in the midst of whatever adverse circumstances they would find coming upon them. All of this and more is meant in the statement of Christ to His beloved friends, "*Let not your heart be troubled*" (John 14:1). They were never to see themselves as pressed beyond measure or live without proper cause for rejoicing. The Christian is allowed to be sad, but only very temporarily. What then were these disciples to do as an alternative to yielding to the frustration and sorrow that trouble often brings?

The first and most foundational alternative to trouble given by Christ to these was "*believe in God*" (John 14:1). Yes, He reminded the disciples of their faith in the God Who stands above the universe and Who will never suffer your foot to be moved. They were to trust the everlasting Father Who is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. The beginning of a serene, confident life is to stand with absolute faith on the foundation of it all, believing in God. The theists have a rock on which to build everything, whereas the atheists--God pity them--have no invisible means of support.

Having established this foundation of faith in God, then the Lord Jesus says, "*believe also in Me.*" In this, the disciples were reminded that they must believe that the living and true God has produced a bridge to humanity. That bridge is Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "*he that has seen Me has seen the Father*" (John 14:9). The Bible clearly teaches that one does not properly believe in God who does not believe in the deity of Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God. We are thereby reminded that theism is not necessarily saving faith. Rather, we are saved by faith in the deity of Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. God is believed in in many ways in our time, but the issue that produces salvation is "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved*" (Acts 16:31). Believing in the existence of God is a necessary concomitance to intelligence. Believing in the deity of Jesus Christ is a matter of faith that produces salvation. Confidence comes when

we know that God has built that bridge --which is Jesus Christ--from His heart to ours.

Expanding on the call to confidence, Christ now says, "*In My Father's house are many mansions*" (John 14:2). We can therefore be sure that confidence comes when we know that heaven awaits us.

Yes, we may live in mean circumstances in this world. Our homes may be humble and our circumstances very constricting. Remember, the world does not promise more. The notion that automatic prosperity comes as a result of faith--prosperity in this world, that is--is false. Heaven is not here, but heaven awaits us. Being sure of this, we know that whatever they, the world, may do to us in the passing scenes of time, this is not eternal reality. Martin Luther said, "The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still." The promise that the Father's house has many mansions should instantly forbid any sort of human despair at our limited means in this world. Confidence comes from a vision of heaven, not from the sad scenes of earth.

To add then to our confidence, Christ promises, "*I go to prepare a place for you*" (John 14:2). Speaking in the most intimate and warm terms to His disciples, Christ promises that heaven will not be an impersonal abstraction. No, indeed, it is a prepared place for a prepared people in which provision has been made for each of us as individual children of God.

It is well to remember that the preparation of the place in heaven for us has been going on now for nearly

two thousand years. The Son of God has been attending to those things. We may therefore truly conclude that

on things above and not on things of earth. We fear, therefore, that the disquiet in the hearts of many believers

“There is nothing better, nothing higher, nothing more sure than the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

our heavenly environs will be marvelous beyond description. There will be streets of gold, pure flowing fountains, the sunlight of God’s presence, and many other things. The hymn writer therefore spoke well when he said,

*“A tent or a cottage,
why should I care?
They’re building a palace
for me over there.”*

It may well be that for many of us there are “just a few more days to be filled with praise,” and then we go to that mansion on high. In that place there will be no tax bills, no sickness, no problems--paradise lies ahead.

Notice then the Savior speaks to His own, saying, *“I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also”* (John 14:3).

On hearing these words again, we should be instantly thrilled, electrified, charged with an anticipation about the future, for the future contains the return of Jesus Christ. Yes, Jesus Christ is coming again, He has promised it. He is coming to take us unto Himself, so that we can be with Him every day for all of eternity.

In several places in the New Testament, the promise of the return of Christ is repeated. We cannot doubt, therefore, that that promise is to be a source of confidence, solace, comfort, bright anticipation to all of us who know God’s Son as personal Savior.

Surely we are invited to invoke our strongest imagination to picture what heaven will be like. We are in fact commanded to set our affection

comes because they have taken the opposite course. How sad it is to be enamored of the things of the present world to the extent where heaven becomes an afterthought or a dim, childhood memory.

By this time, most of us should have learned that we cannot trust anything in this world--not the government, not our friends, not the economic system, not the ecclesiastical establishment, not our personal endurance--nothing. Therefore, the center of gravity, the object of the preoccupation of our lives should be heaven. In fact, who can doubt that God sends many tremors through society --the earthquakes, the floods, the hurricanes, the great outbreaks of evil in order to once again remind us that over-confidence in the things of time is not well-placed. Rather, confidence in the things of eternity will bring unshakable strength into our lives. This world cannot steal this from a trusting heart.

In a world that is beset by lies, forgeries, deception and spiritual seduction, the Saints of God are admonished to reject false doctrine and: *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calls you, who also will do it”* (1 Thess. 5:21-24).

The signs of the times are indeed pointing to the soon return of Jesus Christ. The world is digging up new and tantalizing excuses from beneath

“The Sands of Time,” by which it plans to reject the truth of the Gospel and prepare itself for the rise of Antichrist and his false world religion.

Don’t let yourself be deceived by any clever concoction invented to weaken your faith in Jesus Christ. Rather, invest your time in studying the truth of the Word of God. Then, as these fleeting hours of the Last Days draw to an end, you can use your knowledge wisely as a competent, articulate witness for the Savior.

Jesus could come for us at any moment. Will the final chapter of the Age of Grace contain the story of our tireless labor for the Lord, and the marvelous victories we have won in His name? Let’s continue to work together to tell a world the glorious truth that Jesus saves and is coming back again. I pray that we will!

May we learn, therefore, and never forget, that the untroubled heart does not come from cooperating human circumstances--it comes from confidence in the Word of God. If Jesus Christ meant what He said to each of us in this marvelous disquisition found in Scripture, that is enough. There is nothing better, nothing higher, nothing more sure than the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. The world one day will come to its end--and many people think this is the beginning of the end.

However, because we believe the Word of God, we know that the ephemeral, quickly passing scenes of time will give way to the great reality of eternity. Therefore, we must stand up, we must look out, we must move with confidence because Jesus has told us, *“Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in Me”* (John 14:1). It’s time to move with confidence!

From the writings of Dave Breese

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

ISLAM--WHAT THEY BELIEVE

by Harold J. Berry



What Do Muslims Really Believe?

Islam is more than a religion; it's a monotheistic philosophy of religion, politics, and daily life. Explore the mysteries of the Muslims in this enlightening 64-page booklet, and learn why the Islamic state is actually a world order with a government, court, constitution, and an army. And discover how it is possible to effectively bring the Gospel of Christ to these people. Write or call for your copy.

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AS ISLAM SPREADS... CHRISTIANITY GROWS

in Islamic Strongholds-- Islam may be the world's fastest growing religion, but in the strongholds of Iran, Iraq and Syria over 17,000 Muslims are converting to Christianity every month. With several satellite networks blanketing the Muslim world with the message of Jesus Christ, that number could be much higher. Some confirm the fact that tens of thousands more are turning to Jesus Christ as their Savior. Dave Weeden,

The King Is Coming Telecast

"A MOSQUE IN YOUR BACKYARD--

The rapid expansion of Islam into typically non-Muslim areas--Europe, Latin America and North America--has serious implications for the future of the Western world... Islam has a long history of religious persecution, especially when Muslims are in the majority. Islamic expansion threatens the American ideals of freedom of religion and freedom of speech. Islam does not believe

in religious pluralism. It does not peacefully co-exist with other religions and will resort to intimidation and violence to achieve its ends...

Under the American system of law and government, every religious group has a right to exist and to freely promulgate its views. However, no religious group has a right to dominate the religious scene of a nation..."

Larry Spargimino, Ph.D.
Prophetic Observer



WHEN YOU ARE EXASPERATED BY INTERRUPTIONS, try to remember that their very frequency may indicate the valuableness of your life. Only people who are full of help and strength are burdened by other people's needs. The interruptions which we chafe at are the credentials of our indispensability. The greatest condemnation that anyone could incur... and it is a danger to guard against... is to be so independent, so unhelpful, that nobody ever interrupts us, and we are left comfortably... alone.

(author unknown)

"HERE ARE FIVE REASONS that we think are crucial to the argument and belief that Bible-believing Christians should support the Nation of Israel:

1. Because Israel is the most frequently-mentioned subject in the Bible next to the Lord Himself, and God will bring salvation to the whole world through the Messiah of Israel!

2. Because God has chosen Israel out of all nations and identified Himself with her!

3. Because God has a special love for Israel and has given her land that He calls His own land!

4. Because God will never forsake Israel and will destroy all nations who attack her!

5. Because God will restore Israel to her promised land and come and dwell in the midst of her!

The nations of the world may turn their backs away from Israel, but the LORD GOD of Israel has promised that He will NEVER forsake them--no matter what!"

David Hocking, Hope For Today Newsletter

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL AND JOANNE KLASSEN CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE.



Joanne was Dave's assistant for many years and has been with the ministry of Christian Destiny for over 27 years. Paul has a cow/calf operation and also raises grain. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. May God richly bless Paul, Joanne, and their family!

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q: What kind of a body will I have in heaven?

A: This is a question of which we should all be curious. The Scripture says that *“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”* (II Cor. 5:1) which God has prepared for us. I assure you it will be wonderful indeed. At the resurrection, we will be reunited with the bodies which we had on earth but they will be glorified. Consequently, our spirit, soul, and body will be in heaven.

Q: Where do I get wisdom?

A: Thankfully, James tells us *“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). Of course, we are invited to cooperate with that program.

Paul says, *“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).

Q: How can I have confidence in a frightening world like this?

A: I recommend a verse which I have chosen as my life verse. The Psalms say, *“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”* (Psalm 27:1). The Apostle Paul uses this very word saying, *“Being confident of this very thing, that He which has begun a good work in you will*

perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). Confidence comes from a knowledge of the Word of God and the earnest desire to do what the Word of God recommends.

Q: Why was polygamy allowed in the Old Testament but not in the New Testament?

A: I have thought much about this and my answer is this: Marriage in the Old Testament was solemn, but it was strictly marriage. In the New Testament, it is equally solemn—and then more so because it is used as an illustration of the relationship of Christ and the Church. A broken marriage tends to suggest that the relationship between the believer and Christ, which is eternal life, can be broken.

It cannot be broken because Jesus promises, *“I give to them eternal life; and they shall never perish”* (John 10:28). The believer and his Lord have an indissoluble relationship, and Christian marriage was ordained to be an illustration of this sublime union.

Q: Why do there seem to be so many cases of spiritual fatigue in our churches?

A: In running a race or playing in any sport, fatigue sets in when we forget the goal or it seems to be too far away. As we grow near the goal and realize that we may be winners, we get an exhilarating case of “second wind.” Too many Christians have settled down to ordinary, banal living even though they are in sight of the goal. We will be energized greatly when we can say with the Apostle Paul, *“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 3:14).

Spiritual fatigue should never be. The goal is straight ahead.

Q: How can I successfully resist temptation?

A: We become strong against temptation when we fortify ourselves by a knowledge of the Word of God. This being the case, the only thing to do is to endure. The Scripture says, *“Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him”* (James 1:12).

GOD HAS A GIFT FOR YOU

by Dave Breese



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