

## The Reproach of America

Al Brown (deceased)

“Righteousness exalteth a nation; But sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34).

Some may not wish it so, but this ancient truth is still as valid today as when it was first written.

We live in a time when righteousness, truth, and goodness are demeaned; and wickedness, lying, and brutality are glorified and applauded. God’s standard of morality has never been more blatantly ignored and even ridiculed. Many pay lip service to God. Some even profess to be a part of “Christendom” while utterly ignoring His will. Jesus says such people are headed for torment. (Matt. 7:21-23).

The Lord does not allow anyone to compartmentalize his life, doing the will of God at times and then utterly ignoring it at other times when it is not convenient. Every person, whether he/she is a Christian or not, will be held responsible for what he does in this life (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15). God revealed His will to us so we can know how to live, treat other people, and worship God. Changing, replacing, or perverting His will (the Scriptures) will not excuse anyone at the Judgment (Gal. 1:6-9).

Most people in this country may not know the place where a moral principle is found in the Bible, but they know if a thing is wrong or not. Pure Christianity has impacted the world to that degree. James’ warning applies to all people — not just Christians: “To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). When Americans put a stamp of approval on sin — any sin — this passage condemns them whether they ever acknowledge it or not.

All this means is every person of accountable age must live by God’s standard of righteousness or pay the eternal consequences. Showing approval for a lifestyle that God condemns (homosexuality is immoral (Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10. Approving the murder of unborn children is immoral (Ex. 21:22-25). “No fault’ divorce is immoral (Matt. 19:9). Endorsing and voting for political candidates who enact laws legalizing such sin is immoral. These sins and others, is why America is in deep moral decline.

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL

*Stand for something or you’ll fall for anything.*

### News & Notes

**CAMP UPDATE:** Great week at camp with over 40 kids between the regular camp and day camp. To top it off we had two baptisms of two teens from the Weirton Heights Church of Christ.

**LADIES DAY: Saturday, Aug. 5th, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,** Columbiana Church of Christ. Topic: “Let’s Taco-Bout GRACE!” Lunch provided. **RSVP by Friday, July 28th.** Additional details on the bulletin board.

**PANTRY:** Canned fruit.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** Mike West, Peggy Williams, Randy Beagle, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Becky McKittrick, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout’s niece). **Fox-Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom’s sister). **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon OH 44432.

### But The Earth Belongs To Us

*“The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s:*

*but the earth hath he given to the children of men.” - Psalm 115:16*

Because of our finite thinking, God has pictured Himself in the heavens though He reigns and rules everywhere. When the Roman general Pompey conquered Jerusalem, he was surprised to find the Most Holy Place in the temple to be an empty room. He didn’t know that our God is not a physical object. He is not confined by time and space dimensions as are we. God lives and rules throughout His universe.

But the earth He gave to man as a home. And in man’s down-to-earth living he is to employ his skills, earn his bread and live out his days in hope of a home better than earth. However, man’s poor job as keeper of the earth has defiled it. Unquestionably — “*The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed ...*” (Isaiah 24:5). Believing that the last best hope of earth is in man’s conformity to the Landlord’s wishes and to nature’s restrictions, we say:

*There is no sense, as I can see, in mortals such as you and me  
A-faulting nature’s wise intents and locking horns with Providence.*

For if we would justify our brief moment here, we as tenants must respect our Landlord.

- Leroy Brownlow, “A Psalm In My Heart” © (used permission) -

#### ONLY ONE ANSWER

Having a happy time? — *Praise God.*

Life getting difficult? — *Seek God.*

Having a quiet moment? — *Worship God.*

Suffering great pain? — *Trust God.*

Puzzled about what to do? — *Ask God.*

Overwhelmed with joy? — *Thank God.*