

DESTINY DETERMINED

By

Curtis Dickinson

“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he has purposed in himself.” (Eph. 1:9)

Christ is the one who determines ultimate destinies. Every Christian is predestined for glory in the image of Christ.

The final goal will be accomplished at Christ’s coming by a resurrection from the dead when believers’ bodies are made immortal and glorious. This is something we cannot do for ourselves; only Christ can give life and immortality. But the giving of such life is predicated upon our having our hearts and minds set upon this very goal.

Such life is given only to those who intentionally, willingly and deliberately accept the destiny which God desires for them and who seek that destiny rather than other goals: Thus the necessity of Faith and Repentance. For all who reject such life there is the destiny of destruction, also determined by God.

It is Satan's purpose to turn men from the destiny God has revealed. As Christ is the truth, so Satan is a deceiver and the “father of lies” (John 8:44). As the enemy of Christ what greater desire would Satan have than to turn men's minds from the desired goal of God that they might be destroyed? His enormous success is becoming more evident daily: Man has been blinded to the purpose of God. As Isaiah wrote, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way” (Isa.53:6). Each person imagines his own goal and strikes out with no desire for being fashioned in God's image.

The mainstream churches must accept a large amount of responsibility for man's ignorance of God's purpose. They have been engaged more in upholding the political and material aims of the world than in holding forth the truth of Christ. The most outspoken church leaders among the conservatives are more concerned with saving the democracy than they are with preaching the things Christ has revealed. They are praying for God to save the nation but failing to turn the members to God in order to make the nation worth saving.

(2) Man has rejected the voice of God in revelation. While evolution and humanism are dinned into the ears of the children, the revealed word of God is deliberately silenced in all public media. Since the adults have lived as if God had never revealed any purpose for man, their children are now seeking in forbidden realms for some hint as to the meaning of life. They look to horoscopes, witchcraft, Eastern mysticism and every form of sorcery including drugs and black magic. In the meantime, the one thing which they really need, a revelation from God, is denied them in the pagan public schools and in their apostate churches.

(3) The laws of God are flagrantly violated. Adultery, fornication, sodomy – all are practiced openly. These gross sins are openly portrayed in the living room on television day and night until there is practically no consciousness of sin. The women have forgotten how to blush. In business deceit is a way of life. False advertising and the use of sinful motives in advertising are accepted. The whole economy of our nation rides on the practice of usury which is soundly condemned in God's law.

(4) Man has been blinded by a false idea of equality and brotherhood. From the very beginning God has made a distinction between those who are called his children and those who are not his children. Christ was the most He came to separate those who accept and follow him from those who disbelieve and reject him. “Think not that I came to send peace on the earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother...” (Matt. 10:34-35). The entire Bible is a revealed standard showing the difference between those of Christ's kingdom and those of the world, and one of the most dramatic stories ever recorded is that one given by Jesus in his parable of the separation of the sheep from the goats. But all of this has been politely laid aside in the noble name of brotherhood and equality. So-called Christians join in every possible project to promote this false idea as if to say to the world that they no longer believe that God has any particular destiny for those who receive him, but that everyone is on his own and one has as good a chance as another of muddling through and finding some kind of ultimate eternity. Here again Satan has deceived all except the very elect.

(5) No distinction is made between the kingdom of Christ and the kingdoms of the world. Jesus said, “Seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness.” (Matt. 6:33). But the philosophy of many prominent evangelists is that we must first secure our financial and political goals, then when all danger is past we can pursue the purpose of the kingdom. Jesus said we should be as lambs in the midst of wolves-wise as serpents but harmless as doves-yet almost every day we read of the pronouncement of some clergyman advocating war in order to save the financial interests of the Establishment in some far-flung corner of the world. Nowhere is this more significant than in the widespread support by fundamentalists of the atheistic Israelis in their aggression against and slaughter of the Arabs.

(6) God's judgment is ignored. For many, the judgment is merely material for crude jokes. The widespread faith in evolution supports the idea that there will be no end to history and no final consummation of God's plan and therefore no judgment.

To sum it up, our nation, in spite of church spires and religious services, is largely heathen. Her citizens have overwhelmingly rebelled against God, ignoring the fact that “the wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God.” (Ps. 9:17)

While God “has appointed a day in which He will judge the world” (Acts 17:31), he does not always postpone judgment. He chastens his own children, and often brings judgment upon individuals and nations. Our own nation is no exception. Often someone comments that in a little while the situation will “right itself” as if it were a natural law for a nation

to be restored to prosperity after having wallowed in sin, greed and idolatry. History indicates otherwise. Nations seldom, if ever, “right themselves”. Nations are made of people-individuals. Only as individuals change (repent) and get back on the true paths of righteousness can a nation be restored to God's grace.

God is immutable. His purpose does not change. What He set out to do, He will accomplish. When Jesus prophesied the separation of the sheep and the goats in the end of the world and the Day of Judgment he described his welcome to the believers in the words, “Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”. (Matt. 25:34).

From the foundation of the world! When all is said and done and God's plans are finally consummated they will be the same plans that He began with. He has not abandoned His goal nor is it to be thwarted. What may happen in regard to the nation, her economy and her politics no one can know. But God has revealed His will and His purpose to believers. Our purpose is not to take a poll nor to follow the trends of public opinion. Ours is to set our minds upon the things of God, to obey his commandments, not only in times of chaos and corruption but especially in times of chaos and corruption.

If there should be a restoration of constitutional government and real prosperity it could come only when the citizens return to God's revealed laws, purposes and plans. But whether or not such things should ever be restored, the Christian still has a clear-cut mandate from Christ-to renounce the hidden things of the world, and to pursue, the divine purpose to be like Him.

The believer is not so foolish as to think he can overthrow the Creator's law of judgment upon the wicked and idolatrous nations nor does he desire to do so. The righteous always concur with God's judgment. Christians do not live in a fool's paradise of optimism-“it can't happen here”-and think that God must make exceptions and bless America simply because it is our country. But neither does he sit idly by and wait for divine retribution. Instead he gets busy. “Faith works by love.” There is work to be done in our land, in our day of 1974, just as there was work to be done in Rome by Paul and his helpers in the first century. There is the gospel to be published abroad. There are souls in darkness to be enlightened. There are hungry to be fed (Christians do not relegate charity to government). There are sorrowing to be comforted. And not the least of tasks before each of us is our own growth into the likeness of Christ.

It is time for the redeemed of the Lord to “say so”. It is time for every Christian believer to make it clear that he has a definite destiny in mind and that he is traveling that direction and that by the grace of God he will continue in that direction regardless of the direction of the nation. “And be not fashioned according to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2)

It is time for the believer to begin living by faith, to break with the compromising organizations which mix satanic lies with Christ's truth. It is time to detach oneself from

the idolatry and pagan practices of the world. It is time to drop the efforts to serve God and mammon and to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness (Matt. 6:33).

It is time to quit listening so much to all the different goals and directions that are being given by those about us and to set our minds on the “things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1-4). It is Christ who has settled the destiny of His people. Having been raised from the dead in an immortal body He has demonstrated to us that we too may be raised to live as immortal people with Him and in His likeness. (I Cor. 15:20-23; 2 Tim. 1:10). “We shall be like him for we shall see him even as he is. And everyone that has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure” (1 John 11:2-3).

This is the destiny which God has determined for His eternal people. If all men pursued this destiny there would be peace and prosperity in the world. But whether all men pursue it or not, it is the destiny which every Christian must pursue. And in doing so, he will find the peace that God gives in this world and ultimately will be brought to the goal which is designed by God Himself, “according to his good pleasure, which he has purposed in himself.”

.....
Copyright © Curtis Dickinson. Formatted and Posted by Ken Fortier Ministries.
Permission is hereby granted by Mrs. Regina Dickinson to reproduce and distribute
Curtis' articles to as many as possible. This statement is to remain attached to this article
for permission to be valid. Vol. XIV, Number 1.
.....