

# Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, March 16, 2014

Volume 19, Number 11

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

## IF AMERICA FELL...

by David Watts

(Originally published in *GOSPEL ANCHOR*, February 1988.  
Bro. Watts passed away July 9, 2001. He was living and preaching in Longview, Texas at the time of his death.)

Could America be invaded and defeated? Could our nation be destroyed? It is common knowledge that our nation's enemies have the capacity to annihilate us. Thus far they have been deterred from doing so by our threat of retaliation, but if they decided to attack us, we could not save ourselves from destruction. We could obliterate them in the few minutes we had

before our land was reduced to rubble, but we could not prevent our own destruction. And, as more and more unstable governments gain nuclear weapons, there is a growing fear that a crisis sparked by a smaller nation could escalate into wider devastation that would include us.

If the prospect of America being turned into a graveyard seems farfetched, imagine what it

would be like if our nation experienced a catastrophic financial collapse. In recent years some have said this was inevitable. Books predicting an enormous economic collapse have been

best-sellers. Some people are buying gold for the time when paper money will be worthless. Some have urged people to prepare for the future by stockpiling guns, tools, and seed to barter with once the collapse comes.

If our nation went into irreversible decline, or was actually destroyed, what message would the Bible have for us? Consider three answers to that question:

1. If America fell, it would definitely be deserved.

Our society is sinful and corrupt. While ordinary citizens like us may never know the truth about the high-level secret provocations that go on between nations, we do know about the internal corruption of our own society.

The majority of American adults are fornicators. A recent government study is said to show that eighty percent of single American women in their twenties are fornicators. (Men have

*(America, continued on pg 2...)*

### V.B.S. Countdown Schedule

(for Teachers *and* helpers/volunteers)

March 29 - Workday  
April 26 - Workday  
May 17 - Workday  
June 23-26 V.B.S.

Each work session  
is scheduled for  
**10:00 AM**

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(America, continued from pg 1...)

traditionally been even more promiscuous than women.) But we don't need government studies to tell us what is common knowledge, and it is common knowledge that such sexual immorality is rampant throughout our society.

Homosexuality is now widespread in our society. If it is not yet possible to say homosexual perversions have become respectable in our nation, at least it is no exaggeration to say they have become socially acceptable to many. Homosexuals in our nation appear to be one of the most powerful pressure groups. Apparently many of our politicians and media moguls either sympathize with them or find it politically and/or economically expedient to sup-

port their perverted causes.

Each year more than a million unborn babies are killed by abortion. The blood of righteous Cain cried out to God for vengeance (Gen. 4: 10), and one trembles when contemplating how heaven must see the blood of almost countless infants who have been killed throughout our nation with the sanction of the highest court in our land.

And everywhere God is blasphemed. His name is not only used as a vulgar exclamation in millions of daily conversations, but it is constantly profaned in print and on radio and television. And glimpses into the secret chambers of our highest officials have confirmed that blasphemy against God is routinely found there also.

Furthermore, the God-given responsibilities of government, to protect the lawful and punish the lawless, now often seem to be almost reversed. Murder is rampant in our land, and capital punishment of convicted murderers is usually blocked. Criminals seem to be released from custody faster than their victims can be discharged from the hospitals. Our lawmakers themselves are often discovered to be blatant lawbreakers. And then the sociology "experts" want us to believe law-abiding citizens, not the criminals, are somehow to blame for the criminals' conduct.

No, this isn't a "Christian nation," and it isn't a nation of Christians. We may put "In God We Trust" on our money, and we

may use the Bible in our courtrooms and during inaugurations, and we may teach our children to say we are a nation "under God" when they pledge allegiance to the flag, but in many ways we are living in a Godless, immoral, and corrupt nation.

And before we congratulate ourselves that we are not as evil as other peoples, we should remember one way God reckons guilt is by the measure of a people's opportunities. Jesus, for example, taught it would be more tolerable in the day of judgment for the people of certain pagan cities, including Sodom, than it would be for some of the "respectable" Jewish people of His generation (Matt. 11:20-24). These Jews were not more immoral than the sinners of Sodom, but they had greater guilt because they failed to live up to their greater blessings. Greater opportunities mean greater guilt for those who fail to live up to those blessings. What nation has had greater freedom and light than our nation? To say the least, we cannot be sure God judges our guilt to be less than that of some foreign nations we consider to be "pagan."

The Scriptures say, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). It isn't being radical to acknowledge it would be deserved if God allowed our nation to be destroyed. We don't know whether that will happen, but if God's longsuffering should soon be exhausted it will surely be deserved.



*(Next week we will include the remainder of brother Watts article. This includes two additional answers to his question about Bible lessons, and his conclusion)*

**THIS WEEK'S  
DAILY BIBLE  
READINGS**

**NEW TESTAMENT  
READING**

*MATTHEW 23 - 25*

*March 16 - 18*

**OLD TESTAMENT  
READING**

*GENESIS 43 - 50*

*March 19 - 22*

**I TIMOTHY 4:13**

# FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest  
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

## *Upcoming Meetings & Events:*

**Gospel Meeting (Steve Wolfgang) V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")**  
April 13 - 16, 2014 June 23 - 26, 2014

**Annual Singing September 6, 2014**      **Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)**  
September 7 - 10, 2014

## *Sick and Shut-Ins*

*Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy*

## **Sermons:**

### **Next Sunday:**

I Am Not Ashamed

### **Tonight:**

Jacob's Last Words  
(Genesis 49)

## *Directory Info*

## *Baptized...*



*"Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ..."*  
(Matthew 25:1)

In our rush to make the points we wish to extract from Scripture, we sometimes miss points that are very appropriate. In fact, they may, at times, be even more applicable to our own situation. I now want to ask, "Did you notice?" about parables in Matthew 25. Then you may look for similar points to bring up at home.

Did you notice that **all** of the virgins showed up (Mt 25:1)? Of course you did. But what lesson may be learned?

Did you notice that **all** of the virgins brought oil (v8)? So, what was the sin of the foolish virgins?

Did you notice that the prudent could not give to the foolish (v9)? Is there a lesson?

Did you notice **when** the faithful servants did as expected (v16)?

You probably noticed most, if not all of these points in the past. But were the pertinent lessons lost in not paying attention to detail? What did you notice that your family may have missed?...

# FOR THE RECORD

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

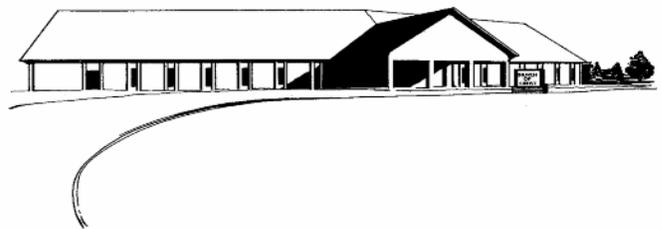
## MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

### ELDERS:

Ruben Amador  
Matthew Heaton  
Donnie Mangrum  
Steve Voss



### DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

### TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

### EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

Bob Pulliam                      bob@fryroad.org