

"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR NATION?"

Proverbs 14:34

C. Warming
— Modern man is as misfed up as a termite in a yo yo —

The big glaring headlines of today should challenge us once again to this Scripture. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

A vital, important letter, 14 words in length were delivered to the Secretary of State at 2:05 o'clock on Wednesday of last week.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hereby resign the office of Vice-President of the United States, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

Spiro T. Agnew

One minute later a copy of that letter was given to the President of the United States.

The Vice-President of our country says that in the best interest of our nation and pleading no contest in a Federal Court in Baltimore, to a single count of (income tax evasion) in 1967, the Justice Department at the same time dropped criminal investigation of Agnew. But told the court that it had evidence that Agnew was receiving cash payments from Maryland contractors as late as December, 1972.

Agnew was (fined \$10,000 and placed on three years probation.) The Vice-President denies the assertions that the prosecutors have concerning bribery. That he feels he was not guilty of that type of crime.

In giving the sentence of three years probationary type of punishment without supervision, the Judge said that he felt that it was in the best interest of the nation. In other cases, the Judge said, he usually ordered the defendant confined from 2-5 months, and then the rest of the time be on probation.

In the face of such glaring news, people are asking the question - what is happening to our nation?

If you have your Bible and will turn to (2 Tim. 3.) and beginning with Verse

1. It reads something like this -- you are going to have a very difficult time being a Christian in these last days. People will love only themselves and their money. They will be proud and boastful, sneering at God, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful to them, and thoroughly bad. "

V. 3 - They will be hard-headed and never given, give in to others. They will be constant liars and trouble-makers. And will think nothing of immorality. They will be rough and cruel and sneer at those who try to be good.

They will betray their friends. They will be hot-headed, puffed up with pride, and prefer good times to worshipping God.

V. 5 - They will go to church but they won't really believe anything they hear. Don't be taken in by people like that.

V. 6 - They are the kind who practically sneak into other people's homes and make friends with silly sin burdened women and teach them their new doctrines. Women of that kind are forever following new teachers. But they never understand the truth and these teachers fight truth just as Jannes and Jambres fought against Moses. They have dirty minds. Warped and twisted. And have turned against the Christian faith. But they won't get away with all of this forever. Someday their

deceit will be known to everyone, as the sin of these two.

Reading of V. 1-9, sound so modern and so up-to-date. So is God's Word at every point.

Look at Matthew 11:16. What shall I say about this nation. What is happening to this nation. These people are like children playing - who say to their little friends, we played weddings and you weren't happy. So we played funerals, but you weren't sad. For John the Baptist doesn't even drink wine and often goes without food. And you say he is crazy. And I the Messiah feast and drink. And you complain that I am a drinking man. And hanging around with the worst sort of sinners. But brilliant men like you can justify your very and every inconsistency.

And Capernaum (V. 23) though highly honored shall go down to Hell.

As he said, it will truly be better for Sodom than for that city in the day of judgement.

Not so long ago I stood on the sight of the city of Capernaum. And what is there today - nothing but ruins. Not even a dwelling - no one lives there. It is a desolate ruins - only some old ruins. Whatever God says about a nation comes to pass.

What is happening to our nation in these last days - there will be a mighty (decaying of society). Men by the millions will turn to sin. There will be more filth, pronography, immorality, disease and corruption than the world can ever imagine. And of course, in the last days, the prophet Joel said God is going to pour out his spirit. Just before the end of the world. Here is how it is going to

happen. And we as Christians in the church today need to understand what is going to happen.

We see on the symptoms - the things that are behind of scenes of society. The world is a stage upon which a battle is being fought, for one thing - the ultimate (control of the world.) It is happening. The politicians, the reformers, the college students, the educators - on and on we could go. It is really happening in this world.

Let us take two or three considerations here. First, remember before life began on this earth.

I. REMEMBER BEFORE LIFE BEGAN ON THIS EARTH

Let's go back a minute to understand what our Heavenly Father had in mind as he presided over things in Heaven. It seems there was Gabriel, the soft-spoken angel. The counterpart of the Holy Spirit, if we could so understand it. And there was Michael, the counterpart of the Father. And the Angel, judgment, and there was Lucifer - the counterpart of Jesus.

Lucifer, in Heaven, was the most intelligent and powerful and beautiful of all the created beings. And Jesus is the most intelligent, powerful, and beautiful of the non-created beings. He was not created. He is eternal.

It seems in the book of Isaiah that after a long time of being willing to be a servant under Christ, one day Lucifer was (no longer happy) to be in second command. One day his heart was filled with pride. And after years of being willing to say, thy will be done - one day he said, the first two words back there that introduced sin. When Lucifer said, (I will,) sin began.

I will arise above God. I will exhalt myself above the throne of God.
I will be like the most high. I will - I will!

A Christian psychologist has given this definition of sin. He says, that "sin psychologically is an attitude that wishes God were dead." Sin is an attitude that wishes any restraint or control and authority, and government, and discipline which is but a symbol of control of God over man - in life did not exist.

It wants to do its own thing. It wants to create a life-style totally devoid of control, in which man is God. And he does whatever he gets good and ready to do.

And that one simple proposition is indeed what sin is. In short, one day Lucifer declared war on God, for the control of the world and the universe. Lucifer said we are going to create a life-style in which the world in this universe of lawlessness, without law, without control, without restraint, where every man is free to do as he pleases.

That was (Satan's original proposition). And it is one from which he has not changed. Now when Satan, Lucifer, declared war on Jesus - Jesus could have crushed him, and destroyed him, but he did not. He waited, he put it off, and he banished him from Heaven. Because nothing sinful and unholy can stay in the presence of the Holy God. Where did he go?

He came to this earth.

Reminded of old man had lived 100 years old - Reporter wonderful - Century - What most wonderful thing ever happen to you - "The fact it lived 100 years & I don't have any sinning marvels - How did that happen?" - well, he said, "I outlived all of them" -

II. NOW REMEMBER HOW LIFE BEGAN HERE ON THIS EARTH.

God said he was going to create a man in his own image - he was going to create a man. This does not mean that God had arms and legs. But it means the creature of God was made in God's image. And so Lucifer who had been banished from Heaven - came to earth. And he turned himself into Satan. And he continues to war and to rebel against God, through God's creatures. He has only one thing in mind, to create a life-style and a society, and a world that is devoid of all authority and control.

You remember (Adam and Eve) with the proposition - that God is withholding from you good. God doesn't want you to be happy. God is your enemy. He is against you. All these laws to do this and don't do that - they confine you. They make life miserable for you.

Adam, if you would only do what you wanted to do. If you could just eat the fruit anyway, you would be as God. You see what he was suggesting. Kick over the traces - God is against you. To be under his control and to be his servant is miserable. The way to really live, Satan was saying, is let her rip. Do anything you want to do. That's is Satan's (only offer.) That is all that he has to offer. That is the program of Satan. And he wants to create a world without control.

Down through history man has lived with the principle of sin in him. Part of every believer, of every Christian - also in every non-Christian there is this mystery of iniquity. The principle of evil - this principle is sin, that seeks to get a man to live as though God does not exist.

Just look beneath the mirror of the finest Christians, and there is always

some suttle voice. It doesn't have to be the Vice-President of the United States. Satan says if only I could do that, what I think, if only I could do what I really want to do. But no, I will not do it. I will do what I am supposed to do. But it is always there.

Now let me illustrate this within the (same paper) announcing Agnew's problem - there was a headlines, a Beach teen-ager gets 25 years for raping a 77 year old woman. He entered her home at Chinese Corner, and the defendent Willie L. Price, 18 years old. He knew he had done wrong and would have to pay for it. The lady was a very polite, clean lady doing her house work, when this young boy came in. And in his own words, here is what this boy, a Junior at Bayside High School said. "When I got to the house, something just came over me to make me do this thing." Now what I am pointing out to you is that down through history, here is this under-lying principle of sin - the suttle voice of Satan in the hearts of individuals.

III. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR GENERATION

I think for [one thing], in history today, young men and women who are able to do anything they want to do. It is possible now for them to have a life-style in which anything goes.

Within a (few blocks) of our church, you can do or see anything you can think of. Anything that the mind can see, imagine, or conceive can be bought and paid for and done in a very few minutes - from upon this sight. So what has happened.

The mask has been ripped off. And a generation of people have believed if they could do what they want to do, they would be happy. Now having been able to do it, I want you to guess what - they are not happy!!

This day, our generation is just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving marriage, until the day that Noah entered the Ark and they knew not until the flood came and took them all away. So shall be the coming of the Son of Man. Matt. 24, Luke 17. Now to know what the days of Noah were like is to look around you in our world and our nation. We read in Gen.6:5, "And the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination and thoughts of his heart were only evil continually."

Gen. 13:13 - We are informed, "The men of Sodom were wicked, and sinners against the Lord exceedingly." The conditions in Noah's day were similar to those of Sodom's. Sin was rampant and it was against the Lord. And it was a suggestion that these people knew there was a God, but without restraint, they blasphemed him. Noah, known as a righteous preacher, bore his faithful testimony. Like Preachers today - they may not get a lot of converts. They may pay no attention to what they are saying. Their warnings of impending judgement and death - many times people laugh at them. They scorn them. These people were only concerned with business - with social pleasures. Plans for a more prosperous future, larger crops, increased building program. And the times of the world generally were given over to things such as immorality and lawlessness in the land.

The reference to marrying and given in marriage, is interesting and seems to refer to changing of husbands and wives, on the part of people by whom the marriage vows are not held as sacred and binding. This is characteristic of this hour. No period in history, in which we have had, so much of this. And it is on the increase year after year. Whiskey is being bottled faster than the nation every drank it before. We need not wonder what God saw when he looked down upon this earth from his throne in Heaven. We can read that strange passage in Psalm 14:2-4. The Lord looked down from Heaven upon the children of men to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek after him. They are all gone aside. They are together -

become filthy, there are none that doth good - no not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge. When the thought and consciousness of God are taken from man, the sinful heart has complete control of passion. And iniquity abounds just as it did in that day. Men were throwing away all chance of salvation when they dismissed God.

They are not happy, and we have a generation today that is most bewildered and confused. Young men and young women in this world has at any time in history - (the Devil's lie has been exposed) They can do what they want to do by the time they get 18-20 years of age. They have popped all their corks, blown all their fuses, and they are over the hill at 21. They are flat, pooped out, burnt out, empty, frustrated because they have done it all. As the definition of sin - they have lived as though God were dead.

Now this did not produce all the beautiful way of life - they are empty. They are frustrated, bewildered, confused, and hungry.

Now into this vacuum, every kind of religion and demonology and witchcraft, and heresay imaginable has come. Man has done his own thing.

At the same time we have created a possible great spiritual awakening. Because we are moving toward the end of time. We do not have a parallel in history in which there has been indeed such a situation in which God can work. And perhaps out of the Jesus movements, the campus crusades for the youth for Christ, maybe some of these revivals that are sweeping the country - when we see these things happening. If the church does not spend money and begin to start programs on the offensive, if the church does not begin to train and reach out to win as many as possible, then the vacuum is going to be filled with these other things. And we are going to run the great danger of missing the chance of evangelism.

The world has never been as ready for our witness.

Well people want to know what is going to happen. Lucifer has declared war on Christ. He said, I am going to take over this world. And there is going to be a show-down in Armageddon.

IV. WHAT ARE ALL OF THESE THINGS LEADING UP TO IN OUR NATION AS WE HAVE CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES.

But the corruption does not stop there. It is down in this city. It is down in this town. It is on a local level. It is not all in Washington. It works its way all through this nation. And that is why we have chosen this text. Righteousness exhalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.

First, there is one thing that has happened. There is an obsession against law today. In our nation, we have become pre-occupied. We have become so submerged under Satan, Satan knowing that his days are numbered. That he is fast emerging to conflict. He has all the evil forces of the world joined together.

Now children grow up with some kind of image of God. And they carry this throughout their lives. But young people today, they try to go back to the original proposition of creating a world without any control. They begin to attack everything that speaks of control. Everything today that slightly stands for control or the establishment is under attack.

Down with the Preacher, down with the flag, down with the school, down with the college or university, down with the Professor, down with the cop or policeman, the soldier, the court.

Now to me, whether you are for or against capital punishment, or legalizing marijuana, or abortion - is not really important to me tonight. But what is important is that it is a symptom which the Christian must understand to get to the far deeper problem.

And that is that (every law) and every restraint in this land is going to come under attack.

Who says I cannot take another man's life, and get away with it. Who says, who is going to tell me that I cannot smoke. Or what I can smoke and what I can't. Who is going to tell me that I cannot have control over my own body. Who can say I am going to pay taxes - or I am going to rob the government - or I am going to do this. Who is going to say that I cannot, if I want to rape a woman. Who says that I can't rob a bank. What right do you have to tell me that I have to stop if here is a traffic light and it is red. Which means stop.

I want to submit to you that I don't think we have seen anything yet - that we are going to see any increasing assault on the courts, the President of the country, on the Senate, on the police force, on the flag, on the jail systems. Anything that tells me there are some things that I cannot do, now that is only a symptom.

The basic thing that is emerging is the unifying life-style of men against the ultimate authority over his life - which is God.

Now I would like to say here that many young people today who go into social work, who plan to be psychologists, etc., they say they are going to try to pick up the pieces and parts and deal with those people who are frustrated and broken, and I think they should be giving themselves and whether or not God is calling them to be a missionary, or to be a preacher, or to be a Christian worker.

Now that is going to the source of the problem. Many need to have their life-style re-directed. In other words, they need a life of commitment.

Now they used to have a test many years ago to determine whether a man was sane or whether or not he was incompetent or not of making his way on the outside. They put him in a little room, locked the door with a bucket and a mop. They would plug up the sink, turn on the water and let it run over. Now if the person had sense enough to turn off the water, he was considered sane and let him out. But if he used the mop and tried to pick up the water into the bucket, that showed he didn't know how to go to the real source and could not make his way in society. I think an awful lot of the programs we have today dealing with the symptoms of things, of young people in our churches and leaders - we need to get to the real source of the problem.

Before the end can come, there will be a lawlessness that will emerge. It will increase to legalize marijuana, to abolish capital punishment, to legalize abortion and legalize sin. And these things will just be fore-runners of what is going to happen in our nation.

For the Devil will become more brazen in his attack. He will work against anything which tells anybody he can not do a thing.

Now God's patience is going to run out with man's rebellion. In the Bible in I Thess. it says that one day God is going to look down on this earth and he is going to say that is enough and I am going to take my church out of this filthy world.

Let me ask you a question. What do you think is the only factor that holds back sin, and keeps immorality in check this hour? Is it not the Holy Spirit - the moral

conscience in a man. Now the ~~Holy Spirit~~ is not in a building, a desk, a piano - he is in the heart of the believer. He is in the Christian. And God is going to say one of these days - get my church out of this filthy, dirty, rotten, rebellious world. And take them away. And Christians will be taken away. And the Holy Spirit ~~will be taken out~~ of this world. And then the world is going to get what it has always really wanted - all the sin it wants. So often, that the Bible says, that men will have great running sores. They will be diseased, they will have rebellion, and war, and filth.

Like without God and life without restraint, and life without the church, and without control, and without the salt of the earth when it has been removed - it will rot. And men will cry out to God. They will beg for the rocks, and the mountains to fall on them. To kill them and to destroy them. But that will not happen. Even death will flea them.

And the result is going to be a great deal of confusion. Because Satan is going to come and sweep in his power and unify things under him and this world. He wants to create a world with no laws. He says a world that will be wonderful - no laws, no courts, no policeman. Just do your thing.

Now to me, this is the grass roots of society. Today it is emerging. Before one man can step forward and get hold of things - there is so much confusion created - that God is going to remove the Holy Spirit from the people. And how tragic it is going to be.

And of course the world is working toward the unification of evil. There is Telestar - one man can address the whole world live. We are getting toward one world in measures. In a world court - everything is pushed in this direction.

Now Jesus promised to reign on the throne of David - Luke 1:32-33.

Jesus will come and reign on the throne of his temple, his father David. But before Jesus comes and stands on the Mt. of Olives, and attempts to assume that throne, we know that the anti-Christ will have taken the throne and the great battle of Armageddon occurs in the valley of Megiddo around the hills of Jerusalem - as Jerusalem as the prize. There the world's ultimate question is going to be resolved. Who is going to be God. Whose world is this?

Is the kingdoms of this world going to become the kingdoms of our God.

2 Thess. 2, 3, 7 - Let no man deceive you by any means. For that day which describes the coming of Christ. That day shall not come except there be a falling away first and that man of sin - the anti-Christ be revealed. The son of tradition who opposes and exalteth himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped - so that he is God - sitteth in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.

The restraint of holding back - of holding Satan in check, is the Holy Spirit. Now he will continue to do this until he is taken away, and the church is removed. And when all that wickedness is revealed as in V. 8 - in that battle the forces of evil are unified under the anti-Christ. And the forces of righteousness shall come and all the redeemed - and yet the blood will be as deep in the valley - it will run in the bits of the horses mouths.

The kingdom of Satan is the kingdom of darkness. Now the coming of Christ is going to be a great and a bright light - they will be blinded. They can not stand his brightness. And they will turn and destroy each other. V. 9-10. And in V. 11- you see they refuse to believe the truth and be saved. So here is what is going to happen - "And for this cause, God shall send them strong delusion, and they shall believe a lie."

Remember when God hardened Pharoah's heart. Sometimes we try to get around this.

And we try to say that God did not harden Pharaoh's heart. He couldn't believe if he wanted to believe. God locked him up in his sin. He locked him up in his hardness of heart. And he locked him up in the sin of blindness and unbelief. But remember this - God gave him 10 chances to repent first. And because the world refused to believe Christ, God said if you want, I will send illusion if you won't believe. I will lock you in your darkness - in your blindness. In your sin of unbelief. And you will be damned and you will not be able to come to the truth. Now we stood sometime ago on the Mt. of Olives - on the place where they said the temple will be rebuilt. And when Jesus is going to come and reign and bring an end to things. Where the Muslim Mosque - that temple built on the same site. But we must remember that when man fell and sinned again - the Bible says that the earth fell too. There were no thorns in the roses, no weeds in the fields. The Bible said the whole earth groaneth and awaits redemption. Waiting for a day to be remade. The Bible says that the end of the world - the Heavens and the earth will be dissolved. The elements will melt and then a new Heaven and a new earth will come to pass. That the new Heaven and the new earth will not be built by the United Nations, it will not be built by the Peace Corps, it will not be built by President Nixon, or the Russian leader. But it is going to be built by the Prince of Peace. And when the Prince of Peaces comes and marches down across the valley, and comes through that Eastern gate and assumes the throne in the temple - then all the kingdoms of education, entertainment, society, medicine, finance, politics will become the kingdoms of our Lord. This nation and this earth is going to come and every knee is going to bow and every tongue is going to confess that Christ is Lord, All Hail The Power of Jesus Name, let angels prostrate fall, bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all. This world is going to be his.

Now this world is not out of control. (God has a plan) - and what is happening in this nation is not out of control. God is still in control.

(Hammarskjold) said we have tried so hard and failed so miserably - there is

no possibility of world peace. But now the world is wrong. This world will have peace, when the war with Lucifer and Satan, who is trying to get control of the world. That question has been settled - there will be peace. And Jesus will reign on the throne of David in Jerusalem, and there will be peace in the valley. The bear and the lions, the lamb, shall lay down by each other. There will be harmony and peace among men.

When Washington was president, he called the nation to prayer. Three times Lincoln called the nation to prayer. Woodrow Wilson, with his heart breaking, called upon America to observe a day of prayer. And we have had this experience many times in this nation. What is happening in this nation. There have been five full courses for every dead nation - adversity, prosperity, luxury, dissipation, and deseccration. You must pay the price to make your committment. Young people today must pay the price to witness. And to carry the good news of Jesus - anywhere and everywhere. To bring men to Jesus Christ: Dan. 5:26 - In which the great king had it pointed out to him that he was weighed in the balances and found wanting.

What's happening to our nation?

Change your life style tonight!
To take physically out

DEAD TO SIN

... reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin. Romans 6:11

WHEN death came to a notorious character in a small community and his coffin was being carried in a hearse to the cemetery, his mourners passed some of the places he had formerly frequented. First they drove by a tavern where he had spent much time and squandered many a paycheck, but the old temptation to indulge in alcohol no longer enticed him. A few blocks down the street they came to a racetrack where he had lost thousands of dollars "on the horses," but the urge to gamble was no longer felt. A little farther on, the procession went by a theater he had often attended, but the vulgar titles on the marquee and the suggestive pictures plastered around the entrance had no effect on him now. None of these vices and allurements could attract him, for he was dead to them all!

This should be the believer's attitude toward sin. He ought to realize that he is no longer a member of "Adam's fallen race," but has been united with Christ in a new humanity, for "our old man is crucified with him." We are therefore to become increasingly victorious over our sinful nature by considering ourselves alive to God, but dead to sin. Through a daily yielding to the Savior and a deliberate refusal to make provision for the flesh, we will grow in our likeness to Christ.

Ponder again Paul's question, "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer in it?" When we are identified with Christ, we should become progressively more indifferent to Satan's allurements. Indeed, believers must reckon themselves "dead to sin!" —R. W. D.

Once I was dead IN sin,
And hope within me died;
But now I'm dead TO sin
With Jesus crucified.

—Anon.

THOT: Only when we die to sin about us do we live to God above us!