
Wouldn't This Jar You A Little!

"What's the use of getting all excited about the exams, or your stint in the service, or anything else? If it's in the cards -- it's in the cards. A man is fixed for whatever happens. So, what's the use of trying to do anything about it. God even knows right now whether I am going to heaven or to hell -- so what can I do about it?"

-- Overheard in the Huddle

This is partly true -- God foreknows, before a man is even born, whether that man will go to heaven or to hell. But God doesn't "fix" a man for heaven or for hell, as a crooked lawyer fixes a jury; nor does God "fix" a man's destiny in the sense that He pre-determines man.

Fore-knowing is not fore-causing. I see a 100-ton tank plunge from a 100-foot hill directly on top of a helpless invalid. The moment that the tank starts downward, I foreknow that the invalid is to be killed. But I don't fore-cause the tragic death simply because I foresee it. No, fore-knowing is not fore-causing.

God wills all men to be saved -- that we know from Scripture. We also know that God is ever ready to pardon the most hardened sinner. But God would not will all men to be saved if He predestined part of mankind to hell. And what would His willingness to pardon mean if a man were inevitably allotted to hell or to heaven?

Man fixes his own destiny by the way he abuses or uses his own free will, and by the way he cooperates, or fails to cooperate, with God's grace. Man himself is fully boss of the fixing. God's omniscient power of fore-knowing doesn't take one iota of responsibility from man.

In the Huddle, at times, the errors are stronger than the coffee. And some of the logic is as frayed and tattered and shabby as the lawn in front of Sorin Hall.

Tomorrow, We Start The Novena

You could use the blessing of God on your work, most likely. And you believe in the efficacy of the Sacraments. Many generations of Notre Dame men have found it worthwhile to invite God to go along with them into the exams. His Blessed Mother, who is the Seat of Wisdom, has been mighty helpful on these intellectual sojourns, too. Exams, for the majority of us, are still plenty formidable. We can use all the help available. And now is the time to get ready.

Mass and Communion daily, the Rosary, and a Visit to the Grotto daily -- should give you strong claim to some assistance. And if it's Confession you have in mind, drop in tonight at Sorin, or Cavanaugh, or Howard, or Dillon, anytime until 9 p.m.

Professor William H. Downey, R.I.P.

Early last Sunday morning death came quietly to Professor Downey. No stranger to pain and suffering, he offered an inspiring example of a man who conquered great physical limitations to lead a busy, intellectual life, and make a notable contribution to the Notre Dame classrooms. For over a quarter of a century he was a familiar figure here as he labored among the undergraduates in the field of economics. Surely, he deserves a rich remembrance in our prayers. To his wife, daughter, and two sons we extend sympathy. And next Sunday, at the request of the Lay Faculty Club, the 9 o'clock Mass will be offered for him.