
"Trends II"

If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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. [2 CHRONICLES 7:14] [KJV]

September 2007

Of his speech in Atlanta, 1895, Booker T. Washington wrote: "I make it a rule never to go before an audience....without asking the blessing of God upon what I want to say."

I delivered a message entitled "Trends" some months ago. I think it was last March. This is a follow-up to that message. I wasn't able to complete all that I wanted to say during the first message on spiritual trends. This message is entitled "Trends II."

Last time some of the topics were Boldness, A changing World, Sinful Trends, Materialist World, and Legalized Gambling in North Carolina, Cheating in Sports, Tolerance and Intolerance, and Becoming a New Person in Christ. You may remember some of them. As we did in the previous trends message, we will today take a look at the world and what is going on and the trends that are becoming acceptable in this sinful, satan controlled secular world. In short, let's call it our changing spiritual culture.

~Something to Think About~



A shipwrecked sailor who had spent three years on a deserted island was overjoyed one day to see a ship drop anchor in the bay. A small boat came ashore, and an officer handed the sailor a bunch of newspapers. "The captain suggests," he told the sailor, "that you read what is going on in the world and then let us know if you want to be rescued."

~Disregard for God's Weekly Holy Day~

There is now a total disregard for the Sabbath, whether you keep Saturday or Sunday. It's just another day to most, not sacred or holy as required by the Scriptures.

God said; *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8 ASV)*

Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; (Exodus 20:9 ASV)

but the seventh day is a sabbath unto Jehovah thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: (Exodus 20:10 ASV)



for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Jehovah blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (Exodus 20:11 ASV)

One example is in recreation and sports activities. Now-a-days most schools and youth programs are traveling every weekend to some ballgame. The parents and kids are out of church for the whole weekend. What kind of role model and example is this setting for these kids? -- That ballgames are more important than God? No respect for God, not going to church and not stopping to worship every seven days. This is an important time for spiritual training of children and should not necessarily be ballgames and leaving God out of the picture, especially on His Weekly Holy Day. I think in a lot of cases it may be the parents living out their dream through their child.

There is nothing wrong with sports for kids, but when the priorities are sports and not God, it is wrong. And Jesus said to him, **"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."** [NAS] [Matthew 22:37]

According to a survey done by The Barna Group, their study shows; "That the faith principles and practices that a child absorbs by age thirteen boldly shapes their spirituality for the duration of their life. The study also stated that; "Parents have a greater impact on that process than anyone else."¹

Believe me, the home is where the child is taught and trained for manhood or womanhood. No where else can the child get the love and the special attention needed for Biblical teachings than by the parents, but they have to be lovers of God's laws.



While I was working in the food outreach ministry in Morganton a few months ago I overheard a person telling his pastor that he had been out of church for the last several weeks because he was refereeing ballgames and when the ballgames were over he would be back at church. I think his comment was, "that he made X-number of dollars each Sunday and he didn't want to give up the money." This

¹ Internet from The Barna Update, August 6, 2007, "Americans Not Concerned About Their Spiritual Condition"

was a guy that called himself a born-again Sunday Christian. Do we all have a price? His price was Sunday refereeing at ballgames.

"If because of the sabbath, you turn your foot From doing your own pleasure on My holy day, And call the sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, And honor it, desisting from your own ways, From seeking your own pleasure And speaking your own word, [ISAIAH 58:13] [NAS]

If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, and the holy of Jehovah honorable; and shalt honor it, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: (Isaiah 58:13 ASV)

~ Tithing and Offerings ~

“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”
Winston Churchill

Giving and Tithing – I know this is a touchy subject, but many Christians do not give to further the ministry of Jesus Christ. I’m not necessarily talking about the poor or the people that definitely cannot afford it without hurting their family. But, I have noticed over the years that as Christians have higher and higher income, they give less and less to the ministry of Jesus Christ. As they make more money they begin to depend on the money and not God. I know people with more money in the bank, retirement plans, etc.



that with their lifestyle cannot spend all the money in their lifetime. But, they continue to hang onto it. And these people are getting older. They will be leaving the money for family members to fight over and it may very well in the end separate the family by leaving them their inheritants.

While on this subject, I will just say; that we have two accounts; “One here on earth and one in heaven;” the money we send ahead will be our account for eternity where moth, rust and time will not destroy. Have you ever thought of it this way? We’re just sending the money ahead of us.

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 "*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;* [MATTHEW 6:19-20] [NAS]

One other thing I have noticed over the years is tithing and giving continues to decrease percentage wise as we make more money. We have a tendency to raise our standard of living and not give as much to God's ministry.

I'm not here to judge or tell you what to do; I'm only bringing to you what Jesus said about the handling and management of His money. The final decision is up to you and God. No one else will know but, "You and God."

~Watering Down of the Gospel~



What are some of the ways the Word of God is being what I call "Watering Down of the Gospel?" It seems to me that it is being changed to fit the culture and secularism and what is politically correct. Such as, but not limited to the following headliners: things such as saying.

- It doesn't matter what you believe, all roads lead to Heaven.

I was sitting in the chiropractor's office some time back and was looking in Time magazine and there was a Willie Nelson interview article. It caught my eye because I had always enjoyed and liked Willie Nelson's songs, especially in my prior life. In the August 2006 issue of Time magazine, it quoted Willie Nelson saying, "I believe that all roads lead to the same place. We're taking different ways to get there, but we all end up in the same place. May the God of your choice bless you?"² Sorry Willie, but all roads don't lead to Jesus Christ and heaven; *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.* [JOHN 14:6] [NAS]

- Christians doing what they want to do. Feels okay to do it. And think that it is covered by grace. Disregarding what the Bible says.

- Ungodly, Unholy, Anything Goes

- When you take away truth, you take away all.

² Time, August 7, 2006, page 6

“You cannot mix truth with a lie; otherwise the truth becomes a lie.”

- Prosperity Gospel, Name it and claim it Gospel.
- The Bible is a nonnegotiable Gospel, its truth and it's the only way to God.
- The trashing of the Word of God; such as a new Gay Bible.

There is now a new bible for the gay community. Author Tim Fleming offers a



free download of a new version of the Bible in which, includes the New Testament, along with a new book entitled “God’s New Law,” which was introduced in the year 2000. This book contains testimony of prophecy fulfilled, prophecy to be, and the decommissioning of traditional religion so that God may dwell with all those who believe. God’s New Law is meant to be the last book of the bible and to herald the birth of God’s religion without doctrine.

According to Tim Fleming’s book on the gay lifestyle, God has offered salvation



to the homosexual community for the sacrifices they have made through mental anguish. The book is also offering to lead mankind away from serving doctrine into living in the spirit with God and His kingdom.³

Apparently the author has never read what Jesus said in Matthew 4:17. The verse goes; *From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* [NAS] [Matthew 4:17] What are we repenting of; all of our sins which include the gay lifestyle? All you have to do is check out the commandments of God in the Old and New Testaments. It’s pretty plain what God thinks of the sin of the gay lifestyle!

At the turn of the Nineteenth Century, one of America’s leading newspapers addressed the following question. “What is in your opinion the chief danger, social or political, that confronts the coming century?” William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, known as “The General” replied to the question. Remember this was over 100 years ago. He said, “In answer to your enquiry, I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost; Christianity

³ The Berean Call, by TBC Staff, 7/4/2007.

without Christ; forgiveness without repentance; salvation without regeneration; politics without God; and Heaven without Hell.”⁴

Whatever happened to: **Sola-Scriptura** – the Latin for “The Scriptures Only!”

~Internet~



You can get about anything you want from the internet and about everyone has access to the web. Don't be drawn into the dark side of the web.

Need I say anymore! In the use of the web, just audit its use. (WWJD)

~Do What You Say~

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment. [JAMES 5:12] [NAS]

Your word is your bond. Some people will tell you anything now-a-days and not



mean it and they know they are not going to follow up on what they say.

They will tell you they are going to do something or meet you somewhere

and they know that they are not going to do what they say. Whatever

happened to the “handshake” and “a deal is a deal?” Today we have to hire lawyers to get people to do what they say they will do and it had better be in writing if you want to win the case. Word of mouth is no-good anymore.

No one wants to take the responsibility of any wrongs done in their life. They are always blaming someone else. It may be; “It's not my fault,” “There may be no discipline in our life,” “No Commitment to the True Word of God.”

~School System Is In Shambles~

Let me clear it up now, that I'm not talking about any particular person or position. There are a lot of good Christian school teachers, assistances and administrators. My wife works for the school system. I'm referring to the secular school system and its programs of this world that's being taught to our school children, especially at a very young impressible age.

⁴ The War Cry – 5 January 1901, p7, col. 2

Satan's plan is to get our children and he knows that if this is accomplished while their minds are very easily persuaded he can and will control a nation. Our children today will be our future leaders and ministers, so train them well in the ways and precepts of God.

We don't have a "lack of knowledge," we are plenty smart, but not necessarily smart in the ways of God.

Just think about it, we discontinued prayer in schools, we've taken the name "Jesus" out of the classroom. It seems to be okay to name god as long as you are not talking about the one and only true God. Teachers cannot discipline children in school



anymore without getting sued or fired from your job or both. Parents are letting the school raise and train their kids. I don't know or pretend to

have any of the answers to the present school problems. I only know what the Bible says. Try these verses below for guidance.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. [HOSEA 4:6] [KJV]

As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame. [HOSEA 4:7] [KJV]

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. [PROVERBS 1:7] [KJV]

Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it. [PROVERBS 22:6] [NAS]

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him. [PROVERBS 22:15] [NAS]

Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. [PROVERBS 23:13] [NAS]

The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother. [PROVERBS 29:15] [NAS]

If you noticed, all the above verses go against what is going on in the school system today. It's like; "If God tells us to do it, we are not doing it! It's as if we know more than God." It seems its man's ways we have knowledge of and not God's ways!

"A teacher affects eternity; one can never tell where (their) influence stops."
Henry Brooks Adams

OneNewsNow.com did a survey that asked if you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Christian children have more influence on public school culture than that culture has on them." The survey said; Agree 15.95% and Disagree 84.05%.
September 11, 2007 date of the survey.

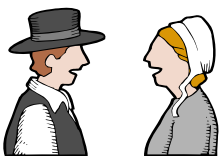
Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

[Romans 12:1] [NAS]

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. [Romans 12:2] [NAS]

There was a son of a butcher, whose family died when a plague swept England, leaving him an estate. He was ordained, married and sailed for Massachusetts where he was pastorate at the First Church of Charlestown.

At age 31, he died of tuberculosis. His name was John Harvard. The College at



Cambridge was renamed for him; "Harvard." He gave one half of his estate and his library toward the erecting of the college.

Fifty-percent of 17th-century graduates were ministers, as were ten out of twelve of Harvard's presidents prior to the Revolution.

Of the first 108 schools started in America, 106 of them were founded on Christianity.

Harvard's Rules and Precepts started September 26, 1642; "Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life. John 17:3."⁵

⁵ American Minute, Bill Federer, Sept. 14 - Harvard

The Christian values in public schools are quickly disappearing. To list all the things, laws, rules and regulations it would take a book.

On March 15, 1984, the Senate voted down voluntary prayer in public schools. Then President, Ronald Reagan said: “I am deeply disappointed that, although a majority of the Senate voted for it, the school prayer amendment fell short.”

President Reagan continues with some of his comments. “We’re told that it

“Unfortunately, in the last two decades we’ve experienced an onslaught of such twisted logic that if Alice were visiting America, she might think she’d never left Wonderland.
President Ronald Reagan

somehow violates the rights of others to permit students in school who desire to pray to do so. Clearly this infringes on the freedom of those who choose to pray, the freedom taken for granted since the time of our Founding Fathers. To prevent those who believe in God from expressing their faith is an outrage. The relentless drive to eliminate God from our

schools.....should be stopped.” President Reagan earlier addressed an audience with the following comments. “Sometimes I can’t help but feel the First Amendment is being turned on its head.” “The First Amendment was not written to protect the people of this country from religious values; it was written to protect religious values from government tyranny.”⁶

Secularism is slowly, but surely pushing out all of our Christian Heritage that it possibility can! Anything that has to do with Jesus Christ or the true God, the Creator of this universe and of all things, is interpreted as being wrong and not good for our school children. I won’t go into a lot of details, but I’m listing some of the court cases and decisions that recently have not been made in favor of Christianity.

◆ California – School Gender-Training.



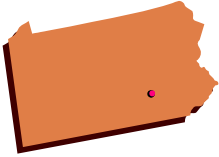
California Legislature has passed two bills that will force homosexual education and promotion in schools and will also monitor against any alleged harassment of homosexuality; and are now on there way to the governor’s desk. This subject will be taught from kindergarten to twelfth grade.”⁷

⁶ Reagan on Prayer in Schools, American Minute with Bill Federer, March 15, 2007

⁷ www.onenewsnow.com, California school gender training.

◆ **Pennsylvania – Replace reading of Bible with book of Witches & Halloween.**

When Wesley told his mom “I want to read the Bible, that’s my favorite book,” the school said no---even though they let every other book reading go forward. And even though they told him no, you can’t read the Bible, they said, “read this book on witches and Halloween instead.”⁸



◆ **Maryland school sued for refusing to let girl read Bible.**

According to the student’s mother, Amber was reading her Bible after finishing her lunch. At this point her teacher gave her a “verbal warning” to put the Bible away. Amber was told that she “was not allowed to read the Bible” and if it happened again, Amber would be punished. She didn’t take the Bible back to school.⁹



◆ **Illinois school pushes smut on children.**

Parents have complained that three of the six books contain adult content which is highly age-inappropriate for student ages 12 and 13. These complaints, however, have fallen on deaf ears. The superintendent of schools has refused to pull the books or make any positive comment. One book is 110 pages of *&words and other profanities as well as multiple crude sexual references. One book, “Fat Kids Rules the World” has many passages that are totally inappropriate for quotation here¹⁰



◆ **San Francisco, CA. – Public school teaches Islam.**

A sixth grade teacher stood up in her class and said for the next couple of weeks they would become Muslims. The students in that class had to memorize portions of the Koran, wear Moslem names alongside the Star and Crescent, complete the Five Pillars of Faith and recite Moslem prayers. The school agreed with the teacher, the district court agreed, the appeals court affirmed the teacher’s decision of this study, when this could not be done for the Christian Faith.¹¹



⁸ www.onenewsnow.com September 6, 2007, School asks student to replace Bible.

⁹ The Berean Call, October 13, 2006, No doubt we’re in the last days.

¹⁰ AP Associated Press, www.onenewsnow.com, Illinois school pushes smut on children.

◆ **Morganton, N.C. – What her daughter brought home is shocking?**

Mary Iverson said she had no warning the library book her middle schooler was reading was too explicit for her eyes. The book has passages that described a sex act in explicit detail. The book was by Joe Hill, “Heart-Shaped Box.” David Burleson, the school superintendent said the book will be taken off the shelf after he was read the passage in question. He said they have controls, but this one slipped through.¹²



~Playing with God~

Let me tell you folks, God is tired of playing around with us. We need to get serious about (Yeshua), Jesus Christ. We are to do His will and walk in His Commandments. Let us see and read what Proverbs 3:1-6 has to say.

1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. [PRO 3:1-6] [KJV]

A new survey released by The Barna Group, which has been tracking America’s



religious behavior and beliefs since 1984, reveals that one out of every three adults (33%) is classified as unchurched – meaning they have not attended a religious service of any type during the past six months. That translates into approximately 100 Million people in the United States.¹³ I’m not saying you have to go to Church to be a follower of Christ, but in most cases the unchurched are doing their own pleasure on God’s Holy Day, not attending Bible Studies or attempting to learn the ways, precepts, laws and commandments of God.

¹¹ June July 2006, Waymarks, Southern Union Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty

¹² The News Herald, Morganton, N. C. 28655, September 15, 2007

¹³ www.barna.org, March 19, 2007 Email entitled “Unchurched Population Near 100 Million in the U.S.”

~One World Religion~

Many people want to bring the Gospel under one big world order or religion, mixing all the religions of the world into one. They want to do away with the Holy Bible and what it says about sin and setting ourselves apart from the world. Holiness to God has no place in this new one-world religion.

There is a movement afoot attempting on combining all religions into one. I believe most leaders think that if all religions were combined into one, there would be world peace. Little do they know! Jesus said, *Think not that I came to send peace on the earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.* (Matthew 10:34 ASV) As long as Jesus is here, which is forever, the world will be divided because the world hates Jesus Christ. “Just as the mention of His name causes division,” You are either for Him or against Him. You cannot serve two masters. When he was here on earth, they even tried to kill Him early in His ministry and later on did kill Him. That’s how controversial Jesus Christ was and is now. The times have not changed, “He’s the same yesterday, today and forever.”

One example that would have an impact on the world is the statements of the



current Roman Catholic Pope. Pope Benedict XVI recently went to Turkey, which is 99% Moslem. He entered a Moslem mosque, one of the most sacred places among Moslems, and facing Mecca he silently

bowed his head in prayer. This was apparently an effort to bring peace from his previous remarks that accused Islam of being a religion primarily bent on conversion through violent means, contrary to God’s will. The article goes on to say that the Pope hopes to unite the three worldwide religions, Islam, Judaism and Christianity. They are already united to the extent that they each believe in one supreme God.¹⁴ But, are we talking about the same Supreme God – The Creator God of the Universe?



Pope Benedict XVI has reasserted the universal primacy of the Roman Catholic Church, approving a document released that says

¹⁴ Waymarks, November/December 2006, Vol. 11, No.5 Issue

Orthodox and other Christian denominations were not true churches. Quoting from the 1962-65 meetings of the Second Vatican Council in which Pope Benedict XVI attended in his early years of his ministry. The document said, "Christ established here on earth only one church." The other communities "cannot be called 'churches' in the proper sense" because they do not have apostolic succession - the ability to trace their bishops back to Christ's original apostles. The document stated also that other churches did not have the "means of salvation."¹⁵ According to the Catholic Church, they are the only way to salvation. Of course, we all know the means of salvation is Jesus Christ.

Last Days - an Increase of Knowledge.



I understand that we are now doubling our knowledge base every 6 months to one year.

"But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase." [DANIEL 12:4] [NAS]

But again, is our knowledge God's knowledge or secular knowledge? It's up to you and me to answer this question.

~"Difficult Times Will Come and Are Here"~

This should not be any surprise to anyone; the Bible tells us we will have difficult times in the last days. Let us look at II Timothy 3:1-7.

1 *But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.*

2 *For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,*

3 *unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,*

4 *treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*

5 *holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.*

¹⁵ NSNBC News Services, 9:52 a.m. ET July 10, 2007, internet news

6 *For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,*
7 *always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

[II Timothy 3:1-7] NAS

Then in Acts 2:17-21 it tells us the following:

17 *'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;*

18 *EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.*

19 *'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.*

“You can recognize truth by its beauty and simplicity.”
Richard Feynman

20 *'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS*

DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.

21 *'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'*

[Acts 2:17-21 NAS]

There will be a new world order coming and the USA will probably have to take a backseat. The USA is doomed to destruction if they do not repent. From the Bible,



II Chronicles 7:13-14 gives us all of the answers to the troubles of this world. *"If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command*

the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, [2 Chronicles 7:13] [NAS] Sounds a lot like what is happening in the world and especially the U.S.

today, but God gives us the answer in the next verse; and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked

ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. [2 Chronicles 7:14] [NAS]

The U.S. has been a mighty power for some 200 plus years and the fall is eminent if the people will not fall on their knees and repent. We are going so fast and trying to keep up with this secular world that we just don't even notice what is happening.

And then Jesus tells us of His relationship to the world as well as ours as disciples of Jesus Christ. *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. [John 15:18] [NAS] "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. [John 15:19] [NAS]*

A favorite quote below;

“Trouble will come, but don't be afraid or ashamed; reach out to Jesus.”¹⁶

~Judgment Day is Coming~

Judgment Day is coming, are you ready?



All nations in the history of mankind have fallen when that Nation falls into and becomes too sinful to survive. When they have forgotten about God and his statues and precepts, they will fall; it's just a matter of time. Our government is endorsing and passing laws and regulations contrary to God's Word; this we have done and are doing today. The laws should be enforced and made based on God's Holy Word, not man's seemingly knowledge and what he or she thinks.

“To live outside of God's will puts us in danger; to live in his will makes us dangerous.”
Erwin McManus,
An Unstoppable Force

I hear, read and sing the saying, “God Bless America.” Folks they have it backwards, it should be (please) “America Bless God.” Never has a nation fallen while in the will of God. Read your Old Testament.

By His very nature and character God cannot and will not bless or endorse sin or become a part of anything sinful.

¹⁶ An Arrow Pointing to Heaven, James B. Smith, page 107.

Sodom and Gomorrah were depraved socialites, full of crimes, evils, sexual perversions, etc. *And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.* [Genesis 18:20] [NAS]

Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven, [Genesis 19:24] [NAS]

and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; [2 Peter 2:6] [NAS]

just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. [Jude 1:7] [NAS]

"Son of man, if a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness, and I stretch out My hand against it, destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it and cut off from it both man and beast, [Ezekiel 14:13] [NAS]

Look around and don't become numb to what is happening in this secular society.

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

[Isaiah 5:20] [NAS]

Christian Values are thrown out the window when making court rulings and decisions. Especially consider the Roe vs. Wade court ruling. What if the young Mary had decided to have an abortion? *And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!* [Luke 1:42] [NAS]

Abraham Lincoln is best known for freeing the slaves by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, affirming in his Gettysburg Address, 1863. "Our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." But little do most people know that the last act of Congress signed by Abraham Lincoln before he was shot was to place the phrase "In God We Trust" on all national



coins. In the past, all coins had this phrase “In God We Trust” on the front of the coins. But now they have printed a new dollar coin with the phrase “In God We Trust” not on the front of the coin where it can be seen easily, but it is printed on the edge of the coin and it’s such a small print that it is hard to read. You have to search for the phrase.

This country of the United States of America was founded on Christian principles, precept, laws and regulations. According to the continental Congress record, the first prayer was September 07, 1774 at 9:00 o’clock a.m. John Adams wrote;



“Preacher Duche’ read the 35th Psalm, after this, unexpectedly to every body, struck out into an extemporary prayer, which filled the bosom of every man present. John Adams goes on to say, I must confess, I never heard a better prayer.”

Now, over 200 years later the headline reads “Hindu to Open Senate with Prayer.” Yes, you read (heard) it correctly a Hindu chaplain has been scheduled to deliver the opening prayer in the U.S. Senate. According to historians it is the first Hindu prayer ever read in the Senate since it was formed. In Hindu, you have not one God, but many, many, many, many gods. This was certainly never in the minds of those who wrote the Constitution when they talked about the Creator God. “Now we don’t know which God made the universe and all things, since the Hindus have many gods.”¹⁷



As one writer wrote, “American society is permissive in the wrong areas and restrictive in the honest ones. All of this culminates into a society where Americans are left to become cold, uncaring, unfeeling and lovers of wrong things, wrong values which contributes to divisiveness as Jesus said in Matthew 24:12 *“Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.”* [Matthew 24:12] [NAS] We are not strict; we do not enforce right laws, God’s laws. By our own laws, it is perfectly legal to play violent video games, watch violence, horror movies, listen to perverse music and glorify all sorts of obscene perverseness as art. We legalize drugs and have all manner of unnatural chemicals, pills and pharmaceuticals

¹⁷ American Family Association Action Alert, July 10, 2007

coursing through our systems. We gamble away life savings. We permit prostitution, homosexuality, divorce, adultery and pornography. All these things we do and are perfectly legal. Is there any reason to believe God would allow His people to continue this way? Is there any reason not to think an end is near? But to those of us who know and love our God, who have not become cold and part of this world, it will be a time to look up, because a great day at this time will begin to dawn, as Jesus said in Luke 21:28; *"But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* [Luke 21:28] [NAS] It will be the time of the return of our Savior our Redeemer, the One who has already won the battle."

We need to repent individually and nationally. We need to acknowledge God as the true source of freedom, blessings and prosperity.

and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. [2 Chronicles 7:14] [NAS]

Americans report widespread acceptance of indulging in many behaviors that are considered immoral by biblical standards. Review the report below.¹⁸ This survey was taken in the year 2003 and its now 2007. I'm sure the percentages are higher today.

<i>Morally Acceptable?</i>	<i>%</i>
Gambling	61%
Cohabitation	60%
Sexual fantasizing	59%
Abortion	45%
Adultery	42%
Pornography	38%
Profanity	36%
Drunkenness	35%
Homosexual sex	30%

¹⁸ Morality Continues to Decay, Barna Research, November 2003.

The World Will Give You Up

A man said to D. L. Moody, "Now that I am converted, have I got to give up the world?" Mr. Moody answered, "No, you do not have to give up the world; if you have a good ringing testimony for the Son of God, the world will give you up pretty quick; they will not want you around."

"Just remember, we have God to bring us through if we are faithful to the end."

In this fast-paced world, we need to keep in mind the following words of this song; "This world is not my home, I'm just passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door and I can't feel at home in this world anymore." Taken from; "This World Is Not My Home."

"Worldly things will fade away as we get closer and closer to Jesus Christ."

The Barna Group out of Ventura, California which does Christian surveys, reports, "That most adults say that their religious faith is very important to them in their life. Two-thirds of the nation's adult population firmly embraces the idea that their most important purpose is to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. However, a deeper look at people's full array of spiritual beliefs and behavior calls into question the sincerity of their commitment."¹⁹

"If there is one thing upon this earth that mankind love and admire better than another, it is a brave man ---it is the man who dares to look the devil in the face and tell him he is a devil." ---

James A. Garfield

The one thing I want to leave with you today is:
This is a big and easy secular world out there to be dragged into, "don't let it happen to you."

Hold on to Jesus Christ with all you have. He's the only way, all other ways are losers. In the end, Jesus is the only answer to eternal life. Can I get an Amen!

I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things.



Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

¹⁹ The Barna Update, May 21, 2007, email printout, Barna's Annual Tracking study shows Americas stay spiritually active, but Biblical views wane.