

Bible Thoughts

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The Challenge We Face

Our nation continues to spiral downward as evil in various forms increase. Random shootings are commonplace and often don't even make the front page of the news. Promiscuity is no longer looked down upon, but often viewed as acceptable in today's "enlightened" age. Unrighteousness and immorality seem to be the common theme promoted by many in the entertainment industry. Integrity in one's dealings with others is often missing. Respect for others seem to be secondary to the "what's best for me" motto that many live by. Respect for authority (scriptural, parental and civil) is often ignored or is practiced only when such authority is not in conflict with one's personal views. Abortion, homosexuality, vulgarity and divorce for any cause are now accepted practices in today's society. However, there was a time when these activities were not acceptable. What has caused such a drastic change in our society?

Why Is Our Nation Traveling Down The Path Of Destruction?

When I observe the evil that abounds, I am reminded of Romans chapter one as it describes the wickedness of the times that Paul faced. Within that chapter we learn that the truth was suppressed by unrighteousness as Paul states, "**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.**" (Romans 1:18) We too are faced with the same problems in many ways. Consider the following:

- The scriptures teach, "**Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge**" (Hebrews 13:4), but our society promotes the "safe sex" theme thus ignoring the clear instruction in the passage above.
- Today commitment in marriage seems to be missing among many couples who say "I do." Divorce continues to be a major problem. There is no doubt in my mind that many of these couples have embraced the "no fault" divorce philosophy as a quick problem fixer instead of having the resolve to abide by their commitment to one another and work out their problems. Again the truth is suppressed because of societies need for a "quick fix." However, the scriptures instruct, ". . . **For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.**" (Matthew 19:5-6)
- Our society has made great strides in technology, but we have failed as a society to learn to control our tongues. Vulgarity abounds in the home, in the workplace, at the shopping malls, among drivers, at sporting events, in the classroom, on the radio and in the entertainment industry. Our society has chosen to either be ignorant or simply reject the warning within the scriptures concerning the importance of restraining the tongue as revealed in James 3: 2-10. Though our society has approved vulgarity, God has not, "**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.**" (Ephesians 4:29)

God has so richly blessed our nation. Yet, have we become blinded by our achievements, by our success, by our riches that we no longer desire to retain God in our knowledge? Let us not forget what was said about the condition of the Gentiles in Romans 1:28, "**And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.**" The verses that follow identify various ungodly activities which are the result of turning away from God. What is truly disturbing is that the detailed description given in Romans 1:21-32 could easily describe the condition of our society today.

The Christian's Call To Action

It is never acceptable for the Christian to throw up his or her hands in despair and concede defeat to the moral decline that we presently face. We must not be influenced by society's acceptance of declining values but rather be diligent in being transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:1-2). We must gird up the loins of our mind (1st Peter 1:13). We too must respond to Paul's charge, "**Fight the good fight of faith . . .**" (1st Timothy 6:12) In order to be successful in this continuing battle we must put on the whole armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-18) We must not view the challenges we face living in a crooked and perverse society as hopeless but rather as an opportunity to shine. Remember, "**Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.**" (Philippians 2:14-16) Thus, with each new day we have a new opportunity to shine for Christ.

Conclusion

If you are not a Christian why do you wait? Obey Him now and be a part of the solution to the greatest problem that faces our nation today. (Acts 2:37-42) Remember, "**Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.**" (Proverbs 14:34)

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