

## THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE

Paul Harvey tells us that in Maryland a young lady has to get parental consent to get her ears pierced, but the same young lady can have an abortion without her mother and father even knowing about it. That is the world in which we live. In Pennsylvania, a young lady was sent home from school because of the T-shirt she was wearing. The front of the T-shirt said, "I AM A VIRGIN." Tragically, the back of the shirt read, "THIS IS AN OLD SHIRT." That is the world in which we live.

Thousands of schools all across our nation have taken down the Ten Commandments and consequently have put up metal detectors as their replacement, and that too is the world in which we live.

The world in which we live is a world that calls homosexuality a respectable lifestyle, while God calls it a repulsive lifestyle (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:24-28; Jude 7). Things that were once considered as abomination are now deemed as "selected alternatives." Morality is now determined by the majority, yet Jesus said the majority will be lost (Matt. 7:13-14; 21-23).

Years ago grass was something you mowed, today it is something you smoke. Coke was something you drank, today it is something you snort. There was a time when aids were student helpers in the Principal's office, today AIDS is a raging plague. This is the world in which we live!

It is a world in which the sanctity of human life has been cheapened to the expression of "It's my choice," when years ago it was expressed as "It's my child!" It is a world that used to take care of the aged and the infirm, but now under the title of "mercy killing" we relieve their pain by giving them an injection, and many, if not most of them slip out into eternity where they have even greater pain (Jas. 1:27; Rev. 14:11).

Ladies and gentlemen how long, oh how long, will such injustice and rebellion persist in a land that claims Jehovah as their God? The truth of the matter is they know not God

(Titus 1:16)! Like the people of Hosea's day, our nation is "destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. 4:6). "Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because *there is* no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn" (Hos. 4:1-3). The word "controversy" literally means a lawsuit. Jehovah had a "lawsuit" against the nation of Israel. Has He taken one out on America?

We boast about our nation's military defense and how powerful we are against the nations about us. But friends are you aware of the fact that at the hand of an Almighty God the smallest nation in the world could destroy us? The nation of Israel came crashing down because of her sins. Will America go down in history as a nation that forgot God and was laid to waste because of her wickedness (Psa. 9:17)? The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, because of their wickedness, were turned into a modern-day ghost town within hours — what about America? It is the inward corruption of a nation that is more harmful than its external enemies. "Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he" (Prov. 29:18). "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). Keeping the Law is an **inward** characteristic of one's love for the Lord (John 14:15); 1 John 2:3-5). Righteousness is an **inward** characteristic of one's holiness before the Lord (1 Pet. 1:15-16; 1 John 3:7).

If we want to turn our nation around, we are going to have to start focusing (vision) our attention on internals (righteousness) rather than just externals. We must get into the hearts and lives of people and give them the "engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (Jas. 1:21). The gospel is able and powerful enough to slice a man's heart wide open, thus giving him the salvation that he so desperately needs (Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16). The question is, are we taking the "sword of the Spirit" and giving it to him (Eph. 6:17)? The late brother Andrew Connally used to say, "Let's take the sword of

the spirit, which is the word of God, and remember that God didn't give us a butter paddle to play with, and let's take the shield of faith, and remember that God doesn't want us to turn it upside down and build a flower planter out of it, and let's go to work for the Lord."

The world in which we live is a world fraught with confusion, yet it still has many righteous individuals, who are pursuing those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report (Phil. 4:8). Remaining neutral, rather than voicing concern, aligns one with the guilty (Oba. 11). We must get involved by coming out of the dark and by letting our "light so shine" in a world of darkness, in a world destined for failure, in a world doomed for destruction (Matt. 5:16).

Many Americans have manifested the same attitude toward the Word of God that the Romans did to which Paul referred to in his letter to the church at Rome. Read carefully verses eighteen and following of the first chapter and notice that they **first** left God doctrinally and then morally. They refused to **honor** God (v. 21a), they refused to **acknowledge** God (vv. 19-21a), they refused to **thank** God (v. 21) and they **exchanged** the truth of God for a lie (v. 25). Observe the first letter of each of the above bold words, "**H**onor," "**A**cknowledge," "**T**hank," and "**E**xchanged." It spells out very clearly their attitude toward the Lord, **HATE!** (v. 30a). What was the result of their hatred toward God? Foolishness (v. 22), idolatry (vv. 23-25), homosexuality (vv. 24, 26-28), "unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful" (vv. 29-31). That was the world in which they lived, and ironically, it is the same world in which we are living today.

**Jason R. Roberts**

**ILL**

**Sunday:** Millie Robertson (PM); Cleo Stone.

**Wednesday:** Millie Robertson; Clara Scott.

Jim O'Connor will be admitted to Menorah Hospital in Overland Park to have a temporary feeding tube placed. He expects to be released on Tuesday.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

**HOME BOUND**

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

**OUT OF TOWN**

Debra Gragg and her husband are at the Lake of the Ozarks this week. Mr. and Mrs. Trent Thrasher are visiting relatives at Owensville, MO this weekend. The Anderson's were in the St. Louis area visiting relatives last week. The Thomas' were in Branson, MO last week. Ted Thrasher was in Texas last week for a Gospel meeting at Rendon and lectureship at Lubbock. Julia Thrasher was in Oklahoma last week visiting her relatives.

**AREA MEETINGS**

There are several Gospel Meetings taking place in the Kansas City area in October and early November. Please check the flyers in the foyer for full details.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 43; Sunday PM, 36; Wednesday PM, 25.

*"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."* **1 John 2:3-5**

**Those To Serve**

**October 18, 2009**

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson**  
**SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... George Thomas**  
**PRESIDE ..... Jared Nelson**  
**ASSIST ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**ASSIST ..... Dave Parish**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**

**EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Stanley Anderson**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Jared Nelson**

**WEDNESDAY 21st**

**SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher**  
**INVITATION ..... George Thomas**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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