

A Dying Nation

I have had many an interesting conversation about our country's slow and painful demise. I have to be careful that my radical concepts of government do not offend but, frankly, I'm worried about our country and our children's future. Now, this is not unique with me; we hear this concern frequently from many folks today focused on our current politics and economy. My concern is different.

It seems that **morality** is taking a backseat to other issues, so far back that they are left in the rumble seat to blow in the wind (that's an example from way far back). It is odd to me that some would argue that our national morality has become better because of our increasingly tolerant attitude toward what once carried the stigma of being "wrong" (adultery, fornication, homosexuality, abortion, et al).

God said: *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people"* (Proverbs 14:34). Whereas God desires His people to be fiscally responsible (Proverbs 22:7; 1 Corinthians 4:2) and subject to government (Romans 13:1ff), righteousness, a part of which is morality, is **always** the greater issue. Israel's problems with Assyria, Babylon and Rome had precious little to do with economy and everything to do with sin of morality. Great secular nations (Babylon, Greece, Rome, etc.) universally possessed the flaw of a failed moral compass, which contributed mightily to their collapse. The war being waged today against Divine institutions (such as marriage and the home) by our current culture is dragging our country through the mud to a bloody demise. Further, we will not legislate our way back from the brink of destruction. The fantasy of believing that we can vote into office men of integrity with such high moral fiber as to lead this country out of the depths of depravity and back into a virtuous utopia is a pipe dream. If America survives, it will be because of the influence and impact of Christians changing the way people view this dying nation.

I am a patriot, a veteran with a service-connected disability and I love my country. However, I love souls more. In our heated discussions, marching, flag-waving or whatever expressions of loyalty toward this great country we exhibit, let us remember that there is a church of our Lord Jesus that takes the greater priority. People from any country under any form of government who obey the truth (Romans 6:17) and live faithfully unto death (Revelation 2:10) will be saved. And, whereas I love my country and want to see its freedoms flourish and its time-honored documents defended, I want souls to be saved. All nations are dying, only the Kingdom of Christ is eternal; priorities (Matthew 6:33)!