

# AMERICA, RETURN TO GOD

Edited by Thomas Wang

*“Return to me, and I will return to you,  
says the Lord Almighty.” --Malachi 3:7*



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# THE EDITOR and HIS MISSION

Thomas Wang was born in Beijing, China in 1925 into a third-generation Christian family. He left China in 1949, lived in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Europe, and finally came to America in 1958 as an immigrant. In 1953 Thomas Wang began to serve as a full-time minister. He was used by the Lord to found the Chinese Christian Mission and the Chinese Coordination Center for World Evangelism. After serving a term as International Director of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, he served as International Chairman of the AD2000 and Beyond Movement. He is currently President Emeritus of the Great Commission Center International in Sunnyvale, California.



In addition to the above mentioned global ministries, God has laid upon his heart a genuine burden and love for his second homeland America. For over 20 years, Dr. Thomas Wang has been waging a letter-writing campaign for spiritual renewal of America through his annual correspondences to leaders of this nation.

Over 800 individually signed letters have been sent out annually during most of these years to the President, the Vice-President, Cabinet members, Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, Governors of 51 states, Mayors of 50 largest cities as well as a number of educational and media leaders. Throughout these years, numerous responses have been received.

The founding fathers of America recognized the need of faith in God to help them withstand the pressure from within and without. They knew that if their dream of an independent and democratic nation were to survive, they must invoke the help of God.

But America in recent decades has been steadily drifting away from God. She has become not only non-Christian but also anti-Christian in many areas. God is being driven out of her government, society, classrooms and public lives! The hour is late, but if all God's people would stand up and speak up, the tide can still be turned. America's spiritual suicide can still be averted.

Being a naturalized citizen of America, Thomas Wang has a deep conviction that naturalized Christians in America, who have been greatly benefited by this nation in areas of education, opportunities, securities, religious freedom etc., should contribute to America's national and spiritual well being. Chinese Christians should pray for a true spiritual renewal and repentance in the hope that America will continue to be a God-fearing nation and a channel of God's blessings to the world.

May we urge all Christians to uphold this great nation in prayer so that America's third centennial will equal in greatness to the previous two and that she will maintain her spiritual vitality that characterized her inception two hundred years ago. Such is the purpose of this book.



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# Preface

*“America, Return To God!”* has done an outstanding job of communicating the alarm for our nation. I share that alarm and have thought much about what could be done to bring our country back to its spiritual foundation. God keeps forcing me back to the Scripture that “judgment must begin at the house of God.”

I was pleased to see that the manuscript does mention the problems of the carnal church. If the church that represents the Lord Jesus Christ no longer has the power to keep their marriages together, free their teenagers from destructive addictions, see God provide funds for their needs or experience His healing power, there is little to attract the secular crowd to return to a God that they cannot see.

This book confronts America with the urgent need to return to God, but there is a bigger message: the church must return to the power of the Gospel. That power is explained in the commands of Christ which defines the love we are to live out before the world.

May God give a wide audience for this book and may it have a powerful impact on our nation and the church.

*Bill Gothard*

**Founder**

Institute in Basic Life Principles

(For a free series of daily e-mails from Bill Gothard  
please register at [www.dailysuccess.org](http://www.dailysuccess.org))



## Introduction

Over 100 years ago, American missionaries went to China and led my grandmother to faith in Jesus Christ. And I was born into this family as a third-generation Christian in Beijing, China, 1925.

I became a missionary myself in 1954, came over to America in 1958 and became a naturalized citizen in 1968. America is my second homeland. I love this country and I am concerned and committed to her spiritual welfare and her destiny in history.

America is unique in her Christian origin and way of life ever since the Mayflower landed in 1620. But these early up-bringsings and noble traditions have been progressively eroded under the onslaught of European Enlightenment, Humanism and Liberal Theology, which have found their way into this nation throughout the past two centuries, and spread their influences in all walks of life including the church.

The first half of the 20th century with its two Great Wars has prepared the way for a post-war secularization movement, regrettably, often with the backing of the court and the intellectual elite. Morally, ethically and in matters of faith, our nation has been going downhill ever since.

So, what could be done? The worst thing we could do today is to remain silent. Edmond Burke said, "The way for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing". By God's grace we will be silent no more. Hence, this book, "*America, Return To God*" !

It is our prayer that this humble

volume of selected articles will be instrumental in stirring up burden, prayer and action of God's people for a spiritual renewal of America.

We appreciate the authors and their publishers for their permission to use these fine articles. We are thankful to our supporters whose joint efforts have made the production, printing and mailing of this book possible. Heartfelt appreciation goes also to my dear co-workers Dr. Sharon Chan, Barbara Fung and Fen Chen. Appreciation goes also to Dr. and Mrs. C.Y. King for copy-editing, and of course to my dear wife Rachel for her encouragements.

We have printed 500,000 copies of this book in the first printing. We are now making 50,000 copies for the second printing. It will be sent as gifts to American leaders at all levels (federal, state and local) and various professions. We earnestly solicit your prayer that, by the grace of God, America will come back to her Heavenly Father and her Savior Jesus Christ who gave birth to this nation in the first place.

"Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty."--Malachi 3:7

Thomas Wang  
Great Commission Center International  
January, 2009

*PS: For the sake of emphasis and clarity, we have taken the liberty to highlight some of the text in certain articles.*

PART **I**

**FROM FAITH  
TO  
UNBELIEF**

— *America in Decline* —





# Loss of Faith in America

Jim Nelson Black

**The seeds of rebellion that fell on European soil during the Enlightenment blossomed in America during the 1960s.** For the radicals of France, the aim was liberation from the authority of the Church and the Crown. The Hippies sought liberation from rules of every kind and spent their days in search of “sex, drugs, and rock and roll.” In both cases the provocation and source of rebellion was the same: **rejection of the God of the Bible.**

The *philosophies* of the 18th century, including Voltaire, Rousseau, and a dozen or so radicals of the day, identified themselves as “new men” because they wanted to break completely with the customs and traditions of the past. In particular, they set out to cast off their heritage of faith. By the same measure, the children of the sixties set out to wage war on “establishment values” and to fight for the right to say and do things their mothers and fathers would have considered taboo. Like their European precursors, the aim of Hippies was to establish a “new order of the ages,” but unlike them, their attack was aimed at the heart of the most charitable and democratic society on earth.

The sixties’ radicals were “counter-culture” warriors in every way. Their language, behavior, and appearance were calculated to offend and intimidate. They had a passionate hatred for “middle-class values,” and despite their generally affluent childhoods, they had no love for the ethical restraints of those, like their parents and professors, who populated

civilized society. Hippies, Weathermen, Black Panthers, and the communist-backed Students for a Democratic Society were not motivated, as they claimed, by a desire to improve the system. They wanted to destroy it completely. They were latter-day progeny of Karl Marx and Friedrich Nietzsche, whose writings had taught them the language and methods of nihilism. As their behavior and their choices of targets demonstrated only too well, they were committed to anarchy and to abolishing the symbols and substance of the authority that stood in their way.

The rebellion had a spiritual component as well. They scoffed at America’s Judeo-Christian heritage, turning instead to Native American religions, metaphysical cults, yoga, the Chinese *I Ching*, Zen and Tibetan Buddhism, and the worship of the earth goddess, Gaea. To these they brought an obsession for drugs, free love, living together in communal arrangements, and the elimination of every trace of middle-class morality. **The young leftists of Haight-Ashbury, Woodstock, and Altamont fully expected to overthrow the Christian religion and bring paganism back to America.**

## A New Moral Order

In a recent article for *National Review Online*, former Marine captain Mackubin Thomas Owens offers a fitting assessment of the era. He says that Americans tend to have two very different views of the sixties. The first, held by people on the

left, like California Democratic politician Tom Hayden, believes the sixties were a watershed for the human spirit, a time of noble activism and idealistic self-sacrifice. Hayden once said, “We of the sixties accomplished more than most generations in American history.” His statement may be true, but certainly not in the way he meant it.

The second view comes much closer to the truth, however. It believes that the sixties were “a time of incredible intellectual flatulence, when pretentious adolescents under the tutelage of Herbert Marcuse and the like, affected a pose of moral superiority vis-a-vis their countrymen.” It was a time, he says, “when the pampered and narcissistic children of privilege spouted Marx, Guevara, and Fanon and engaged in no-fault acting-out. It was a time when self-styled radicals embraced the enemy against whom their countrymen were fighting and dying.”<sup>1</sup>

The nihilism at the heart of sixties radicalism attempted to cast murderers like Charles Manson and Black Panther thugs like Huey Newton as revolutionary—a fraud that was exposed with incisive candor by two refugees of the sixties, David Horowitz and Peter Collier, in their book *Destructive Generation*.<sup>2</sup> But no matter how noble the radicals pretended to be, what they were actually promoting was the tortured logic of the Enlightenment. The object, from the very beginning, was to undermine the moral and intellectual framework of the nation, and in all fairness, they and the legions they have cozened over the past forty years have succeeded very well.

**The celebration of vulgarity and vice among a small bands of dissidents in the sixties has spread throughout the nation. It has been adopted by the**

**music industry and the popular media as their preferred mode of behavior.**

The dividend of this attitude is being paid today, not just among the privileged children of the rich, but by our own children and, more ominously, by those in our society who lack the resources and self-discipline to cope with the consequences of such behavior.

In an analysis of the decline of moral values in American society and the impact it is having on those within the Welfare community, columnist and novelist Joe Klein says:

It is impossible, of course, to pinpoint the precise moment when moral relativism became acceptable public policy—but in the sixties, the structures of moral authority were systematically removed from the poorest neighborhoods. A series of legal judgments made it harder for teachers to discipline their students and for housing projects to screen their tenants; the cop on the beat was seen as an occupying force and removed. The moral consequences of programs like welfare were never considered. Instead of nurturing virtue, popular culture celebrated intemperance—and intemperance, as Adam Smith pointed out 200 years ago, may addle the rich, but it devastates the poor.<sup>3</sup>

The enormous costs brought about by this conflict have brought great hardship and compounded the problem for those involved in intervention and rescue. **Just as forest fires and floods have changed the physical landscape in recent years, the storm of immorality is sweeping the land and changing the moral horizon**

for our society.

## Escalating America's Breakdown

As mentioned above, one of the gurus who provoked the mischief of the sixties was a German-born philosopher and Berkeley professor named Herbert Marcuse. Marcuse wrote voluminously and laid out an agenda for undermining the capitalist system of the West. Long before the environmental movement became mainstream, Marcuse proposed a radical environmentalism. He encouraged the rebirth of the women's movement and an all-out assault on Judeo-Christian morality. He saw the value of homosexuality and lesbianism in shocking and shaking the culture, and he was critical of the nuclear family. As an avowed Marxist, his purpose was the utter defeat of capitalism.

"If the New Left emphasizes the struggle for the restoration of nature," he said, "if it demands a new sexual morality, the liberation of women, then it fights against material conditions imposed by the capitalist system and reproducing this system."<sup>4</sup> Art and fashion, he said, are ideal tools of the revolution. He called for an assault on the English language, and the use of profanity and obscenity to desecrate everyday speech. The use of sexualized curse words was especially important, he said: "It turns easily against sexuality itself" and is a debasement of human intimacy. Slang and violent, loud, vulgar rock music were useful tools in undermining the culture. Sadly, by the time he died in 1979, all of these invasions were well under way.<sup>5</sup>

**The moral bankruptcy of America over the past thirty years has been our national shame. It has made us a dis-**

**grace in the eyes of the world.** We know now that the anger and bitterness of Muslim nations toward this country derives in large part from this grinding down of morality and culture through the media, the movies, and the lifestyles popularized by global forums such as MTV. No one, of course, defends the use of terror of any kind to execute moral judgment; but we cannot help but see that America's loss of modesty and self-restraint has provoked outrage and resentment around the world.

The price we are paying for the coarsening of culture that began in the sixties and seventies is much too high, and now it has spread to many other areas. Progressive education, with its socialist roots, has devastated the public schools and anesthetized the minds of America's children. Leftist professors have filled the heads of our next generation of leaders with the politically correct dogma of "diversity, tolerance, and moral relativism." **Racism, sexism, tribalism, and social disintegration have actually been encouraged in the name of diversity, while pride of country is attacked as "jingoism."**

**Added to this, the justice system, as we have seen, is anything but just. Too often, the courts reward offenders and punish the victims of crime.** Sentencing and parole standards are arbitrary and erratic and, predictably, the level of respect for law and order among most Americans has plummeted in recent years. In virtually every area, our founding principles based on freedom, individualism, and personal responsibility are being systematically replaced by social programs based on collectivism and a submission to centralized authority more suitable to Soviet Russia than to a free democratic society.



### The Price of Sexual Sin

The mindset of the sixties is still with us, as values and beliefs that were once cherished in this nation are being discredited by the left. Francis Schaeffer believed that we are living in the post-Christian age. Obviously, a large number of Americans still cherish our Christian heritage, and faith is still strong in many places. **But for a growing number, the enlightenment view of reality has become their accepted worldview. For them, moral consensus no longer depends on Christian truths, but on secular values.**

Our interpretation of man's place in the cosmos is known as our "worldview." Like the operating system on a computer, a worldview provides the rules, the language, and the framework for managing and sharing information. It tells us how things work, and the first concern of any worldview is the nature of life. It involves questions like, "Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here?" and "Where am I going?" These questions were not invented in some laboratory. They are questions that everyone must ask at some point in their lives in order to deal with the basic demands of day-to-day existence.

We don't have to look very far to see that things are not perfect in this world. There is pain and loss and suffering; so we also want to know, "What has gone wrong with the world? Why is there pain? Why is there evil?" and, as Rabbi Harold Kushner asked in his famous book a few years ago, **"Why do bad things happen to good people?" The Bible gives us the answer. Original sin. It's very simple, really, but the humanist worldview refuses to accept this answer.**

For the humanist, evolution provides the explanation for where we came from; social and environmental factors tell us what is wrong with the world; and solutions for the problems in society are merely technological concerns that man, through his ingenuity and powers of deduction, can overcome. There is no doubt that postmodern thinking has begun to play a dominant role in contemporary culture. It has brought with it a form of moral relativism that allows for every kind of personal expression, just so long as it is not encumbered by moral judgment. For secular humanism, absolute truth and morality do not exist; they are merely concepts left over from our ancient past.

Here we discover the roots of the sin and disharmony that have turned our culture upside down. **D. James Kennedy has called the twentieth century a "century of seduction." For the past forty years, he says, "the American people have been seduced by a whole series of siren singers who have led them down the primrose path," and the primary agents of this seduction have been the perversion of truth, the debasement of sexuality, and the assault on the sanctity of life.**

Theologian F. B. Meyer has written that sensuality (or unchastity, as he called it) can destroy a nation. He says, "There is no sin which will sooner bring about a nation's fall. If history teaches anything, it teaches that sensual indulgence is the surest way to national ruin. Society, in not condemning this sin, condemns itself." While a segment of the population recognizes that continued toleration of immorality and sexual deviance can only lead to ruin, the liberal idealists who set the pace of the secular culture are leading

the way, not just to tolerance, but to the active promotion of vice.

Why should we expect them to be otherwise? This is their worldview. Ultimately, the responsibility for advancing truth is the duty of those who know the truth and who still have respect for our biblical heritage. This nation was founded on Christian virtue. The Founders, as has been proved so clearly, were men of deep faith and conviction. But today we bear their mantle, and we bear the truth of God's word revealed in Scripture. **To allow ourselves to be silenced by the humanist worldview would be to abdicate our responsibility before God. It would be to hide our lamps under a bushel, when we have the Light of the world in our hearts.**

## The Arena of Conflict

**There is no more ominous threat to our future as a nation than the campaign for homosexuality being waged today in the popular media.** The same perversions that brought ancient societies to ruin—and that have been anathema to every civilization known to man for more than five thousand years—are now paraded in the public eye and almost universally defended as inalienable rights. We find that 45 percent of adults in this country believe homosexuality is an “acceptable lifestyle,” and thanks to relentless programming in the schools, 85 percent of high school seniors say homosexuality is acceptable. Likewise, 86 percent say that homosexuality is determined at birth.

**Throughout Scripture, God's judgment on sexual perversion is made strikingly clear. The New Testament says,**

*“Do not be deceived. Neither*

*fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10).*

Yet, despite such warning, the secular world has chosen sodomy over sanity, and we are paying a terrible price for that choice.

**As evidence, consider that more than 65 million Americans today are infected with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including Herpes, Hepatitis B, AIDS, and more than a dozen others—most of which have no known cures.** Each year more than 15 million men and women are infected with STDs. An estimated 20 percent of Americans (or one in five) suffers from at least one STD. As reported in June 2001 by the United Nations agency for worldwide disaster relief, more than 20 million people have already died from the global AIDS pandemic, virtually every case of which has a sexual link at some point, and there is still no known cure. This is the real dividend of the sexual revolution.

Most of these diseases will affect young people aged 25 and younger. Considering that the majority of Americans over 40 are more cautious about their sexual behavior, the statistic of one in five among the entire population means that the percentage of those under 40 who are suffering from these diseases is staggering. It is projected that at least ten million of the fifteen million new cases reported each year will affect people 30 years of age and younger.

This is the price of ignoring custom and discarding Christian morality. When society denies what millions have known

to be true, there will be a price to pay. “No one seems to remember,” writes Jacques Ellul, “that there has never been a society without a moral code, and the chief thing lacking in our Western world is precisely an ethical code and a system of accepted values.” Then he says:

**“As soon as there is even a tiny blossoming of values, the intellectuals rise up to reject it and jeer at it. In doing so, they give no proof that they are free and intelligent, but demonstrate only that they are impotent and have surrendered to the madness in which negation becomes an end in itself.”<sup>6</sup>**

The rejection of the moral code means that there can be no restraint on immorality and no limits to its spread. According to a report from the Reuters wire service, the teen pregnancy rate has skyrocketed in recent years. The rate in the U.S. is at least four times higher than that of France, Germany, and Japan. A study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute in New York reported that, even with a downturn of about 17 percent during the 1990s, teen pregnancy in the U.S. continues to be higher than most developed countries. Teen pregnancy here is 84 per 1,000 women, aged 15 to 19, compared with 20 per 1,000 in France, 16 per 1,000 in Germany, 10 per 1,000 in Japan. Only the nations of the former Soviet Union are comparable, according to the journal *Family Planning Perspectives*.

Whenever abstinence-based programs are introduced, either by legislation or by local practice, those on the other side cry foul, often claiming such programs are an unconstitutional establishment of religion, but

- abstinence never leads to sexually

transmitted diseases;

- saving sex for marriage never leads to the guilt, regrets, loss of self-respect, or emotional turmoil of promiscuity;

- couples who save their intimacy for marriages are shielded against many of the problems, such as divorce, that always follow in the wake of fornication or adultery.

Despite the evidence, which is abundant and readily available, the number of cohabiting couples is still rising, with an increase of 72 percent since 1992.

It is important to recognize that none of this has come about by accident. The tragedy of death, disease, and despair is the legacy of all those who have pushed for more and more sexual license, including Dr. Alfred Kinsey, whose “studies” on sexual behavior shocked the nation. In *Sexual Behavior and the Human Male* (1948) and *Sexual Behavior and the Human Female* (1953), Kinsey claimed to reveal what was really going on in America’s bedrooms. He claimed that 95 percent of American males engaged in some form of not just promiscuous, but criminal sexual behavior. He claimed that women (and even children) were much more sexually active than anyone realized and, further, that this was a good thing.

However, as new investigations have discovered, Kinsey’s first report, which sold more than 200,000 copies in just the first two months, was based on surveys conducted in prisons, including some 1,400 sex offenders. It was shockingly dishonest and statistically invalid. In a brilliant expose, Kinsey: *Crimes & Consequences*, Dr. Judith Reisman uncovered the fraud and the motives behind Kinsey’s work. Yet, such studies have dramatically changed the attitudes and behaviors of Americans ever since that time.



## The Wages of Sin

Whether a culture has been corrupted by fraud or by ignorance, the damage may not be so easily contained, and a culture without a healthy sense of moral restraint, as noted by Jacques Ellul above, will have the madness consume everything in sight. Consider how pornography has permeated our society. **In 1973 Americans spent about \$10 million on pornography. By 1987 that figure had grown to more than \$8 billion.<sup>7</sup> That's billion with a "B."** Today, by some estimates, the figure exceeds \$14 billion, and pornography is considered by many in the investment community to be the new glamour stock of the 21st century.<sup>8</sup>

Along with the rise of teen pregnancy and illegitimacy, violence against women has also increased by more than 525 percent since 1960. This country has the highest number of reported rapes in the world—more than 10 times that of Great Britain and 20 times that of Japan. It is no accident that the states which record the highest volume of sales of "adult" and sexually explicit materials also have the greatest number of rape cases.<sup>9</sup>

The recent scandal in the Catholic church points out the degree to which the society has been corrupted by the deregulation of sexual morality. In the culture at large, it has been estimated that 1 of 3 girls and 1 of 7 boys will be sexually molested before their 18th birthday in this country.<sup>10</sup> In 1973, some 167,000 cases of child abuse were reported in America. The figure exceeded 2 million cases by 1990.<sup>11</sup>

In addition, nearly 50 percent of all American households are run by a single parent. In 1960, just 5 percent of all births in this country were to unmarried

women. By 1999, 33 percent of all births and almost 70 percent of African American births were to unmarried women. Out-of-wedlock childbirth is not just the leading cause of single-parenthood—it is the number one cause of poverty among women.<sup>12</sup>

**The greatest ongoing tragedy of this or any generation is the crisis of abortion in America. Since 1972 there have been over 41 million abortions performed in America. That is more than 1,350,000 abortions every year, and they are often done after the first trimester. Late-term abortions and partial-birth abortion are no longer rare. Even the American Medical Association has said that partial-birth abortions are "never medically necessary," yet some 5,000 times a year in this country, this procedure takes the life of a viable child. After his legs have been delivered, the abortionist kills the infant by puncturing the skull and sucking out the baby's brains. We can only wonder how God can ever forgive a nation that perpetuates such crimes against humanity.**

The Declaration of Independence declares that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," yet we allow that guarantee of liberty to be violated in the most gruesome ways imaginable. Francis Schaeffer once said that the right to life is more fundamental and more basic than the right to liberty or the pursuit of happiness. Without life, nothing else matters. **The horror that has been unleashed on America (and in the world) in the name of "a woman's right to choose" is nothing less than the "American Holocaust." In Germany, the Nazis killed more than**

**six million Jews, Poles, Christians, and other “undesirables” during the Second World War. In America, 41 million innocent children have been slaughtered. And for what?**

To complete the circle of this discussion, it will help to remember the context in which the Supreme Court’s infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision was handed down, back in 1973. Having just passed through the sixties, the moral values, traditions, and laws that had governed Western civilization for two thousand years had been jettisoned in barely one decade. It was in that moral vacuum that the Court acted to provide what they felt was a solution to the problems created by the new immorality in America. **As D. James Kennedy has said, “The sin which was engendered in the *sexual* revolution was to be covered up by the *abortion* revolution. Thus began the parade of the dead.”**

Dr. Kennedy adds:

*Today those aborted babies would be graduating from high school, choosing colleges, begin-*

*ning new careers. But one out of every four of them is not here. If you watched a graduation ceremony this past year, you should know that every fourth place should have been occupied by a cap and gown that was empty, for that child was not there—not there to be valedictorian, not there to become a doctor, a lawyer, a minister, or whatever their destiny might have been—perhaps President of the United States.<sup>13</sup>*

### Weighed in the Balance

So, what have been the results of this decades-long battle over essential beliefs? **The secular humanism that was supposed to liberate mankind from his enslavement to the past has bred not liberty, but atheism wedded with hedonism, which has resulted in a chronicle of devastated lives that boggles the mind.** If we consider the lies that have been told and the promises that have been



The Signing of the U.S. Constitution, 1787

broken, we certainly must realize that the ancient promise of “enlightenment” was never anything more than a restatement of an ancient lie in modern dress. It is only fitting to remember it here:

*Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked ...*  
(Genesis 3:4-7a)

The evil unleashed on the world by that ancient lie continues to extract a terrible price, and it will continue to do so until we who know the truth rise to face the challenge and, in the power of the Spirit of God, reclaim what has been lost. As we consider these things, we need to know that the fortress we must confront is built on lies. Despite protestations to the contrary, the anti-Christian left does not actually care about the issues they have promoted for the last forty years. As Dennis Prager has said in his syndicated column,

**In general, the left does not care about women, independent judiciaries, minorities, democracy, gays or almost anything else for which it marches. That is why the left opposed America’s war in Afghanistan, which liberated women from being treated like animals. Nearly all**

**the causes the left speaks for are noble-sounding covers for its real agenda—the overthrowing of Western, especially Judeo-Christian and capitalist, values.**

Remember the chant at Stanford, “Hey, hey, ho ho, Western civ has got to go”? That is what animates the left.

In the terms of modern psychology, says Prager, the hatred that sustains the left is their antagonism toward the values of their fathers. In a graduation speech in 2002, former Dartmouth College President James O. Freedman, another liberal, said that the purpose of a college education is “to question your father’s values.” This will come as a surprise, of course, to those who thought that the purpose of a college education was “to discover what is true and what is good.” But the source of our conflict is this, Prager says:

**America embodies all that the left dislikes.** It is the most religious of the industrialized democracies (proudly and uniquely Judeo-Christian). It is also the most capitalist. And, what drives the left especially crazy is that with all this religion and capitalism, America is the most powerful force on earth—economically, militarily and culturally.<sup>14</sup>

**Simply recognizing the source of the anger that motivates the other side will not give us victory in the culture wars, but it is an essential first step in preparing for the battle.** The first task in any conflict is to “know your enemy,” and as we come to understand the forces that are arrayed against us, and as we recognize the trail of disaster in their wake, we will be better prepared to make our voices



heard and to make a real and lasting difference for the kingdom.

## Notes

- 1 Mackubin Thomas Owens. "Lost in the Sixties: Their Memory Ain't Mine." *National Review Online*: June 5, 2002.
- 2 Collier, Peter, and David Horowitz. *Destructive Generation: Second Thoughts about the Sixties*. New York: Summit Books, 1989.
- 3 Joe Klein, "How About a Swift Kick?" *Newsweek*, July 26, 1993. 30.
- 4 Herbert Marcuse. *Counter-Revolution and Revolt*. New York: Beacon Press, 1972. 17.
- 5 Marcuse 127.
- 6 Jacques Ellul. *The Betrayal of the West*. (New York: Seabury Press, 1978). 196.
- 7 Gorman, Carol. *Pornography*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1988.
- 8 Dan Ackman. *How Big Is Porn?* *Forbes*: May 25, 2001.
- 9 See United States Department of Justice, FBI Crime Report, 1993.
- 10 Dr. Gene Abel of Emory University reports that law enforcement officers estimate that around 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be sexu-

ally assaulted before age 18. The typical child molester will abuse more than 360 victims over the course of his lifetime. He will likely abuse 30-60 before he is caught for the first time.

- 11 See Ralph W. Bennett, "The Relationship Between Pornography and Extrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse," in *The Police Chief*: February 1991.
- 12 William J. Bennet, Ed. *Index of Leading Cultural Indicators*. Washington, D.C.: Empower America, 2001. 43.
- 13 D. James Kennedy. "Life: An Inalienable Right." Sermon given in Feb. 1999.
- 14 Dennis Prager, "Why Does the Left Support the Palestinians?" June 26, 2002.

(Excerpted from *America Adrift*, pp.53-65. Published by Dr. D. James Kennedy and Coral Ridge Ministries, Inc. Used with permission.)



Sailing of the Pilgrims from Plymouth, England, 1620

# “My People Have Changed God”!

Thomas Wang

*“Has a nation [ever] changed its gods, even though they are not gods? But my people have changed God, their glory, for that which does not profit.”*

-Jere. 2:11 (AB)

Prophet Jeremiah was born about 100 years after Isaiah. He was called by God to be a prophet in the nation of Judah.

For over 40 years, Judah was oppressed and repeatedly plundered by Babylon. Jeremiah tried in vain to call the Jewish people to turn away from idolatry and come back to God. In desperation, and on behalf of Jehovah God, the weeping prophet cried out to his people :

*“For you have as many gods as you have towns, O Judah.... Does a maiden forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments? Yet my people have forgotten me”.*

-Jere. 2:28, 32

What a pity! Prophet Isaiah was able to save Jerusalem from the hands of the Assyrians in 701BC, but Jeremiah was not able to save his people from the hands of Babylon. Thus began the 70 years of exile and captivity.

Look at our world today. America and the West are showing signs characteristic to pre-exilic Judah. **One by one, the Western countries today are turning away from God.** Most churches in Western Europe are empty. Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, the Scandinavian countries, the United Kingdom and Canada have all legalized same-sex marriage or same-sex union. **Many of these**

**countries have become not only non-Christian but in many areas actually anti-Christian.**

Is America following suit? Many elements in this country are hard at work both openly and covertly for the total secularization and paganization of America. They are experts in manipulating public opinion and brainwashing people's mind by using noble and virtuous words and terminology but with a twisted meaning and hidden purpose, such as:

**Tolerance:** Tolerance of different views including tolerance of evil; otherwise, you are a hate-monger.

**Freedom:** Free to do anything; otherwise you are a bigot.

**Multi-lateralism:** All isms and religions are equal and none could claim unique.

**Unity:** We will have unity, if you agree with my ideology.

**Peace:** We will have peace, when you adopt my lifestyle.

**Pro-choice:** Mothers have the right to have their unborn babies killed. In reality, it is Pro-murder.

**Love:** Love is sex and sex is love. One should be free to have sex with anyone, anytime, anywhere and with any number of partners; otherwise you are

restrictive, archaic and therefore harmful to human well-being.

Having said these, are we being “judgemental” or “self-righteous”? No, absolutely not! What we have mentioned here are merely a drop in the bucket of all the dark schemes of the other side in their well-planned, well-financed and well-“lawyered” all-out war to tear down brick by brick this great Christian nation founded by God through Christians!

**America has been and still is the major deterrant force against evil powers in the world ever since World War I. This is why Satan has been concentrating his effort in bringing this nation down.** Because if he can dismantle America morally, ethically and particularly her Christian faith, there will be no other nation in the world who has the strength and the will to stand in his way.

Edward Gibbon, the eminent British historian in his monumental work *The Decline And Fall Of The Roman Empire* asked the question why did Rome fall? His own conclusion: in addition to time decay, foreign encroachment and over-spending, another major reason being moral corruption and conflicts within the Empire itself. Sounds a lot like America today.

As Chinese Christians, we come to stand with America in time like this. We love America. We cannot forget all the missionaries the American churches have sent to our people during the past 200 years. Many of them laid down their lives there and their graves are still in China today. Nor can we forget how her sons and daughters came over and helped us during the Second World War—the Flying Tigers, the “hump” flights (flying with propeller planes over the Himalaya Mountains for war supplies) and count-

less other events.

**America helped the world. Yet the world scorns her. It’s fashionable today to put America down.** But we choose to be different. We choose to go against the tide. We wish to raise up our voice, and express our love and concern to this great nation by respectfully reminding her of her God-ordained beginning, her noble Christian past, her struggles, her lurking and scheming enemies, and her need for spiritual restoration by returning to the “faith of her fathers”—faith in her Creator and Savior Jesus Christ.

*“Return, return, O Shulamite;  
return, return that we may look  
upon thee.”*

—Song 6:13

The God of love is calling! Calling America to return to her first love, return to the One who died for her on the cross! America, O America, return to Jesus Christ!



Independence Hall



# Banning Prayer in Public Schools Has Led to America's Demise

by Gary Bergel

A recent statistical analysis by David Barton graphically illustrates how America has plummeted from righteous living, prosperity and success in the last quarter century.<sup>1</sup>

As you might have already noticed from Mr. Barton's research that **America's moral decline rapidly accelerated following one event—the U.S. Supreme Court's removal of prayer from our nation's schools.** On June 25, 1962, 39 million students were forbidden to do what they and their predecessors had been doing since the founding of our nation—publicly calling upon the name of the Lord at the beginning of each school day.

The New York school children which prompted the *Engel vs. Vitale* ruling had simply prayed: **“Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee and beg Thy blessing over us, our parents, our teachers and our nation.”**

America has experienced radical decline in each of the four areas which the children's prayer touched upon: youth, family, education, national life. Minor recovery has occurred only since 1980 when the election of President Reagan brought forth a renewed emphasis on “traditional” values.

The removal of prayer from our schools was a violation of the third commandment which commands us “not to take the name of the Lord in vain.” By the judicial act of forbidding invocation, the Court audaciously elevated a secularized system of education beyond the authority, reach and blessing of God Himself.

**Worse than taking the Lord's sacred name in vain is treating it with contempt, denying its rightful place and stripping it from public use and even from the lips of children.** Jesus' own expressed desire, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them” was also violated by these judges, many of whom were raised in Christian homes.

But there was actually a gross violation of the third commandment by the U.S. Supreme Court a year earlier. A ruling in 1961, I believe, paved the way for stripping the Lord's name from our children's lips. In *Torcaso vs. Watkins*, the court overruled a provision of the Maryland Constitution which made “a declaration of belief in the existence of God” mandatory for holding public office.

Roy R. Torcaso, a Maryland resident and an avowed atheist, was refused a notary public commission when he would not subscribe to the required oath. His case was brought before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court ruled to sanction atheism and overruled the Maryland Constitution.

Rev. T. Robert Ingram records columnist Felix Morley's shrewd observations on this 1961 ruling in his study, *The World Under God's Law*. Mr. Morley, writing in the *Nation's Business* September 1961, pointed out “the absurdity of having an official administer to others oaths in the sanctity of which he does not himself believe.”

The effect of this ruling is not just to eat away at the sacredness of the name of



God, but to eliminate the sacredness and thereby the substance of the oath itself. With solemn oaths and binding contracts between individuals removed, the state eventually sits where God ought, and only the state's cause is held valid. There is no longer an absolute and just legal basis for judging "between a man and his brother," much less a man and his neighbor (Deuteronomy 1:16, 17). All affairs of life become subject to state, rather than individual control.

Rev. Ingram documents and points out that "a broad, organized attack reaching into high places is under way to remove the third commandment from legal standing in the United States and throughout the world." He points out that, "the World Court, for example, presumably the new fountain of justice, or a prototype of the socialist dream of world government, has no provision for 'taking the name of God'—no oath." The Socialist agenda of world domination makes no place for solemn "swearing" between individuals.

Jesus' teaching on oath-taking recorded in Matthew 5:33-37, while often misinterpreted, is actually a strong affirmation of the third commandment and a clear warning that "the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

Besides forbidding perjury, (calling God to witness a lie) and false swearing, this passage also forbids all rash and unnecessary swearing, and especially warns against promissory oaths—that require a performance. Our "Yes" should be "Yes," and our "No" should mean "No." If understood, our word uttered in integrity should of itself be a sufficient and proper bond.

The "evangelical prophet," Oswald

Chambers (1874 - 1917), saw that the empty promises made by so many Christians actually result in great "spiritual leakage." He admonished his followers: "Always beware of vowing, it is a risky thing. If you promise to do a thing and don't do it, it means the weakening of your moral nature. We are all so glib in the way we promise and don't perform and never realize that it is sapping our moral energy."<sup>2</sup>

Think then, what happens to a nation rife with perjury, broken marriage covenants, unforgiveness, cults with demonic covenants, extortion, bribery, libel, slander, profanity, hypocrisy, idle talk, and lawsuits initiated solely for revenge and personal gain. **We are living witnesses that truly "the Lord does not hold such a nation guiltless."**

Regardless of how the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled, we must each, as Oswald Chambers declared, realize that "God's laws are not watered down to suit anyone; if God did that He would cease to be God. The moral law never alters for the noblest or the weakest; it remains abidingly and eternally the same."

After more than 25 years of severe moral decline is it not time to repent, reverence the name of the Lord, reinstitute and keep the third commandment?

1 David Barton, *America: To Pray or Not to Pray*, (Aledo, TX: Speciality Research Associates).

2 Oswald Chambers, *The Best From All His Books*, (Oliver- Nelson Books, 1987).

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# 12 Principles that Are Leading Our Country to Ruin

Bill McCarthy

From 1962 onward, America has been on a downward spiral, slouching towards Gomorrah. What are the 12 principles of downward curve?

## I. Secular Humanism

First, secular humanism. In 1933 and again in 1973, prominent men in America signed the **Humanist Manifesto** which stated that man, and not God is in charge of all things. This manifesto went on to reject any belief in God or religion. John Dewey, one of the signers, is the founder of modern progressive, liberal education.

Tenets 1, 2 and 3 were:

“Religious humanists regard the universe as self existing and not created.”

“Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process (evolution).”

“Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.” Charles Francis potter, a manifesto signer stated, “Education is the most powerful ally of humanism, and every American school is a school of Humanism.”

These new humanists rejected almost 200 years of American history and philosophy.

Tenets 4, 5, 6 Stated:

“Humanism recognizes that man’s religious culture and civilization, as clearly depicted by anthropology and history, are the products of a gradual development due to his interaction with his natural

environment and with his social heritage. The individual born into a particular culture is largely molded to that culture.”

“Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values.”

“We are convinced that the time has passed for theism, deism, modernism, and the several varieties of “new thought.”

Tenets 7, 8, 9 and 10 Stated:

“Religion consists of those actions, purposes, and experiences which are humanly significant. Nothing human is alien to the religious...”

“Religious humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man’s life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now...”

“In place of the old attitudes involved in worship and prayer, the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a heightened sense of personal life and in a cooperative effort to promote social well-being.”

“It follows that there will be no uniquely religious emotions and attitudes of the kind hitherto associated with belief in the supernatural.”

Tenets 11, 12 and 13 Stated:

“Man will learn to face the crises of life in terms of his knowledge of their naturalness and probability. Reasonable and manly attitudes will be fostered by education and supported by custom...”

“Believing that religion must work increasingly for joy in living, religious

humanists aim to foster the creative in man and to encourage achievements that add to the satisfactions of life.”

Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life. The intelligent evaluation, transformation, control, and direction of such associations and institutions with a view to the enhancement of human life is the purpose and program

of humanism. Certainly religious institution ...and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world.”

Tenets 14 and 15 Stated:

“The humanists are firmly convinced that existing acquisitive and profit-motivated society has shown itself to be inadequate and that a radical change in

methods, controls, and motives must be instituted. A social and cooperative economic order must be established to the end that the equitable distribution of the means of life be possible. The goal of humanism is a free and universal society in which people voluntarily and intelligently cooperate for the common good. Humanists demand a shred life in a shred world.”

“we assert that humanism will: (a) affirm life rather than



The Original Flag of the Thirteen Colonies



The Prayer Meeting in the first U.S. Congress, 1774



deny it; (b) seek to elicit the possibilities of life, not flee from it; and (c) endeavor to establish the conditions of a satisfactory life for all, not merely for a few...”

## **II. No Longer A Nation Under God**

Two, the separation of state from God. Until 1962 we were a nation under God. But then, five members of our Supreme Court did something unconstitutional. They made a law prohibiting the free exercise of religion. It was a law that would have far reaching consequences for it prohibited the two most vulnerable groups—teachers and students—first of all from praying and second of all from following the Ten Commandments.

The downward spiral in education and society has caused the greatest cultural shift in American history. Every known social evil including promiscuity, pornography, sexually-transmitted disease, teenage pregnancy, drug use, low SAT score, violence, vulgarity, and even murder have escalated frighteningly in American schools. In many large cities, we use the expression – an educational meltdown. Last year, 70,000 high school students could not read their own diplomas.

## **III. Right to Life no Longer God-Given nor Inalienable**

Three, abortion on demand. Beginning in 1973 with *Roe v. Wade*, we no longer held that human life was endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, the first of which is the right to life; and we began the wholesale slaughter of unborn American citizens. This has been the greatest scourge to our land.

## **IV. Marriage no Longer Considered God-Ordained and Sacred**

Four, divorce on demand. Since 1962, there has been an escalation in the breakdown of family life, especially through divorce. No longer do the courts frown on divorce. They, in fact, encourage it in every way possible. For many millions of American young people, marriage, itself is expendable. 65 percent of all marriages of people under 30 end in divorce within the first five years of marriage.

## **V. Common Decency Rejected**

Five, pornography on demand. People falsely claiming first Amendment rights have made pornography to be part of mainstream America. It proliferates our screens—TV and Internet—our magazines and unfortunately, our minds and our hearts. Throughout the world, the image of America is that we are a nation of low morals, for we have exported our pornography abroad.

## **VI. Wide Spread Violation of the Natural Law**

Six, the homosexual revolution. Disassociating morality from law, we are encountering a homosexual revolution. Everywhere you turn, you hear “Gay Rights.” Many people do not want to exclude active sodomists from the military or leadership in such organizations as the Boy Scouts. Millions of American youth are being deceived through the efforts of Planned parenthood, the People of the American Way, and Gay Rights groups and lobbyists. Very young children are being taught to accept homosexual



couples as the norm. And now, there is a move to authenticate homosexual “marriages”.

### **VII. Sacredness of Sex Denied**

Seven, the sexual revolution. Beginning in the sixties with the advent of modern American permissiveness, promoted first by rock and roll and then by heavy rock music, we have seen a shocking explosion in promiscuity especially among young people. Traditional Christian modesty and virtue is mocked, even in college classrooms. And co-ed dorms have become the norm on college campuses. Promiscuity now has become mainstream America. And most young people are now psychologically and sociologically unfit to enter a Traditional Judaic-Christian marriage.

### **VIII. Traditional Dignity of Women Rejected**

Eight, the women’s movement. Hand-in-hand with the sexual revolution is the modern American liberation movement in which women have attempted to free themselves of any restraint that might have come from moral or religious conviction. Many millions of women claim freedom of their own bodies, not only to prostitute them but also to abort any children that might result from promiscuous activity. Traditional feminine virtue and mission have been severely threatened by the onslaught of the feminist and the sexual revolution.

### **IX. The Media Becomes a Medium of Evil**

Nine, the media. The media in

America bears much of the blame for the collapse of traditional American values. It has not been, by and large, pro-God, pro-family or pro-life. It has attacked the Christian church on almost every front, especially in the area of religion and morality.

### **X. The Legal Profession Now Legalizes Evil**

Ten, the legal profession. The legal profession has so prostituted itself that lawyers have made what was traditionally right to seem wrong, and what was traditionally wrong to seem right. They’ve turned each commandment upside down. The first commandment they violate by talking about separation of Church and state. The second commandment is violated by allowing profanity to go unchecked in favor of free speech. The third commandment is violated because they object to what used to be called “Blue without parental consent and by too-freely entering into divorce choice laws. The sixth commandment is virtually obliterated as sodomy, promiscuity and pornography are all protected by liberal laws. The eighth commandment is violated when lying is officially sanctioned, even when it occurs in the White House and our elected officials officially lie to cover up a lying president. It’s hard to discover any area of evil that they do not endorse.

### **XI. The Medical Community Prostitutes its Role**

Eleven, the medical community. The medical community has forsaken its traditional role. The absolute scandal of the American medical community is that they are on record for being involved in

the destruction of 100 million innocent unborn babies. They are also on record for being in support of stem cell research that would destroy human life.

## **XII. The Supreme Court Legislates a Contradictory Worldview**

Twelve, the Supreme Court. Of all the agencies in America that have betrayed the American ideal, the most flagrant is our supreme court itself. By a use of raw judicial power, they have set this nation on its great decline. They no longer uphold the laws of nature or the laws of nature's God or the God-given inalienable right to life of every American citizen. They have contradicted the Constitution over and again. In fact, they have set aside its basic principles by calling it, in liberal terms, "a living document." By that they mean they can contradict its basic tenets.

The legitimate purpose of government since the founding of America has been to protect the lives, liberty and prosperity of its citizens. James Madison summed it up well when he stated, "We have staked the whole future of American civilization not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

Our Founding Fathers based our system of government on the First Commandment, "Thou shalt have no other god before Me." They understood clearly that we were created to serve God, not the state. Since we were created in God's image, government according to their original vision should be an aid to secure

man's God-endowed rights. They instituted a system of representative government with clear limits on what government could and could not do. This was clearly and meticulously carried out to ensure individual freedom.

Today our government is threatening our basic freedoms. U.S. Senator Jesse Helms provides the answer, "When you have men who no longer believe that God is in charge of human affairs, you have men attempting to take the place of God by means of the super state. The divine providence of the All-Powerful State, I believe that this is the source of deep weakness in America, because it is a transgression of the first and greatest commandments."

Woodrow Wilson said, "The history of liberty is a history of limitation of governmental power, not the increase of it. When we resist, therefore, the concentration of power, we are resisting the powers of death, because concentration of power is what always precedes the destruction of human liberties."

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President Abraham Lincoln's Second Inauguration



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

## The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. — Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. — But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, serves as a warning to others, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former system of Government. — The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct and indirect effect the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. — To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless assented to by the Council, and when so assented to, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of People, unless those People would assent to the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right infinitely to them and permitted to tyrannize only. — He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the People. — He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise of the check upon the Executive, in the mean time exposing to all the dangers of anarchy from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Law for Naturalization of Strangers; refusing to grant Letters of Naturalization to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. — He has endeavored to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation. — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us. — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States. — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world. — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent. — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury. — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences. — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to extend it to us in an example, and for introducing the same arbitrary rule into these Colonies. — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments. — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with powers to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coast, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the lives of our People. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Opprobrium scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. — In every stage of these Oppressions we have petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People. — Nor have We been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. — We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of conjuncture. — We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

John Hancock  
 John Adams  
 Benjamin Franklin  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 James Wilson  
 George Wythe  
 Richard Henry Lee  
 Thomas Mifflin  
 Robert M. Smith  
 George Mason  
 James Madison  
 John Jay  
 William Livingston  
 Francis Pickens  
 John Hancock  
 John Adams  
 Benjamin Franklin  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 James Wilson  
 George Wythe  
 Richard Henry Lee  
 Thomas Mifflin  
 Robert M. Smith  
 George Mason  
 James Madison  
 John Jay  
 William Livingston  
 Francis Pickens  
 John Hancock  
 John Adams  
 Benjamin Franklin  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 James Wilson  
 George Wythe  
 Richard Henry Lee  
 Thomas Mifflin  
 Robert M. Smith  
 George Mason  
 James Madison  
 John Jay  
 William Livingston  
 Francis Pickens  
 John Hancock  
 John Adams  
 Benjamin Franklin  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 James Wilson  
 George Wythe  
 Richard Henry Lee  
 Thomas Mifflin  
 Robert M. Smith  
 George Mason  
 James Madison  
 John Jay  
 William Livingston  
 Francis Pickens  
 John Hancock  
 John Adams  
 Benjamin Franklin  
 Thomas Jefferson  
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 George Wythe





The Prayer Room in the U.S. Capitol Building features a stained glass window bears the prayer from Psalms 16:1.



# The Neo-Pagan Drift

Thomas Wang

In America today, a gigantic force is advancing swiftly and cunningly among every walk of life (including some Christian churches). We call this devastating impetus the Neo-Pagan Drift.

If there be a day that America should decline and fall, it would not be due to enemy missiles or nuclear attack from the outside, but because of this neo-pagan drift from within America herself!

## **America! Return to God... or Perish!**

While America is spending trillions of dollars in national defense, it is now a most critical time for her to go through a nation-wide self-examination, under the search light of the Spirit of God on her national purpose, integrity and allegiance to Jesus Christ!

*“For My people have committed two sins: they have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” (Jere. 2:13)*

What a striking similarity there is between Israel in Jeremiah’s time and America today. America is forsaking God, and digging her own cisterns! The whole nation is overwhelmed and overshadowed by the dead weight of the drift towards neo-paganism.

## **Leaders of America are Forsaking God**

One of the least used rooms in the mansion of the U. S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. is the Congressional prayer room! According to a reporter for a major newspaper who made a whole-day observation there, while both chambers of Congress were in session, not a single Senator or Representative came to the room for “private meditation and prayer” for which the room was designed.

What a pity that today’s leaders of America have ignored the fountain of blessings, the source of wisdom and the foundation of strength, by which their forefathers established this beloved nation.

**There is a special place in God’s heart which He gives to the rulers of a nation who would submit themselves and walk humbly with Him.** This has been true since the Old Testament time! God will bless a whole nation on account of her rulers’ God-fearing attitude.

We hereby humbly make a suggestion that the United States President, Vice-President, members of the Congress, the Supreme Court Justices would set aside 15 minutes each day from their busy schedule to come humbly before the Almighty God, to pray for the forgiveness of their own sins, and sins of their people, to pray for Divine guidance and wisdom to discharge the tremendous responsibilities, with which they have been entrusted

and to make intercession for the nation and the world.

Leaders of the United States must come back to God! That old-time religion has to be once again accepted, honored, and practiced in the United States Capitol and by her people.

This is the thing that will surely save America!

### **Our Highest Judicial Office is Forsaking God**

The fact that the Supreme Court of the United States threw prayer and Bible reading out of our public schools half of a century ago was a most ruinous act! A decision such as this, made by the highest judicial office of the country, has far-reaching and deadly consequences.

Look at the schools today; young minds are being fed by atheistic and pagan teachings; religious faith is being laughed at; immorality, drugs and drunkenness have become common practices! And yet, the very least expression of reverence to God has been banned—not by an atheistic or totalitarian power, but by the Supreme Court of a Christian democratic nation, whose very foundation was based on Christian faith!

People no more have to turn around and wonder at the ever-increasing rate of crimes, unwed mothers and killings of the unborn! What prompted the leaders, legislatures and judges to come up with policies as such are the profoundest mysteries! Should this continue, soon the opening prayers of the Senate and the House, the laying of hand on the Bible for presidents to take their oath of office, the chaplaincy of the armed forces, the inscription, “In God We Trust” on our

coins and banknotes, and the existence of religious books in public libraries, will all be declared “unconstitutional.” **Let us be reminded that high above the Constitution of the United States is the CONSTITUTION of God which governs the whole universe! Dare we tamper with it! If prayer and Bible reading in our public schools are “unconstitutional”, then our Constitution is unconstitutional under the Sovereign God!**

Let us not forget how America was founded! Let us provoke no further the wrath of the Almighty—if we still believe there is such a One! Let us come before Him and repent! Let the American people, like the early apostles, have the courage to say to their wayward leaders: “*We must obey God rather than men!*” (Acts 5:29)

### **Our Educational System is Forsaking God**

**Higher education today serves only to build up an apology for atheism.**

Christian young people today continually confront human theories against the Bible; Darwin’s Evolution or God’s Creation? We are not leading our young people to God through our current educational system. We naively say, “Let them choose for themselves. They know what’s best for them.” You don’t let your children choose between a bottle of milk and a bottle of poison without doing something about it, do you?

Our educational system should be operated on a God-honoring basis. The knowledge and faith in God should be taught to students starting from kindergarten.

## Pastors Being Replaced by Psychiatrists

More and more “Christians” are turning to psychiatrists rather than their pastors for counselling and help. (It is also true that some ministers themselves no longer believe in prayer.)

Churches today are fading out of people’s everyday lives. Because of her conformity to this world, people no longer respect the church or go to her for help in time of spiritual needs or real-life crisis.

If America forsakes God, she will suffer severe judgement from Him, because she has been raised, and brought up by God. It is simply unnatural for America to say there is no God!

**But the cruel fact is: America today IS forsaking God! The older generations are gone—and with them, the old-time religion and the “faith of our fathers!”** The new crop of men and women today, while enjoying the fruit of the labors of their God-fearing forefathers, do not know or stop to think how prosperity came about? They do not see the need for God. Why bother about God at all when they can enjoy good food, sportscar, television, and baseball!

**In view of the rampant spreading of homosexual behavior today, Billy Graham once said, “If God does not judge America, He may have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah!”**

After the death of Moses and Joshua, later generations of Israel people began to drift in Canaan:

“The people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord, that He

did for Israel...”

“And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which He had done for Israel.”

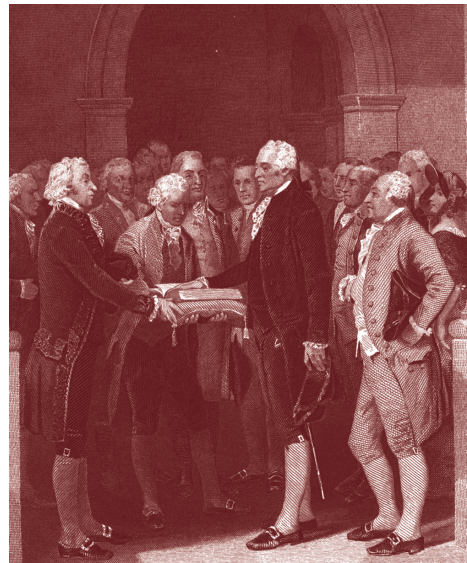
“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim.” (Judges 2:7,10,11)

The above verses in the book of Judges fit our present picture perfectly if we substitute the words “America” for “Israel” and “money for “Baalim”.

The current generation of America must be told! The “great works” of God must be re-proclaimed among the American people, especially to the younger-generations.

Here are the similarities between the “great works” which God had done to the Israelites in the Old Testament time and to the American people throughout her history: (Please see chart on next page.)

America, return to God--NOW!



On April 30, 1789, George Washington took the oath of office with his hand on a Bible and concluded with the words: “so help me, God.”

<b>Israelites</b>	<b>Americans</b>
1. God led them out of oppression and slavery from Egypt.	1. God led them out of oppression and tyranny from many nations.
2. God led them through the Red Sea, the wilderness and the River Jordan.	2. God led them through many lands, countries, and oceans.
3. There were difficulties and casualties on their way out but God led them through.	3. There were also difficulties and casualties on their way out but God led them through.
4. They had to conquer their new land. God helped them and they did.	4. They also had to conquer their new land. God helped them and they did.
5. God made their nation “a land flowing with milk and honey.”	5. God also made their nation “a land flowing with milk and honey.”
6. They were God-loving, God-fearing people during their first few generations.	6. They were also God-loving, God-fearing people during the first part of their history.
7. Theirs was a nation of theocracy—God was their ruler.	7. Theirs is a nation of democracy, and they acknowledge God in their Constitution.
8. Their new generations began to forsake God.	8. Their recent generations also began to forsake God.
9. They worshipped heathen gods and idols.	9. They are worshipping: Money, fame, power, and sinful pleasure and indulging in cults, superstitions, paganism etc.
10. They were unruly, “every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)	10. They have too much freedom. It is abused. Sin increased.
11. They had moral corruption.	11. They also have moral corruption.
12. They were unrepentful.	12. They have become anti-Christian.
13. God sent His prophets and judges to warn and to deliver them.	13. God is sending many of His servants to warn them. Much of her judicial system has rebelled against God.
14. They were finally put under judgement—Foreign captivity!	14. If America does not repent, if her leaders do not come back to God, if they do not purge their social evils, if they do not abolish their atheistic educational system, if her courts keep on outlawing things like prayer and Bible reading in schools, they will suffer a judgement more severe than what the Israelites went through—Because they have been warned more and they know better!
15. While in captivity, they repented and cried out unto God(Psalm137). God heard their cry and restored them.	15. We wish that they would never have to go under judgement by repenting early.



# The Hidden Agenda of Homosexual Politics

Erin Doherty

MUCH LIKE THE CONSPIRATORIAL PLOTS for the propagation and infiltration of communistic principles into society expressed by Karl Marx in *The Communist Manifesto* is the foreseen agenda of the homosexual community. No longer content with the heterosexual society's mere tolerance of a gay lifestyle, male homosexuals and lesbians are now demanding a total acceptance of their varying sexual expression, and they are using methods ranging from subtle, behind the scene schemes to well publicized legal proceedings.

In the past, those who wished to devise a plan to introduce homosexuality into mainstream American society surmised that a radical reform of our nation's traditional values was the only possible means. However, this rash plan has subsequently matured into a detailed, targeted, yet subtle attack on altering these values. Lest the ultimate aim of this strategy be misunderstood as a result of the seemingly less revolutionary approach, let us examine some of the characteristics, ideology, and methods of the gay community.

To begin, one must understand the ideology which a homosexual embraces (pardon the term!). "The homosexual ideology implies the intent to rearrange our perceptions, lifestyles, and legal system. In the strict sense of the term, this change is revolutionary. It requires, if it is to be effectively implemented, the careful and gradual application and transfer of power.

**The homosexual movement is thus not primarily a philanthropic or educational enterprise, but a hard-nosed political movement bent on changing our society."**<sup>1</sup>

Homosexuals foster a desire to establish their identity as a minority and to be given the rights that other groups are entitled to. Using a play on words with the meaning of the word "right" causes their argument to sound quite legitimate and constitutional. However, closer examination reveals that they do not refer to the God-given rights of life, liberty and property which every citizen of every country, regardless of age, gender, race or sexual orientation, is entitled to, but rather to special welfare. The Preamble to the Constitution expresses the fact that "we the people" wish to establish a form of government to "promote the general welfare," and yet homosexuals seek through the legal system to receive privileges which the average American, either single or a partner in a monogamous marriage, does not have.

One such example is seen in the homosexual's usurpation of traditional family benefits. Originally defined as "the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special type of social and legal dependence, for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family,"<sup>2</sup> the family has now been redefined as "two adult lifetime partners whose relationship is long-term and characterized by an emotional and financial commitment and interdepen-

dence.”<sup>3</sup>

**With the stress on sexual pleasure and the freedom of promiscuity, the homosexual lifestyle excuses the need for any self sacrifice and lasting commitment,** and hardly falls under the category of the traditional family. Yet gays are able to receive the benefits of a married couple, such as lower housing costs, joint filing of tax returns, and the inheritance of property. Roommates that are single and unmarried heterosexual couples living together do not get such benefits, but an exception of several privileges has been made on behalf of the homosexuals.

Although such inconsistencies rightly invoke anger on those not favored by them, the heterosexual community has been intimidated and forced to keep silent about its grievances. Any outspoken protest either against the homosexual lifestyle or against the special welfare given to such people is charged as discrimination. Clamoring for civil rights, many gays have likened their plight to that of the blacks in the past, a minority group persecuted for its differences. However, they fail to see, or else choose to ignore, the obvious difference: one group received persecution based on its genetic traits, the other does because of sexual behavior. There is nothing morally wrong with being colored, while a homosexual's lifestyle is definitely morally wrong. Also, many gays seem to take satisfaction in being able to aggravate heterosexuals with their sexual mannerisms, knowing they cannot complain. The scene is similar to the child who irritates his sibling to the point of tattling or reacting physically, delighting in the punishment which the parent gives to the sibling, excusing the provoker's behavior by interpreting it

as an expression of his individuality. We have come to the point where it is illegal for an employer to fire a worker because he's gay or for a landlord to refuse to rent out to a blatant homosexual; this is a direct violation of private property rights. Yet it does not work vice versa, for a homosexual has the right to refuse hiring or renting to a heterosexual. The agenda plans to carry this pattern a step further, so that an individual cannot be dishonorably discharged from the army based on sexual orientation or so that a restaurant must allow homosexuals (who very likely could have a sexually transmitted disease) to work with food.

Another part of this agenda is for homosexuals to climb up to influential positions, from which they can readily share and spread their ideas. Gay professors at colleges and elementary school teachers have many opportunities to mold the studious, eager, young minds being trained and directed under their care. Teenagers in public schools receiving sex education classes and going through a period of realizing their sexual identity are sometimes taught that homosexual tendencies exist in everyone, and, as Freud said, “Only a complex pattern of social pressures ensures that so few of us act out this potential [to be both heterosexual and homosexual.]”<sup>4</sup>

A gay business executive has unlimited freedom to propagate his beliefs throughout his company. Also, now a homosexual “family” is entitled to child custody, through adoption or artificial insemination. The children raised in such an environment would logically consider homosexuality to be the correct and normal way of life, judging from the model placed before them.

To list all of the goals of the homosexual agenda would be tedious, but the ones on the forefront, in summary, are as follows:

- (1) **Legalize homosexual/lesbian marriages;**
- (2) **Give homosexuals/lesbians parental and adoptive rights;**
- (3) **Classify HIV positive/AIDS carriers as disabled;**
- (4) **Enact “hate-crime” laws to include sexual orientation;**
- (5) **Use tax dollars to fund homoerotic AIDS/sex education in all grades;**
- (6) **Amend laws to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation, and public services;**
- (7) **Prohibit the military to exclude anyone because of sexual preference;**
- (8) **Repeal all state sodomy laws;**
- (9) **Repeal laws controlling the age of sexual consent.”<sup>5</sup>**

What can we do about this snowballing battle with the homosexual community? We Christians need to take some form of action soon, for since verbal protesting is not allowed, soon many heterosexuals will be moved to the point of physical aggression. It is crucial to stop the homoerotic teaching in the sex educa-

tion classes so that the future generation of adults won’t be encouraged to imitate such a lifestyle. We should also be aware on the state level of any bill or legislation dealing with this issue, and inform our representatives of our opinion in this matter.

**Most importantly, though, we must cease to remain passive, allowing wickedness to seep openly into society and become more entrenched in our culture.** We must begin to intercede for a nation on the brink of judgment and destruction as a result of Babylonian practices, and pray for wisdom on how to biblically reform our society, preserving its strong roots of moral values anchored in the rich soil of Christianity.

#### Notes

- 1 Beverly LaHaye, “The Hidden Homosexual Agenda”, *Concerned Women for America*, 1991, p.6.
- 2 Webster’s New International Dictionary.
- 3 Carl F. Horowitz, “Homosexuality’s Legal Revolution,” *The Freeman*, Vol. 41. No. 5, May 1991. p.177.
- 4 LaHaye, p.15.
- 5 LaHaye, p.7.

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“If God does not judge America, He may have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”

—Billy Graham

## DETESTABLE SIN!

“Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.”

—Leviticus 18:22

“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.”

—Romans 1:26, 27

## JUDGEMENT!

“The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening... Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them...”

“They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door...”

“Then the men (the angels) inside reached out and pulled Lot inside and shut the door. Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door...”

“Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens. Thus He overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities — and also the vegetation of the land.”

—Genesis 19:1-26

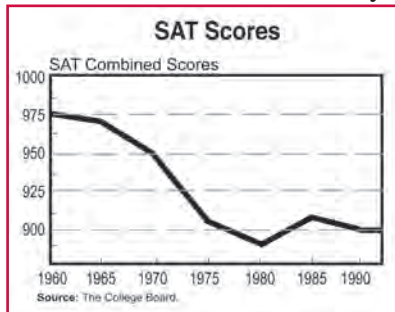


# The Fall of The Family

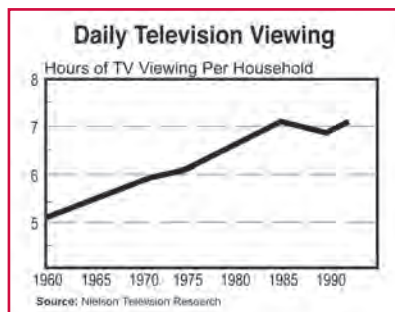
Bill Tam

## Breakdown of Marriage and Family

Ever since the Separation of Church and State ruling was made by the Supreme Court in 1962, Christianity has been taken out of the American classrooms. **School prayers and the Bible were removed from schools and the moral values of students went down a slippery slope.** In this “moral-vacuum” environment, public schools trained students with a liberal worldview. The effect has been detrimental to the society. To



illustrate the consequences, the following are a series of graphs and figures called the Cultural Index, introduced by the former U.S. Education Secretary, William Bennett. When interpreting the following

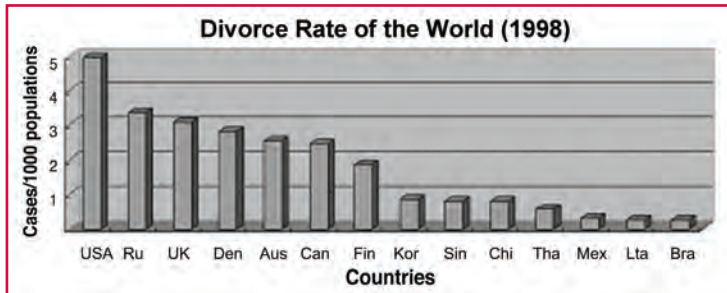


data, it would be helpful to know that the US population increased by 53.5% from 1960 to 2000 (US Census Bureau).

Since 1962, SAT scores dropped quickly while the daily time spent viewing TV rose continuously. **From 1960 to 2000, the marriage rate decreased, while divorce rate increased by 104.3%.** In 1999 there was one divorce for every two marriages in the US, the most occurring among couples between 25 to 39 years old.

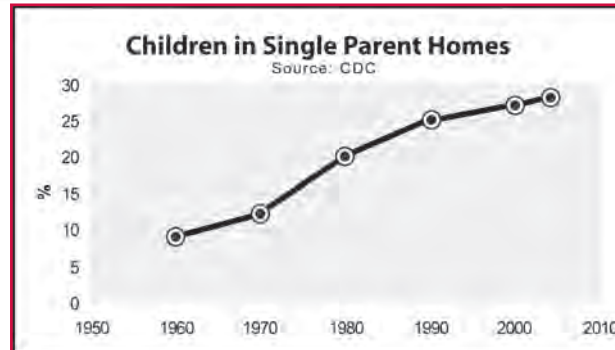
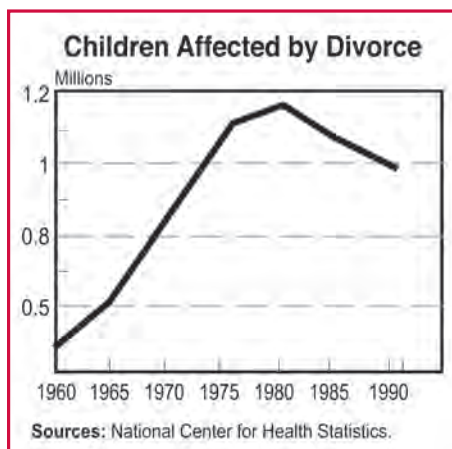
One would not realize how grave the situation is until he compares the divorce rate of the US against that of the world.

Every year about 1 million children are affected by the divorce of their parents. According to US Census of Bureau, between 1960 and 2000, there was 200%



One would not realize how grave the situation is until one compare the divorce rate of the US against that of the world.

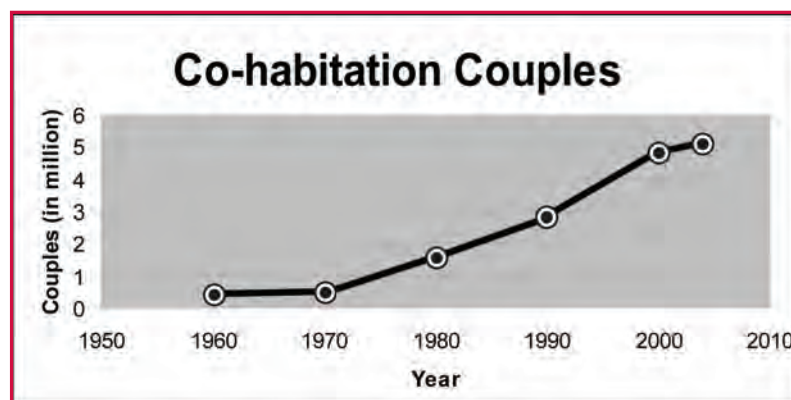
increase of single parent families. While the rate of marriage decreases, the rate of co-habitation increased by 979% .

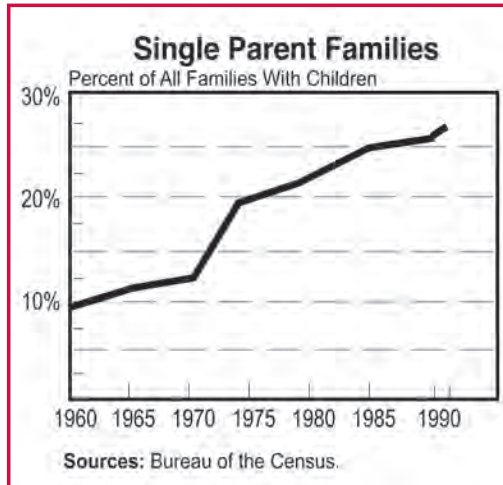


and withdrawal; lack of attentiveness in the classroom; difficulty in deferring gratification; impaired academic achievement; school misbehavior; absenteeism, dropping out; involvement in socially alienated peer groups, and the so-called **'teenage syndrome' of behaviors that tend to hang together --- smoking, drinking, early and frequent sexual experience, and in the extreme cases, drugs, suicide, vandalism, violence, and criminal acts.** Without a father at home, many teenage girls trade their

According to US Census Bureau's report in 2005, the sum of non-traditional families surpassed the number of traditional one-man-one-woman-with-children households. The number of traditional families decreased almost by 50% from 1999 to 2005. As a result, children suffer from the disintegration of the family.

Professor Urie Bronfenbrenner of Cornell University said: "Children growing up in such households are at a greater risk of experiencing a variety of behavioral and educational problems, including extremes of hyperactivity

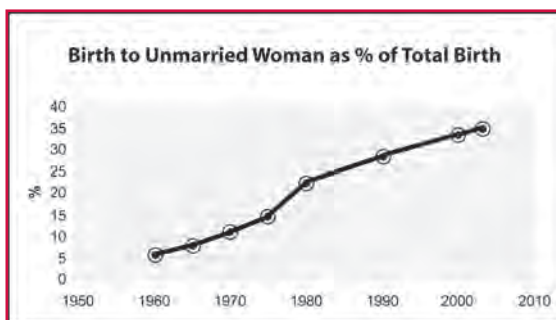




virginity for male attention.

## The breakdown of families led to social and moral problems

As the divorce rate and co-habitation rate increased, the number of illegitimate births increased even more dramatically, by 566% in the last 45 years. According to data from CDC, in

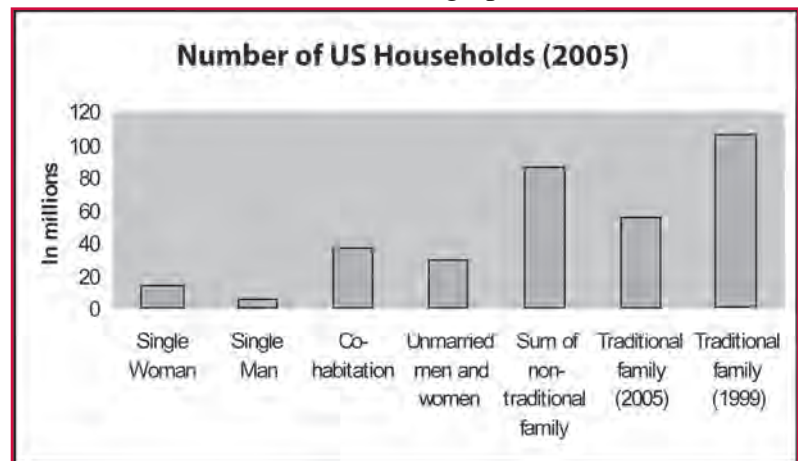


1960, only 5.3% of all births were illegitimate. By 2005, the rate rose to 35% (i.e. 1.5 million babies were born to unwedded mothers). In 2002, there were about 757,000 teen pregnancies (15 to 19 year old), and 28% of them ended in

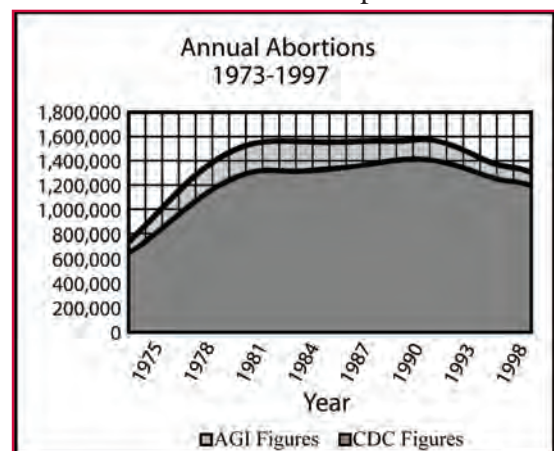
abortion. 56% gave birth and 15% ended in miscarriage.

Along with the increase of single-parent families, child abuse and teen suicide rates rose. Teen suicide increased by 257% from 1960 to 2000. Children growing up in broken families have been found to have higher probability of committing crimes. The rise in prison population not only puts a toll on the country's treasury, it also reduces the number of men in homes as role models for their children.

The above graphs show the increase

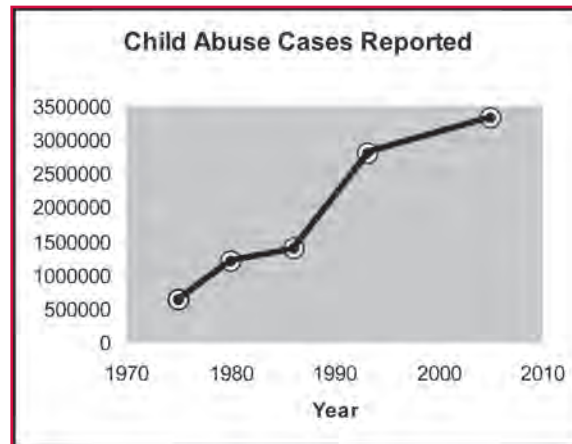
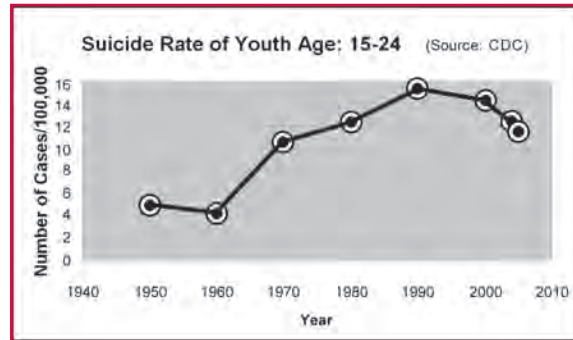


of social problems since 1960's, when the moral climate of the country began to decay. The sexual revolution during this era also ushered in the rampant increase



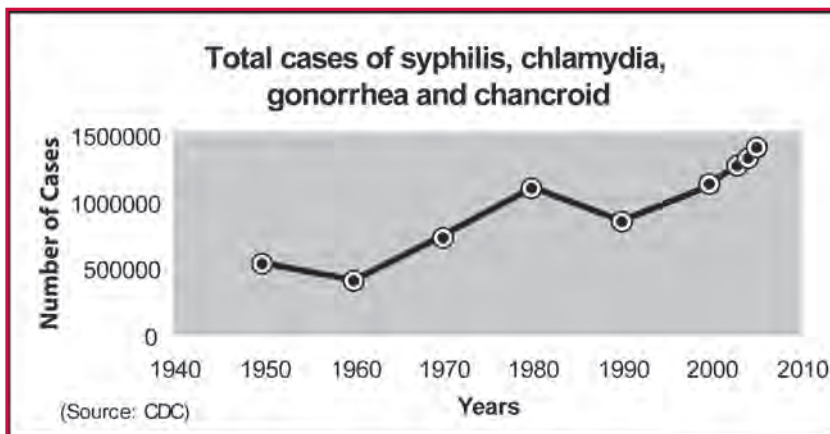
of sexually transmitted diseases. **In 1996 alone, there were 15.3 million new cases of sexually transmitted disease in the US. It is estimated that 1 out of 5 Americans is infected with some type of sexually transmitted disease.**

This became a “silent epidemic” because people do not talk about it. About 56 million Americans are infected and it would cost the tax payers \$10 billion to treat the STDs, not including HIV/AIDS. In 1992, the cost of treating HIV/AIDS alone was around \$10.3 billion. In 1994 the “cocktail therapy” of treating AIDS was introduced and it has cut the death rate by 70%. The annual cost of such therapy, however, was around \$30,000 per patient. In many states, the state healthcare departments provide generous free treatments to AIDS patients who cannot afford the pay. As of November 2003, 15 states declared that the free AIDS treatment have depleted their financial reserves. In the same year, new AIDS cases in America were found to rise again. **In July 2004, California reported that the state’s AIDS patients have increased by 1000% in the past 7 years. Anal sex among male homosexuals is the single most prevalent cause of the rise in AIDS.** In February of 2005, a new strain

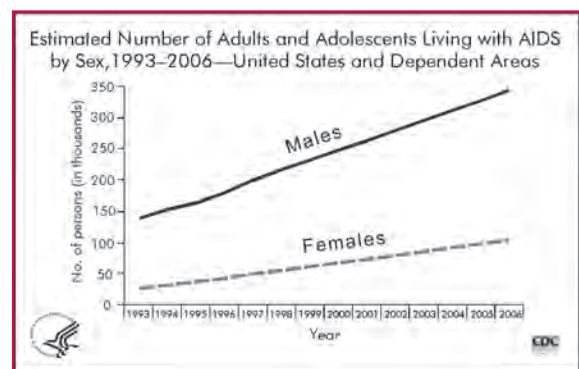
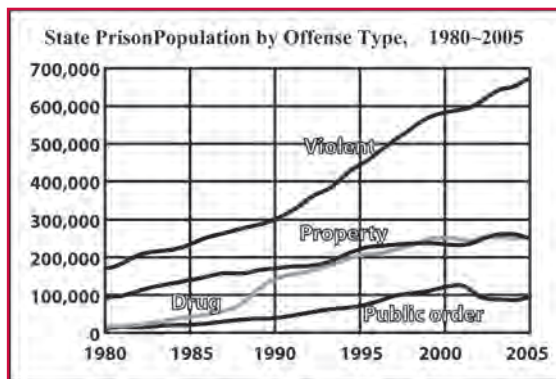
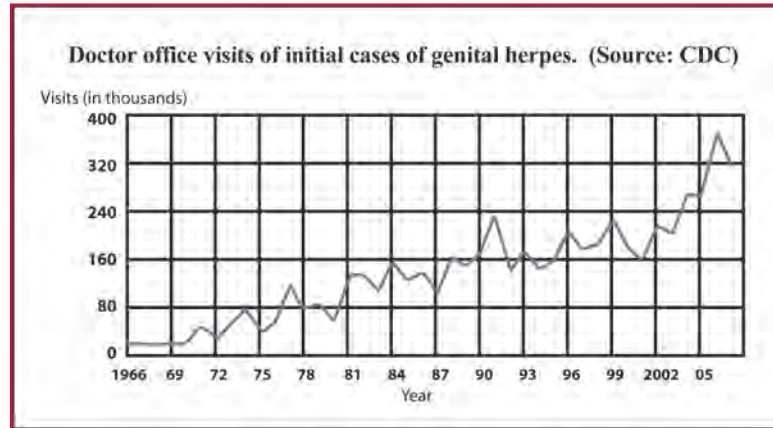


of HIV is discovered that has a 2-month latency period rather than the 10-year period once known to the health authorities. In 2006, CDC estimated that there are 448,871 people living with AIDS in the US. If one includes the HIV cases, the number would increase to 509,681. The cumulative estimated number of US AIDS cases throughout the years to 2006 was 1,014,797.

Without Biblical moral values, the government used non-judgmental “safe sex” approach to educate the mass. The above results clearly indicate the gross failure of such an amoral social policy. Not only many lives are hurt by living in an “everything-goes”







society, the economic tolls in remedying subsequent health, social and criminal consequences are tremendous.

## Same-sex Marriage

**Studies show that children who grow up in religious (Christian) families are less likely to have sex outside of marriage and have lower risks of social and behavioral problems.** However, public schools and anti-Christian organizations still insist on keeping Christianity out of the curriculum and outside of school campuses. As if the country had not suffered enough from the breakdown of traditional families, liberal politicians teamed up with homosexual activists and introduced same-sex marriage in the late

1990's.

In 1996, Hawaii trial court ruled that the same-sex couples should be allowed to marry. But in 1998, voters in Hawaii passed a Constitution Amendment to restrict marriage to between a man and a woman.

In May of 1998, Alaska trial court ruled that a person should be free to choose any marital partner regardless of sex. In November of 1998, Alaska voters passed a Constitutional Amendment to limit marriage to one man and one woman.

In 1999, Vermont Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples should be granted same protection and benefits as heterosexual marriages. In 2000,

Vermont legislature passed a law creating civil unions for same-sex couples. No marriage license was issued.

In 2001, homosexual couples in Massachusetts file lawsuit in state court seeking the right to marry. In 2004, the Supreme Court of Massachusetts ruled 4-3 to allow same-sex marriage, making this the first state in the US to legalize same-sex marriage.

In February 2004, Mayor Newsom of San Francisco ordered marriage licenses to be issued to more than 4,000 same-sex couples, defying the California law passed in 2000 to limit marriage to one man and one woman. In April, 7,000 Christians rallied and protested on a main street in San Francisco demanding the city to honor the state marriage law. In the same year, similar protests by Christians sprang up in Los Angeles, Sacramento, New York and Washington D.C. In total hundreds of thousands of Christians showed up in these rallies. Finally, at the end of 2004, the Supreme Court of California ruled that San Francisco Mayor Newsom overstepped his authority in issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and the marriage certificates became void. In January of 2005, San Francisco Mayor Newsom and Assessor Mabel Tang, who were the main characters in issuing same-sex marriage licenses, announced the dissolution of their own marriages to their respective spouses.

In the fall of 2005, California Senate and Assembly passed bill AB849, introduced by gay assemblyman Mark Leno, to define marriage as between 2 persons, instead of between a man and a woman. Almost all democrats in the Assembly voted for the

bill and all republicans voted against it. In October 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the bill.

On May 15, 2008, California Supreme Court ruled 4-3 to legalize same-sex marriage. In November, California voters passed Proposition 8 to amend the California Constitution to limit marriage to only between a man and a woman. At the same time, voters in Arizona and Florida passed similar Constitution Amendments. In total 30 states defended their marriage code by passing the Protect Marriage Constitution Amendment.

## Media and Entertainment Industry

Television viewing is an integral part of families in the modern world. With the internet becoming easily accessible, information around the world is available at the click of a mouse. It is incumbent upon each individual to determine whether the reported information is objective. There are seven multi-billion dollar media giants that are the primary providers of information: Time Warner, Comcast, Viacom, Disney, General Electric, News Corp and Hearst Corp.

### Media Bias

In the post-modern era, news and information are acquired less and less through the printed media. Cable, TV and the internet have become major channels of information transfer. **Most of the major TV, cable network and Hollywood establishments, favor a liberal bias.** In most of the presidential campaigns, the





On April 25, 2004, more than 7,000 Christians from San Francisco Bay Area gathered in an open-air rally and declared their defense of "1 man and 1 woman marriage".



Before the open-air rally, 30 multi-racial pastors visited San Francisco Mayor Newsom and urged him to stop issuing same-sex marriage certificates and repent to God. Afterwards, Rev. Thomas Wang spoke to the crowd in front of San Francisco City hall.



media and entertainment industry tend to support the liberal candidates. When Bill Clinton was campaigning for his election in 1992, he chose MTV and Michael Jackson to help promote his agenda to the young voters. The liberal candidates usually receive more political contributions from Hollywood, the media and even the pornography industry.

### **MTV: Teaching Decadence to Teenagers**

According to Nielson Media Research, **MTV is watched by 73% of boys and 78% of girls aged 12 to 19. Children are the target of the hard-selling of casual sex, drugs and alcohol.** The Parents Television Council reported in their study that children on the average watch 9 sexual scenes per hour, 9 unbleeped expletives per hour, and 6 violent scenes per hour on MTV music programs. MTV reality shows have about 13 sexual scenes per hour. There were 52 obscene words per hour in the program Making the Band 2 and 32 sexual segments per hour in the program Spring Break Fantasies. Studies have shown that MTV is influential in changing the attitude of teenagers towards accepting promiscuity and homosexuality. With an hour of watching MTV, teenagers would have less inhibition in resisting sexual desires and temptations. Moreover, MTV is a prime station for beer commercials.

### **Pornography**

Pornography is degrading to females. It is a major problem in a sexually-charged society and women are direct victims of pornography. Decades ago,

pornography was only available in the red light districts of the cities, and there was a stigma of perversion about it. Now pornography is available not only in corner video stores, but also through the cables and internet. With big cable companies joining the profit chase, pornography is sugar-coated to be an adult entertainment. The easy access of pornography has opened a flood gate of mental perversion targeting every age group. A decline of society's moral standards is imminent.

**Studies have shown that in most of the sexual crimes committed against women and children, pornography is found to be a stimulating factor to the offender.**

In Oklahoma City, when about 150 sexually oriented businesses were closed down, the rape rate decreased by 27% in the next five years. Meanwhile, rape increased by 19% in the rest of the state where there was no crackdown. A 1979 study in Phoenix, Arizona, also revealed a 500% increase in sex related crimes in neighborhoods where pornography businesses moved in. Similar phenomena are seen in other countries when the restrictions on pornography are removed.

**It is estimated that about 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be sexually molested before age 18. In almost all cases, pornography is found in the homes of child molesters.** In many homosexual child molesting cases, pornography is used as a seducing instrument (see transcripts in Michael Jackson's case). An average serial child molester will attack an average of 360 victims in his lifetime. About 30 to 60 children would have been molested before the molester is caught. **UNICEF has reported that about 1 million children are forced into pros-**

## titution and pornography each year.

Many women are lured into pornography by drugs and money. In the course of production, there is usually physical and mental abuse, resulting in the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. When children are exposed to pornography, they easily become addicted for life. Some children act out by raping younger children. Many grow up with a distorted view of sex, human dignity and relationships. This type of deep rooted deviant psychology will later compromise their spousal relationships and family harmony. This multi-billion dollar industry is targeting males between 12 to 17 years old, with a goal of instilling a lifetime addiction. "Pornography is a victimless crime" is simply a false statement.

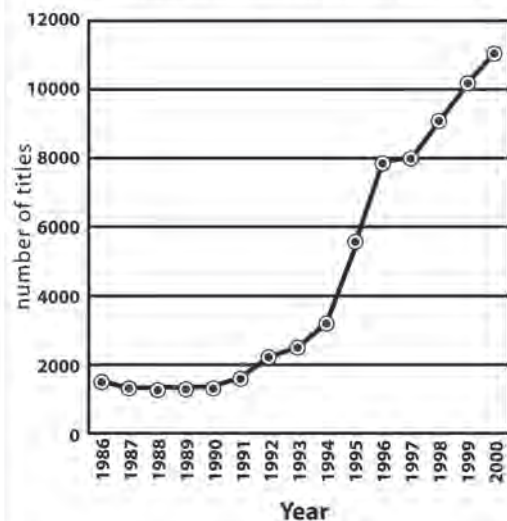
**In spite of these facts, pornography is protected under the law as a form of free speech as long as the performers are above the legal age of 18.**

During the Reagan administration, the pornography industry was under severe prosecution. With the aid of Dr. James Dobson, Attorney General, Edwin Meese, cracked down on child pornography. Under President Bill Clinton, Janet Reno stopped prosecuting pornographers for the next 8 years. In addition, Clinton appointed Ruth Ginsberg, a high power ACLU lawyer, to the Supreme Court. It is a known fact that ACLU has a history of defending the pornography industry. Bill Clinton consequently performed extra-marital acts of pornographic nature in the White House. Under such a progressive political environment, the pornography industry blossomed. The number of official pornographic titles mushroomed from about 1,500 produced per year (year 1990) to 15,000 per year (year 2000). In

spite of the geometric increase of 900%, the Department of Justice prosecuted only 169 cases of child pornography in 1994. Pornography became a multi-billion dollar industry. In 1996, pornography revenue totaled about 8 billion dollars. By 2004, the number went up to 13 billion. Even companies such as AT&T, Comcast and Viacom, Marriott, Hyatt and Holiday Inn are interested in its promotion. Now there are more pornography outlets than McDonald's restaurants.

When President George Bush took office, Attorney General John Ashcroft started to renew efforts to prosecute pornography. When the attack of 911 occurred, he redirected his efforts to fighting terrorism. At the second term of Bush's administration, new Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has been active in prosecuting pornography. In December 2005, an international child prostitution ring was apprehended and more than 30 underage girls were released from the trade.

**Number of pornograph titles increased during 1990s (source: www.pbs.org)**



“Until recently, the worst kind of pornography was mainly limited to red-light districts or restricted to adults or confined by geography, isolated by shame. With the Internet, pornography is now instantly available to any child who has a computer. And in the hands of the wrong people, in the hands of incredibly wicked people, the Internet is a tool that lures children into real danger. We don’t accept this kind of degrading. It’s unacceptable to America. We don’t accept offensive conduct like this in



See You at the Pole

Over 100 years ago, when faced with the bloodbath threatening to destroy America, President Lincoln spoke these humbling, poignant words:

*We’ve grown in numbers and wealth and power as no other nation has grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us. We’ve vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our own hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins and to pray for redemption and forgiveness.*

—Abraham Lincoln

our schools, in the commercial establishments, and we can't accept it in our homes. We cannot allow this to happen to our children. We're waging an aggressive nationwide effort to prevent the use of the Internet to sexually exploit and endanger children. That's what we're doing." President George W. Bush, October 23, 2002

In spite of the White House's zeal for cracking down on pornography, the Supreme Court ruled (5-4) in June 29, 2004 that banning transmission of pornographic material through the internet is unconstitutional, even in the name of protecting children.

In Feb. 2005, the Justice Department sought death penalty for a Florida child pornography suspect charged with killing a Broward County Sheriff Deputy during a raid at his home. A Northridge, California company, which produces rape and murder videos, is charged with violating the decency laws of the federal government. According to reports from the Department of Justice, during the Bush administration, the prosecutions of child pornography increased to 2,539 cases in 2006. Sex transportation cases also increased from 37 cases in 1994 to 521 cases in 2006.

When President Obama took office in 2009, David Ogden, an attorney known for defending many cases for pornographers, abortionists, and homosexuals was nominated for the office of Deputy Attorney General.

### Looking ahead

While the US is worrying about the harmful effect of pornography in the US, one would be more so about Canada and

other European countries. In Canada, the legal age of sexual consent is 14. That means law enforcement cannot charge pornographers who use children as young as 14 years old in their production. In Holland, Spain, and Portugal, the legal age has been lowered to 12. Parents of these children should be in distress when they see that they cannot do much legally to protect their children. Many more young teens will be subjected to the exploitation of the pornography industry.

In March 16, 2005, CNN reported that an international pedophile ring was broken up by the police in twelve European and Central American countries. The headquarters was located in Spain and a total of about 500 pedophiles were arrested. They were involved in transmitting images of sexual acts against very young children through the internet.

On May 26, 2005, 5 men in Spain were arrested for raping 9 baby boys, some as young as 11 months. The sex crime was videotaped and sold through the internet.

Considering that one of the goals of the gay agenda is to "[eliminate] laws limiting the age of sexual consent," one can see the detrimental effect of the homosexual movement and the intent of a deviant segment of the society. Yet the liberal segment of the American society is pushing our culture towards the even greater liberality of Canada and Europe.



# THE ACLU

(American Civil Liberty's Union)

The ACLU wants you to believe it is on your side, fighting for your rights. It is a lie! In reality, the ACLU is working to steal your religious liberties, destroy your freedoms, and tear down the moral foundation of America.

## Official ACLU Policy Positions

The ACLU Supports:	The ACLU Opposes:
Legalized child pornography	Legalized school prayer
Partial-birth abortion	Parental consent laws
Legalized drugs	Sobriety checkpoints and drug searches
Legalized prostitution	Prison terms for most crimes
Mandatory sex education	Medical safety reporting of AIDS cases
Busing	Education vouchers
Ideological tests for court appointees	Government ethics committees
Legalized polygamy	"Abstinence before marriage" sex education
Tax-exempt status for Satanists	"God Bless America" banners in schools
Unrestricted abortion	Pro-life demonstrations
Publicly funded profane art	Religious displays in public
Adoption by homosexuals	Christian home schooling
Extended constitutional protection for enemy soldiers while bearing arms against the United States	Our government's post 9/11 security measures

(Materials from Coral Ridge Ministries' brochure 'What is One of the Greatest Threats to You, Your Family, the Future?' Used with permission.)

# The ACLU vs. America

Alan Sears & Craig Osten

Can you imagine this scenario? Well-known evangelical leaders Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family, Dr. D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries, and Steve Douglass of Campus Crusade for Christ, joined by a conservative Roman Catholic bishop and an Orthodox Jewish rabbi, fly to several Midwestern towns with teams of Christian lawyers. They descend on the local courts and file multi-million-dollar lawsuits-demanding that the local public schools and governments immediately cease the recognition and celebration of two-hundred-year-old (or two-thousand-year-old) cultural and historical traditions, remove all historic documents from building walls, and stop all teaching or even mentioning certain subjects to students because they violate “the separation of church and state.”

These leaders then discover some government employees and public school students are Muslim. They demand that Muslims quit wearing anything that would identify their faith and that all government recognition or protection of their religious liberty, including their use of public property, be halted immediately.

Could you imagine the reaction of the national secular media if such a scenario occurred? Dobson, Kennedy, Douglass, and the others would be vilified, ridiculed, and mocked for their actions. They would be labeled “intolerant” by the secular Left and called the American Taliban, here to create a theocracy.

This scenario has never happened and

it won't. But a substantially similar one is played out regularly across America. The perpetrator? The American Civil Liberties Union, better known as the ACLU. And many in the same secular media hail the ACLU and its members as heroes.

For eight decades, the ACLU has been America's leading religious censor, waging a largely uncontested (until recently) war against America's core values—all not only without protest but with the support of much of the media—cloaking its wars in the name of liberty.

The result of this conflict is that Americans find themselves living in a country that, with each passing day, resembles less of what our nation's Founding Fathers intended when they came to these shores. We now live in a country where our traditional Christian and Jewish faith and religion—civilizing forces in any society—are openly mocked and increasingly pushed to the margins. **We live in a country where parental authority is undermined and children have less protection from pornography, violent crime, and the promotion of dangerous and selfish sexual behaviors.** We live in a country where the value of human life has been cheapened—from the moment and manner of conception to natural or unnatural death.

These seismic shifts did not happen overnight or by accident. Many are the result of a persistent, deliberate legal strategy by the ACLU and its allies to reshape America to conform to their vision.

We know the ACLU did not advance its agenda in a vacuum, but it is for other writers to discuss that part of the story.

While the ACLU positions itself as the great defender of freedom, it is actively striving to eliminate the freedoms of millions of Americans. The ACLU is **against the freedom of parents** to pass their faith and values along to their children. It is against the freedom of organizations such as the Boy Scouts to set standard rules of conduct for their leaders. It is **against the freedom** of churches to publicly teach and proclaim the uncensored Word of God in the public square. It is **against many of the freedoms** and our nation's sovereignty that our forefathers fought and died for in the American Revolution and the many wars that followed. The ACLU and its allies work for much of what our forefathers opposed through the advocacy of international law to interpret the U.S. Constitution.

**Most Americans are unaware of the most extreme positions of the ACLU.** Many believe either the ACLU exists to stick up for the little guy, or it was an organization with noble beginnings but took a wrong turn somewhere along the way.

One needs only to look through one of the policy guides of the ACLU, listen to their founders and the speeches by their leaders, or go to its Web site and read actual documents it has filed in court, to get a clearer picture of the ACLU agenda. **Consider these ACLU positions and imagine what America would be like if these dreams were fulfilled:**

- All legal prohibitions on the distribution of obscene material—including child pornography—are unconstitutional.
- Pornographic outlets can locate

wherever they please—whether next to churches or day-care centers or near residential neighborhoods.

- Tax-funded libraries should not restrict access of children to pornography on the Internet.
- Parents should have no legal recourse when it comes to shielding their children from exposure to hard-core pornography.
- The military cannot enforce even the most basic codes of conduct—such as discipline for disrespectful behavior toward a superior officer.
- The military cannot stop open displays of homosexual behavior within its ranks.
- Parents cannot limit their children's exposure to, or participation in public school classes and assemblies, any topic—except Orthodox Jewish or Christian teachings—that violates the family's core religious and moral beliefs.
- Public schools cannot observe recognized religious, historical, and cultural holidays such as Christmas, Easter, or Hanukkah, despite hundreds of years of American tradition.
- All legislative, military, and prison chaplaincy programs should be abolished.
- All criminal and civil laws that *prohibit polygamy* (having multiple wives) and same-sex “marriage” should be done away with.

**For eight decades, not only has the ACLU advocated for these and many other extreme positions, but through a legal and educational campaign of “fear,**

intimidation, and disinformation,” it has been successful in turning many of them either into the law of the land or what Americans perceive to be the law of the land. In its quest to mold American law as it desires through judicial activism, the ACLU also looks to force *international law* (at least their selective view of international law) on the American people—with complete disregard for American sovereignty and the U.S. Constitution.

In great part because of the ACLU’s philosophy and actions, America the Beautiful has become America the Litigious. The so-called trial lawyers take much of their lead from the environment created by the ACLU’s actions. “Rights” trump personal responsibility. “Alternative lifestyles” have replaced Mom and Dad. The U.S. Constitution has become an unrecognizable “living, breathing document” with “emanations from penumbras,” **including a bizarre interpretation that has led to the deaths of more than 46 million of our nation’s children.** The vibrant shield of protection the First Amendment was meant to provide for religious freedom, freedom that millions fled other countries to enjoy, has now become a sword to use against people of faith. The Founding Fathers could have never imagined this.

**Unfortunately, until recently much of the ACLU’s eight-decade war on the values of most Americans has largely gone unopposed.** With an annual budget of \$45 million and an endowment of \$41 million, the ACLU has used its army of at least sixty full-time attorneys, three hundred chapters, more than one thousand volunteer attorneys, and three hundred staff members—as well as sympathetic members of the judiciary, the faculties of

law schools, and the media—to engage in an ongoing campaign of legal intimidation, misinformation, and fear.

To provide an idea of the vast resources at the ACLU’s disposal, according to guidestar.org, which tracks financial information on nonprofit organizations, the ACLU Foundation had net assets of \$175,909,869 as of May 31, 2004. In addition, the ACLU received an \$8-million gift in 2003 from ACLU member Peter B. Lewis, chairman of Progressive Insurance, the largest individual donation ever received by the ACLU. The Ford Foundation provided a \$7-million grant (though the ACLU and the Ford Foundation have more recently disagreed over grant terms) in 1999, which Lewis matched with another \$7 million to bring the total to \$14 million.

The ACLU’s goal is a secularized “tolerant” America where religious speech is not only silenced but punished; where unwanted human life is quickly and easily discarded, hopefully at taxpayer expense; where the God-ordained institution of marriage and the family is on its way to becoming a distant memory, and where their “tolerance” is the silence of many others.

The ACLU has accomplished many of its goals by bringing lawsuit after lawsuit, **threatening to bring often crippling expensive lawsuits,** even on claims it would admit had little or no merit, **to exhaust the will, resources, and strength of those who stand for religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and traditional values.** The ACLU has done this, in many cases, by finding activist judges who agree with its demands to re-create the law in the ACLU’s image. In many instances, the ACLU and its allies



have won by *default* because no one with a real stake in the outcome showed up to legally confront their demands. The effect has been court decisions in lieu of constitutional conventions—either through the Supreme Court rewriting what the Founding Fathers did more than two hundred years ago or by one pushy ACLU lawyer forcing a school system to change its rules, with the religious freedom of tens of thousands of Americans negatively affected.

But the tables are beginning to turn.

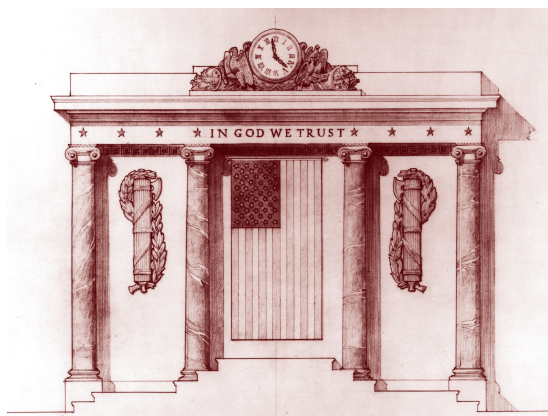
**In 1993**, after years without adequate legal resources to match the ACLU and its allies, **a group of more than thirty Christian leaders finally said, “Enough!”** They came together to discuss what could be done to slow and stop the ACLU and its allies’ seemingly unopposed assault on America’s freedoms. They recognized that many dedicated Christian lawyers had sought to slow and stop the ACLU but didn’t have enough resources to succeed. **Out of this, a new organization was formed—the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF).** While ADF’s resources are still dwarfed by those available to the ACLU and its many legal allies, ADF and its allies have quickly grown to become a formidable opponent and has been successful with a growing legal army of allies through strategy, training, funding, and litigation to defeat the ACLU and its allies several times in courtrooms and in the battle for minds across the nation.

*THE ACLU vs AMERICA* will expose some aspects of the ACLU’s war on American values, America’s law and Constitution, and our national sovereignty. We will shed light on the ACLU’s extreme positions and refute the asser-

tion that the ACLU was once a good organization that took a wrong turn. We will discuss how God is allowing ADF to confront the ACLU in case after case. **ADF’s goal is to surpass the ACLU’s vast manpower and financial resources to shape a future in which the values of religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, traditional marriage, and the family are strongly affirmed and protected.**

With God’s grace, we are confident we cannot only reclaim America’s judicial system and values from the ACLU and its allies but also protect our nation from present legal attacks. We can return our country to the original vision of the liberty framed by the Founding Fathers and fought for by generations of Americans on battle-fields from Yorktown to Gettysburg to Omaha Beach to the sands of the Middle East. It will take prayers, perseverance, and great financial resources to do so, but we will win.

(Reprint with permission from *The ACLU vs. America* published by Alliance Defense Fund, 2005, pp.1-6.)



Inscription over a platform in the House of Representatives reads “In God We Trust”.

# When God Abandons a Nation

John MacArthur

Romans 1:18-32

The wrath of God is admittedly not a popular subject. But it is an absolutely critical and central subject to any understanding of the gospel. Now there are a number of different aspects to the wrath of God.

There is what we could call **eternal wrath**, because it is the punishment that God brings on unbelieving sinners forever in hell. There is also **eschatological wrath**. That is the wrath of God released at the end of the world.

There is what we could call cataclysmic wrath - like a tsunami, a volcano, a hurricane, an earthquake, a plane flying in to the Twin Towers resulting in thousands of death.

And there is what you could call **consequential wrath**. Consequential wrath is the sowing and reaping—you live a certain kind of life, and you set in motion certain forces that will produce judgment.

But there is one other kind of wrath and that is the wrath that is presented in this passage. It is the **wrath of abandonment**. It is that wrath exhibited by God when He turns His back on a society.

## Biblical Examples of Abandonment

One of the most tragic scenes of the wrath of abandonment in Scripture involves the strongest man who ever lived, the mighty Samson. He is the original Superman, and a real one. We read in

Judges 16:

*“When Delilah saw that he had told her all that was in his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines... And he awoke from his sleep and said, ‘I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.’ But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him. And then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains and he was a grinder in the prison, a job for a mule.” (v.18-21)*

**Because of his sin, the Lord left him - the judgment of abandonment.**

We find a similar sentiment in Proverbs:

*“Because I called and you refused, I stretched out My hand and no one paid attention and you neglected all My counsel and did not want My reproof, I will even laugh at your calamity. I will mock when your dread comes, when your dread comes like a storm and your calamity comes on like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come on you, then they will call on Me but I will not answer. They will seek Me diligently but they shall not find Me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. They would not ac-*

*cept My counsel, they spurned all My reproof. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices.” (1:24-31)*

**There comes a time when God abandons men. God comes to a point where He lets a people go, lets them go to the consequences of their own sinful choices.** They will not accept His counsel; they spurn all His reproof, Of the Pharisees Jesus said, “*Let them alone, they are blind leaders of the blind,*” (Matt 15:14)

Terrifying words, “*Let them alone.*” It is frightening to think about that. Frightening to think that you might be abandoned by God, that the opportunity for salvation is past, that the day of grace is over.

The passages I referred to point out that the wrath of abandonment happens to both individuals and nations. This is the story of history. All the nations of history go their own way. And like the nations of old, **America is following the same cycle of having the truth, rejecting the truth, and being abandoned by God.**

### **The Cycle of Abandonment**

No scripture more directly confronts this abandonment and its consequences than Romans 1. Here is the most graphic and the most comprehensive discussion of what it means to be abandoned by God.

It is also the best passage that I know of to explain the moral chaos and confusion we experience in our own nation right now. God’s wrath is already at work in our culture. We’re not waiting for it; we are currently experiencing it.

In verse 24,26, and28, you have the statement, “*God gave them over.*” This term *paradidomi* in the Greek can be used of a judgment made on a criminal who was then handed over for punishment. Each of these phrases expresses the fact that the wrath of God has acted judicially to sentence sinners. It is God letting them go to the uninterrupted cause and effect their sinful choices produce.

When this judgment falls, there is a depriving of restraining grace and sin runs rampant through a society. Sin is both the cause of this and the effect... and the next cause and the next effect... and it goes on and on and on.

Notice the wrath of abandonment in its progression. It follows three sequential steps. **First**, “*God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity that their bodies might be dishonored among them.*” (v.24)

**The first indication in a society of the wrath of abandonment is sexual immorality. When a society becomes pornographic, when the general character of a society can be seen to be immoral, this wrath is in effect.** When man is abandoned by God, it operates only out of the passions of its own impure heart. The heart is wretched, and the body follows.

We can go back pretty readily in our own country to the sexual revolution connected to the hippie movement, connected to the Playboy empire’s beginning. Since then, our society has become increasingly pornographic until even the Internet is dominated by millions and millions of immoral pornographic websites to feed the insatiable lusts that dominate our culture.

**This leads to the smashing and crushing of marriage. This leads to**

**horrific and horrendous abuse of children, pedophilia, all kinds of child abuse that continues to run rampant because restraining grace has been removed.** And sex runs rampant, marriage becomes a minor option as people engage in immoral behavior readily and constantly without commitment.

**Step two** is in verse 26. *“For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions.”* **Now we’re not just talking about passions; we’ve added degrading.** We’re going down. There is a greater debauchery here. The degrading passions can be defined as gross affections, vile desires, perversion. And here it is, *“Their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural.”*

**The second step in the progression is lesbianism and homosexuality.** The Holy Spirit refers first to the degradation of women because they are usually the last to be affected in the decay of morals. This is because they have a protective mothering instinct over their own children. But when the wrath of abandonment is in force, even the women fall to the degrading passions.

**But there’s a third step,** in verse 28: *“Just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind.”* What is a depraved mind? The word literally means “tested and found useless, disqualified for its intended purpose,” a non-functioning mind. **The third step in the progression is that reasoning is so corrupted that it is crippled.**

The moral law of God written in the heart has been literally stomped and replaced with cultural immorality. **The conscience cannot function. So immorality goes in every direction and the mind**

**is so corrupt it can’t find its way back.** People don’t think right. Their brains don’t follow the paths they should. They advocate wretched things and depreciate virtuous things.

What flows out of this pornographic, homosexual, depraved culture? According to verse 29, *“All unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful inventors of evil.”* They even come up with new forms of evil. It’s like somebody opened the sewer of sin and let it run through society.

This is just any day in the newspaper, any day on the cable news network. This is just life in the world, in all its sinful forms. **Without conscience, without reason, without restraint, a society becomes like lustful, immoral beasts running wild.** It gets to the Jerry Springer level, where it’s just so bizarre and so corrupt that we laugh at the unconventional corruption. This is what happens when God abandons a society.

### Why God Abandons

We’ve seen what it looks like when God abandons people and nations, but why does He do it? *“The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”* **God has abandoned our society because our society has first abandoned God.**

There is no surer and no sadder evidence of a corrupted, wicked abandoned society than when that society will not tolerate anger against sin. Our society won’t tolerate anger against sin. Our soci-



ety feeds on sin and wants no one to deny its iniquities. The major reason God abandons is summed up in one statement: 'We suppress the truth.'

**In the western world we've had the Word of God for centuries. In America we've had it for centuries. But this nation and the world has suppressed the truth in unrighteousness; we have crushed it under the preferences for sin. You cannot plead ignorance in our country.**

So we look at a society today, in particularly here in America, and we see a people amazingly influenced by the gospel; yet we see a people who do not honor God. Go back to verse 21. "*They do not honor Him as God, they do not give thanks.*" That is to say they do not thank Him for being the source of everything they have.

Man's problem is not that he can't find God, or that he can't recognize God. Man's problem is not that he can't find the truth, or recognize the truth. It is that he will not. They don't want to honor God. To honor God would then cause them to be accountable to Him and to His law. Man would rather live without God in view at all.

The final straw comes in verse 23, "*They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*" **Men create their own gods to accommodate their own useless ideas. False religion is man at the bottom.**

You see, man does not ascend from the muck of paganism and ignorance up to the truth of God. That's not how it works. Man is not evolving up. He is descending. He falls from the truth of

God into the slime of satanic counterfeit. The ultimate insanity is to reject God and create a non-God that doesn't exist and worship that.

Is it any wonder that as a society then we are struggling with our ethics? Is it any wonder we are struggling with our morals? We have abandoned God and God has returned the favor.

### **Our Only Hope**

That brings the question, **Is there any hope? Is there any hope for this country? Is there any hope for the western world?**

All I can say is, there is a word of hope in Psalm 81. Let's look at verse 11. "But My people did not listen to My voice and Israel did not obey Me, so I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart to walk in their own devices." That's Romans 1. This happened to Israel.

But notice verse 13, "O that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways. I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their adversaries." And I love verse 16, "And I would feed you with the finest of the wheat and from honey from the rock I would satisfy you." This is a plaintive cry from God who says He would turn from abandoning them to defending them and protecting them!

The key is in the phrase "listen to Me" and "Walk in My ways." The only hope for this or any other society is to hear the Word of the Lord and obey it.

And I would suggest that this is not a good time for weak men preaching weak messages in weak churches. This is a time for bold and powerful, strong biblical ministry that calls people to hear

the Word of the Lord and respond.  
This is the only hope for any  
people or individual.

It's not too late until Jesus  
comes. We can keep preaching  
this word to the end of the earth,  
so that those under this wrath may  
be saved and escape the final and  
eternal wrath.

Oh, Lord, may there be a great  
revival of Your Word, and may people  
listen to it and obey it, to Your glory we  
ask these things. Amen.

From a sermon by John MacArthur.  
Available online at: [http://www.gty.org/Re-  
sources/sermons/80-314](http://www.gty.org/Resources/sermons/80-314)  
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Harvard College, 1720.



The First Sunday Worship at New Haven

## The Media: A Guiding Teacher

Josh Miller (Age 17)

With his eyes glued to the television set, little Johnny sits and absorbs all of the seductive messages that the television sends his way. Whether it is recognized or not, the television teaches little Johnny about life and what values he should live by. **His thoughts now center on danger, fury, and aggression; this causes little Johnny to pick fights at school, to argue with his parents, and to torment his fellow students.** Before anyone can tell what has gone wrong with little Johnny, John, the mature, immoral student of the television takes control. Instead of learning about violence, John now learns about drugs, sex, liquor, and cigarettes. John, having gained all the confidence and knowledge he needs from this teacher, goes forward into the world.

• • • • •

**Promoting sex and sexual behavior is the media's newest specialty.** Television and the media in general are eroding the foundation of morals in America. Social problems are erupting all over the country: school shooting, rape, abuse, racism, discrimination, hate, teen pregnancies and drugs. The responsibility that the media has in teaching and raising children must be tempered by involved parents as well as stimulating activities.

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In addition to the external effects of the media, the media also harms the mental and cognitive processes of chil-

dren. The realism of the media causes the children to imitate what they see on the television. This leads to the increase in violence, stress, sex, anxiety, and fear. Children feel as if everything that they see on the television is real, true, and right. They feel as if the right decision or action for them is to harm a fellow student. They feel as if sex is an everyday event that everyone is partaking in. This is because the media shows the students that sex and violence are common practice that every student uses and turns to.

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In order to break free of the binds that the media has wrapped around youth, society must first recognize the "TV should not be used as a babysitter" <sup>1</sup>. When society dwindles down to a fiber of being that uses the television as the main source of entertainment and knowledge, society has lost control over all of the adolescents that are nurtured by the television. Society instead must turn into a place in which parents develop and maintain control of the viewing habits of their children. In particular, parents must have accurate and reliable information on what shows contain violence, sexual messages, and vulgar language.

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By turning off the television, one would be sending a clear message to the media producers that media cannot glorify sex and violence. In order to stop the

(to p.59)



## VOICE OF THE YOUTHS

# Teenage Promiscuity in the United States

Anna J. Wiersema (Age 17)

The moral decay in America manifests itself in many ways, including the increasing rates of teenage promiscuity.

U.S. teens begin having sex younger than teens in Germany, France, and the Netherlands. American adolescents also demonstrate higher rates of birth and abortion <sup>1</sup>. Of the industrialized nations, the United States possesses the largest teen birthrate, which doubles the United Kingdom's and is approximately 15 times greater than Japan's <sup>2</sup>.

Neither left-wing nor right-wing groups deny the prevalence of teenage promiscuity and pregnancy in the United States.

Sexual education in schools should objectively assess all aspects of the issue, including abstinence and contraception. However, rather than just confronting students with their choices (including abstinence and contraception), teachers should also address the varying consequences of these choices in a professional and unbiased manner. Students should learn, for example, not only how to use various methods of contraception, but also their effectiveness and how they prevent birth. Effective education ought to clearly address all aspects of the issue and present them as they are in hope that adolescents will be able to make more informed choices regarding their sexuality.

Authorities as well as people developing these curricula must understand that teenagers tend to mold what they hear into their preconceived notions of sexual

activity, so broad education will not be able to change their minds and teach them healthy behavior. Furthermore, when listening to a biased message they do not completely support, teenagers find it easy to dismiss all issues addressed in the message rather than thinking about them and assessing their own views.

Besides incomplete policies on sexual education, the government's other grant policies addressing teenage promiscuity tend to be counter-productive. When the state facilitates abortion for minors, teens see it as a federal approval for promiscuity. Therefore, it must be understood that government aide often exacerbates the problems it seeks to solve.

If the nation seeks to combat teenage pregnancy, teenage promiscuity must be addressed. If teenage promiscuity is reduced, the hearts and minds of teenagers must be changed.

**Therefore, families must take ultimate responsibility for their communities. Parents, who exert the greatest influence in their children's life, must strive to exemplify virtues and provide their families with a solid moral base.** They must also demonstrate how to make decisions based on such a foundation. Then, when their kids become teenagers they will know how to discern and make responsible choices. **Strong families are essential in preventing promiscuity.**

**However, in modern times the family has been eroded. When parents do not fulfill their roles, children often**



**become raised by their friends and by the media.**

In the same way, the church can bolster the work of parents as well as taking responsibility for fractured families. **By influencing kids and teens to make healthy decisions, the church can halt the tendency of teenage promiscuity.**

**Ideally the church and the family should work together to teach and guide the children to make the best decisions.** This involves active participation and perseverance on the part of both these institutions. Although apathy provides an easier course, it only facilitates the escalation of social and moral decay. Such dilemmas, including teenage promiscuity, will only intensify until the church and the family choose to take responsibility for their youth and actively rebuild their broken communities.

(Selected excerpts)

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*(continued from p.57)*

moral degradation in society, the people must take a stand collectively.

The world is filled with many additional, beneficial, benevolent activities that children could be focusing on. With current standings, it is impossible for parents to make sound, thought-out decisions about the media and its alternatives.

This implies that the parents must be given accurate and reliable information about the programs that the media offers. The parents have the children's best interest at heart, not the media. Therefore, the

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League. "Abstinence-Only Sex Education Cannot Reduce Teenage Pregnancy." *Opposing Viewpoints: Teenage Pregnancy*. Ed. Auriana Ojeda. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2003. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Thomson Gale. ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL - REGION 10. 8 Dec. 2007. <<http://find.galegroup.com/ovrc/infomark.do?&contentSet=GSRC&type=retrieve&tabID=T010&prodId=OVRC&docId=EJ3010165250&source=gale&srcprod=OVRC&userGroupName=tlc109013539&version=1.0>>.

<sup>2</sup> Garth, Lakita. "Abstinence-Only Sex Education Can Reduce Teenage Pregnancy." *Opposing Viewpoints: Teenage Pregnancy*. Ed. Auriana Ojeda. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2003. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Thomson Gale. ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL - REGION 10. 8 Dec. 2007 <<http://find.galegroup.com/ovrc/infomark.do?&contentSet=GSRC&type=retrieve&tabID=T010&prodId=OVRC&docId=EJ3010165249&source=gale&srcprod=OVRC&userGroupName=tlc109013539&version=1.0>>.

parents need to make decision about the children and the programming for children, not the media.

(Selected excerpts)

Note:

1 "CITY: Exposure of children to scenes of violence on TV affect their personality." PPI – Pakistan Press International (June 28, 2004): NA. General OneFile. Gale. West Ottawa Public Schools. 11 Oct. 2007. <<http://find.galegroup.com/ips/start.do?prodID=IPS>>.

VOICE OF THE YOUTHS

## Speaking Out in Love: The Facts About Homosexuality

Danielle Myers (Age 16)

**When we received the wedding invitation, I realized that my aunt was a lesbian.** I was quite young then, and my parents explained to me their relationship. I had met my aunt's friend before, at the Race for the Cure. She played with my sister and I and give us piggy-back rides. About a year later, we were invited to their house to see their children—a boy and a girl, twins, the children of my aunt and an anonymous donor. They were adorable, climbing up onto my lap with their colorful toys and opening their little mouths to receive bites of chocolate cake. But I couldn't help but pray for them, as I walked out the door, and wondered, "When you grow up and find out why you don't have a daddy, will you be as confused as I am?" It isn't that I don't love my aunt. It's just that I can't support what they've chosen, because **I know the facts. I know that the same-sex marriage and the homosexual lifestyle is not equal to that of traditional marriage, because it hurts the individuals involved, it hurts their children, and it hurts their society.**

Homosexual couples may love their adopted children, but love is not sufficient, because children need both a mother and a father for healthy development. The role of a father cannot be replaced by two, albeit well-meaning, mothers. Having both a mother and a father provides a child with the chance to learn how to relate to and comfortably interact with both genders in an appropriate way.

A father is extremely important, because he provides his son with a positive male figure to identify with and look up to. A father teaches his son how to control his aggressive male behaviors in a way that a mother cannot. Fathers also give their daughters a chance to have the femininity affirmed in a loving, non-sexual relationship, avoiding the trap of inappropriate male attention. Mothers and fathers each bring certain qualities to a family that the opposite sex cannot provide, even with the best intentions.

It is clear that without these qualities, a homosexual couple is unequipped to properly raise a child. Children of homosexual couples who are the opposite sex of their parents are often insecure about their own self-image, because they lack the attention of the opposite sex in a healthy parental relationship. They also often feel excluded from their parent's world and friends, and many feel poorly about their own body and sexuality because their gender is considered less important.

Not only do these children have to suffer for their parents' behavior, the whole nation will eventually feel the effects of it. A society that legalizes same-sex marriage on the basis of allowing any couple who loves each other to get married must face some tough questions. If two people who are in love can marry, regardless of sex, what about someone who is in love with his sister, or his mother, or an animal? What about pedo-

philes, polygamists?

Legalizing same-sex marriage will threaten society at large. Right now in the USA, high schoolers can be disciplined for refusing to support gay rights assemblies and events at their school. Children as young as the second grade, are being taught in school that same-sex marriage is acceptable, and equivalent to traditional marriage. The parents have no say in this, though it should be a personal choice, based on a family's religious and moral values. Not only are the rights of parents in the rearing of their children threatened; religious rights are being threatened as well. **If same-sex marriage is legalized, churches may not be allowed to teach from the Bible about homosexuality.** This is completely against the principles that America was founded on.

Tragic, yes, but not unrealistic. Those who are against same-sex marriage are not homophobic or haters of homosexuals. They just know the facts, and the consequences.

**I am speaking out because I love people, and I don't want them to get hurt. I don't want my aunt to die early; I don't want to see her son grow up and feel unaccepted, and I don't want to see her daughter grow up feeling inferior to her mother's partners. I don't want to grow up myself and have my children exposed to this lifestyle in their schools. So I have to speak now, before it's too late, before my chance is gone.**

(Selected excerpts)



Signing of Mayflower Compact, 1620

## VOICE OF THE YOUTHS

# The Prevention of Abortion

Allie Wunderlich (Age 16)

Julie Green, a 17 year old high school dropout from a small town in Colorado, meekly enters a small brick building. She is greeted by a short, middle aged woman who witnesses Julie's situation much too frequently. When asked if ready, the teen gives a slight nod and is escorted to a back room. After a short procedure bearing lifelong consequences, Julie exits the building with a heavy heart and a guilty conscience. She has just experienced her first abortion.

The above situation is occurring much too frequently in this day and age, and it is imperative that we, as citizens of the United States and the makers of the country's future, put a stop to it.

The government should be focusing less on promotion of contraceptives to teenagers, and more on education about the consequences of premarital sex. There should also be more emphasis placed on adoption. Instead of promoting abortion, agencies should encourage and support adoption first and foremost.

There are various methods to lessen this epidemic. As mentioned previously, we should be placing more emphasis on the value of abstinence. Contraceptives can easily fail, but abstinence is 100% foolproof. We should be promoting the value of abstaining until marriage, which would not only prevent unwanted pregnancies, but also build marital trust within relationships. With contraceptives readily available, partners are free to have irresponsible sexual relations which lead to

unwanted pregnancies and therefore to abortion.

Another method we should be using is censorship on television programs. If we focused our media on positive, morally sound programming, sexual relations outside of marriage wouldn't be so acceptable, and seen everyday by the public. People would be more apt to keep responsible relationships and therefore we would reduce the pregnancy rate. Reducing the pregnancy rate would lead to a reduced want for abortions.

Promoting family values is another way to reduce the need for abortions. Statistics show that teens who have strong emotional attachments to their parents are much less likely to become sexually active at an early age. Also, teens who have been raised by the same mother and father (together) since birth are less likely to have sex than teens who grow up in a different family situation. Just by reducing the sexual activity of teens, we can reduce the need for abortions.

(Selected excerpts)



PART II

FROM UNBELIEF  
TO  
REPENTANCE

— *America in Restoration* —



## Repentance and Healing

*“If my people, who are called by my name,  
will humble themselves and pray and seek my  
face and turn from their wicked ways, then will  
I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin  
and will heal their land.”*

—II Chronicles 7:14

(Scripture taken from the Holy Bible New International Version. Copyright(c) 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used with permission from Zondervan Bible Publishers.)

## Repentance of Nineveh

*“ Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.’ Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days. On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: ‘Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.’ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: ‘By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways, and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.’ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.”*

—Jonah 3:1 - 10

(Scripture taken from the Holy Bible New International Version. Copyright(c) 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used with permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.)



# Christ's Words to His Church

—Commendation, Condemnation, Admonition, Reward—  
(Revelation 1-3)

	Character-istics	Commend-ation	Condem-nation	Admonition	Reward
Church in Ephesus	Program-oriented	Deeds, hard work, perseverance	Forsook first love	Repent	The tree of life
Church in Smyrna	Suffering, martyrdom	You are rich		Faithful unto death	A crown of life
Church in Pergamum	Paganized		The seat of Satan	Repent	Hidden manna
Church in Thyratira	Apostate	Work, love, faith, service, patience, deeds	Spiritual adultery, unwilling to repent	Hold on to what you have	Power over the nations
Church in Sardis	Alive but dead	Works	Deeds incomplete	Remember, obey, repent	The book of life
Church in Philadel-phia	Revived, global mission	Kept my word, kept my name		An open door	Pillar in God's temple
Church in Laodicea	Lukewarm		Wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, naked	Be zealous, repent	Seated with Christ

N.B. The seven churches in Asia represent different types of churches throughout different ages.

# Knowing the Heart of God

Henry Blackaby | Norman Blackaby

The historical events in recent years have included so many tragedies of epic proportion, bringing many reminders of the powerful hold of darkness upon our world. Every time one of these major events happens, it gives us a spiritual wake-up call. We sense God asking us all, “Do you know what could be prevented if you would only pray?”

In such a time as this—in these days of our flesh—what could be more important for us than to understand what is on the heart of God regarding revival and spiritual awakening in our land and in our world?

(Excerpted and adopted from “*Experiencing Prayer with Jesus*” by Intercessors For America. Used with permission.)



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

# Speak Up!

Frankly, the silent Christian leaders of America are more responsible for the moral decadence and breakdown of the republic than any other contributing force.

Historically, do-nothing Christian leadership bears in part the responsibility for such atrocities as the Civil War and the holocaust of Jews in Germany. In either case, the majority of churches were not vociferous enough on the sinfulness of these actions to bring the evil to a swift conclusion.

One of the results of the thousands of silent leaders regarding the sacredness of life is the Supreme Court's legalizing abortion on demand. Since the court's 1973 decision, over a million babies a year have been literally torn from the womb and thrown away as garbage. The horrors of this holocaust go unmentioned in most religious circles.

Those people who say, "I'm against abortion but I don't think you should have a law to stop it" are really saying the same thing as "I'm against slavery, but if you want to have a slave that's up to you."

If an action is morally wrong and degrading to the civil and human rights of any person, then it should be against the law. Laws are made to protect human and civil rights, and Christians should not be afraid to say so.

— Jerry Falwell, Pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church

(Selected excerpts from *Christians in the Political Arena* by Vernon McLellan. Reprinted with permission from Mary McLellan)

## The Debacle of Liberalism

Will we return to the gospel or just merge into the cosmic woodwork?

Eternity Editorial (1972)

Only five years ago, headlines were announcing the death of God. It was the pinnacle of the great edifice known as liberal theology.

Today, at the dawn of 1972, it is quite obvious that God is still alive and well. Magazine articles are writing obituaries for liberal theology. The great edifice has collapsed.

One entire issue of *Context*, Martin Marty's keen and terse monthly commentary on the religious world, was devoted to "The Eclipse of Religious Liberalism." With Reinhold Niebuhr gone, Marty says, "There is a leadership shortage in liberalism." (Bultmann and Tillich have previously passed from the scene.)

With liberal-leaning executives being axed from denominational staff jobs by the money squeeze, they lack a platform from which to speak. Many liberals are forsaking the church altogether; for them it is either too conservative theologically, or too self-centered institutionally.

Pet causes of liberal theologians attract few big donors; and fewer books are aimed toward the liberal religious market.

Why? Marty blames the eclipse partly on the liberal theology (or secular theology) itself. He says, "At its heart there was a reductionism: 'How little baggage do I have to carry to be considered Christian?'"

"How does one come to terms with eternal destiny, ultimate questions, vital issues of meaning? Only a faith which addresses these concerns can continue to

produce courageous prophets and troops for a new movement." Marty notes that religious liberalism disdained such concerns.

As a result, when young people started asking ultimate questions, liberalism had no answers. Instead it could offer only despair. What else is left when you have declared that God is dead? When you've torn the Scriptures to shreds, debunked incarnate deity, and demythologized every historic doctrine—in short, when you have sold out to anti-supernaturalism, despair is inevitable.

To make matters worse, in recent years liberalism has been grasping at other religions—Buddhism, Islam, pantheism—in the effort to piece together a syncretistic world faith. The liberals' mood of despair fits in well with the fatalism and hopeless determinism of the East. Thus, liberalism, which in its nobler days boasted of the glory of man, now dehumanizes man and can think of nothing finer than to merge its victims into cosmic nothingness.

It is against this equivocating stance and gloomy mood that Professor Peter Berger's striking address to last fall's meeting of the Consultation on Church Union is to be seen. He reminds us that the Christian faith offers not a social but a *religious* message—and that it is a message of hope, not despair.

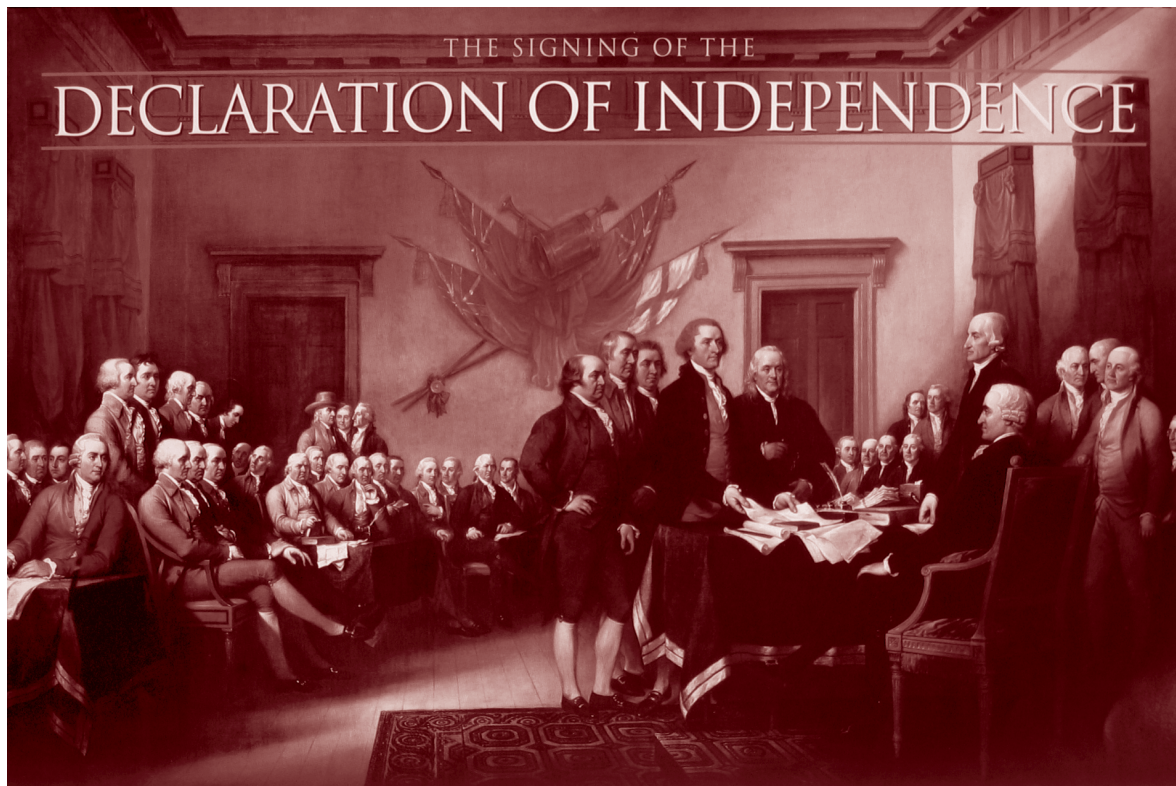
To be sure, liberalism has painted modern man into a corner. But he has an option: he can disappear into the cosmic



woodwork, or he can look up to the God who lives.

If modern man wishes to discover the meaning of life he must be challenged to return to the old message of hope, the gospel of Jesus Christ. And that means looking up. Salvation is only from above.

(From Editorial, *Eternity* January, 1972 issue. Used with permission of Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals Inc., [www.AllianceNet.org](http://www.AllianceNet.org), 2006)



Drafting Committee submitting Declaration of Independence to Congress

## Prayer of National Repentance

“Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, “Woe to those who call evil good”, but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We confess that,

We have *ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word* and called it *Pluralism*;

We have *worshipped other gods* and called it *multiculturalism*;

We have *endorsed perversion* and called it *alternative lifestyle*;

We have *exploited the poor* and called it the *lottery*;

We have *rewarded laziness* and called it *welfare*;

We have *killed our unborn* and called it *choice*;

We have *shot abortionists* and called it *justifiable*;

We have *neglected to discipline our children* and called it *building self-esteem*;

We have *abused power* and called it *politics*;

We have *coveted our neighbor's possessions* and called it *ambition*;

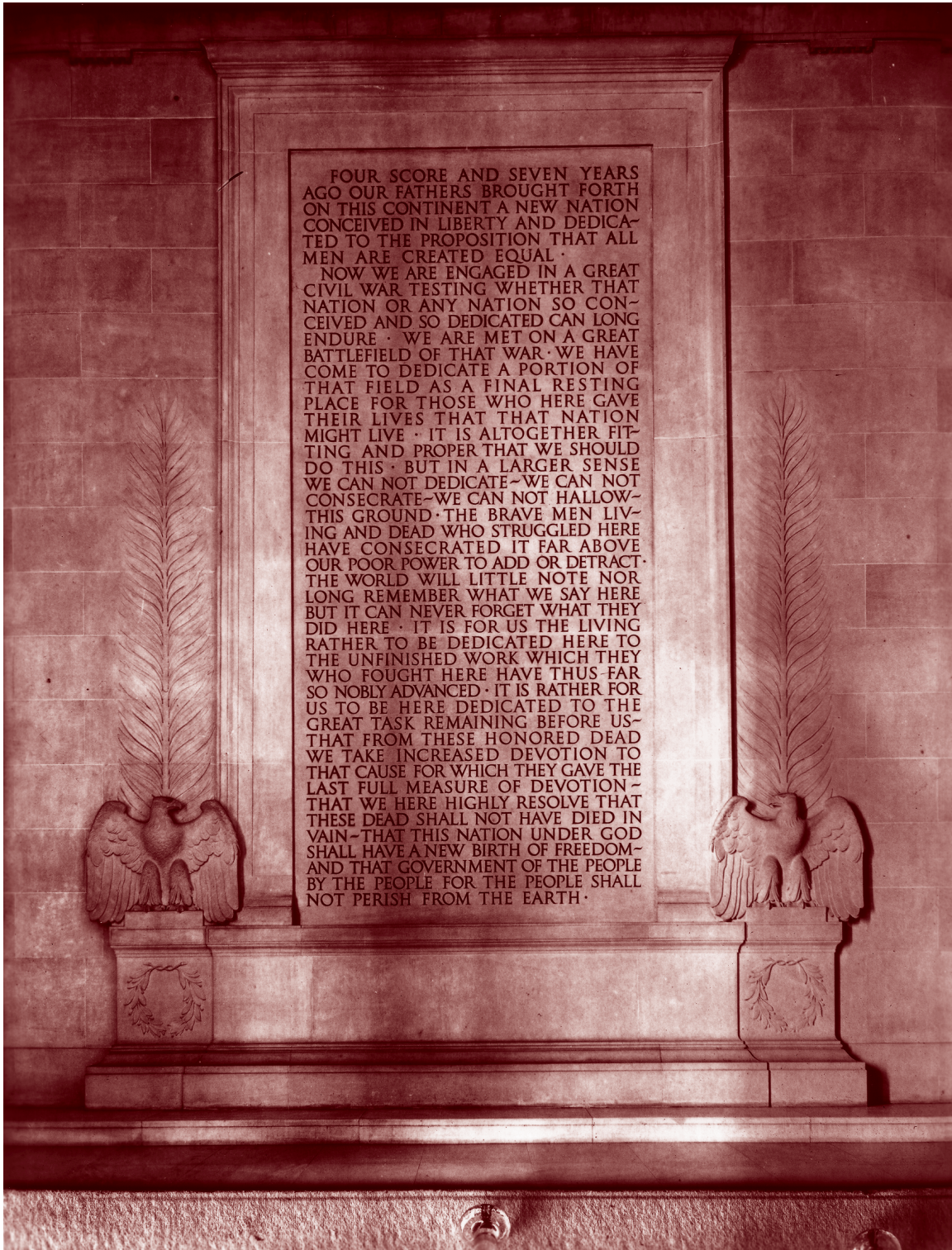
We have *polluted the air with profanity and pornography* and called it *freedom of expression*;

We have *ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers* and called it *enlightenment*.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent; to direct us to the center of Your will and to openly ask these things in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.”

*(Offered by the Rev. Joe Wright  
at the new session of the Kansas Senate, January, 1996)*





## The Gettysburg Address

Abraham Lincoln  
November 19, 1863

## Christianizing America?

D. James Kennedy

There are some who would accuse us of trying to Christianize America. Am I trying to Christianize America? You bet your boots I am! Jesus Christ's last commandment to the Church was: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15). I am not only trying to Christianize America, I am trying to Christianize every country in the world through the Gospel. And, my friends, I think that will be the greatest blessing that those countries will have ever known, and history attests to that fact.

Some act as if that were some sort of un-American thing to do. May I simply remind that of their own history. The very first charter given to the very first settlers in this nation was The Virginia Charter of 1606 which laid out the purposes for the Jamestown landing in 1607. It stated that they came to Jamestown "for the propagating of the Christian religion to such as live in darkness and utter ignorance of the true worship of Almighty God." My friends, it is not the Indians in America who live in utter darkness and ignorance of the true worship of God. Today there are millions of others walking our streets who are just as benighted as anyone ever has been in the darkness parts of this world. It is our job to propagate the Christian religion to them.

Or considerate the Mayflower Compact—the birth certificate of America—which says that the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth and went to choose a place of

settlement where they could express to the fullest potential of all that God has built into them for brotherhood and love and peace and justice, and offer it all up to the glory of God. That, my friends, is our high and glorious calling! By the grace of God may we do it!

(Excerpted from *Christian in the Political Arena* by Vernon McLellan, published by Associates Press. 1984. p.163. Used with permission from Mary McLellan)

Humanistic, atheistic secularism has become in effect the religion of our land. Creation may not be taught in the schools created by this Declaration (of Independence). Hopefully, the time is not far off when someone will have the courage to take this situation to the courts and challenge it. Twice the Supreme Court has declared that humanism is a religion, yet it continues to be taught as the very fact, fabric, substance and substratum of all our education. When shall we stand up and say, "No more!"?

—D. James Kennedy



# Our Covenant for America's Second 400 Years

The Assembly 2007

In the name of God, Amen. <sup>1</sup> We humble ourselves before the divine Author of our individual and national existence. <sup>2</sup> and ask Him to provide a safe journey for us and our children through our nation's next four hundred years. <sup>3</sup> Almighty God rules over the universe. He is the Lord of our bodies and our minds. <sup>4</sup> He presides in the councils of nations. <sup>5</sup>

He is the great Provider of all public and private good. <sup>6</sup> That was, that is, or that will be. <sup>7</sup> Throughout our history, He has been our constant friend. <sup>8</sup> Humbly we approach His throne with praise for the wonders which He has done and with gratitude for His glorious light of the gospel, whereby, through the merits of the gracious Redeemer, we may ourselves become the heirs of God's eternal glory. <sup>9</sup> We commit to Him that our first and principal desire is to assist our families and neighbors to come to the true worship of God as He is revealed in the Bible. <sup>10</sup>

We acknowledge that the Bible is itself the government of the People, by the People, and for the People. <sup>11</sup> We remain convinced that the only legitimate purpose of government is to promote the welfare of mankind. <sup>12</sup> and to secure God-given rights, <sup>13</sup> therefore, we should choose leaders who entirely love and will promote the common good. <sup>14</sup> Our public officials need to be a praying people and a prayed-for people. <sup>15</sup>

We ask the God of Wisdom, the Great Governor of the World, to encourage our leaders to create laws that would honor Him and be in keeping with His Word. <sup>16</sup>

We recognize that our blessings of liberty cannot be preserved unless we firmly adhere to <sup>17</sup> the foundations of our national policy which were laid in the eternal rules which God Himself ordained. <sup>18</sup> When we as individuals are not influenced by those moral principles, we look in vain for public virtue. <sup>19</sup> Recognition of the Supreme Being has always been the first and most basic expression of Americanism. <sup>20</sup> but even those who do not believe in God receive the blessings of our nation's settled and quiet Government. <sup>21</sup> because God's fundamental principles of liberty formed the basis on which our nation's laws were erected. <sup>22</sup>

We realize, however, that we are a nation of differing and often competing faiths, a body politic comprised of freemen, rather than a religious dictatorship imposed upon the unwilling. <sup>23</sup> The manner in which we carry out the duty we owe to our Creator can be directed only by reason and conviction, and not by force or violence. <sup>24</sup>

Our citizenship duties are to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other. <sup>25</sup> Bigotry is simply inconsistent with our declaration. <sup>26</sup> that Creator God made all men equally free, endowed with inherent rights for the enjoyment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. <sup>27</sup> These truths are self-evident and need no other proof, <sup>28</sup> and we will not, and can not, sell these gifts from God, or give them away. <sup>29</sup>

We depend solely upon the Great Arbiter of the Universe by whom empires

rise and fall,<sup>30</sup> and the Invisible Hand<sup>31</sup> which has given us the choicest bounties of Heaven. We recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. We humble ourselves before God's power, confess our national sins, and pray for His forgiveness.<sup>32</sup> Lord, we sing "In God Is our Trust" to you in a united chorus.<sup>33</sup>

Grant us a new birth of freedom in You, so that our government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth,<sup>34</sup> but shall continue as one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.<sup>35</sup> All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ.

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3. Ezra 8:31
4. Jefferson, Thomas VIRGINIA STATUTE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY (January 16, 1786)
5. Washington, George, WASHINGTON'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS (April 30, 1789)
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7. WASHINGTON'S THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION (October 3, 1789)
8. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S REQUEST FOR DAILY PRAYER IN CONGRESS, Recorded in James Madison's notes (June 28, 1787)
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11. Wycliffe, John, GENERAL PROLOGUE OF THE WYCLIFFE TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE (1382)
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15. Pory, John, PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST AMERICAN LEGISLATURE (July 30, 1619)
16. Rev. Mr. Duche, 1ST Resolution of the Continental Congress (Sept. 6, 1774); and Dickinson, John ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION (November 15, 1777)
17. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 15 (June 12, 1776); and THE NORTHWEST ORDINANCE, Art. 3 (July 13, 1787)
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19. ADDRESS OF THE SENATE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (May 7, 1789); and WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS (September 19, 1796)
20. Ford, Gerald, Proclamation 4338 - National Day of Prayer, 1974, quoting President Dwight D. Eisenhower
21. FIRST CHARTER OF VIRGINIA (April 10, 1606)
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23. ROBINSON, JOHN "LONG LETTER" TO THE SPEEDWELL-MAYFLOWER COMPANY (July 27, 1620)

24. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 16 (June 12, 1776)

25. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 16 (June 12, 1776)

26. Quock Walker v. Nathaniel Jennison, (J. Cushing, Massachusetts, 1783)

27. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 1 (June 12, 1776); DECLARATION AND RESOLVE OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, Art.1, (October 14, 1774)

28. Jefferson, Thomas, DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (July 4th, 1776)

29. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 1 (June 12, 1776)

30. ADDRESS OF THE SENATE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF

THE UNITED STATES (May 7, 1789)

31. ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (May 5, 1789)

32. Lincoln, Abraham PROCLAMATION OF a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer, (March 30, 1863)

33. The National Anthem (last stanza), Adopted By Congress, (March 3, 1931)

34. Lincoln, Abraham The Gettysburg Address, (November 19, 1863)

35. Pledge of Allegiance Adopted By Congress (June 14, 1954)



The Church was the Center of Society  
in the Early Colonies.

# 12 Principles that Made America Great

## — Eternal Rules of Order —

Bill McCarthy

Our first president, George Washington, stated in his first inaugural address, “The propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right that heaven itself has ordained.” What are these eternal rules of order ordained by heaven itself that made the United States so great?

America became a great nation not because she had a wealth of natural resources or a population of intellectual giants. America became great because, as a country, we adhered to those eternal rules of order and right which heaven, itself, had ordained.

### **I. A Nation Under God**

The first principle, therefore, is that we were a nation under God. Our founding fathers explicitly founded this nation as a nation under God. They took a positive and definitive stand for God and for the Bible. They founded this nation upon the laws of nature (the nature law) and the laws of nature’s God (the Bible). That was the bedrock foundation of this country. That was the rock upon which our nation was built. We were a God-fearing people.

### **II. Unalienable Right to Life**

The second principle upon which we were founded was the God-given, inalienable dignity and right to life of every American citizen. (As a nation, “we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men

are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights,” the first of which is the right to life, then liberty and the pursuit of happiness.) the dignity of the human person is foundational in the American political scheme. Our Founding father realized that this dignity was not granted by the state or by a dictator or even by the vote of the people. It was the dignity given from above by God Himself.

This dignity was so ingrained in each American citizen that it was also inalienable. In other words, this dignity could not be subverted, denied or taken away by any force on earth; not by the president nor even by the Supreme Court. This God-given, inalienable dignity was so clearly taught that it was considered self-evident. In short, even if you had not read the Bible or ever heard a sermon, you would know it intuitively. It was that clear that every single American citizen had the right to his dignity and the right to life and freedom, as well.

### **III. Ordered Freedom**

The third principle was the principle of liberty. Our history was one of freedom, but freedom ordered to the laws of nature and the laws of nature’s God. Our sounding cry is ‘liberty and justice for all!’ we could not be forced to accept religious, political or economic oppression. We were to be a free people. Even slavery was considered as un-American. So important was this to the American people, that we fought the Civil War to assure every citizen that they had the



right to freedom.

#### **IV. Traditional Family**

The fourth principle was the principle of the traditional monogamous family. Because America was founded upon the Judaic-Christian ethic, as a nation we were pro-family and, even more so, for the traditional monogamous family. As a nation, we believed that marriage was between one man and one woman fully entered into for the procreation and education of children for life. As a nation, we respected the awesome dignity of marriage, womanhood and sexuality. Sodomy and pornography, therefore, were outlawed in this country right from our inception, as were divorce and the oppression of woman.

#### **V. Common Decency**

The fifth principle was the principle of common decency. Flowing from the previous principle of respect for traditional family life, is the principle of common decency. Not only was pornography outlawed throughout the land but vulgarity in the open forum was outlawed, as well. Proper dress was always modest.

#### **VI. A Solid Work Ethic**

The sixth principle is that of a Judaic-Christian work ethic. As a people, we realized that we were to work in union with God on the ongoing creation of the world. America was founded upon the dignity of hard work. Our free enterprise system encouraged ambition, incentive and competition, as well as, blood, sweat and tears.

### **VII. A God Ordained Covenant**

The seventh principle is the principle of covenant. As a people raised with a proper understanding of God's covenant, we realized that we were working in union with Him. "I will be your God and you will be my people." we trusted in His divine providence. Or, as John F. Kennedy expressed it "Let us go forward with God's blessing but realizing that, here on earth, God's work must truly be our own." (Inaugural Address).

### **VIII. God Centered Education**

The eighth principle is the principle of God-centered education. Just as the Bible and the New England primer were the official textbooks throughout our land, all education was to be God-centered. As already noted, the first colleges in this country were Christian and every student had to do at least these three things: to attend chapel service on Sunday, to read the Bible and say their prayers every day, and to practice the Judaic-Christian moral code.

### **IX. Divinely Ordained Homes**

The ninth principle is the principle of divinely ordained establishments. The first of these divinely-ordained establishments was the home. The home was always considered the basic unit of our society. Our Founding Fathers realized that our country would only be as strong as the home where mothers and fathers not only loved each other, but truly loved their children and where children, in return, truly respected, loved and honored their parents. Parental responsibility was supreme and all teachers would teach in the place of parents themselves.

## **X. Divinely Ordained State**

The tenth principle is the second divinely ordained establishment which is the state. As a people, we were taught to respect civil authority and to pray for our leaders. We were also strongly encouraged to elect righteous men; and we were strongly warned over and over again that if we did not do so, catastrophe would follow. William Penn, for example, said, quoting Proverbs 29:2, “When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people roam.” Noah Webster stated, “When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers, ‘just men who will rule in the fear of God.’ The preservation of [our] government depends on the faithful discharge of the duty. If the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded.”

## **XI. A National Respect for the Church**

The eleventh principle is based on the third divinely ordained establishment which was the church. Our Founding Fathers clearly wanted the Bible to be the main source book of our government. Blackstone’s commentary on the law read like a Bible. “Our laws reflect the teachings of Jesus.” (Supreme Court, 1892)

## **XII. Freedom of Religion**

The twelfth principle is freedom of religion. The primary purpose of the es-

tablishment of the United States was freedom of religion. Every American citizen was free to express their own religious conviction.

These 12 principles made America great. These principles were expressed in Samuel Rutherford’s *Lex, Rex*. “Unlike the governments of Europe that assured the divine right of kings, all men in America, even our rulers, were to be under the law of God as revealed through the Scriptures and not above it.” Though Rutherford died before his concepts were implemented, his principles lived on. John Witherspoon brought these principles into the Constitution. The renowned jurist, William Blackstone, embodied the tenets of Judaic-Christian theism in his commentaries. These commentaries were not merely an approach to the study of our laws but, for a Christian, believed that the fear of the Lord was the beginning of wisdom, thus he opened his commentaries with a careful analysis of the law of God as revealed in the Scriptures. He took it as self-evident that God is the source of all laws, whether they were found in the Scriptures or observable in nature. His presuppositions were thoroughly Christian, founded upon the belief that there was an Almighty God who personally governed in the affairs of men. And as a consequence, Americans were bound by those laws as they were to other absolutes. Blackstone’s influence is clearly expressed in the Declaration of Independence where it speaks of ‘the laws of nature and the laws of nature’s God’.

### **The Bible**

John Quincy Adams would say, “The first and almost only book deserving of universal attention is the Bible.”

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# Has America Passed the Point of NO Return?

David R. Reagan

In a sermon delivered in 1989 at Times Square Church in New York City, Pastor Dave Wilkerson electrified his audience with the proclamation that America has passed the point of no return in its rebellion against God and has thus been destined by God for final judgment. He began the sermon with the following words:

“America is dying! The country’s wound is incurable. It is now in the final throes of a terminal disease. The great empire is crumbling!”

## The Message Summarized

The crucial points made by Wilkerson in this historic prophetic declaration were as follows:

1. America is a sinful nation that is currently experiencing the judgment of God.
2. God has raised up many prophetic voices to call America to repentance and to warn that continued rebellion will lead to doom.
3. America has refused to listen to these prophets. Instead, the nation has stiffened in its rebellion against God.
4. The result is that America has passed the point of no return, when God delivers a nation from judgment to destruction.
5. And thus, the wrath of God is about to fall on this nation, most likely in the form of an economic collapse from which there will be no recovery.

## A Mocking Nation

It is an ominous message of truth that Americans, even Christians, will rebel against God. The Christian community has compromised its values with the world, it has wrapped itself in the flag of patriotism, and it has deceived itself with its pollyanna gospel of health, wealth and prosperity.

When God sent prophets to Israel and Judah, calling them to repentance, the people mocked the prophets. We are God’s Chosen People, they reminded the prophets, God will never allow our nation to be destroyed. (Jeremiah 5:12-13 and Micah 3:11.)

For the past thirty years God has been raising up prophetic voices in America voices like Dave Wilkerson calling this country for repentance. We have reacted in the same manner as the ancient Israelites. We have mocked the prophets by arrogantly reminding them that we are a Christian nation.

## A Nation Under Judgment

But the truth is that we are anything but a Christian nation. Our behavior as a nation makes a mockery of Christianity. We lead the world in every abomination known to man; abortion, alcoholism, drug addiction, gambling, divorce, child abuse, violent crime, pornography, and yes, even child pornography. Worse yet, we export our violence and immorality to other

countries through our sleazy movies and television programs. We have become the moral polluter of planet earth.

And we are reaping what we have sown. The judgment of God is upon this nation. (Read Deuteronomy 28:15-48). The curses of a nation under judgment are listed there. The passage reads like a detailed description of American cities in chaos, youth in bondage, government in confusion, a foreign policy in retreat, rampant disease, epidemic divorce, agricultural calamity, and increasing foreign domination.

### **A Nation in Rebellion**

Yet, despite these judgments, we have refused to repent. In fact, we have stiffened in our rebellion against God. In our schools we have abolished prayer, removed the Ten Commandments, and banned the distribution of Bibles. We have terrorized our teachers into believing they will lose their jobs if they mention God to their students. We have even mandated the teaching of atheistic evolution and have prohibited the truth of creationism.

We are in the process of legalizing and even encouraging sodomy. We are handing out condoms and needles to our youth. We are going out of our way to protect every expression of profanity and obscenity. Our state governments are encouraging immorality by promoting gambling in every conceivable form. And our artists are wallowing in blasphemy, using every form of artistic expression to mock and ridicule God.

America is thumbing its nose at God. The Supreme Court is in rebellion against God. Our Congress is hardened against

God. Our Bureaucracy could care less about God. Our educational system has banned God.

### **A Nation Facing Wrath**

The chilling thing about our behavior as a nation is that the Bible teaches that when a nation under judgment refuses to repent, it will ultimately reach a point where God will deliver it from judgment to wrath from discipline to doom. The Bible further teaches that when this terrible point of dread release is reached, the nation cannot be saved even by the prayer of the Righteous! (Read Ezekiel 14:12-20).

Has America reached that point? Dave Wilkerson, God's Jeremiah for our time, says we have. I think Wilkerson is right on target.

How will God's wrath be manifested toward us? Initially, it is most likely to come in the form of an economic collapse from which there will be no hope of recovery. Ultimately, it is likely to be consummated in our destruction by nuclear weapons.

As we face the consequences of our war against God, let those of us who are Christians do so with hope in our hearts, remembering the words of Nahum 1:7 *"The Lord is good. He is a stronghold in the day of trouble. And he knows those who take refuge in Him."*

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# The United States in Bible Prophecy

David R. Reagan

Where is the United States in Bible prophecy? It is the question I am asked wherever I go. A partial answer is that we are not mentioned directly and specifically. We are covered by general prophecies that relate to all nations, but beyond that, our end time destiny is not specifically mentioned. However, I believe America can be found in Bible prophecy, not specifically, but in prophetic type. In other words, I believe there is a nation in Scripture that is a forerunner of America in its origin, its purpose, and its destiny.

## America's Prophetic Type

I believe the biblical prophetic type of the United States is the nation of Judah. This was the southern nation that was formed when the united kingdom of David and Solomon broke up after Solomon's death.

The northern nation of Israel, consisting of ten tribes, was born in rebellion, and it was never blessed by God. Throughout its 208-year history it never had one king who was considered to be righteous in the eyes of God.

In stark contrast, the southern kingdom of Judah, which contained both the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish temple, was blessed like no other nation that had ever existed. The nation was given eight righteous kings during its 344 years of existence. The combined rule of those kings constituted 224 years of the nation's history. These included great men of God

like Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah. This godly leadership produced a nation blessed with freedom, prosperity, justice and peace.

But the nation's greatest blessing was the presence of God Himself in the form of His Shekinah Glory which resided in the Jewish Temple, Holy of Holies.

## The American Parallel

No other nation has since been so richly blessed except the United States of America. God gave us a great expanse of territory filled with every conceivable natural resource. Additionally, He gave us the ingenuity to harness our natural resources and talents to produce the greatest wealth the world had ever known.

Like ancient Judah, God blessed us with godly political leaders who loved Him and who cherished freedom. He also gave us great spiritual leaders who preached the gospel with zeal and developed a citizenry grounded in Christian principles of justice and brotherhood.

And working through our wealth and churches, the Lord sent forth missionaries all over the world to establish churches and translate the Bible into many languages.

It would be great if we could conclude our comparison of Judah and America at this point. But unfortunately, the parallels in the histories of the two nations do not end here.

## Pride and Rebellion

When Judah reached the height of her glory as nation, the people began to wallow in pride, and this led to rebellion against God and His Word.

Often when I am asked, where is the United States in Bible Prophecy? I respond by saying, look in Isaiah Chapter 5. Or consider Jeremiah 5 and 6. I say that because these chapters contain an inventory of the national sins of Judah as catalogued by Isaiah and Jeremiah, and they are the same sins that characterize American society today.

## Destruction

Judah refused to repent, and God finally responded by sending the Babylonians to destroy the nation. One of the saddest passages in the Bible is found in 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 where the writer describe God's painful decision to destroy His beloved nation of Judah. It reads as follows:

And the Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers. Because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place: but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, until there was no remedy. (2 Chronicles 36:15,16)

Judah was destroyed for committing the same sins that characterize the United States today. Why should our fate be any different?

We have been blessed like Judah.

We have sinned like Judah.

We are now being warned like Judah.

We are responding like Judah.

The conclusion seems inescapable: We are heading for the same fate as Judah.

What is that fate likely to be? What form will it take? We can only guess, because the Bible is silent.

## Economic Collapse

The first thing that comes of mind is an economic catastrophe that will result from our out of control debt situation. The official outstanding debt of the U.S. government is current 6.2 trillion dollars. That amounts to \$21,540 per person. This debt is increasing at the rate of 1.1 billion per day! Private debt is even more horrendous. At the beginning of the 21st century, there was a staggering \$25.6 trillion of credit market debt outstanding in the U.S. America's total debt, public and private (including state and local government) stands at around \$32 trillion dollars! That's \$115,322 per man, woman, and child.

*(Editor's Note: The above figures were from 2003 report. Information from [www.brillig.com/debt\\_clock/](http://www.brillig.com/debt_clock/) shows the public debt has increased to around 11 trillion dollars in mid-March 2009. That amounts to \$35,960 per citizen. This debt has continued to increase in an average of 3.72 billion per day since September 28, 2007. Michael Hodges reported on his website {[www.mwhodges.home.att.net/nat-debt](http://www.mwhodges.home.att.net/nat-debt)} that America's total debt rose to \$57 trillion, that is \$186,717 per man, woman and child.)*

There is no way to escape the conclusion that America has become a debt junkie. We are living on money we do not have and will never have, and sooner or later the weight of this debt is going to collapse our economy.

I believe an unprecedented economic collapse is highly likely because money is the real god of America, and the true God of this universe is a jealous One who does not tolerate idolatry. God, by His very nature, is going to be compelled to destroy our false god.

### **External Attack**

Another possible fate for the United States is destruction from a Russian nuclear attack.

The reason a Russian attack is so likely is because the Bible says that Russians will lead an end time invasion of Israel (Ezekiel 38 and 39). Since we are Israel's only ally, it seems inconceivable to me that the Russians would attack Israel without unleashing a preemptive nuclear attack on us in order to prevent us from coming to Israel's defense.

### **Internal Attack**

Another way in which American power could be rapidly dissipated is through internal terrorist attacks. Just stop and think for a moment about the overwhelming impact that the 9/11 attack had upon our society and economy.

### **Internal Rot**

Internal collapse could also result from the moral rot that has our nation by its throat. This is what ultimately destroyed the Roman Empire, and it is what led to the sudden collapse of Soviet Russia.

As we have abandoned our Judeo-Christian heritage, we have evolved into an amoral society that has lost its respect

for the sanctity of life. Individualism has been carried to the brink of anarchy as everyone does what is right in his own eyes. Greed is fracturing our society between young and old, rich and poor, black and white. Class warfare could easily deteriorate into civil warfare with outbreaks of uncontrollable violence in our major cities.

### **Another Alternative**

It is the possibility that the United States might be suddenly destroyed by the Rapture of the Church. We can hope and pray that this will be the destiny of our nation, because if it is not, we are headed toward outright destruction due to our rebellion against a gracious God who has blessed us more than any other nation that has ever existed.

(Excerpted from *God's Plan for the Ages: The Blueprint of Bible Prophecy*, Published by Lamb&Lion Ministries, 2006. Used with permission.)



Statue of Liberty

## How Can Revival Come?

Tim LaHaye

Many Christians are praying for and expecting revival. While it is true that God has already given America three national revivals in the past, we desperately need another one today. Personally, I'm not sure we can have one without legislative reform, because we have strayed so far from our biblical foundations. **You cannot pollute the minds of a nation with ten billion dollars of pornographic literature annually and murder one and a half million unborn babies and have a revival. We must have legislative reform, but we never have legislative reform until we elect enough leaders who are committed to that reform.**

Would a righteous God give us revival while we murder 4,000 babies every day? Will He bless us while we legalize pornography and remove Him from the respectful position He has had traditionally? I think not.

We need to elect righteous politicians who will return legislation in this country to those traditions that made us a great nation when we were "a nation under God," not a nation under humanism. We must pray for America and for her leaders. Leaders who do not function as "Ministers of God," should repent, or dedicated Christians in this country will rise up on election day and vote this nation back to moral sanity. Also pray that citizens committed to traditional values will be led to run for every elective office in the land.

(Excerpted from *Christian in the Political Arena* by Vernon McLellan, published by Associates Press. 1984. p.162. Used with permission from Mary McLellan.)





# How We Can Win This War ?

James Dobson

**Here's the question of the hour: How can we stop the imperious courts and rogue local officials from overriding the will of the people, who continue to oppose homosexual marriage by a wide margin?**

There is only one answer: Congress and the state legislatures must pass a Federal Marriage Amendment to define this historic institution exclusively as being between one man and one woman.

That is the passion of my heart at this stage of my life. Seven times in the past few months I have joined more than fifty pro-family leaders in Washington DC to implore members of Congress to protect the family while there is still time. I'm told there is a brief window, now that the president has expressed his strong support, when passage of a Federal Marriage Amendment might be possible. Still, the opposition to an amendment is formidable.

Since Congress apparently lacks the will to use its constitutional authority to rein in the power of the courts, "we the people" must fight for an amendment to the Constitution that will do it for us. Let us never forget that our nation was founded in response to tyranny and oligarchy without representation. A constitutional amendment is one avenue for ensuring that kind of tyranny does not rise up today.

In a recent article published in *National Review*, Notre Dame law professor Gerard V. Bradley noted, "The only way

to rein in this runaway Court is to change the supreme positive law: the Constitution. The Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) would do that. It would impose upon willful judges and justices a limitation on their ability to redefine the family. The amendment would leave legislatures free to extend some benefits to nonmarital households. But courts could not."

Granted, it is terribly difficult to pass a constitutional amendment under even the best of circumstances. It requires a two-thirds majority of both houses of Congress and passage by three-fourths of the state legislatures. That has only occurred twenty-seven times in our nation's history. It will certainly not be easily accomplished at this juncture. As I write, thirty-four Senators (seven Republicans and twenty-seven Democrats) are reportedly planning to vote against the FMA. Nothing short of a national outcry by the citizens of this country will secure the necessary support.

**Though imperfect, the Federal Marriage Amendment represents perhaps our last opportunity to ensure that traditional marriage is legally protected.** The strength of the FMA is that it prevents the courts from distorting existing constitutional or statutory law into a requirement that marital status, or the legal incidents thereof, be reallocated pursuant to a judicial decree. In layman's terms, that means the FMA will ensure that the constitutional status of marriage is determined by the American people and

their representatives, and not by unelected judges.

I know all too well that we face a daunting challenge. Even so, previous generations of Americans stayed the course when the nation was threatened, preserving our heritage despite overwhelming odds. The difficulties faced by our parents and grandparents in the Depression and World War II were staggering. Yet through their courage, resourcefulness, tenacity, and faithfulness to the task, the generations that followed have enjoyed unprecedented prosperity and blessing.

Now it is our turn. The peril we now face may not look the same as a world war or an economic depression, but it is every bit as ominous and formidable. The well-being of future generations depends upon the way we answer this threat. History will judge us on how we handle this crisis.

In a *National Review Online* article, Maggie Gallagher wrote, “Marriage is not an option, it is a precondition for social survival... Winning the gay-marriage debate may be hard, but to those of us who witnessed the fall of Communism, despair is inexcusable and irresponsible.

With God’s help, and with a spirit of nationwide cooperation, I believe we can find the wisdom and strength to defend the legacy of marriage.

### All Hands On Deck

I understand that you are very busy with your daily responsibilities. And the sheer import of this cultural challenge *can* be intimidating. Nevertheless, we need every hand on deck. This crisis is that important.

You may be outraged by the threat posed to marriage and family today, but emotions alone will not turn the advancing tide of the homosexual activist movement. **Your concern and convictions must be translated into action. As Edmund Burke, the English parliamentarian, once said, “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.”**

The good news is that a substantial majority of the American people favor retaining the traditional and legal definition of marriage. In every state where voters have been asked to ban “gay marriage,” they have done so by a stunning margin—69 to 31 percent in Hawaii, 68 to 32 percent in Alaska, 61 to 39 percent in California, and 70 to 30 percent in both Nevada and Nebraska.

But we need to work together. Maybe you would like to dive in and make a difference, but you simply don’t know what to do. Here are some ideas for how you can help defend the legacy of marriage for generations to come:

- Contact your senators and representatives in Washington. Write a letter or place a phone call. I hear repeatedly that our leaders are not receiving public feedback regarding the Federal Marriage Amendment.
- Register to vote. Do it now in order to ensure that your voice will be heard during the next election.
- Take part in radio and TV call-in programs.
- Volunteer to teach a class or hold a seminar in your church, synagogue, or community to educate others about family-related issues.
- Put up lawn signs and distribute bumper stickers proclaiming the sanctity

of marriage.

- Organize a debate in your community.
- Familiarize yourself with the realities of judicial tyranny. A good place to start is [www.stopjudicialtyranny.com](http://www.stopjudicialtyranny.com).

These are simply general suggestions for your course of action. There are hundreds more. A vast expanse of moral and legal territory is waiting to be reclaimed by concerned Americans like you and me, and we will accomplish that objective by taking one step at a time.

But we simply *must* have your participation in the struggle. Every person's involvement is critically important. There is no issue today that is more significant to our culture than the defense of the family. Not even the war on terror eclipses it. We must step up to the plate.

I am reminded of a personal story told by Dr. John Corts, former president of the Billy Graham organization. When he was sixteen, John and his younger cousins went to visit his grandfather's farm. They couldn't wait to get there and go out into the fields. They wanted to pitch hay and ride on the tractor. It sounded like so much fun.

But the grandfather was reluctant to let them go. They whined and begged until finally he said to John, "You are the eldest. You can take the kids to the field if you promise not to bring them back early. You must keep them out there until the end of the day."

John said, "I will do that, Grandfather." So they all climbed on the hay wagon and the tractor pulled them out to the field.

Very quickly, the kids grew tired and started complaining. The work was hot and sticky and they were miserable. They began asking to go back to the house. But

John said, "No, Grandfather told me to keep you out here."

By lunchtime, they were exhausted and agitated. The hay was getting under their shirts and it itched. Everyone wanted to go home. But again John said, "No, Grandfather told me to keep you here."

About three o'clock in the afternoon, a large black storm cloud gathered overhead. The kids got scared and several were crying. "Please," they begged, "let us go home!" Still, the answer remained no.

At about five o'clock John said, "All right, it's time to quit." He loaded his cousins on the hay wagon, and they returned to the house. After they had taken their baths and been given something to eat, they rested for a while. Grandfather praised them warmly for the work they had done, and they became very proud of themselves.

That's when Grandfather told John why he didn't want them to quit early. He said, "This farm has been successful through the years for one reason: We have stayed in the field when we felt like coming in. We did what needed to be done, even when we wanted to quit. That is why I wanted the kids to have the satisfying experience of staying with something through the day."

Let me tell you what this story means to me.

**We're in a very difficult situation now. It's tough. It's hard swimming against the tide of political correctness, the liberal media, the entertainment industry, Congress, the libraries, and the cultural forces making fun of us. It is not pleasant to be called "the religious right," "the far right," "religious extremists," and "fundamentalist**

**right-wing crazies.” None of us likes that. But being ridiculed and marginalized is the price we must pay to defend what we believe. Jesus told us that it would be that way.**

God has called us to stay in the field till the end of the day, and I, for one, will do that as long as I have breath in my body. And I beg you to do the same. How can we remain silent when the next generation hangs in the balance?

If we persevere to the end, we will hear those wonderful words from the Father, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 25:21).

(Excerpted from *Marriage Under Fire*)  
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We are involved in nothing less than a civil war of values—a collision between two ways of seeing life. This is not an issue of two alternatives from which to choose, but a life-and-death struggle. And one value system is going to predominate. One is going to rule the country.

—James C. Dobson



U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.



# The Fight of the Day

Carl F.H. Henry

The Apostle Paul is concerned lest we be asleep when we ought to be on guard duty. We have a fight on our hands, he says, and we need to be awake and primed for it. *Phillips Modern English Version* paraphrases his comments in Romans 13:11-14:

The present time is of the highest importance—it is time to wake up to the reality. The night is nearly over, the day has almost dawned. Every day brings God's salvation nearer than the day in which we took the first step of faith. Let us therefore fling away the things that men do in the dark, let us arm ourselves for the fight of the day....Let us be Christ's men from head to foot, and give no chance to the flesh to have its fling.

On my first night's sleep in Keru-zawa, Japan. I had no idea that I was in an earthquake zone until a midnight jolt awakened me to reality. The tremor didn't register topmost on the Richter scale, but its severity reminded me nonetheless not to take tomorrow for granted. So these words of the apostle, in the middle of the epistle to the Romans, stab us awake and shock us alive to the invisible realities of the spiritual world, lest we be entrapped in a sinful, slumbering society.

**Three emphases seem to me to rise from this text in our present life-situation: first, American culture is sinking toward sunset; second, Christian**

**believers are stretching toward sunrise; and third, we are warriors with a mission in the world.**

## American Culture Is Sinking Toward Sunset

At the opening of the epistle, Paul unveils God's anger over the depths of Gentile rebellion. Three times we hear that dreadful refrain, "*God gave them over.*" We read that, because of their persistent wickedness, God "*gave them over to the sinful desires of their hearts*" (1:24, NIV), that God "*gave them over to shameful lusts*" (1:26, NIV), and that God "*gave them over to a depraved mind*" (1:28, NIV).

**Exegetes have long noted a progression here; desires, lusts, mindset.** As the channel of sin runs ever deeper, God's compensatory judgment moves ever closer to final abandonment and inescapable doom. The first chapter closes in fact with a warning of doomsday ahead for those who in their own consciences know that all who live wickedly deserve God's death penalty, yet who nonetheless defy God and even encourage others to do so (1:32).

**I have a heavy heart about America. American culture seems to me to be sinking toward sunset.** I do not, like some, call America the epicenter of evil in the world. But we have fallen far from lofty ideals for which this land came into

being. I don't intend to spend most of my time reciting a catalogue of vices. Yet our country seemed more and more to act out of traditional character. To be sure, there is a godly remnant—not simply a tiny band but a goodly number—for which we may be grateful. **But it is surely not America at her best when we chart the massacre of a million unborn children a year, the flight from the monogamous family, two and a half million persons trapped in illegal drugs and alcohol** (our country now has a larger drug problems than any other industrialized nation in the world), **the normalizing of deviant sexual behavior** (in the Washington-Baltimore area alone there are now estimated to be two hundred and fifty thousand homosexuals), **the proliferation of AIDS to twenty-five thousand persons, more than half of whom have already died, with reportedly 10,000,000 infected with the virus.**

What is underway is a redefinition of the good life, a redefinition that not only perverts the word “good” but perverts the term “life” as well. What is “good” is corrupted into whatever gratifies one's personal desires, whatever promotes self-interest even at the expense of the dignity and worth of others. In that fantasy-world of sinful desires, shameful lusts, and a depraved mind, sexual libertinism is good, coveting and stealing are good, violence and terrorism are good.

Worse yet, such perversion of the good is connected with what is called “the life.” All that the Bible means by life—spiritual life, moral life, eternal life, a life fit for eternity—is emptied into an existence fit only for beasts and brutes.

**“They gave up God,” says Paul, “and therefore God gave them up—to**

**be playthings of their own foul desires in dishonoring their own bodies,”** They “*deliberately forfeited the truth of God and accepted a lie, paying homage and giving service to the creature instead of the Creator, who alone is worthy to be worshipped for ever and ever. God therefore handed them over to disgraceful passions*” (Rom. 1:24-24, Phillips).

**Western society is experiencing a great cultural upheaval. More and more the wicked subculture comes to open cultural manifestation. More and more the unmentionables become the parlance of our day. More and more profanity and vulgarity find expression through the mass media. The sludge of a sick society is rising to the top and, sad to say, the stench does not offend even some public leaders. Our nation increasingly trips the worst ratings on God's Richter scale of fully deserved moral judgment.**

God who shook the earth at Sinai, God who shook the earth at Calvary, God who is a consuming fire warns of one more shaking, that final and decisive shaking: **“Yet once more will I make to tremble not the earth only, but also the heaven. This means,”** as the author of Hebrews says, *“that in this final ‘shaking’ all that is impermanent will be removed .... and only the unshakable things will remain”* (Heb. 12:26, 27, Phillips). The world will be asleep when doomsday comes, Peter warns, banking its life on the premise that *“everything continues exactly as it has always been since the world began”* (2 Pet. 3:4). *“But the Day of the Lord will come,”* he emphasizes, *“and the earth and all that is in it will be laid bare”* (2 Pet. 3:10).

When that great meltdown comes,

where will you be? Trapped in Sodom? **In the bleak twilight of a decadent culture, where will you be?** Overtaken, like Lot, looking back at the citadels of sin? “Wake up!” says Paul; “wake up!” American culture is sinking toward sunset.

### **Christian Believers Are Stretching Toward Sunrise**

The remarkable thing about Paul’s exhortation to awaken from sleep is that it is addressed to Christians. It apprises them not of encroaching doom but of daybreak, of the imminent sunrise, of the full dawning of God’s Kingdom. “Let us arm ourselves for the fight of the day,” he writes, “[and] be Christ’s men from head to foot.”

**Christians have duties in the cultural upheaval around us. God has not told us to build an ark or to escape the floodwaters by taking to the hills. If there is hope for America, it will come through the vigorous proclamation and application of the Christian message.**

The early Christians knew the fierceness of the battle. They knew Gentile wickedness at its worst; it was the moving spirit of the society in which they were reached for the gospel. “*You were spiritually dead through your sins and failures, all the times that you followed this world’s ideas of living and obeyed the evil ruler of the spiritual realm.... We all lived like that in the past,*” writes Paul, “*and followed the desires and imaginings of our lower nature, being in fact under the wrath of God by nature, like everyone else.... We were dead in our sins*” (Eph. 2:2, 3, Phillips).

Don’t for a moment forget that we ourselves were dug from the sludge of a

sick society. When recently I wrote *Confessions of a Theologian* it had a double exposure—first, on the world from which Christ rescues even those who become theologians and pastors and deacons, and second, on the world to which Christ lifted me, the eternal world to which He lifts prostitutes and drug addicts and homosexuals and other redeemed sinners. The risen Christ is in the moving and lifting business. How far has He removed you from the old life and lifted you to divine service? How high has Christ lifted you?

It is one thing to run away from sin; it is yet another to run up a flag for faith. “*Fling away the things that men do in the dark,*” exhorts Paul, and “*give no chance to the flesh to have its fling.... Be Christ’s men from head to foot .... Let us arm ourselves for the fight of the day.*” **God wants your mind. He wants your will. He wants your heart—the whole self.** “Christ in you” is Paul’s great theme in the letter to the Colossians. Where your feet go, does Christ walk with you? Where your mind reaches, is the mind of Christ yours also? In whatever you will embrace, is Christ’s will astride your own?

During the days of the youth counterculture a lad went door to door asking, “Does Jesus Christ live here?” Taken aback, one housewife replied, “My husband’s a deacon.” The lad answered, “That’s not what I asked: Does Jesus Christ live here?” Christian believers are stretching toward sunrise. **“Be Christ’s men from head to foot”!**

### **We Are Warriors With A Mission In The World**

Christian duty requires of us more

than personal piety and devotion, important as that is. It's not enough to say "no" when the culture holds that fornication is a morally acceptable option and that we may abort the unborn child if it's unwanted or take hallucinatory drugs if we are minded to do so.

Are you aware of the cultural challenges we face? Or are you yourself debilitated by the shoddy secular values of our time?

**"The fight of the day"**—are you aware of what that entails?

**In the battle between good and evil,** are you armed and engaged in "the fight of the day"?

**In the battle for the minds of men,** are you armed and engaged in "the fight of the day"?

**In the battle for the will of humanity,** are you armed and engaged in "the fight of the day"?

**In the exhibition of a Christian mindset,** are you armed and engaged in "the fight of the day"?

**In the deployment of Christian countermoves,** are you armed and engaged in "the fight of the day"?

Just as there are depths of depravity in human life, so too there are levels of dedication. And just as God progressively abandons renegades to their rebellion, so too He rewards the righteous in their spiritual renewal. When ancient Rome fell, it was the godly Christian remnant that walked head-high into the future. When medieval Christianity compromised its Biblical heritage, the Protestant Reformation emerged to bring great blessing to Europe and the world. When the post-Enlightenment era spawned an anti-Biblical mindset, the eighteenth-cen-

tury evangelical awakening in England spared that nation the travesties of the French Revolution. What will be the final verdict on the evangelical confrontation of today's radically secular humanism? We are on the threshold of the decade of destiny, in the last generation before we leave behind the twentieth century, the end of one century and the beginning of another. What spiritual situation do we bequeath not only to those who follow us, but also to our contemporaries?

Christianity is qualitatively different or it has nothing distinctive to offer the world. The real arena in which we are to work and witness and win over others is the world, or we have ceased to be light, salt, leaven. Christian duty requires courageous participation at the frontiers of public concern—education, mass media, politics, law, literature and the arts, labor and economics, and the whole realm of cultural pursuits. We need to do more than to sponsor a Christian *subculture*. **We need Christian counterculture that sets itself alongside the secular rivals and published openly the difference that belief in God and His Christ makes in the arenas of thought and action. We need Christian countermoves that commend a new climate, countermoves that penetrate the public realm.** To live christianly involves taking a stand for God that calls this world's caesars to account before the sovereign Lord of the universe, that calls this world's sages to account before the wisdom that begins with the fear of the Lord, that calls this world's journalists to account before The Greatest Story Ever Told. **We must strive to reclaim this cosmos for its rightful owner, God, who has title to the cattle on a thousand hills, and for Christ who**



**says to the lost multitudes, “I made you; I died for you; I ransomed you.”**

What does that mean for the world of the liberal arts and the sciences? What does it imply for the mass media? What are its consequences for the political realm? What does it imply for the debate over human freedom and justice and rights?

We may not know all the answers, but we know some absolutes at least, and that puts us head and shoulders above the relativists, and the woods are full of relativists today. Each of us must find his or her proper station and platform in “the fight of the day” and use our God-given talent to reflect the truth and justice of God into the world of public affairs. Everywhere around us is strewn the philosophical wreckage of those who rely only on the

voice of conscience, on social utility, on aesthetic gratification, on majority consensus —on everything but a sure Word of God. If you are still wavering between the God of the ages and the spirit of the age, listen to Paul’s warning summons. **American culture is sinking toward sunset. Christian believers are stretching toward sunrise. We are warriors with a mission in the world.** Have you enlisted, winsomely and courageously, in what Paul calls “the fight of the day”?

(From *Twilight of A Great Civilization* by Carl F.H. Henry, copyright 1988, pp. 39-44. Used with permission of Crossway Books, a ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois 60817. [www.crossway.com](http://www.crossway.com))



Arlington National Memorial

## AMBUSH ALERT —The Barbarians Are Here!

Thomas Wang

*“The men of Ai looked back and saw the smoke of the city rising against the sky, but they had no chance to escape in any direction, for the Israelites who had been fleeing toward the desert had turned back against their pursuers ... they turned around and attack the men of Ai.”—Joshua 8:20-21*

Joshua the man of valor who succeeded Moses, crossed River Jordan with the Israel people on dry ground. In obedience to God’s strategy they conquered Jericho.

But when they came upon the city of Ai they were defeated. The Israelites prayed and wept before the Lord and were told that there was sin in the camp. After Achan’s sin of covetousness was exposed and dealt with, the Lord promised victory to Joshua and laid out a battle plan including an instruction: “*Set an ambush behind the city.*” (Jos. 8:2). Joshua did as told.

As soon as the two forces met again, the Israelites pretended a defeat. They retreated and ran toward the wilderness (away from the city). The king of Ai and all his people gave chase and left their own city open and vulnerable. At this time and according to plan, Joshua raised up the javelin in his hand toward the city. With this signal the Israeli ambush soldiers came out, entered the undefended city and set it on fire.

When the pursuing people of Ai saw their city was aflame they knew the end has come. Joshua and the fleeing Israel-

ites turned around and attacked the people of Ai and took the city. A remarkable campaign indeed!

However, in today’s spiritual warfare the order of things is in reverse. It is not God’s people who are doing the ambush but Satan and his followers. While there are more missionaries in the world today serving in global frontiers, Satan is coming in from behind and waging a decisive ambush by assaulting the mission-bases, by secularizing the sending churches and by “paganizing” the home countries. This is exactly what is happening today to the Christian world beginning from Europe to North America.

Ever since the Renaissance, humanism has been gradually but persistently on the rise. Nothing in human nature is more readily and easily used by the Adversary than human pride.

**Renaissance**—14th-16th centuries

Thought pattern: “Man, the measure of all things.”

**Enlightenment**—17th, 18th centuries

Thought pattern: “Man has come of age and is no longer in need of God.”

**Modernism**—19th, 20th centuries

Thought pattern: “Man overcomes nature (heaven).”

**Post-modernism**—20th, 21st centuries

Thought pattern: “Man not only is independent from God but man is God.”

This was the way Adam and Eve fell. This was the way the Devil himself fell (Is. 14:12-15). This is also the way Satan has been enticing mankind into self-exaltation against their Creator throughout history.

The Christian West in recent years (Western Europe, the Scandinavians, Canada and America) has in various degrees become not only non-Christian, but even anti-Christian. This situation has been intensifying ever since World War II. Sadly, the Christian world has allowed Satan's ambush to reach its targets in their society, schools, home and even the church.

Dr. Carl Henry in *"Twilight of A Great Civilization"* said in 1988, "A half-generation ago the pagans were still largely threatening at the gates of Western culture; now the barbarians are plunging into the ... mainstream. As they seek to reverse the inherited intellectual and moral heritage of the Bible ... we are engaged as never before in a rival conflict for the mind, the conscience, the will, the spirit, the very selfhood of contemporary man."

Dr. Henry gave further analysis of the world, in essence:

### **1. Today's West**

Mainstream thought-pattern: Atheism, secularism, humanism and post-modernism.

### **2. Today's America**

Drifting away from God. *Newsweek* magazine has this to say on one of its covers: "The American century is over; the world order is changing."

### **3. Today's Culture**

No one lives in a cultural vacuum; one either transforms it or transformed by it. Post-modernism has rendered all pre-suppositions relative. But as Christians, we ought to "think Christianly, serve Christianly and live Christianly".

### **4. Today's Society**

Today's most dreadful disease is not AIDS but atheism—the destruction of both body and soul.

Bishop Lesslie Newbigin has this to say: "Today's society is not secular but pagan."

### **5. Today's Faith**

The West has adopted religious pluralism. Its laws and thought-pattern became increasingly atheistic. Morality, ethics and faith are being marginalized. Christians will be forced to accommodate, compromise and be constantly on the defensive.

### **6. Today's Marriage**

God ordained traditional marriage between a man and a woman is facing unprecedented challenge. Sexual revolution in the middle of the 20th century has resulted in the increase of divorce; the annual killing of 1.5 million pre-born babies, the spread of AIDS, and the ushering in of same-sex marriage.

Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Spain and some of the Scandinavian countries have all legalized same-sex marriage. Canada has followed suit. May God have mercy upon America.

### **7. Today's Church**

In theory America has 50 million evangelical Christians. But most of them are not living-out their "Christian-ness".

An average American Christian gives 2.5% of his income to the church. American churches openly split on the issue of the Inerrancy of the Bible.

### 8. *Today's Warfare*

The church is to be the Valiant For Truth like John the Baptist. Close-door policy renders the church irrelevant. We are not to seek safety in the ark but to rise and shine! Our warfare today includes the battle of good and evil, man's will, Christian mind-set, Christian values, Christian leadership in education, media, art, politics and other arenas of life.

While the essence of Henry's book does not present an optimistic picture of the West, it is nonetheless realistic. The entire book reads almost like a Requiem, lamenting the bygone days of a robust, righteous, compassionate, evangelistic and mission-minded Christian civilization, which has traveled its course and has now coming to its twilight hour!

An American missionary who serves in a Muslim country as a "professional" recently confided, "What I fear most in the country where I serve is not political unrest, religious tension or even my own safety. What makes me shudder is when the people whom I hope to convert would say to me, 'Sir, please go back to your own country and convert your own society. Our Muslim morality and social discipline are superior than yours!' What an indictment!

But it does not have to be this way. God's grace is sufficient and He does send help during men's crucial hours. He sent Luther when churches were selling indulgences. He sent the Wesleys when London was saturated with pubs and

drunkards. He sent Finney and Moody for the weakening early American church. And He sent John Sung and Wang Ming-Dao to save the masses in China and to awaken the slumbering church.

Doing missions in the traditional sense is no longer sufficient for today. Our home society, our sending church and our mission base are at stake. Current scenario demands us to wage war in two fronts, simultaneously:

**1. Frontline battle:** Evangelism, church planting and frontier missions.

**2. Rear-guard battle:** Prayer, repentance and revival to safeguard the biblical faith, and the spiritual health of the home country and the sending church.

May God protect America from Satan's ambushes! And, may America walk not in the path of Sodom and Gomorrah, or the steps of the liberal philosophers, or deviant Western Europe, but in the way of the Lord and follow Him to the end. "*For there the Lord bestows His blessings, even life forevermore.*" (Ps. 133:3)



Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.



# We Must Seek God

Erwin W. Lutzer

*“We do not know what to do,  
but our eyes are upon you.”*  
—2 Chronicles 20:12

## IT’S GONE

Remember when Francis Schaeffer told us that some day we would wake up and find out the America we once knew was gone? That day is here.

**We have crossed an invisible line, and there are no signs that we are capable of turning back.** Like a boat caught in the mighty torrent of the Niagara River, we are being swept along in a powerful cultural current that just might pull us over the brink.

Daily, perhaps hourly, we seem to be losing the war for America’s heart and mind. We must understand the direction and speed of this cultural river that has spilled over and engulfed our land. Even though a majority of Americans oppose same-sex marriages, we might have centuries of laws overturned, not by the electorate but by judicial fiat. The battle is waged in our courtrooms, independent of the input of our citizenry.

We must use the opportunities at our disposal to stand against same-sex unions. We must do so individually and we must support pro-family organizations. We must and should become involved politically. But these methods just might be missing their intended target. Such measures might do much better than an inkwell thrown at the devil, but they in

themselves will not reverse our cultural current.

The average evangelical thinks that God will always be on our side in our battle against same-sex marriage. However, in the Old Testament, God said these startling words to His chosen people:

*“Yet they rebelled and grieved  
his Holy Spirit. So he turned and  
became their enemy, and he himself  
fought against them.”*  
—Isaiah 63:10

In other words, there are times when God no longer takes up the cause of His people. When we refuse to repent of our own sins, God might refuse to come to our aid and let us be defeated. This is why we must turn to Him as families, as churches, and as individuals. **Without repentance for our own sins, we cannot expect to win our cultural wars. I believe very deeply that only God can save us now.**

Of course, we have always believed that only God can save us. But never have we needed His intervention so desperately; never before have we felt so helpless in the face of a massive national movement that it appears we cannot stop. And millions of middle-of-the-road Americans who have nothing to do with gays and the gay movement are lulled by the media rhetoric and misrepresentation. They think that we can “live and let live” as if homosexual marriages can exist along-

side of traditional ones, each staying in their separate section of the boat we call America.

Ours is a battle that cannot be won by reason, scientific data, or dialogue. The radical homosexual movement that preaches tolerance will not itself tolerate alternate opinions. Everyone must move in lockstep with their agenda—or pay a price.

I wonder what would happen if millions of believers set aside their schedules to seek God on behalf of this nation....

I wonder what would happen if privately and corporately we confessed our sins and turned away from our own idols....

**I wonder if perhaps God would intervene so the destruction of marriage and the forces that seek to tear our families apart would be stayed.**

**Eighteenth-century Britain was in such a state of decline** that Parliament had to be dismissed in the middle of the day because too many of the members were in a drunken stupor. Children were abandoned to die and immorality was rampant. The knowledge of God had all but faded from view.

**Mercifully, God reversed that trend through the preaching of John Wesley and George Whitefield. Some historians believe that it was that revival that spared Britain the bloody fate of France,** torn by violent revolution.

Please understand that God does not owe us such a deliverance. No nation

has turned away from so much light in order to choose darkness. No nation has squandered as many opportunities as we have. We can only call on God for mercy, and if it pleases Him He will come to our aid. We certainly cannot expect a revival simply because we do not want to face the harassment that well might come to us all. **But if we humble ourselves, weeping for this nation, God may yet intervene and restore decency to this crazed world.** Most of all, we should pray that millions would be converted and belong to God forever. People change their minds only when God changes their hearts.

**If we cannot weep before God, we are probably not fit to fight before men.**

Only He can save us now.

(Excerpted from *The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage*. Published by Moody Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 2004. Used with permission.)



U.S. Supreme Court

# What Can We Learn From The 18th Century Awakening

Gerald McDermott

Evangelicals in the United States today feel frustrated because they have failed to transform American society in recent years. English and American evangelicals in 1730 felt much the same way. Many years of political and social effort had not succeeded in bringing reform. Yet within a decade they experienced what is now called “The Great Awakening,” during which time their nations’ political and social cultures were radically impacted by Christian values. The following ten characteristics of the revivals that took place in America, England and Europe are instructive:

## **1. Prayer**

Evangelicals in the 1700s learned that corporate prayer was a prerequisite for outpourings of God’s Spirit. The revivals in many places were preceded by days of prayer and fasting. Jonathan Edwards believed that corporate prayer was more effective than just the combined prayers of individuals.

## **2. Leadership**

God raised up strong leaders to guide the movement. Jonathan Edwards was the theologian of the awakenings and his writings were a powerful influence even until the end of the following century. George Whitefield was a dramatic and powerful orator, able to deeply move audiences with his sermons. John Wesley was an administrative genius who established an extremely effective small-group structure of “class meetings” which kept the revival fires burning.

## **3. Doctrine**

Revival preachers of the time focused on the great Reformation doctrines of justification by faith and the atonement. They emphasized God’s judgment and then his grace.

## **4. Emotionalism**

The revivalists unashamedly appealed to people’s emotions. They felt that their listeners’ problem was not a lack of knowledge but a need to take action. They abandoned the formality of manuscripts or notes and preached as the Spirit led.

## **5. Music**

As one aspect of that emotionalism, evangelicals noted that music was an effective way to stir religious affections and they made frequent use of it.

## **6. Open-air Meetings**

Whitefield preached in open spaces where large crowds could gather. Wesley took the message to jails, inns and ships, as well as outdoors.

## **7. Persecution**

At times these preachers faced fierce opposition from hecklers, gangs of attackers and the press.

## **8. Testimonies**

Reports of revival in other places often sparked new outbreaks as lay people who had been there first shared firsthand accounts of what the Holy Spirit was doing.

## **9. Holy Spirit**

The 18th-century revivalists expected the Spirit to manifest His presence in

powerful, visible ways.

### **10. Social Action**

A greater concern for the poor and downtrodden often resulted from these revivals. Jonathan Edwards taught that it was the Christian's duty to be charitable. Whitefield devoted a great deal of his energy to an orphanage he founded in Georgia.

The conclusion can be drawn from the 18th-century experience that a deep and powerful spiritual renewal can be more effective in transforming a culture than political action.

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The White House



## MAYFLOWER COMPACT 1620

In the name of god Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James by the grace of god, of great Britaine, France, & Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

Having undertaken, for the glory of god, and advancement of the Christian, and honour of our King & Country, a voyage to plant the first Colonie in the Northern parts of Virginia. Do by these presents solemnly & mutually in the presence of god, and one of another, Covenant & combine our selves together into a Civill body politick; for the better ordering, & preservation & furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just & equal Lawes, ordinances, Acts, constitutions, & Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete & convenient for the generall good of the Colonie: Unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11. of November, in the year of the raigne of our Sovereign Lord King James of England, France, & Ireland & Scotland the fiftie fourth, An. Dom. 1620.

In the Name of God, Amen. We whose Names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the grace of God of Great Brittain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Countrey, a Voyage to plant the first Colonie in the Northern parts of Virginia; Do by these Presents solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and one another, Covenant and Combine our selves together into a Civil Body Politick, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid: and by virtue hereof do enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our Names at Cape Cod, the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the sixteenth, and of Scotland the fiftie fourth, Anno Domini, 1620.

John Carter,	Samuel Fuller,	Edward Tilly,
William Bradford,	Christopher Martin,	John Tilly,
Edward Winslow,	William Aspinwall,	Francis Cooke,
William Brewster,	William Isher,	Thomas Rogers,
John Allerton,	Richard Warren,	Thomas Finner,
Abner Scudder,	John Howland,	John Riedel,
John Alden,	Servin Hopkins,	Edward Fuller,
John Turner,	Digby Pruit,	Richard Clark,
Francis Eaton,	Thomas Williams,	Richard Cardiner,
James Chilton,	Cilbert Winslow,	John Allerton,
John Cranston,	Edmond Margeson,	Thomas English,
John Billington,	Peter Brown,	Edward Dimes,
After Flintner,	Richard Brintidge,	Edward Lister,
John Goodwin,	George Skyles,	

### GOVERNOR BRADFORD'S COPY OF THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

Preserved in his handwriting in his History of Plymouth Plantation,

OVER 300 YEARS AGO!

The "Compact", with the signers, as first printed in "Morton's Memorial" at Cambridge, Mass., in 1669, an official publication of the Plymouth Colony. The order of signing the original manuscript is not known.

John Bradford  
Francis Eaton  
George Carter

Samuel Fuller  
Edward Winslow

William Bradford  
William Brewster  
George Soule

Nyles Standish  
John Alden  
Edward Dimes

ABOVE ARE THE KNOWN SIGNATURES OF SOME OF THE SIGNERS

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

A small ship, — the "Speedwell," — of some sixty tons burden, was bought and fitted out in Holland, and early in July those who were ready for the formidable voyage, being "the youngest and strongest part," left Leyden for embarkation at Delft-Haven, nearly twenty miles to the southward, — sad at the parting, "but," says Bradford, "they knew that they were pilgrims." About the middle of the second week of the month the vessel sailed for Southampton, England. On the arrival there, they found the "Mayflower," a ship of about one hundred and eighty tons burden, which had been hired in London, awaiting them with their fellow-passengers, — partly laborers employed by the merchants, partly Englishmen like-minded with themselves, who were disposed to join the colony. Mr. Weston, also, was there, to represent the merchants; but when discussion arose about the terms of the contract, he went off in anger, leaving the contract unsigned and the arrangements so incomplete that the Pilgrims were forced to dispose of sixty pounds' worth of their not abundant stock of provisions to meet absolutely necessary charges.

The ships, with perhaps one hundred and twenty passengers, put to sea about August 5/12, with hopes of the colony being well settled before winter; but the "Speedwell" was soon pronounced too leaky to proceed without being overhauled, and so both ships put in at Dartmouth, after eight days' sail. Repairs were made, and before the end of another week they started again; but when above a hundred leagues beyond Land's End, Reynolds, the master of the "Speedwell," declared her in imminent danger

of sinking, so that both ships again put about. On reaching Plymouth Harbor it was decided to abandon the smaller vessel, and thus to send back those of the company whom such a succession of mishaps had disheartened. Those who withdrew were chiefly such as from their own weakness or from the weakness of their families were likely to be least useful in the hard labor of colonization; the most conspicuous desertion was that of Cushman, smarting under criticism and despairing of success. The unexpected parting between those who disembarked and those who crowded into the "Mayflower" was sad enough. It was not known till later that the alarm over the "Speedwell's" condition was owing to deception practised by the master and crew, who repented of their bargain to remain a year with the colony, and took this means of dissolving it.

At length, on Wednesday, September 6/16, the "Mayflower" left Plymouth, and nine weeks from the following day, on November 9/19, sighted the eastern coast of the flat, but at that time well-wooded, shores of Cape Cod. She took from Plymouth one hundred and two passengers, besides the master and crew; on the voyage one man-servant died and one child was born, making 102 (73 males and 29 females) who reached their destination. Of these, the colony proper consisted of 34 adult males, 18 of them accompanied by their wives and 14 by minor children (20 boys and 8 girls); besides these, there were 3 maid-servants and 19 men-servants, sailors, and craftsmen, — 5 of them only half-grown boys, — who were hired for temporary service.

## Mayflower Compact 1620

## Which Way America? Up or Down? A Return to Our Roots

Bill McCarthy

When a person or civilization is at the precipice overlooking ruin, the most progressive way is backwards-away from the abyss. God raised up America to be a light of revelation for the world. Christopher Columbus said as he read the Scripture that he felt illuminations from the Holy Spirit that he was founding a new Israel, a Christian Israel, to be a light of revelation to the nations.

America was founded upon Godly principles; to be exact, Christian principles. Constitutionally, we were given the highest ideals known to mankind.

From 1776 to 1962, we were, as a nation, pro-God, pro-Christianity, pro-family, pro-life, pro-decency, pro-freedom, and pro-the common good. Beginning in 1962, we began to throw away our sacred heritage. In 1962, we separated God from state and did something that was horrendously unconstitutional. We restricted our teachers and public school children to from participating in prayer, from learning about the Ten Commandments, and from the Judaic-Christian backdrop that formed the very basis of the American educational system as set up by our Founding Fathers. Every known moral problem began to escalate, not only among public schools student but in the nation as well. With the new secularist and liberal philosophy, the 'separation of Church and state' began to take root in the minds and hearts of the American public. Now promiscuity, prostitution, sodomy, pornography, obscenity, atheism, violence, murder,

rape, and incest dominate our land.

### **Supreme Court Suppresses Religious Freedom**

Anyone born after 1962 never knew the United States of America. Before then, we had prayer in every public school. Obscenity, pornography, prostitution, abortion, public sodomy was outlawed. Every public school student was taught the Ten Commandments and had public prayer in the classroom. At every graduation or baccalaureate, a priest, minister or rabbi led public prayer. There was a dress code for all students. There were no co-ed dorms. That was before Playboy, and Hustler. Most Americans were for protecting youth. In the new liberal culture, Littleton, Colorado is just the tip of the iceberg.

### **The Three Ps—Promiscuity, Pornography and College Presidents**

Promiscuity, pornography are rampant on our campuses, as college president after college president has compromised values. Co-ed dorms are the norm. School don't even push morality. The only norm is to practice safe sex, which is not safe at all, since condoms have been proven tremendously defective in preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, especially AIDS. Socially transmitted diseases among our youth are commonplace. SAT scores are down and



suicides are up as we witness a youthful America without roots.

## **Five Rs**

America is reveling in excesses, rolling in riches, rollicking in pleasures, revolting in morals, and rotting in sin.

## **Too Young to Die**

We now hear that America is “too young to die.” We are met on a great battlefield testing whether this nation or any nation so conceived on Christian principle can long endure.

## **A Great Warning**

September 11th was a great warning. God allowed the double symbols of money and military power to be attacked, for no amount of money and no military force can restore America. The question of the hour is, “Will we continue to head toward the precipice of destruction, or will we turn back to God?” For the battle line is drawn – it is Christ or chaos. The choice is clear. God, His principles and the choice of life, or death and destruction.

## **Choose Life**

Moses said it long ago, “*See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you ... I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have*

*set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life” (Deut 30:15-20).*

## **A Return to the Faith of our Fathers**

As a nation we must get on our knees and humbly pray in contrition, confession, and commitment so that we can return to the faith of our fathers. The crisis is as acute as it can get. The danger of the America dream failing is imminent. Time is running out. God’s mercy is coming to an end. Something miraculous must happen in the soul of America right now before it is too late. The choice is clearer than ever—repent or perish. Revival or ruin. And the question of the hour is, “Which way America, to be or not to be?”

## **Our School Children Can Pray in Public School**

Although it is not well known, our school children in public school are allowed to pray, to do religious term papers, to ask religious questions, to form a Bible club, and even to pray at graduation. Our Supreme Court has made it most clear that there is a distinction between those religious activities that are “student initiated” and those that are “administration initiated.” “Student initiated” religious activities are allowed. Administration initiated religious activities are not.

In fact, last year(2002), there was prayer at more than 10,000 public school graduation – all, of course, initiated by the student themselves. There are also at present more than 11,000 Bible study

groups meeting regularly in public high schools. Once again, each of these is led by the students, themselves. The American Civil Liberties Union, however, still tries to intimidate school systems with law suits. The American Center for Law and Justice constantly wins because it is the law of the land that a student does not leave their religious convictions on the doorstep as they enter the school building.

Following is a list compiled by Dave Roeber of Ft. Worth, Texas that spells out students' religious rights that are guaranteed under the present laws of the United States.

### **Students' Bill of Rights On a Public School Campus**

#### **1. THE RIGHT to Meet with Other Religious Students**

The Equal Access Act allows students the freedom to meet on campus for the purpose of discussing religious issues.

#### **2. THE RIGHT to Identify Your Religious Beliefs through Signs and Symbols.**

Students are free to express their religious beliefs through signs and symbols.

#### **3. THE RIGHT to Talk about Your religious Beliefs on Campus.**

Freedom of speech is a fundamental right mandated in the Constitution and does not exclude the school yard.

#### **4. THE RIGHT to Distribute Religious Literature on Campus.**

Distributing literature on campus may not be restricted simply because it is religious.

#### **5. THE RIGHT to Pray on Campus.**

Students may pray alone or with others so long as it does not disrupt school activities or is not forced on others.

#### **6. THE RIGHT to Carry or Study Your Bible on Campus.**

The Supreme Court has said that only state directed Bible reading is unconstitutional.

#### **7. THE RIGHT to Do Research papers, Speeches, and Creative Projects with Religious Themes.**

The First Amendment does not forbid all mention of religion in public schools.

#### **8. THE RIGHT to Be Exempt.**

Students may be exempt from activities and class content that contradict their religious beliefs.

#### **9. THE RIGHT to Celebrate or Study Religious Holidays on Campus.**

Music, art, literature, and drama that have religious themes are permitted as part of the curriculum for school activities if presented in an objective manner as a traditional part of the cultural and religious heritage of the particular holiday.

#### **10. THE RIGHT to Meet with School Officials.**

The First Amendment to the Constitution forbids Congress to make any law that would restrict the right of the people to petition the Government (school officials).

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# Charles G. Finney

## --The Link Between the First and Second Great Awakenings in America

By Jay Rogers

“When he opened his mouth he was aiming a gun. When he spoke bombardment began. The effects of his speaking were almost unparalleled in modern history. Over half a million people were converted through his ministry ... in an age when there were no amplifiers or mass communications, he spearheaded a revival which literally altered the course of history.”<sup>1</sup>

Charles Finney was born the year after Wesley died; appropriately, because the revival events of Finney’s life became the link from the First Great Awakening of one century to the Second Great Awakening of the next. His life and writings influenced more people toward revival and social reform than any other preacher of the last century. He hated slavery with a passion and became a champion of many social reform issues of the 18th century. His convictions were born in the fires of revival and shaped by a keen lawyer’s mind committed to the full authority of the Bible. So effective were his writings that they have been the impetus for revivals around the world since his death.<sup>2</sup>

Extravagant and emotional in his preaching, perhaps no other revivalist of his day was as effective and controversial as Finney. Everywhere he went tumult followed him—it was either revival or riot—reminiscent of the power that followed the first century apostles in the

Book of Acts. His most controversial measures included allowing women to lead prayer during meetings, appealing by name to sinners while preaching, long protracted meetings without a planned format, and teaching the possibility, even the necessity, of totally eradicating sin both in the individual and in society. **Some estimate that over 80% of his converts during the revivals stayed true to Christ without ever backsliding. This was due to his urgent message stressing holiness and purity.** In later years, he moved away from sensationalism and put more emphasis on the power of the Holy Spirit through prayer.

As a theologian, he is best known for his Revival Lectures. No other books have been so mightily used of God to promote true biblical revival. In it, he explains what a revival is and treats at length related subjects as the place of faith and prayer in relation to revival; the need for the baptism in the Holy Spirit; methods to be used in the quest for souls; hindrances to revivals; instructions to new converts; and how to grow in grace.<sup>3</sup>

### Notes

1. Perry Miller, *Charles Finney*, cover.
2. Finney, *The Heart of Truth*, cover.
3. Winkie Pratney, *Revival*, (Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1983) pp. 116-127.

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## The Remaking of America

Gary DeMar

**America's Christian Heritage is a fading memory for most Americans.** Decades of value-neutral public education have left our nation without a moral anchor. While the Bible is a perennial best seller, and Americans publish and purchase more Bibles than any other people on earth, **"the Bible has virtually disappeared from American education. It is rarely studied, even as literature, in public classrooms."** And yet, it was the Bible that made America. **The rejection of the Bible in our day is resulting in the unmaking of America.** On May 28, 1849, Robert C. Winthrop (1809-1894), speaker of the Thirtieth Congress, addressed the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Bible Society in Boston and issued this warning:

The voice of experience and the voice of our own reason speak but one language...Both unite in teaching us, that men may as well build their houses upon the sand and expect to see them stand, when the rains fall, and the winds blow, and the floods come, as to found free institutions upon any other basis than that morality and virtue, of which the Word of God is the only authoritative rule, and the only adequate sanction.

All societies of men must be governed in some way or other. The less they may have of stringent State Government, the more they must have of individual self-government. The less they rely on public law or physical force, the more they must rely on private moral restraint. **Men, in a**

**word, must necessarily be controlled, either by a power within them, or by a power without them; either by the word of God, or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible, or by the bayonet.** It may do for other countries and other governments to talk about the State supporting religion. Here, under our own free institutions, it is Religion which must support the State.

The bayonet rules in those nations which reject the Bible. As the Bible ceases to govern in the hearts of the people, and those who rule reject the Bible as a moral standard, we will see more of the glistening steel of the sharpened bayonet govern in America.

How is it that a nation that seems to be in love with the Bible works so hard to reject its teachings? First, while Americans seem to honor the Bible, they are ignorant of its contents. **"Americans revere the Bible but by and large they don't read it. And because they don't read it, they have become a nation of biblical illiterates."** Six of ten adult Americans, George Gallup, Jr. and Jim Castelli report, have no idea who delivered the Sermon on the Mount. Fewer than half of those surveyed can name the first four gospels. If a majority of the people don't know what the Bible says, certainly we cannot expect them to know what it means and how it applies.

A similar deficiency exists in the area of American history and the record of men and women who knew, understood,

and applied the Bible to every area of Life.

One college teacher tells of a student who didn't understand why World War II was so named, since he'd never heard of World War I; another teacher tells of a student who was puzzled that George Washington is sometimes referred to as "General," since the student was unaware of Washington's role in the American Revolution. A recent survey of the general population done for the Hearst Corporation found that of those responding, 45 percent thought that the phrase, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need," is from the U.S. Constitution.

History is a teacher. "History," Thomas Jefferson wrote, "by apprising [people] of the past will enable them to judge...the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of men...."

Second, in addition to rampant biblical and historical illiteracy, a prevailing belief persists that "religion" is strictly a private affair. On one level this is certainly true. Regeneration is a work done on the heart. But regeneration, as defined by Scripture, was never meant to stop at the heart. "What use is it," James asks, "if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?" (James 2:14). Works, that is, acts of righteousness, are evidence that regeneration has taken place. Things external are to confirm that something has happened internally. A religion that is solely a private af-

fair is a false religion. Sadly, it seems that most Americans are comfortable with this type of religion. While they might be *personally* against abortion and special rights for homosexuals, they do not believe it is proper to impose such laws on society.

## Ideas Have Consequences

Ideas, or the lack of them, have consequences. Ignorance of the Bible and the way it has been used by our forefathers is having disastrous results. To reject the Bible as the foundation upon which our nation rests is the rejection of America and its ideals, imperfect as they were. John Adams, an eyewitness to America's beginnings, in a letter to Thomas Jefferson, calls on us to remember the "general Principles" that made this nation great:

*The general Principles, on which the Fathers achieved Independence, were the only Principles in which that beautiful Assembly of young Gentlemen [representing the numerous religious denominations of the country at the time of the Revolution] could Unite.... And what were these general Principles? I answer, the general Principles of Christianity, in which all these Sects were United: And the general Principles of English and American Liberty, in which all these young Men United, and which had United all Parties in America, in Majorities sufficient to assert and maintain her Independence.*

Now I will avow, that I then believed, and now believe, that those general Principle of Christi-

anity, are as eternal and immutable, as the Existence and Attributes of God; and that those Principles of Liberty, are as unalterable as human Nature and our terrestrial mundane System.

A similar observation was made by Franklin D. Roosevelt when he said: “We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a nation, without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic....[W]here we have been truest and most consistent in obeying its precepts, we have attained the greatest measure of contentment and prosperity.” The common ground of Christianity united the country.

**The God America trusted in is the God of biblical Christianity.** Thomas Jefferson, who was by no means orthodox in his religious beliefs, still turned to the pages of the New Testament for ethical guidance. Jefferson reminds us in the Declaration of Independence that “we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights.” Yes, Jefferson couched his meaning for morals in something called the “law of nature” or “natural law.” Jefferson realized, however, that natural law needed a source of authority. Jefferson’s “law of nature” needed “nature’s God.” “The point of the matter has always been that natural law itself needed divine sanction to become binding for men.”

The twentieth century has seen the results of shoving God out of the moral arena. Millions were slaughtered under Stalin and Hitler. Under these regimes, “morality” was defined by the State, an idea inherited from the Enlightenment.

Charles Colson of Prison Fellowship shows its contemporary application and results:

**Nazism arose as a result of the Enlightenment and what is called the rights of man.** Until that time, human rights in Western civilization rested on the Bible and the belief that all are equal before the creator.

But as Christianity was rolled back, people tried to find a new basis for rights. Hannah Arendt, in her book *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, says the rights of man “meant nothing more nor less than that from then on man, and not God’s command....should be the source of law.”

But what is man that he should possess all these wonderful rights by the bare facts of his existence? Apart from God, the rights of man dangle in the air without any basis.

So into the vacuum rushed all sorts of ideologies, Nazism tried to lay a basis in race. Hitler’s motto was that right and wrong are defined by what’s good for the German people.

Marxism tried to fill the vacuum with class structure. Lenin’s motto was that right and wrong are defined by what’s good for an individual’s own race or gender group.

America is now being defined in terms of “multiculturalism.” An appreciation of diverse cultures is being used as a dodge to smuggle in aberrational moral standards that will have the effect of



diluting the impact of biblical Christianity. Multiculturalism is a type of ethical polytheism: many moral law-orders based on many gods.

**Polytheism (all gods are equal) leads to relativism (all moral codes are equal); relativism leads to humanism (man makes his own laws); and humanism leads to statism (the State best represents mankind as the pinnacle of power).** As Rushdoony remarks, “because an absolute law is denied, it means that the only universal law possible is an *imperialistic law*, a law imposed by force and having no validity other than the coercive imposition.”

**We are being driven back to the Tower of Babel on the theological bus of multicultural education: Multiculturalists want to make a name for themselves to displace the name of God.** The multiculturalists are forcing the position, and the word is *forcing*, that all cultures are inherently equal, except, of course, Western culture which did not accept the view that all cultures are *ethically* equal. Christianity is what makes the difference.

## **The Remaking of America**

**Fundamentally, the real question is not whether America was or is a Christian nation. Rather, the question must be, Should America be a Christian nation?** President Woodrow Wilson affirmed that a Christian nation is not in its slogans but in the ethical system it chooses, the values that Wilson described

as “elements of righteousness.” What standard should be used to determine “righteousness”? Our earliest founders had the answer.

Whether we look at the Puritans and their fellow colonists of the seventeenth century, or their descendants of the eighteenth century, or those who framed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, we see that their political programs were the rather clear reflection of a consciously held political philosophy, and that the various political philosophies which emerged among the American people were intimately related to the theological developments which were taking place. Political philosophies are not created in a vacuum, but are in turn the product of systems of thought which find their inspiration and nurture in theology. What is true of colonial and Revolutionary America is no less true of the America of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Because of this there appeared in an early date in the colonies a kind of political orthodoxy, a way of looking at government and its functions and of the proper relationship which should exist between government and its citizens. *A Christian world and life view furnished the basis for this early political thought which guided the American people for nearly two centuries....* This Christian theism had so permeated the colonial mind that it continued to guide even those who had come to re-

gard the Gospel with indifference or even hostility. The currents of this orthodoxy were too strong to be easily set aside by those who in their own thinking had come to a different conception of religion and hence of government also.

There is, however, something even more fundamental. The law cannot save, no matter how righteously or vigorously it is embraced and applied. **America was great because she was good. She was good because so many Americans embraced Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.** The heaven of the gospel was a force for good in America. **If America is ever to regain her greatness, the churches of America must once again preach an authentic gospel —the gospel of free grace and biblical discipleship** —not the gospel of works and superficial religiosity. Man must be told that he is a sinner, and he must also be told that Jesus is his only hope of redemption, two simple truths that are lost on most Americans, including many so-called “Christians.” The remaking of America will come by way of the gospel and a love for God’s commandments (John 14:15).

As Benjamin Franklin so eloquently stated at the Constitutional Convention: “God governs in the affairs of men.” God governs because He is King, and this world is part of His universal kingdom-realm. While His kingdom is not “*of this world*,” it certainly operate *in and over* this world. Franklin continued as he addressed the members of the constitutional convention: “And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice [Matthew 10:29], is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured...in the sacred writings that ‘except

the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it’ [Psalm 127:1]. I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.” The kingdoms of men are dependent upon the operation of the Kingdom of God *in and over this world*. Birds do not fall and kingdoms do not rise without the overruling of God’s providential hand.

## A Christian Commonwealth

More than a century before the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, John Eliot, the Puritan missionary to the Indians, wrote in his *The Christian Commonwealth* (a document intended as a plan of government for the Natick Indian community), that it is not for man “to search humane Polities and Platformes of Government, contrived by the wisdom of man; but as the Lord hath carried on their works for them, so they ought to go unto the Lord, and enquire at the Word of his mouth, what Platforme of Government he hath therein commanded; and humble themselves to embrace that as the best....[The] **written Word of God is the perfect System or Frame of Laws, to guide all the Moral actions of man, either towards God or man.**” Because we are living in God’s kingdom, Eliot taught, it is our duty to follow the rules of the King and not to look at earthly rulers as saviors.

(From *America’s Christian History* by Gary DeMar. Published by American Vision Inc., 2005 pp.191-200. Reprinted with permission. For more information, contact American Vision at [www.AmericanVision.org](http://www.AmericanVision.org) or American Vision 3150-A Florence Road, Powder Springs, Georgia 30127.)

# Ten Steps To Change America

by David Barton

What can be done to halt the havoc loosed on the United States since the early 60s? There must be two reversals, the first and most obvious one must occur in **our national public stance toward God**: the Supreme Court's current ban on the acknowledgment of God and the use of His principles in public is a direct challenge to Him and has thus triggered the law of national accountability, subjecting the nation to severe consequences. Therefore, our current national public stand against God must be set aside.

The second reversal must center **on the restoration of the personal benefits derived from living by Godly principles**. For example, when the Courts ruled that students might not use the Ten Commandments, nor study the Scriptures, nor learn about sexual abstinence, etc., the separation of these teachings caused personal, individual harm to those students, as forewarned in Deuteronomy 6:24 and 10:13:

*The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees so that we might always prosper.*

*Observe the Lord's decrees for your own good.*

Observing His principles serves to our benefit. When His commands are rejected, it is to our own harm. Millions have been harmed by the mandated separation of His principles from specific arenas of their lives. The efforts at restoration and

reversal must occur on both the national and on the individual levels.

In the decades immediately preceding the Court rulings (the 1920s, 30s, 40s, etc.), Christians en masse had voluntarily removed themselves from the political, social, and legal arenas. Whenever the Godly depart from any arena, their own Godly values depart with them. A person in office always legislates according to his own personal beliefs and convictions, and herein is the wisdom of Proverbs 29:2 made evident: "*When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.*"

**It was the plan and intent of the Founders that the Godly, and thereby Godly principles, remain intimately involved in the political, judicial, and educational realms.** The Founders believed that only the Godly would understand the unalienable freedoms provided by God and thus protect them in our form of government; and they never intended that Christian principles be divorced from public affairs.

Christians, through bad doctrine, political inactivity, and apathy had handed the reins of the nation over to leaders who awarded potential lifelong appointments to **Justices not only willing but also eager to uproot the Christian practices that had been the heart of this nation for centuries.** Quite frankly, the Court's 1962 (and subsequent) religion-hostile decisions were merely an outgrowth of what the Christian community-at-large

had permitted and encouraged in the decades preceding those rulings.

A Biblical description of this process is given by Jesus in Matthew 13:24-26. In that parable, good people had a good field growing good seed. However, **an enemy came in and planted bad among the good, thus contaminating the entire field. What afforded the enemy such an opportunity? The stark answer is found in verse 24: “While the good men slept, the enemy came in.”** Jesus never faulted the enemy for doing what he did, for it was his task and purpose to destroy; Jesus placed the fault on the good men who went to sleep, thus allowing the enemy to do what he did. Very bluntly **what has occurred in America happened first because the church went to sleep**, and then because the enemy came in and caused the damage.

The problems we have created for ourselves, although colossal, can be solved. Reversing the current trends involves making changes in the two areas mentioned earlier: **(1) the official unfriendly stand taken against God must be corrected, and (2) religious principles and moral teachings must be restored and made available to individuals in public arenas.** There are at least ten specific activities suggested in this chapter which can help realize these goals.

## Step One

The first thing is to do first things first:

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be*

*made for all men, for [leaders] and for all that are in authority.*  
( 1 Timothy 2:1)

This is not an arbitrary, haphazard plan given by God; God wants every individual to pray for civic leaders first, because civic leaders and their policies affect every individual. Simply for our own benefit **we should be praying regularly for our leaders at local, state, and federal levels in each branch of government.** Prayer will be the first key to effecting significant and lasting change, for situations do not change on earth until they have been changed in the heavenlies. Additionally, **we need to pray faithfully that God will root the wicked from office and will raise up righteous individuals to replace them.** “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” and having the right individuals in office will prevent the enactment of many damaging policies. As explained by William Penn:

[G]overnments rather depend upon men than men upon governments. . . . Let men be good and the government cannot be bad. . . . [T]hough good laws do well, good men do better; for good laws may want [lack] good men . . . but good men will never want [lack] good laws nor suffer [allow bad] ill ones.

Pray individually not only for our leaders on every level, but enlarge your sphere of influence and organize small groups to pray for our leaders.

## Step Two

Voluntary prayer currently is greatly



restricted in many schools, but that does not mean children should not be trained daily to pray. **If you have children of school age, pray with them each day before they leave for school.** Show them from the Scriptures the importance of prayer and petition, and help them begin each day by seeking God. Encourage them to pray specifically for students, families, schools, and the nation. God wants us to train our children in the importance of prayer.

*The prayer of the upright is His delight.* (Proverbs 15:8)

*Pray without ceasing.* (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

*Continue in prayer.* (Colossians 4:2)

### Step Three

Children currently receive little accurate information from their schools or public institutions either about the historical role of Christians in the nation or about the importance of involving Godly principles in our public affairs. Nevertheless, you can help them obtain correct information.

**If you have children, teach them the Christian history, heritage, and traditions of our nation. If you do not have children, then educate those around you** (i.e., Sunday School class, civic club, etc.) to an accurate history of our nation.

### Step Four

The political realm, formerly dominated by Christians, is still available to them. It was the use of politics that resulted in the elimination of religious activities and the public acknowledgment of God from public affairs; it can therefore restore those principles.

While it might seem easier to empty

the ocean with a thimble than to change politics, it is actually not as difficult as many people think. We've probably heard, or perhaps even made, statements such as: "I'm only an individual-one vote. What can I do?" "My vote won't make a difference anyway." "It does us no good to vote. As Christians, we're already in the minority." Sound familiar? The fact is, such statements are not true.

A recent Gallup Poll shows that 84 percent of this nation firmly believe in Jesus Christ, and a separate poll indicates that 94 percent believe in God. Polls have shown that:

**Over 80 percent approve of voluntary prayer in school.**

**81 percent of the nation opposes homosexual behavior.**

**89 percent opposes the use of abortion as a means of convenience birth control.**

Additional findings could be cited, but the conclusion is inescapable: although we have been led to believe that we, the 94 percent who believe in God, are the minority, we most definitely are not!

As Edmund Burke explained:

**All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.**

There is much that "good men" can do to stop the triumph of evil. **One of the most important is to vote, and to vote Biblically.** John Jay, America's first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, once received a letter inquiring from him whether it was permissible for a Christian to vote for an unGodly candidate. Jay responded:

Whether our religion permits Christians to vote for infidel rulers is a question which merits more

consideration than it seems yet to have generally received either from the clergy or the laity. It appears to me that what the prophet said to Jehoshaphat about his attachment to Ahab [“Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord?” 2 Chronicles 19:2] affords a salutary lesson.

Founding Father Noah Webster delivered a similar admonition:

Let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God [Exodus 18:21]....[I]f the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted.... If [our] government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the Divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws.

These admonitions to vote, and to vote Biblically, came not only from our political leaders, but from our spiritual leaders as well.

Charles Finney, a prominent minister in the early 1800s, succinctly declared:

*The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them....God cannot sustain this free and blessed country which we love and pray for unless the Church will take right ground.*

It is time to believe and to behave differently. **We are not a minority; we are the majority! It is time to declare**

**at the ballot box** that we will no longer allow officials who embrace the values of the 6 percent who do not believe in God to abrogate the rights of the 94 percent who do. **We must remove officials who do not comply with traditional, historical, and Biblical principles and replace them with those who do. We can make a difference! Our vote does count!**

### Step Five

Too often, an allegedly “good” candidate is elected and we later end up regretting his public stands and votes. Much of this could be eliminated if the right questions were asked before election. We need to know more about a candidate than just the professional qualifications; we also need to know the personal traits that qualify him to represent us. As pointed out in a famous textbook first published in 1800:

*A public character is often an artificial one. It is not, then, in the glare of public, but in the shade of private life that we are to look for the man. Private life is always real life. Behind the curtain, where the eyes of the million are not upon him....there he will always be sure to act himself: consequently, if he act greatly, he must be great indeed. Hence it has been justly said, that, “our private deeds, if noble, are noblest of our lives.”....[I]t is the private virtues that lay the foundation of all human excellence.*

**It is not only proper, it is vital to investigate a candidate’s private life and beliefs before placing him into office.** The reason is made clear in Matthew

7:16-20 and in Luke 6:43-44; in these passages, Jesus reminds us that bad roots will produce bad fruit.

Consequently, a candidate's moral and religious "roots" must be investigated before placing him into office. A candidate who produced bad fruit in private life will produce bad fruit in public life. Understanding this truth, Founding Father Elias Boudinot, President of the Continental Congress, reminded us to...

*...be religiously careful in our choice of all public officers... and judge of the tree by its fruits.*

John Adams similarly charged us: We electors have an important constitutional power placed in our hands; we have a check upon two branches of the legislature. . . . It becomes necessary to every [citizen] then, to be in some degree a statesman: and to examine and judge for himself.

This nation will not be put back on track by Baptists alone, or by Catholics alone, or by Methodists alone, or by Pentecostals alone, or by any other single group; **there is not enough strength in any one denomination to return America to its Biblical roots. However, it will be put back on track by Christians of all denominations committed to the same moral law of God.** Be prepared to accommodate an appropriate degree of tolerance for those of other religious communities without compromising basic Biblical principles of morality.

Once you have determined each candidate's stand on moral and religious issues, do all you can to publicize those positions to your friends, acquaintances, and associates. (**Note: It does not vio-**

**late any tax-exempt provision of the IRS for a church to distribute voter's guides or candidate positions; a voter's guide is an educational publication and does not jeopardize a church's tax-exempt status. A church may educate its members on the beliefs of candidates concerning issues of concern to Christians.** It is only as an official corporate body that **the church may not endorse a specific candidate or party. However, a pastor may endorse a candidate or a party—even from the pulpit—as long as he makes it clear that he is simply delivering his own opinion and that he is not speaking on behalf of the church board or church corporation. A pastor does not forfeit his right to freedom of speech just because he is a pastor.)**

### Step Six

After you have identified a Godly candidate, there is much you can do to help him or her. Frequently such a candidate may not receive good media coverage; however, this is neither an unusual nor an insurmountable problem. Candidates with strong grass-roots efforts regularly overcome the media influence and win.

**Once you identify a candidate who can make a positive difference, get involved with him.** Offer as much financial support as you can (whether little or much), and then call the office and volunteer some time to the campaign, even if it is only an hour or two. **By volunteering to help a Godly candidate, you will, in fact, be helping yourself and your posterity;** it is important to remember posterity and to leave them something better than we have.

**We need to help the good candi-**

**dates, for our own sake and for the sake of our children. However, when helping a candidate, learn to look beyond party.** You might have been born a Democrat; you might have been born a Republican; you might have been born an Independent; that doesn't matter. The fact is, you were reborn a Christian; reflect that in your political involvement. As Founding Father Benjamin Rush once declared:

**I have been alternately called an aristocrat and a democrat. I am neither. I am a Christocrat.** I believe all power . . . will always fail of producing order and happiness in the hands of man. He alone who created and redeemed man is qualified to govern him.

**Be a Christocrat; get involved with solid Godly candidates no matter what their party.**

### Step Seven

**Another mechanism for effective change is direct contact with your Congressman.**

In June 1989, I had opportunity to participate directly in the introduction of a significant federal legislative bill. The bill received support from a wide variety of Congressmen (in fact, in the preceding month, the House of Representatives had voted two-to-one in favor of the material in the proposed bill). The bill was referred to the appropriate committee and subcommittee; however, those two chairmen refused to allow any hearings or discussion on the bill; they were both determined to let it die in committee.

Because of the widespread support already evident, and because it seemed inappropriate for only two individuals to

block the progress of that bill, we asked several Congressmen how to get that bill released from the committee. The Congressmen instructed us to locate individuals in those two men's home districts who would be willing to write letters to the two requesting that the bill be released and that hearings be scheduled on it.

To determine how many letters would be needed, we queried several:

"Congressman, how do you know when you have a 'hot' issue?" Their answer was startling: **"If we get as many as fifty letters on a bill, it's a very hot issue."** They further indicated that, in their opinion, **twenty letters would be sufficient pressure to cause the two Congressmen to reverse their position on the bottled-up bill.**

Amazed, we asked: **"How many letters do you usually receive on a bill?"** They responded, **"Five to ten is normal."** The fact that five to ten letters is the norm on a bill is **a compelling commentary on the inactivity of most of us.** Each Congressman represents at least 500,000 individuals, and as few as 20 letters can cause him to reverse his stand! This explains why philosophical minorities and anti-Christian groups are often more successful in reaching their goals in Congress: they are simply more active in generating individual contacts with a Congressman.

**In communicating with your Congressman, it is important that your contacts be personal.** Congressmen openly acknowledge that mass-produced mailings, form letters, or petitions get no response and usually go into the trash. In their view, if a person does not feel strongly enough about a bill or an issue to express himself in a personal, original



letter, then he receives little serious consideration.

**A personal letter is effective, even a short one; and letter writing is not only easy, but often takes less time than imagined.** Usually, the difficulty is simply in getting started; once you begin your letter, the thoughts and feelings flow easily. Here are a few suggestions to assist you in effective letter writing:

- Be personal in your letter. Use the name of your Congressman—don't address it to "Dear Congressman".
- Get to the point—don't be long-winded or wordy; three or four paragraphs is plenty.
- Be specific in your requests. If possible, try to give the name, number, or description of the bill or measure with which you are concerned.
- Don't get preachy.
- Don't threaten.
- Be complimentary and appreciative, not antagonistic, provoking, obnoxious, rude, or abrasive.

Close with a statement of appreciation, and sincerely and genuinely thank him.

**The address for your federal Representative or Senator is:**

**Name of your Representative  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC, 20515**

**Name of your Senator  
U. S. Senate  
Washington, DC, 20510**

Although letters are more effective than calls, calls are still very effective. **If you decide to call instead of write, dial the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. When the operator answers,**

**ask for your Senator or Representative by name.** When that office answers, ask to speak to your Congressman. If he is available, often he will speak with you. **If he is unavailable, simply express to his staff your concern or how you expect him to vote on a particular issue. The staff will record your feelings and will communicate them to the Congressman.** (This process is just as effective with your state and local leaders as it is with your federal officials.)

### **Step Eight**

Often, we seem to be overwhelmed with bad news and regular reports concerning the loss or compromise of yet another moral or Biblical principle. Why is this the case? According to a recent study, **the majority of those working in certain areas of the public media consider themselves "liberal" and support immoral stands which most Godly individuals oppose.** We therefore receive a steady presentation of what the "liberal" media believes to be important and a suppression of what we believe to be important. Consequently, we often feel that we are a minority and have no power to alter the stand of our government.

Song of Solomon 8:13 tells us otherwise; it declares a simple principle: *"Your companions hearken to your voice, so speak!"* **You can be effective in communicating a different viewpoint to your friends and to others, and one way is through the "Letters to the Editor" section of your local newspaper.** Your views can offer an alternative to those frequently presented by the media and can show other silent or discouraged ones that **there are many who actually feel as they do. Commit yourself to writing**

### **one or two public letters a month.**

When composing such a letter, be sure to avoid being purely emotional (and thus often illogical); also, avoid using Christian clichés and phrases—they communicate only to other well-informed Christians and not to the general population. Adopt the philosophy of Paul explained in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22:

*[T]o win as many as possible . . . I became like one under the law so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law . . . so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.*

**Utilize the opportunity to give sound, practical reasons for your opinions and to provide a basis for others to adopt your views. As 1 Peter 3:15 instructs: “Be ready to give an answer to everyone.”**

### **Step Nine**

**As you become more active and involved, don’t underestimate the effect of the experience you are gaining. Be willing to step into leadership, perhaps by stepping out to inform the community of important issues and consideration, perhaps by recruiting others to run for office, or perhaps even by running for local offices yourself.**

Local offices are important—they influence the entire community. Furthermore, it is easier to be elected to local government or to local school boards than to be elected to a statewide or national office. Don’t be afraid to run for a position on the local school board, city council, or

other areas where you can begin helping to implement changes. While Charles Finney’s statement from the mid-1800s is appropriate for every level, it is especially true at the local level:

**Politics are part of a religion in such a country as this and Christians must do their duty to the country as a part of their duty to God.**

It seems sometimes as if the foundations of the nation are becoming rotten, and Christians seem to act as if they think God does not see what they do in politics. But I tell you He does see it, and He will bless or curse this nation, according to the course they [Christians] take.

**Recognize that involvement in civil government is a legitimate ministry:**

in **Luke 19:17-19**, Jesus shows that the reward God gave to those who proved themselves faithful was to place them in civil government, and **Romans 13:4** declares that civil leaders are “*ministers of God*.” God wants His people in all arenas, including that of government, for government won’t be redeemed from without; it must be redeemed from within by people of Godly principles and integrity.

### **Step Ten**

**Finally, it is vital that we develop an attitude of unswervable duty coupled with an attitude of resolute steadfastness. For the most part, our culture has developed a short-term, microwave mentality. Television seems to teach us that a family or a national crisis can arise and be resolved completely within a 30- or 60-minute program; consequently, we have embraced impatience**

**as a national characteristic.**

That characteristic too often infects our attitude toward involvement in public affairs. For example, we may get involved in an election or two; but when we don't see a complete turnaround, we have a tendency to throw up our hands, declare that we tried and that it didn't make any difference, then scurry on to our next inspiration. **It took nearly half-a-century to arrive at the situation in which we find ourselves today; that situation will not be reversed in one election, or two.**

Even if the recovery turns out to be just as lengthy as was the disease, a recovery will come if we faithfully persist. Galatians 6:9 promises that we will reap the benefits if we will simply hang in there long enough. **We must learn to be content with small, steady gains.** The principle of retaking lost ground slowly, while neither appealing nor gratifying to our natural impatience, is a well-articulated Biblical principle:

*I will not drive them out in a single year . . . Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land. (Exodus 23:29-30)*

*The Lord your God will drive [them] out before you . . . little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once. (Deuteronomy 7:22)*

**To retake lost ground quickly is not the strategy prescribed by the Lord Himself;** the rewards promised in the Scriptures go to the faithful (Matthew 25:21, 23). Commit yourself to this engagement for the long-haul for the duration; arm yourself with the mentality of a marathon runner, not a sprinter. Very

simply, be willing to stay and compete until you win.

## Conclusion

**We must regain the conviction that Biblical principles are vital to national success,** and we must be willing to pursue their reinstatement. In recent decades, we have wrongly allowed the very principles which produced morality and virtue, and thus national stability, to be restricted in public life. **We need once again to recognize the truth so well understood by George Washington that:**

**[T]he propitious [favorable] smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.**

**We must become convinced of the principle expressed by Abraham Lincoln** and then accept the civic responsibilities implied by his statement that:

**The truth announced in the Holy Scripture, and proven by all history [is] that, "Those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."**

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## EPILOGUE

# Must History Repeat Itself?

Thomas Wang

**In 1919, right after World War I, the Allied Forces in Europe captured a copy of a secret document, “Communists Rules for Revolution”. Here are some of the excerpts:**

1. Corrupt the young; get them away from religion. Get them interested in sex. Make them superficial; destroy their toughness.
2. Control the media, all means of communications and publicity.
3. Get people’s mind off their government. Focusing their attention on athletics, sexy books and trivialities.
4. Divide the people into hostile groups against each other by constantly harping on controversial matters of no importance.
5. Destroy people’s faith in their national leaders by holding them up for contempt, ridicule and distrust.
6. Always preach democracy, but seize power as fast and ruthless as possible.
7. Encourage civil disorder and foster a soft and lenient attitude on the part of the government (law and courts) toward such disorders.

(Above materials from *Christians in the Political Arena*, by Vernon McLellan)

**Dear friends, do all of the above sound familiar? It is a sad but realistic picture of the political, social and religious landscape of America today.**

Master planners of the other side are steadily reaching their goals as follow:

1. Achieve the downfall of America —by steadily weakening her spiritual roots and moral fibers.
2. Re-shape and re-constitute America into an atheistic and pagan country.

**Must history repeats itself? Haven’t we learned enough? Does America have to go through judgment before repenting? “It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb. 10:31)**

Let us re-embrace the “Faith of Our Fathers”, let us confess our sins to our Lord Jesus Christ, and let us reclaim America to be God’s country again. Together, and by His grace, we can do it. This is the only way forward.



September 11, 2001, World Trade Center, New York City





Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Dec. 22, 1620

If our country survives—and I realize that's a big IF—it will be because there is an awakening in the lives of committed Christians across our nation who finally begin to realize that it is not only their opportunity but also their absolute responsibility to be intricately involved in the political process of our country and to use that involvement to turn this nation once again to the Lord.

For much too long we have allowed our government to grow farther and farther away from the direction that God has always demanded our nation take. At the same time we have yielded the control of our country to a godless, secular, humanistic philosophy that has absolutely sapped the strength and spiritual vitality America has always had. Never before in the history of Christendom have so many believers been willing to forfeit their liberty and freedom without even putting up a struggle.

Saints and Dirty Politics, Richard Hogue

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# **America is courting self-destruction** **A Godless America is a dead America** **Repent now**

## **ENDORSEMENTS**

The history of America is summed up well in one sentence from the Puritan minister Cotton Mather: "Religion begat prosperity, and the daughter hath consumed the mother." Because of our Christian heritage, America has achieved unparalleled success. But our success has caused us to forget God. May God use this new book, *America, Return To God*, to awaken us from our slumber and to lose our amnesia.

The Late D. James Kennedy, Ph.D.  
*Former Senior Minister  
Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church  
President  
Evangelism Explosion International*

*America, Return to God* is a powerful, prophetic call that every key leader in America needs to read! May they read it, repent and then rejoice that God is not finished with this blessed nation, if we return to Him!

Dr. Dick Eastman  
*International President  
Every Home for Christ*

For many years the disparity between the Christian commitment of many of our founding fathers and the reality of today's popular culture has brought a deep sadness to Thomas Wang's heart. He sees this profound need as a challenge from his Lord to positive action. It is for this reason alone that Dr. Wang has embarked on this publishing venture of faith.

Dr. Paul McKaughan  
*Ambassador at Large  
The Mission Exchange*

Dr. Thomas Wang, like many other naturalized American citizens, has a profoundly deep love and appreciation for the United States of America. As this book reflects, he has also a great concern for what he sees as the erosion of the spiritual roots and morals of this nation. This is a book that every American would do well to read and to seriously ponder.

Dr. Paul Cedar  
*Chairman  
The Mission America Coalition*

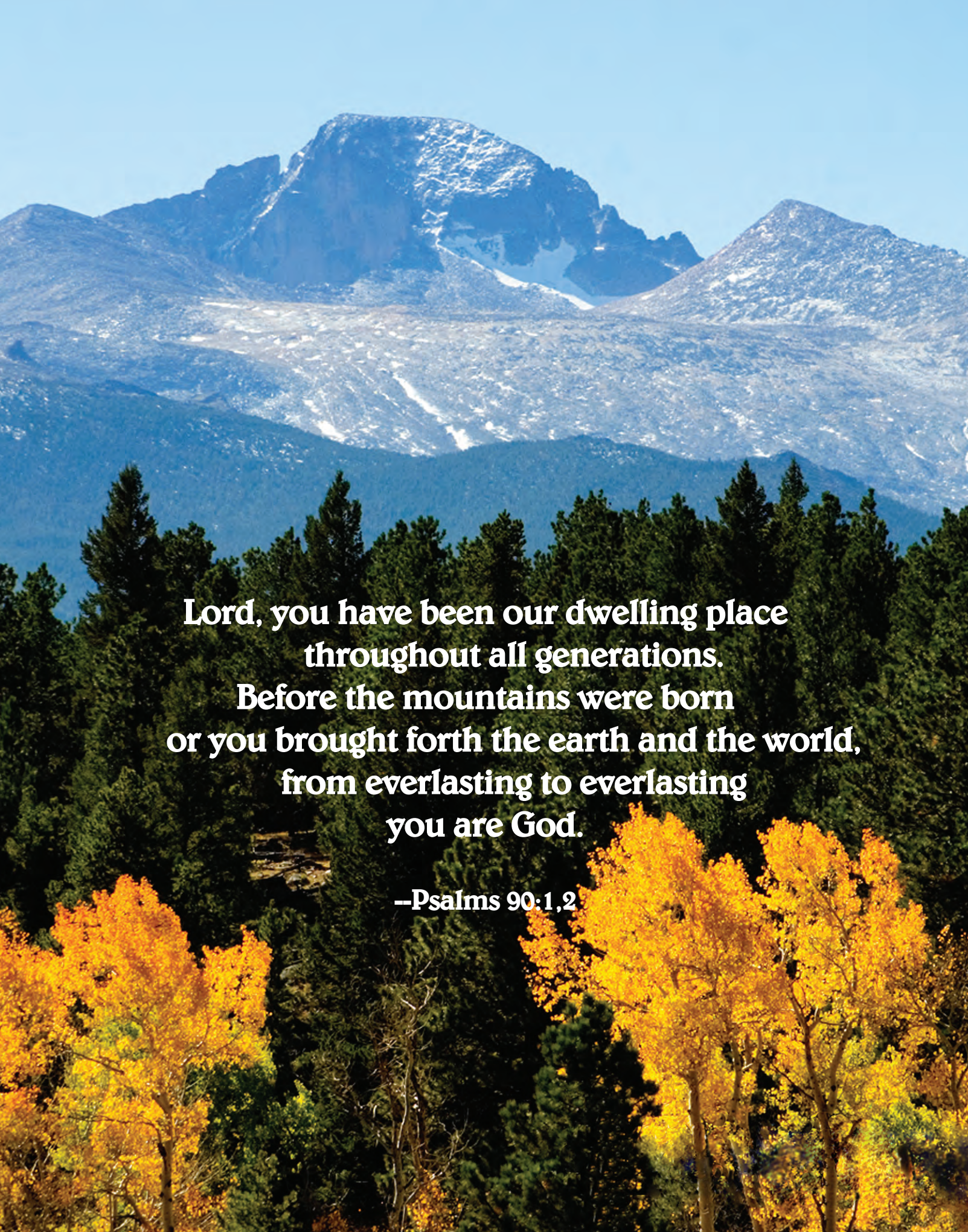
For many years Thomas Wang has written letters to the President of the United States, cabinet members, and members of Congress. As a Chinese American, his passionate appeal "*America, Return to God*" comes out of a grateful heart for what America has offered him and his people.

Dr. Luis Bush  
*Transform World  
International Facilitator*

Born in China and an adopted son of the USA, Dr. Thomas Wang is a Christian statesman and U.S. patriot. He and all the authors contributing to this important book have observed the downward trend of morals and ethics taking place in our nation and have written their concerns for our leaders and fellow citizens to consider and rectify. A must read!

Dr. John Kyle  
*Former V.P. and Missions Director of  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship,  
and Executive Director of Mission To  
The World, PCA*





**Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.  
Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting  
you are God.**

**--Psalms 90:1,2**