

# How Long Will God Continue to Bless America? (Conclusion)

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Commentary on the Moral Decline of a Nation

By Cal Thomas (TNS) June 21, 2022

While inflation, high gas and food prices, a falling stock market, corrosive politics and a looming recession are all causes for concern -- even alarm, two recent Gallup polls reveal an erosion of foundational principles that are key to a stable and enduring society. According to Gallup, 50 percent of those surveyed believe the state of "moral values" in America is "poor." Thirty-seven percent said they are only "fair." The trend is not headed in the right direction as 78 percent think they are getting worse.

One doesn't have to look far to see the reason for this pessimistic outlook. Consider what is being taught (and not taught) in many public schools and universities. The media -- social, broadcast, cable and entertainment -- mostly focus on the tawdry. It's "news" that Emma Thompson is doing a nude scene in a film because she wants us to love our bodies. It's news that Kim Kardashian wore a dress once worn by Marilyn Monroe when she sang "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy in 1962. Don't even get me started on the fascination the media have with Harry and Meghan.

Things once considered wrong and immoral are now paraded as the opposite and woe to those corporations, institutions and individuals that claim otherwise. Need more examples? There isn't enough space to list them all, but these few will do: mass shootings in schools and everywhere else; Speaker Nancy Pelosi appearing on "Ru Paul's Drag Race" and remarking, "This is what America is all about;" drag queen story hours at some elementary schools and other actions related to the promotion of the acronym known as LGBTQ-plus; gender identity and fluidity (Facebook's list of gender categories now totals 58); a library system in Maryland hosting social justice and activism camps for ninth-graders to teach them "how to engage your activism, make connections to your community and develop your passions;" Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, signed a "Menstrual Cycle Dignity" bill that requires thousands of new tampon dispensers be placed in boy's bathrooms; a Washington, D.C., elementary school gave pre-K through third-grade children a lesson on "anti-racism" that asked them to identify racist members of their family.

Moral decline -- along with massive debt -- has contributed to the collapse of great nations in the past. If a foundation is defective, any house built on it will likely experience distress. What makes us think we can escape the judgment of history and avoid a similar fate? A house and its foundation must be maintained. A car must be serviced. A body must be taken care of. So must America.

The second Gallup poll found belief in the existence of God has reached a new low. Eighty-one percent of those surveyed said they believe in God, but the number is down six points from a consistent 87 percent that held that belief between 2013-17. The two polls should be seen as related. When a vacuum is created, pressure builds from the outside to fill it. If growing numbers of people don't believe in God, they have to believe in something. Without a power to restrain humankind from our lower nature, anything goes. Is this where we want to be and is this the direction in which we wish to be headed? I once heard the late evangelist the Rev. Billy Graham say America was not at a crossroads, but had traveled down the wrong road and needed to come back to the crossroads and take the right road. What if we can no longer agree on the right road and where the wrong road is leading us?

#### **IV. AS LONG AS GOVERNMENT RULES AS GOD INTENDS**

A. 1Tim. 2:1-4; 1Peter 2:13-14

1. Social engineers abolishing effective punishment and turning prisons into country clubs facilitating a severely broken court system; the news media blaming legitimate government laws and law enforcement organizations as the source of crime; efforts to disarm citizens for the purpose of future control; requiring churches to report offerings and expenditures as a potential future revenue source; regulating business to the point where only monopolies can survive profitably which facilitates state oversight of business - Rom. 13:1-4; Ecc. 8:11
2. Pittsburg judge kicked minister out of pulpit because the church's doctrine did not permit women preachers, so an ACLU backed woman sued the church and won, the preacher was ordered to give equal time to the woman or be removed from the pulpit. It was later overturned, but it is a matter of time until it is not overturned.
3. Pennsylvania passed a law calling preaching on homosexuality a hate crime and attached a punishment for reported violators.

B. Yes, He'll bless America, if the government rules as God intended it to.

#### **V. YES, IF WE RESTORE THE FAMILY**

A. Read history. No culture in any place or time has ever survived the breakdown of the nuclear family.

B. 50% of all first marriages in the USA end in divorce. Less than half of all adults in the USA are married.

1. "As long as we both shall love."
2. Childhood trauma: all reputable mental health organizations acknowledge the most prevalent difficulty and most common source of emotional disorders is being children of divorced parents.
3. The mental health industry notes that the top three stressors in life are: 1) death of a spouse, 2) divorce, and 3) marital separation; all of which come before incarceration in prison, death of a family member, major illnesses, and being fired.
4. The intact family is the most important structure in any nation, more important than the kind of government, the type of economy, or the strength of the military.

C. Social movements attack the nuclear family.

1. Definition of family in schoolbooks: "People living together that love one another. Father, mother, children. Also divorced fathers and live in girlfriends, divorced mothers and children, cohabiting couples, two men (gay), two women (lesbian), and commune family."

D. Government subsidized fornication.

1. Medicaid abortions, schools promoting contraception, sexual experimentation, and gender exchange.
2. Policies for welfare recipients and retirees discourage family formation.

E. Contemporary children's rights laws that void parents' responsibilities.

F. Yes, He will continue to bless America, if government and American culture cease interfering with the nuclear family.

## VI. AS LONG AS THE SALT DOESN'T LOSE ITS SAVOR

- A. Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:15
  - 1. Luke 13:21 - Jesus said the kingdom is like leaven hidden in a lump of meal. Christians have influence.
  - 2. This country is standing now because of the residual effect of righteous people. Sodom could have been saved by ten righteous souls. What happens when there are no more Christians?
- B. Christians meeting in fire halls, homes, abandoned buildings, car ports, store fronts. Sharing worn out Bibles and song books, chalk board lessons, huddling together under blankets in winter, driving through six inches of snow for worship. These things made strong Christians, strong churches, and a strong nation.
- C. Now? Christians begging for preachers because young men are unwilling to make the sacrifices necessary to become a preacher. Preachers needing support everywhere because materialistic and worldly members are not committed to the work of the local church. Churches with fancy buildings, wealthy members with fancy homes, and there is no support for the Gospel. Comfortable buildings conveniently located with services arranged to facilitate assembling, and we have to beg a third of the congregation to get out of their recliners and come to worship.
  - 1. If we cannot see that the salt is losing its savor, we are spiritually blind.
- D. House full on Sunday morning but Sunday evening, Wednesday Bible class, and Gospel meeting nights 40 to 50% less. Is the salt losing its savor?
- E. Worldliness has invaded Christians' lives; many see nothing wrong with: mixed bathing, immodest apparel, gambling, gossip, trashy tv, liquor, endorsing sin and talking trash in the social media. Is the salt losing its savor?
- F. Are you stronger or weaker as a Christian than you were a few years ago. Helping to save souls or just holding your own? Read the Bible through, prepare your lesson book for Bible class, volunteer for the work of the local church physical and spiritual? Is the salt losing its savor? You answer this.
- G. No salt? This nation will not be preserved.
  - 1. One day there will be a lamentation for us like that for Babylon, Jerusalem, and Rome.
  - 2. "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen!"
  - 3. "America the Beautiful is fallen, is fallen!"
  - 4. Ruins of Rome and one day the ruins of Washington DC.
  - 5. Farfetched? That's what Rome thought. Babylon, Jerusalem, and Sodom thought that, too. Be warned.
- H. It comes down to us. Be faithful Christians to the best we can, not to the least we have to do to get by. Lead others to Christ, and God may continue to bless America for a while longer. Satan is doing his best to destroy us; we have to work harder to preserve it.
- I. Please understand that no nation formed by men has lasted indefinitely. One day history will remember us the same way we remember Rome. It is essential that we put our faith in the Kingdom of God and not pin our hopes to the kingdoms of men. And that includes the United States of America.