

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

Is Time Running Out?

by Eugene Britnell

Professor Alexander Tyler, nearly 200 years ago, while our 13 original colonies still belonged to Great Britain, wrote of the fall of the Athenian republic of over 2,000 years before:

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship.

“The average age of the world’s greatest civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence:

1. From bondage to spiritual faith.
2. From spiritual faith to great courage.
3. From courage to liberty.
4. From liberty to abundance.
5. From abundance to selfishness.
6. From selfishness to complacency.
7. From complacency to apathy.
8. From apathy to dependency.
9. From dependency back again into bondage.”

The United States is over 200 years old. It seems to me that the American people are now taking steps six, seven and eight! Can we avoid the final step?

And you know that which is true of nations is true of God’s people. Israel followed the same steps from bondage into bondage again. During the restoration era, the church fought for its existence. It became strong and courageous. Then it became proud and wealthy. The larger congregations became selfish and complacent, and turned their work over to human institutions, thus becoming dependent upon others. Now many of them are soft and compromising – and headed into apostasy again! It seems that about the only thing we learn from history is that we don’t learn from it.

Fall of the Roman Empire

The greatest historian, Gibbons, who wrote The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire, gave five reasons for the fall of the great dynasty.

First: Rapid increase of divorce, with the undermining of the sanctity of the home, which is the basis of society.

Second: Higher and higher taxes; the spending of money for bread and celebrations.

Third: The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.

Fourth: The building of gigantic armaments, when the real enemy was within; the decadence of the people.

Fifth: The decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, and becoming important to guide it.

A review of these principal factors in the decline of the Roman Empire can easily be related to our own time, and may portend our own decline from the status of a prominent world power. *“Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.”* Again, *“Blessed is the nation whose God is Jehovah”* (Prov. 14:34; Psalm 144:15).

You Tell What You Are

You tell on yourself by the friends you seek, by the very manner in which you speak; by the way you employ your leisure time, by the use you make of dollar and dime.

You tell what you are by the things you wear, by the spirit in which your burdens you bear; by the kind of things at which you laugh, by the records you play on the phonograph.

You tell what you are by the way you walk by the things of which you delight to talk; by the manner in which you bear defeat, by so simple a thing as how you eat.

By the books you choose from the well-filled shelf – in these ways, and more, you tell on yourself. So there’s really no particle of sense in an effort to keep up false pretense.

Anonymous

One ship drives east and
another drives west
With selfsame winds that
blow;
It’s the set of the sails
and not the gales
That tells them where to
go.
Like the winds of the sea
are the winds of fate,
As we voyage along
through life;
It’s the set of the soul
that decided its goal.

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16