

## Have a Blessed Day?

Up until recently, it was common to hear the phrase “Have a nice day” when leaving a store’s check-out line or other place of business. In many towns, this parting wish has mostly been supplanted now by: “Have a blessed day.”

At first, this phrase seems innocuous enough, but it just might be a portent of a neo-Calvinist resurgence.

To be blessed implies being favored by a higher power. So, “Have a blessed day.” is another way of saying that your successes in life, the affections you have garnered, indeed, your very value as a human being, are due not to your own efforts but to the inclinations of God.

Now, those who say farewell in such a way rarely intend insult. Yet it could be irritating to those who believe that the results of their day depend on their abilities and thoughts, rather than on the caprices of some unseen overlord.

### Relevant Readings

*Nine Lies that Control Our Lives* by Miles Edward Allen, 2020, 130 pages.

*The Power Worshippers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism*, by Katherine Stewart, 2020, 352 pages.

*The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power*, Jeff Sharlet, 2009, 464 pages.

*The Founding Myth: Why Christian Nationalism Is Un-American*, by Andrew L Seidel, 2019, 352 pages.

### ‘FAMILY’ VALUES?

“For all of the Family’s talk of Jesus as a person, he remains oddly abstract in the teaching they derive from him, a mix of ‘free market’ economics, aggressive American internationalism, and ‘leadership’ as a fetishized term for power, a good in itself regardless of its ends. ... The Family wants to ‘transcend’ left and right with a faith that consumes politics, replacing fundamental differences with the unity to be found in submission to religious authority.”

—*The Family*, Pg 276.

“Being rich and powerful is proof that you are favored by God and are correct in your decisions and blameless in your actions. Being so favored, all less fortunate people should naturally respect and obey you.”

**BLESSED  
are the  
SUCCESSFUL**

That view of the world is held by a surprising number of people, both rich and not so rich. It is a cancer eating away at our republic.

Rational Spiritism 

The Religion That Makes Sense

Web Site: [www.RationalSpiritism.org](http://www.RationalSpiritism.org)

John Calvin (Jean Cauvin) was a terrible man with a brilliant idea. During his tenure as provost in Geneva, he imprisoned, tortured, and (at least 150 times) executed those who had the temerity to disagree with his strict interpretation of the Bible. Nevertheless, he had this one brilliant idea: Some few souls are predestined to go to Heaven, all others are scheduled for a one-way trip to Hell.



The greatness of this idea lies in its attractiveness to the rich and powerful. Calvin taught that there was no such thing as free will; that an all-knowing God must know, prior to their birth, which souls were pure and which were tainted.

So, how could the citizens of Earth determine who was who? Why, the chosen ones – the “elect” – would naturally be more deserving of God’s blessings and thus be more successful in life.

This view was heartily supported by the richest, most successful, and most powerful men. Men who were happy to let the church’s endorsement camouflage

any guilt they might feel over their favored positions in life. Men who found solace in knowing that their past and future sins were already forgiven. Men with the means and the willingness to generously fill a church’s coffers. ... Just the men you want to have on your side if you are seeking to rule “über alles.”

Calvin’s ideas were integral to the formation of several Protestant denominations, most notably Scottish Presbyterianism and the Puritans — whose harsh and unpopular attitude toward life so irritated the rest of Europe that they were pressured to flee to the New World. The concept of the supremacy of the elect thrives there to this day.

This idea that God favors the elect wasn’t entirely new to Calvin; it was based on the teachings of St. Augustine, and a similar concept can be found in St. Paul’s letter to the Romans. [Rom 13:1-4]. Therein, Paul opines that authority comes only from God. Therefore, he claims, all those in positions to rule must be there because God wants them in that position. To be a ruler, means that your commands

are divine. To disobey any ruler, then, is to disobey God.

Today, many powerful people are convinced that their influential positions are proof that they are favored by God. As such, they believe, their desires are justified, their decisions correct, and their sins pardoned, especially if they pay lip service to Jesus. Such people generously support organizations that nurture elitist thought with training courses, retreats, and prayer breakfasts for the current and future elect. They can be uncovered in every political party, religion, and cultural ideology. Their only common denominator is a lust for power.



Now, “We are the good guys because we are the great guys.” is just another way of saying “Might is Right.” That idea is being adopted by more and more leaders every day. This despite its conflict with constitutional principles.

The path from democracy to plutocracy, or even theocracy, is not as long as you might think. ■