



PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayergram®



Challenging Christians to Pray — March-April 2019

Culture of Change and ‘Moral Decay’

It's no exaggeration to say that there is a titanic struggle between good and evil in America today, and that's why we are encouraged to **pray for a 'moral and spiritual revival' in our nation.** Our rebellion is grinding us down morally and spiritually. Our culture is in trouble because of its blatant opposition to biblical morality.



ARNOLD TOYNBEE, one of our greatest historians hints that we face destruction. In his book, *Civilizations on Trial*, he observes that of the twenty-one civilizations preceding ours "nineteen have been destroyed by a mixture of atheism, materialism, socialism and alcoholism." Similarly, **PITIRIM A. SOROKIN of Harvard says that unless there is a change in America we are doomed. He further states that no empire, no nation has survived obsession with immorality and impurity.**



History teaches that civilizations rise and fall. The Roman Empire once stretched from England to India was destroyed, not by outside invaders, but by moral decay within. **DR. OSWALD J. SMITH has expressed the opinion that "we either stand on the threshold of the world's greatest revival, or it is the approaching Day of Judgment."** **DR PAUL S. REES suggests: "Our trouble lies in our unwillingness to follow God's recipe for spiritual recovery and revival." God's formula for revival is found in LAMENTATIONS 3:40, "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD."**



When a civilization is rising, the progressives are credited to be right; when a civilization is declining, the conservatives are credited to be right; but few have the spiritual insight to know when a culture is rising or declining. Much of today's so-called technological progress seems to be a delusion, convincing Christians and non-Christians alike as a sign of genius, temporarily manifesting to be a great modicum of success but in the long run hastening a costly decline. Let me ask you a simple question, what is the point of creating a great civilization with all the technological advancement, if we do not have the moral wisdom to preserve it? A thoughtful person with a spiritual acumen does not accept any labels; he looks for what is true as stated in the Holy Scriptures and he is opposed to what is false and counterfeit. We have many economic conservatives in America today; but when it comes to **"moral and spiritual issues,"** they seem to be mum.



Contemporary changes are never reliable, and the culture that goes all out to **"pacify and promote human ego,"** is headed for disaster. There will always be new changes on the horizon. Don't let anyone swindle your faith away! American novelist **ELLEN GLASGOW was profound when she said, "All change is not growth; all movement is not forward."** Today we blindly accept lifestyles once deemed questionable and sinful. We once applauded wholesome living; we now reward people for improper behavior. *"But this is the 21st century, and things have changed,"* some argue. And who can deny the benefits of

change? The world in which we live has changed, the church has changed, **but God has not changed.** I admit that there are some changes we can embrace without losing our “biblical and moral” foundation. Fancy talking people say that they can live by euphemism; they are infatuated with the current social and prosperity gospel, but refuse to come under the Lordship of Christ. **The cross is the heart of the gospel, not prosperity or popularity. Jesus Christ smashes the ugly head of the devil with His glorious Cross.**



Do we need to revise Christianity, or do we need to be revived? Do we need to change the message of the cross, or do we need to change our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit? When we proclaim the gospel, let us not use the language of “compromise and capitulation.” **Frankly speaking, I am not open to displeasing my God in order to scurry favor with men.** To have a godly outcome, one must submit to godly principles. **We must humbly say and do what we know is right in God’s sight regardless of what people might think or say.** The popular idea that is floating around that through modern “technology and social engineering,” we can devise a world in which nobody needs to repent of their sin or ask forgiveness and cleansing.



The world is increasingly becoming hedonistic in its practices; the hedonist never claims that he is a committed Christian; but he does claim that he is religious but his actions are somewhat different from the teachings of Christ. Whenever the gospel of “repentance” is preached; the hedonist becomes irritable and uneasy. Is America becoming a hedonistic nation? **We are living in a culture that our heroes are besmirched, our morals are decapitated and our Christian institutions are maligned or marginalized by those who tolerate artificial naiveté and empty crudities.** *“Private virtue is the foundation of all moral excellence.”*



As a nation, we must return to the God who guided our forefathers and ancient Christians, if we are to have a spiritual renewal. Beloved, America’s hour has struck! It is a crucial and defining day for our nation! It is a crisis hour! It is either revival or total chaos! What will it be?



The Bible alone can provide “moral and spiritual” foundation for our nation, and make no mistake about it. No nation can survive without a “moral compass,” no matter how powerful she may appear economically and technologically.



The profound words of FULTON OUSLER, one of America’s foremost journalists, come to mind, “The complete textbook for our moral behavior is the holy Bible, all criticism notwithstanding.”



In times of true revival, people turn to the Word of God for direction in order to navigate their lives in a meaningful way. But on the other hand, when the Bible is discarded as a book of spiritual instruction, moral decline is eminent. **May we give adherence to the immortal words of DANIEL WEBSTER, America’s foremost orator, “If we abide by the laws that are taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering, but when we go against God’s written Word, no man can tell what sudden catastrophe that may overwhelm us?”**



Currently, in America, we have an ongoing debate on whether to preserve the “sanctity of life” or not; and yet at the same token we have no debate on ending abortion, killing innocent babies in their mother’s womb. In fact, politicians on both sides of the isle tell us that defending the “sanctity of life” is not a winning issue and they expect us to keep our mouth shut. Life is a sacred gift from God and no one has the authority or the power to terminate the life of a “living and breathing human being,” including the highest court in our land. Imagine, grown men

and women (fathers and grand-fathers, mothers and grand-mothers) on national television, clamoring, yelling and screaming for the termination of an innocent human life! **Remember, the ruling class in America doesn't abort their offspring because they want their progeny to rule over the rest of us. Very convenient, isn't it?**



MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON OUR NATION!



Everything nailed down is coming loose. It is like **JEREMY TAYLOR'S** picture of a man clapping his shoulder to the ground to stop an earthquake. Have you ever felt like doing just that? Change and decay are all around us. We inhabit two worlds, one transient or fleeting, the other abiding and eternal. Centuries vanish, and we confront the timeless, ageless, dateless soul of man. God is the eternal unchanging One. Down through the centuries, many have tried to change the unchangeable God and they all met with the same fate: total annihilation. We need to understand that the things of this world will fade into utter insignificance in God's brilliance and majesty. Empires rise and fall, melee follows melee, rebellion follows rebellion, and everything human seems inconstant. We build cities and dismantle cities; we form alliance and break alliance; we fall in love and fall out of love. We do all these with flippant attitude and total disregard to the One Who loves us passionately.



For example, the city of Detroit (motor city), Michigan, was once a thriving and prosperous city in the United States but not any more. God alone is permanent and everything else is abstract and changeable. **"For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?" (PROVERBS 27:24). Libyan strong man, Col. Mohammed Gaddafi built a great and prosperous empire in the middle of the desert, and finally he was killed by his own people and they dragged his "bruised and emaciated body" through the streets of Tripoli. Saddam Hussein of Iraq had built several palaces throughout the desert kingdom, but they were reduced to rubble during the Iraqi war, and finally the US soldiers had to pull him out of a hole he crawled into. Saddam was set to rebuild the "Hanging Gardens of Babylon" to restore its pristine glory but all his hopes and dreams turned into ashes. It is in our human nature to cling to things that are perishable, not realizing the brevity of life.**



America is "great and good" only to the extent that she follows God's directives and remains firm, rooted and grounded in the faith of her fathers. God's people do not crumble at the presence of evil. Evil does not have the final word. God is not co-piloting the world; he is completely and unmistakably directing the affairs of the world which he commands. As human beings, we are haunted by the consciousness of something durable, changeless and imperishable. The moral laws of God are not subject to change or fortuity. God needs no changing; all changes must be on our part. So let's not waste time or effort to rearrange God like we rearrange furniture in our house. **"God does not play dice," says EINSTEIN. He does not prevaricate or impede justice and mercy like men and His throne is from "everlasting to everlasting." Let God be God!**



SORRY, devil, THE THRONE IS TAKEN AND YOU CANNOT HAVE it!

**Renewal of Prayer Conference
With Matthew Skariah**

**March 1-3
Heritage Baptist Church
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Pastor Joe Taylor**

**March 5-6
Washington C. Baptist Church
Lincoln, Arkansas
Pastor David Isaac**

Who Controls our Mind?

Man cannot live without masters. Everyone kneels before someone or something, including the atheist. Someone has wisely pointed out that men either live in glad obedience to the master they believe in, or they live in fictional opposition to the master they wish to undermine. Today more than ever, man is under slavery. Yes, physical slavery was abolished through the relentless efforts of people like **PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON**, and many others. But slavery still goes on—people are slaves to drugs, alcohol, politics, pornography, materialism and the list goes on. There will always be masters who attempt to control our mind. **How easily we're fooled!**

The average person is not as innocent as he appears. He has been **duped** by a culture because of his lack of “perceptive insight” into spiritual matters. The immortal words of **RALPH WALDO EMERSON** come to mind: **“Intelligence defies fate. So long as a man can think, he is free.”** But the question is, are we thinking or just blindly following someone who sounds good on television? People need to think for themselves, and not let others do their thinking. **DIETRICH BONHOEFFER** was profound when he said, **“The power of some requires the folly of many.”** May God deliver us from the tyranny of keeping our mind in bondage! **HENRY FORD** was right when he said, **“Thinking is the hardest thing there is and that's why few are engaged in it.”**

It is not because people are not educated—but they are educated badly. As **FREDRICK WILLIAM ROBERTSON** pointed out, **“The true aim of everyone who aspires to be a teacher should be, not to impart his own opinion, but to kindle minds.”** It is fitting to say that we (**Americans**) are the most polled people on earth. Believe me, the question of “right and wrong” is not determined by polls. Man has become hostage to his environment, such as money, position and technology. It seems that man has struggled from the beginning of time to comprehend the incomprehensible God. The biggest blunder in human existence is conceit. Is it any wonder that he is constantly appealing to his pride and being drawn into the canard, that he is much more refined and sophisticated than the average Christian who humbly trusts the issues of life to God?

Beloved, may I ask you, “Is there deliverance from spiritual slavery? Can we experience emancipation?” Yes, God has provided a way of deliverance from spiritual slavery by way of His Son's Death on the Cross. **Thank God, finally, we are free from the power and penalty of sin through the redemptive work of Christ on the cross.** The immortal words of an anonymous writer come to mind, **“God ‘dipped’ me in His grace and ‘clipped’ the sin out of my heart. I have never been the same since Jesus came into my heart.”**

Sooner or later, we must surrender our hearts to a power much ‘greater and stronger’ than our own, either GOD or the devil. As for me, I've chosen to yield my heart to Christ, my sovereign emancipator!

How about you?



The WPB Ministries



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