

Lord of What's Left: Mediation of Hope and Inspiration by Vance Havner
(Baker Book House Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI) (20 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

1. Jesus is Gonna Win!

The old "shoeshine man" in the barber shop was a familiar figure with his Bible always lying close at hand when he was not reading it. One day a customer said to him, "I see you're reading the Book of Revelation today, do you understand it?"

"Yes, sir, I know what it means."

"You know what it means when Bible scholars have disagreed about it all these years! What do you think it means?"

"It means that Jesus is gonna win!"

I doubt that a theologian could come up with a better summary of what the Apocalypse means. That book is the most amazing scenario of future events ever written in eye-dazzling colors and mind-boggling grandeur. In its wildest moments Hollywood can never match the horrors and glories that will one day become a visible pageant, making our mightiest drama look like a kindergarten operetta. Beasts and seals, scorpions and dragons, Babylon and the 666, Gog and Magog, earthquakes and falling stars, the downfall of the devil, the Great White City, the River of Life and Jesus Christ on His throne with every knee bowing and heaven triumphant over hell . "Jesus is gonna win!"
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2. Lordship of Christ.

I believe this is what the early Christians did and it took care of everything. If we make clear what the Lordship of Christ really mean e issue is simplified and people know what they are doing. It is an initial affirmation when we become Christians. It is a continuous affirmation the rest of our days.

In the Roman Empire, everyone was required to put a pinch of incense on the altar and confess Caesar as Lord. Christians would not do this and many died for their faith. Some who carved images for the public, although not worshiping the images themselves, tried to excuse them- selves by saying, "I have to make a living and this is how I do it." Tertullian, mighty Christian of his day, would reply, "Must you live?" They

had and we have but one Lord and we do not have to live; we have only to be true to Jesus Christ, live or die, come what may. If Jesus is Lord, that ends it. We count not our lives dear even unto death, not merely until death. Jesus is Lord. [Page 70]

3. Nonessentials.

We tend to magnify the minor and minimize the major. A lot of religious activity today burns up time and money on phylacteries and long prayers and seats in the synagogue and straining at gnats while we swallow camels, and the great issues get lost in all the fanfare about nonessentials. [Page 76]

4. To Walk on the Moon.

I was away from home when the astronauts made one of their voyages to the moon. In a motel room as I watched them on television I could look out the window into a park. It was safe for the astronauts to walk on the moon, but I dared not take a walk in that park-I might be clobbered, robbed, even killed. I thought: smart enough to walk on the moon-- not safe enough to walk in the park! [Page 79]

5. True Success.

The Christian cause is the only one that is bound to win. It may seem to fail but it is better to fail now and then in a cause that will one day succeed, than succeed in a cause that will one day fail. We are part of an incoming tide. Our little waves may be defeated but the tide is sure to win! [Pages 79-80]

6. Teach Me to Number My Days.

I am eighty now. Teach me to number my days that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. May the last chapter be the best, may I finish my course with joy. Give me, like the tribe of Issachar, understanding of the times, to know what Israel, God's people, ought to do. Not mere knowledge but understanding and wisdom, which is just about the scarcest commodity these days. [Page 82]

7. Children of the Day.

Today God's people live in this world, subject to all the accidents, the diseases, the disasters and troubles that beset all men. In this world we have tribulation but we are children of the kingdom of day and we are not stumbling in the darkness. We live in an unseen world amidst a visible creation, we walk in the Light as He is in the light, and we have meat to eat of which this world knows nothing. We look not at the seen but at the unseen, not at the temporal but at the eternal. Christians live in the same world

with everybody else, subject to the same natural laws of cause and effect, often beset by the same infirmities, tried and afflicted. But we are the Children of the Day, not of the Darkness. We believe in a God who is greater than all His laws, who transcends them in ways not contra-natural but supernatural. We may sometimes be hard hit by cause and effect, when Satan's darts at us are hurled. But having first come to Jesus, we become and we overcome, even as we live visibly in Egypt while our hearts reside in Goshen.

Our lives are hid with Christ in God; we are "homed" in God, and whatever happens, we cannot die away from home! Though now we see Him not, yet believing, we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. And, no matter how dark it is in Egypt, there is always light in Goshen! [Pages 83-84]

8. Which World?

One remembers the family that sat around the fire discussing an absent relative who was getting rich promoting the new age. When someone observed, "I hear he is getting on in the world," grandmother asked from her chair in the corner, "Which world?" [Pages 85-86]

9. Pills for Peace?

Today this drugged, drunk, doped generation pitifully tries to induce chemically a tranquility that does not come that way. Peace is not packaged in pills. [Page 86]

10. The Christ-like Life.

Whatever other reasons He may have had, I am persuaded that my Savior made Himself of no reputation and followed this lowly trade with hammer and saw to make it clear that the life He came to bring and live-and which He Himself was and is-can be lived out in this humdrum world of the ordinary day-by-day experiences of men. The Christ life is not reserved for cloistered saints in secluded retreats, reveling in ecstasies and mystic mediation. Christ lives again in hearts that believe and receive Him. He lives still in carpenters and truck drivers and farmers and factory workers as well as doctors, lawyers, executives, teachers and artists, and in kitchens where godly housewives and mothers have not surrendered to the "new woman" mania. If it cannot be lived in the shop, there is no sense in preaching it in the sanctuary! [Page 88]

11. Ordinary Christians.

Right here is a serious problem today. We are an emotionally drunken generation, not sophisticated but sick, trying to live on trances and vibrations and trips to a third heaven and looking with (un) holy disdain on ordinary Christians on the old Straight-and-Narrow , Trust-and Obey Road to heaven .

I am glad that my Lord was a carpenter and not a celebrity for thirty years. That makes Him one of us ordinary mortals, touched with a feeling of our infirmities, tempted in all points like as we and yet without sin. His life is best proven Monday through Saturday out where cross the crowded ways of men, and not in church conventions and occasional religious extravaganzas. [Page 88]

12. Something's Amiss.

I can see with my bifocals
My dentures work just fine;
I can live with my arthritis,
But I sure do miss my mind! [Page 90]

13. On Your Knees.

If you need knowledge, go to school. If you need wisdom, get on your knees!" [Page 90]

14. From Stepping to Walking.

Much is said about the step of faith when one receives Jesus Christ as Savior or makes a vow of dedication, a new start in Christian living. But we are told in Colossians 2:6, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." The step must become a walk, a succession of steps day by day as we walk in the light, walk in love, walk as Jesus walked. Our churches are filled with people who have never moved from the step to the walk. After conversion comes continuance. [Page 91]

15. Steady Saints.

My admiration is reserved for those steady saints who may not shout during the revival but who keep walking the old Straight and Narrow long after those who followed the step with a stop have fallen by the wayside. Our Lord worked at a carpenter's bench until He was thirty to make plain, that the life He came to give can and must be lived out over the long and sometimes humdrum stretch and is not a matter of fits and starts. [Page 92]

16. A Living Savior.

"As He is." Not as He was. Between the eternity of a yesterday that never had a beginning and the eternity of a tomorrow that never will end, stands Jesus Christ the same. There is only one thing that Jesus Christ ever was; He was dead. "I am He that liveth and was dead"... but He is not dead now! He didn't stay dead. After the crucifixion Pilate and Herod and Caiaphas might have rubbed their hands and said, "That takes care of Him," but it didn't. They rolled a stone before that sepulcher, set a guard of soldiers and attached a seal but they did not take into consideration a mighty angel. Stones and soldiers and seals are no match for mighty angels. That angel rolled the stone away and sat on it as if to say, "Now look who's in charge around here!"

Jesus said: "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore." He said, "Before Abraham was, I am." John had seen Jesus in the days of His flesh, and in His resurrection body-and then he saw Him in His glorified body and it knocked him out. It might knock out Sunday morning church-goers to have such a glimpse of Him in His glory. I guarantee you that we would not come out of church the way we generally do. As He is, Jesus Christ is the Eternal Contemporary. All the false messiahs of this world are dead and buried. Mohammed, Confucius and Buddha are dead. We do not visit the mausoleum of a dead Savior. There is a sepulcher in Jerusalem which some say is the grave where they buried Him but He is not in it!

Among the sons of men.

No mortal can with Him compare

The infinitude of Jesus Christ never leaves Him in a past tense. He forever is! The text goes on to say: "As _____ is, so are we!" And finally the text says, "As He is so are we **in this world.**" [Pages 99-100]

17. Lost or Saved?

When the great ocean liner, the Titanic, went down in 1912, two lists were posted in the ship's home offices. One list was marked "Lost," the other "Saved." What a difference one word made in the eyes of the anxious beholders! Humanity falls ultimately into only two lists in the sight of God. He that believes is not condemned, but he that believes not is condemned already. It is high time we made certain about where we stand as to "Lost" or "Saved." It is just a word's difference but it makes a world's distance-and an eternity's difference! [Page 108]

18. Until.

Israel today looks for Messiah to come the first time. Christians are looking for Him to come the second time. "Until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in," "Until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled;" "Until they shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." I am living in "The Great Until." What time is it? It is until. Recently a dear Christian brother closed his letter to me not with "Yours truly" but "Until"! [Page 116]

19. Faithful to the End.

If we are to reign one day as kings, should we not live like princes now? Sometimes the training may mean a furnace of affliction, sorrow, heartache, a thorn in the flesh. God wants special saints with postgraduate degrees for high positions in the world to come.

Are you a candidate for promotion? What is the basis for that promotion? "Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." Not flashy, fitful, famous (and certainly not fantastic or fabulous)-just faithful. It is required of stewards that a man be found faithful. Anybody can be faithful but not many are. Paul was faithful to the faith, to the fight and to the finish. The greatest ability is dependability. [Page 122]

20. Hidden in Christ.

When Augustine's mother wanted to accompany him on a trip he thought she had better not try it at her age, as she might die. She replied, "My life is hid with Christ in God. If God is my home, how can I die away from home?" [Page 124]