

Some Bad Predictions

In an age of advancing communications through various media and technologies – and a rising desire by many to make their opinions public – pundits, prognosticators and prophets abound. They shower us with their assessments and forecasts, and it is often hard to hide from them.

But despite the self-assurance and swagger often displayed, they are not always right. Then or now.

As examples, here are some of the worst predictions of all time:

- “Inventions have long since reached their limit, and I see no hope for further developments.” – Roman engineer Julius Sextus Frontinus, A.D. 100
- “The abdomen, the chest and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon.” – John Eric Ericksen, surgeon to Queen Victoria, 1873
- “Law will be simplified (over the next century). Lawyers will have diminished, and their fees will have been vastly curtailed.” – Journalist Junius Henri Browne, 1893
- “It doesn’t matter what he does, he will never amount to anything.” – Albert Einstein’s teacher to Einstein’s father, 1895
- “It would appear we have reached the limits of what it is possible to achieve with computer technology.” – Computer scientist John von Neumann, 1949
- “The Japanese don’t make anything the people in the U.S. would want.” – Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, 1954
- “Nuclear-powered vacuum cleaners will probably be a reality within 10 years.” – Alex Lewyt, president of the Lewyt Vacuum Cleaner Company, quoted in *The New York Times*, June 10, 1955
- “Before man reaches the moon, your mail will be delivered within hours from New York to Australia by guided missiles. We stand on the threshold of rocket mail.” – Arthur Summerfield, U.S. Postmaster General under President Eisenhower, 1959
- “By the turn of the century, we will live in a paperless society.” – Roger Smith, chairman of General Motors, 1986
- “I predict the Internet ... will go spectacularly supernova and in 1996 catastrophically collapse.” – Bob Metcalfe, *InfoWorld*, 1995

All of this should cause us to reflect: Aren’t we glad that our faith does not rest on human words, but on the sure Word of God?

--Beecher Hunter