

Destiny is Power

By Daniel Mark

“But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)

The scene is all too familiar, whether one travels very frequently or just occasionally. A person plans a trip by purchasing a ticket or a pass and is bound to reach their destination barring any snags or hitches. The thought of reaching the desired point is enough of a motivation to brave all hardship and inconveniences incurred in planning and to travel.

The Scriptures tell us all humans to a person are set on a course to one of two destinies in eternity. In Matthew 7:21-23, perhaps the scariest and most sobering passage in the entire Bible, Jesus outlines two ways that are opposites of each other. The way that leads to a God-less eternity is broad and easy to traverse so that it attracts the far greater number of people including many whose claims to eternal salvation rest on their self-righteousness. Our Lord warns that those caught in the grip of iniquity are headed for a future of gloom and doom. Because this wide road is so easy and morally permissive and allowing of self-indulgence, the destruction at its end is lost on many.

The believer in Christ is perched on a different trajectory that leads straight to God’s new heaven and new earth. The magnificent glories of this final place are beyond any adequate description by mortals. A foretaste of heaven given by the Lord to Paul led to Paul’s thorn in the flesh so that such a privileged epiphany would not tempt him with self-exaltation or vainglory. The Apostle John, too, was favored with a glimpse of heaven that so

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Palm Sunday and Egg Hunt



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“Destiny is Power,” continued...

disoriented him, he all but worshipped an angel who directed him to worship God instead! These staggering revelations were given to a few choice saints not just for their encouragement but for ours as well.

Life this side of eternity or heaven is beset by woes and harsh circumstances of all sorts. More often than not, we are tempted to faint and cave into despair. But the prospect and guarantee of being forever inseparably united with our Lord in the New Jerusalem and a restored glorified earth make the journey altogether bearable. Christ-followers throughout the ages have found this an inexhaustible fount of strength and reassurance.

The Bible blesses us with inspiring examples of saints – heroes of faith whose minds and hearts were fixated on eternity with God, with all its attendant marvels in a city whose Builder is God Himself (Hebrews 11:10). They endured incredible persecutions, opposition, and martyrdom because of the certainty of their God-given destiny. Stephen in the Book of Acts demonstrated loyalty and character of a kind only possible when we’re attuned to the God of grace with uncompromised devotion.

An old, hackneyed adage has it that the end justifies the means. Taken literally to its logical conclusion, it yields outcomes of situational ethics and other types of highly problematic moral issues. But for our topic, this saying makes eminent sense. Our God and Father guides us through the thick and thin of life’s many deep waters and enables us to successfully navigate an otherwise impassable path to heaven.

Most impressively but no surprise at all is the example of our Lord Himself as described in the Epistle to the Hebrews. This should stand out as the definitive passage for motivation and

inspiration for all God’s children. It’s recorded in Hebrews 12:1-2, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer, and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* There it is, our ultimate paradigm and idea, the Lord Jesus! He endured the shame and excruciating agony of the cross with His gaze set on what lay beyond the sheer ugliness of death by crucifixion and the blasphemous contempt of sinners so that we would learn faith and persistence from His example.

Minds renewed daily by an infusion of God’s word will arm the world, the flesh, and the devil. (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 6:10-18) The more sustained our preoccupation with Jesus, the clearer our perspectives on heaven and earth, with the latter having a diminishing appeal. For us, could there be a better purpose for being alive? Is anything more worthy of our utmost commitment and devotion? Is any life nearly as purposeful as that invested in living out God’s priorities?

A final thought: consider that the optimum circumstances of this world don’t begin to compare with the minimum of the glorious new heaven and new earth set to come. Like an old hymn says, just one glimpse of Jesus in glory will all the toils of life repay!!

Financial Update

(Through March 31, 2019)

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”

| | Actual | Budget |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| Income | \$79,847 | \$71,250 |
| Expense | \$64,323 | \$71,250 |

Windsor Chapel has sent \$9,821 to our missionary partners this year. That’s 13% of your giving!

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Would you like to take a culinary trip around the world? The Fellowship Team invites you to attend an International Potluck Luncheon after church on Sunday, May 19. Please bring either a traditional family dish or a favorite dish to share that ties in with the theme. The Fellowship Team will provide desserts and beverages.

If you have any questions, please speak to Lorraine Brown or email her at lorrainebrown4866@gmail.com. We hope you'll say "Oui" and enjoy the multi-cultural cuisines, because we look forward to seeing you there!



Saturday Men's Breakfast

All men are encouraged and welcome to join us for a special Men's Breakfast on Saturday, May 11, at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a good meal, interesting conversation, laughter and an opportunity for warm fellowship. Please RSVP by sending an email to John Kimmel at kimmel313@yahoo.com with subject "Men's Breakfast" and number attending.

Perisseia

Our women's growth group has begun its spring series. All women are invited to join us Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30, in the Chapel House, as we discuss what it means to live a Godly life as we fulfill our responsibilities in the world. No commitment or preparation is required. For more information, please contact Cindy Bills (clbills@verizon.net; 609-275-8557).

Easter Egg Hunt



Elder's Corner

By Ron Bystrom

Remember

Recently as I was struggling with trusting God with many of the unknowns in our future, my contemplations went to the Israelites and the patterns that occurred in their lives and history. Psalm 106 says,

*Vs. 7 Our Fathers... did not consider your wondrous works; **they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love***

*Vs. 13 But soon they **forgot His Words***

*Vs. 21 They **forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things***

In Judges 8:34 it states, “*And the people of Israel **did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hand of all their enemies on every side.***” In fact, the entire book of Judges reveals this pattern of forgetting the promises and previous faithfulness of God.

At times, it can be easy for us to look at the Israelites and think, how dumb can they be? How foolish they were. Unfortunately, at that moment, we can be reminded that as we point one finger at them, we have three fingers pointing right back at us. Or, should I say more personally, at ME.

Struck with this thought, I began to reflect on how God had worked faithfully in our past. I began to REMEMBER: remember all the times that God had worked to fulfill HIS promise to give us wisdom (James 1:5), direct our decisions (Proverbs 3:5,6), provide for our needs (Matthew 6:31-34), use us in being an encouragement to others (1Peter 4:10,11), and working in many other ways that Glorified Him.

As a body at the Chapel, we can REMEMBER and give THANKS for the recent Baptism

service, the fantastic community response to the Egg Hunt, and for two wonderful times of worship on Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Whether it be related to situations in your personal life, or situations related to the Chapel, please consider joining me in REMEMBERING the Promises in God's WORD: His Goodness, His Faithfulness, and His Steadfast Love.

As we **REMEMBER**, hopefully it will enable us to have hope and faith as we walk into the future with our LORD.

UPLIFT—Prayer and Praise Connection

UPLIFT is pleased to announce that there is now a designated area in the front right-hand side of the chapel where we can meet after the worship service and lift up specific requests or thank God for answers to prayer. We praise God for raising up several UPLIFT prayer team members who are available on a rotating basis to meet with anyone after the worship service.

You are welcome to join us in the Prayer and Praise Connection area on Sundays, and your prayer request will continue to be uplifted during the week by your Prayer Team member and kept strictly confidential. Remember, you are also welcome to email your prayer requests at any time to prayer@windsorchapel.org.

"For where two or three gather in my name, I am with them."

(Matthew 18:20)



Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Knowing Christ

In a recent sermon, Pastor Andy referred to the common phrase, "It's who you know." The phrase is a close cousin to, "Friends in high places." Both idioms reflect the pride, satisfaction, and even power and privilege that often comes with knowing someone who is important in the world. And in our current status-focused culture, who you know may matter more than a little—but only for a wink of time.

It can be easy to get caught up in our celebrity-fixated culture. Shoppers spend hard-earned money purchasing tabloid newspapers in order to be more "in the know" about their favorite celebrities. Fans of musical groups wait in endless lines not just to see a performance but with the hope of catching an up close and personal glimpse of one of the star performers. In a recent Yankee game, a fan caught the first home run ball of a new player. In negotiating the ball's return for this player, the fan got an opportunity to meet some of the Yankees in the clubhouse after the game.

In the end, though, there is only one relationship that can give us what we truly want and need: a foundational relationship with Jesus Christ. Christ is indeed a friend in the highest of high places! He is our Creator and Redeemer. Because of His death on the cross on our behalf, we are justified in the eyes of the Almighty and are assured of a place in the company of the Triune God for all eternity.

Knowing Christ is about more than stamping our ticket for heaven, or for getting that selfie and sharing it on social media. Knowing Christ is about the ongoing pursuit of a dynamic, intimate relationship with the Lord of the universe. He abides in us, and we abide in Him. We experience the healing power of being fully known and loved anyway. As bond-servants of Christ, we serve a Master who delights in us and who will never leave us or forsake us. We find our identity as we partake in the very nature of Christ and the joy of exercising the gifts He has given us in fulfilling the eternally significant purposes for which we were created. We come to know the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, so that by faith we can move mountains. And we enjoy the privilege of being son and daughters of the Most High God.

This brings us back to where we began. We can be name-droppers! We know the Creator and Lord of the universe. That puts us in a unique position to declare not only His name but His goodness to others. As we proclaim Christ in what we say and do, we invite others to trade their worldly focus on fame and fortune for the eternal glory of Christ and His kingdom.

"More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ...." (Philippians 3:8)

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or clbills@verizon.net) to continue the dialogue....

"When we Christians behave badly, or fail to behave well, we are making Christianity unbelievable to the outside world."

C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity"

My Trunk Won't Close

By Janet Berrill

Recently, for various reasons I really can't remember, I took my husband's car for the day. After work, I went shopping at several stores and managed to amass quite a few packages that I loaded into the trunk. At my final stop, the trunk was pretty full. I closed the trunk only to have it pop open. Looking at the packages, I could see that some of them were near the latch, so I quickly pushed one aside and closed the trunk again. But again, the trunk popped open. All right, so my quick solution didn't work. The next time I was careful to move the packages so that none of them would get in the way, but the trunk still did not stay closed when I shut it.

At this point, I was thinking that something was wrong with the trunk. Should I call Larry and ask him if this has happened before? Was there a way to keep the trunk down without having it latched just so I could get home? As I was pondering my options, I spotted my purse among the packages in the trunk. I picked up the purse, tried one more time to shut the trunk, and to my surprise this time it stayed closed.

I thought this was very strange until the explanation dawned on me. Like many newer cars, Larry's car has a push button start; no key is needed. In order to unlock the door or start the car, you only need to have the fob close by, in your pocket or purse for example. I had the fob for the car in my purse, and when I attempted to close the trunk with my purse still in it, the trunk wouldn't stay closed because the car "knew" the fob was inside. It was only after I took my purse out of the trunk that it stayed closed.

When I realized what happened, I was very happy that the trunk didn't close. However, before that, I was getting a bit frustrated, because I was sure I wanted to close the trunk, and I didn't understand why it wasn't staying shut. Clearly the right thing was to close the trunk, and the only reason it wouldn't close was if packages were in the way. I was so sure I was right, but the reality is that I was completely wrong.

Have you ever been that way with God? I know I have. I'm in a situation and am certain I know what should be done; I pray for my solution and I don't understand when God doesn't make it happen. The answer seems so obvious to me, but the reality is God knows the situation fully and I don't. At times like these I have to remind myself of Jeremiah 29:11* and 1 Corinthians 2:9.** God loves me and wants what is best not only for me, but for everyone. And when I don't understand why things aren't going the way I think they should, even when it seems completely obvious, I fall back on the love and wisdom of God and choose to trust in Him and in His plans. Sometimes I later see why my way was not the right solution, but there are also times when I don't see that. But in all cases, I can trust in the all-knowing, all-powerful, loving, merciful, gracious God to do what is best.

* *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

** *No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.*

(This article was first printed in the May 2015 issue of the Chapel Challenge)

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

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