

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



Northside Church of Christ
4217 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
Here

Are We Not Instruments Of Destiny?

By Mike Riley

In looking at history, we see that great events have occurred around some person of great influence, i.e., Harry Truman, Douglas MacArthur, Winston Churchill, Dwight D. Eisenhower. In times of great national distress, it is nothing short of providential that certain people have been placed in certain places with certain qualifications, i.e., George W. Bush and 9-11 attacks.

As Christians, our influence also has far-reaching results (1 Thessalonians 1). We may not even realize the small part that we play in the process, but to the extent that we influence history, we are instruments of destiny.

A case in point is the providence found in the story of Esther. At the beginning of the story, we see the wife of King Xerxes (Vashti) being ousted because of her stubbornness and refusal to attend a royal banquet (Esther 1). Because her defiance was looked upon as a threat to the king’s supremacy and authority, a decree was put out against her and fair young virgins were sought to replace her. The king was smitten with Esther’s beauty and as a result, was made queen in place of Vashti (Esther 2).

Esther disclosed a plot to exterminate all of the Jews and assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:21-23; Esther 3). Because of her position as queen, Esther was able to spare her people from disaster. However, there was a real danger, in that she herself might not survive when her real identity as a Jewess was discovered (Esther 4).

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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
When Shovels Break
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Guest Speaker - Chris
Carter
9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Study of the Book of Acts
7:00 PM

Heavenly Minded
By Joe Chesser

Our minds dwell on the things that are important to us. Sure, we can dart quickly from one thought to another, but the things that are truly important to us keep popping up in our thoughts. How often does Heaven come to your mind? Well, your answer tells you how important Heaven is to you. Chances are you (like me) need to give a lot more thought about Heaven.

Even though it's been over 10 years, I remember the first time I made a mission trip to Costa Rica. I was only going to be there for five days, but before I went, I spent a considerable

amount of time learning about the country. I talked to people who had been there. I searched the internet. I prayed. What kind of food do they eat? On which side of the road do they drive? How do they feel about Americans? What is the climate? What will I need to do to prepare for the trip? How receptive will they be to the gospel? There was much I wanted to know about Costa Rica before I actually got there. My mind was filled with it.

You and I are planning to spend a whole lot more "time" in Heaven than I did in Costa Rica. What do we know about heaven? How much do we think about it? Are we truly "heavenly minded?"

God wants Heaven to be of utmost importance to us. "Set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated ... set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:1-2). "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth ... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

Don't you pity the person who is so consumed by the concerns of this world that he has no time to think about God or

eternity? He is so focused on making money that he is not rich toward God. His physical health is so important to him that he has no time to spend in staying healthy spiritually. He is so busy with life that he makes no preparations for death. God makes it clear: "Do not love the world, or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). You cannot love the world and be heavenly minded at the same time. You just can't (Matthew 6:24).

Let this be a gentle reminder to examine the things you think about. If your mind is not "set on things above," where is it set? If you are not laying up treasures in heaven, where are you storing them? If you are not seeking the kingdom of God first, what is first? If thoughts of heaven are not filling your mind, what is?

When was the last time you thought of heaven on your own?

When Esther's relative, Mordecai, saw her unique position as queen, he urged her to reveal the plot to the king. He challenged her with the same haunting question which now lays claim on us:

"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14 ESV).

As lights shining in a world of spiritual darkness (Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-16), are we not instruments of destiny? (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; cf. 1 Corinthians 9:16-23).

Announcements

Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments (Maxine Powell)
- All those affected by COVID-19
- Greg Powell (recovering knee surgery)
- Ann Lowe (Keren Thrash mom, stroke)
- Tommy Buchanan (recovering from heart surgery)
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Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2021 is in foyer
- May - Potts
- June -
- July -

June Birthdays & Anniversary's

- Colton Riley - 1st
- Lillian Grace Lovett - 3rd
- Virginia Dudley - 16th
- Don & Marilyn Potts - 9th
- Anthony & Julia Juliano - 24th

Every Sunday Morning
@ 8:00 AM
on WTOK-TV



Sermon Notes

Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Don Potts
Scripture Reading - Colossians 3:12 - 15
Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
Head of Lord's Table - Scott Williams
Assist on Lord's Table - David Cradic
Scripture Reading - Mark 14:18 - 25
Closing Prayer - James Johnson



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