



# Truth for Today

December 6, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

*We ran this article in 2012 when there were concerns about the direction of our nation after an election. It seemed like a good read then—and now.... (DH)*

## When Christians Think Their Nation Is Wasting Away

By Rhodes Davis (published 11/10/2012 on godlyyouth.com)

Whether you are a citizen of the United States or another nation of the world, at times you may look at the choices of your fellow citizens and feel that the nation is wasting within and interpret events such as election results and natural disasters as the punishment of God on the wicked. It could be, for who can know the mind of God. But it may be that other purposes are being accomplished.

As I've written before, I do believe God rules in the kingdoms of men. However, I think that while one cannot rule out that a particular natural disaster may be God calling some to repentance, we also cannot rule out that it may just be the product of the natural laws that God put in place when He created this world. In a series on God and suffering, I addressed this (particularly in the second article).

A question from my young friend Dana about the trends towards wickedness in the United States prompted my thoughts on this subject. In particular, could God allow America (or any other country) to elect leaders who encourage ungodly practices?

Since we ultimately trust that God rules in the kingdoms of men one can interpret certain outcomes as punishment on a people, but those outcomes could also serve other functions.

A preacher friend suggested that if the United States falls, perhaps it will demonstrate the foolishness of building a government on humanistic wisdom. When a nation builds on a foundation that does not incorporate the principles of God's word, it can be our Tower of Babel so to speak. Those who know me well understand that I love history and two periods in particular: ancient history and the establishment of America. It is easy to get me to watch a documentary on the American Revolution and I

would be hard pressed to pass on an opportunity to visit a historical site from that period. Yet, for all the mentions of God and providence by the founding fathers, the revolution was also a product of Enlightenment humanism. And while I will not complain about the formation and principles of our government, when we seek to establish a nation whose citizenry embrace the works of the flesh more than the fruits of the Spirit and "put their trust in chariots and horses" (Psalm 20:7), we should not be surprised when it weakens from within. It may be the punishment of God but it can also be the consequences of wickedness that is part of God's order (i.e., Proverbs 5:21-23).

If our nation becomes more immoral (not determined by an election but the choices of each citizen), perhaps it will provide opportunities for the gospel since people are often seeking the light when they have journeyed far into the darkness and realize they are lost. Remember in Luke 7:36-50, it was the immoral woman who realized her wickedness that sought Jesus with a sorrowful heart and washed His feet with her tears. Simon was just as lost yet he didn't realize his perilous condition because his wickedness was not so obvious in his own eyes. Perhaps a nation is allowed to wander into wickedness for the salvation of souls.

Maybe another purpose accomplished is that Christians will realize that God's purposes will not be achieved through worldly leaders and legislation but taking the gospel to their neighbors. There are many immoral practices that are legislated and approved by worldly governments. Though Christians do not have to participate in these ungodly behaviors and can speak out against them, they should not expect that governments will consistently legislate in ways that harmonize with God's will. As mentioned before, even allowing citizens to participate in such behaviors may ultimately work out for the good when some realize that the behaviors do not provide peace or joy and seek God's way.

Regardless of whether our nation wastes from within or repents in sackcloth and ashes, God's people, citizens of that heavenly kingdom, can take courage that their kingdom shall stand forever.

# NEWS & NOTES

## UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- Kathy Austin's second knee procedure will soon be scheduled.
- Paula Dobbs had an echocardiogram Wednesday and future tests depending on the results.
- Imogene Hodges has been diagnosed with an Afib issue and will have an Echocardiogram and Ultrasound on January 4th.
- Jon Winfield passed away last Tuesday evening from COVID. The private family funeral was Friday morning.
- Carmen Betton's older cousin, Gloria Richardson, in MO and with family who is suffering health and pain.
- Tricia Davis' dad, Bill Zwerneman.
- Judy Gillespie's niece, Emma, tested COVID positive.
- Stuart Jones' mom, Marcia Jones.
- Dwight Osteen requested prayers for the adult family of friend and colleague Dr. Carlos Araujo who died Tuesday from COVID.
- Connor Foster, boyfriend of the Preuss' daughter Lindsay, was admitted into hospital Sunday to cope with a bad infection with a UTI. Lindsay will be moving to Round Rock for work and will be able to help him more.
- Marshel Shewmake's aunt and uncle, Bill and Peggy Stokes (MO), tested COVID positive and sadly, Bill passed away Sunday.
- Jamie Yancy's cousin, Grey McKellar, has had follow up from his heart attack some months back. His heart has not regained any more than 25% functionality. A defibrillator will be scheduled and potentially, doctors are hopeful to persuade him to have a transplant.
- Rommie Back was diagnosed with Parkinson's last month and Claudia had hand surgery last week to remove cysts. They would be very encouraged by a note in the mail.

**IN-PERSON SCHEDULE** (*Seating is based on pew capacities to maintain safe seating distances. Please follow recommended wearing of face masks, especially when singing.*)

- **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**, 10:00 AM. | Distanced Seating with Overflow seating in classroom 5 and classroom 9.
- **WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASSES**, 7:00 pm. | For All Ages.
- **TUESDAY BIBLE CLASS**, 10:30 am. | For Adults meets in auditorium. ZOOM is available by request.
- **SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES**, beginning 12/6, 9:00 AM. | We will resume Bible Classes for all ages on Sundays on 12/6 at 9:00 a.m.

## VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

- LiveStream events are still InPerson events and replayable on our YouTube Channel*
- **Adult Class Sundays** | LiveStream at 10:00 am with replay on our YouTube Channel.
  - **Worship Sundays** | LiveStream at 10:00 am with replay on our YouTube Channel.
  - **Adult Class Tuesdays** | Livestream at 10:30 am with replay on YouTube Channel.
  - **Adult Class Wednesdays** | LiveStream at 7:00 pm with replay on YouTube Channel.

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** on first Sundays [2-12] | TBA
- **TEEN BIBLE CLASS** [12-18] | Bible Class on First Sundays | 12/6, 4:00 p.m. (classroom 5)
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Bible Class on first Sundays | 12/6, 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)
- **TEEN HOME DEVO** [12-18] | TBA
- **YOUNG ADULTS STUDY** | TBA until January
- **ADULTS STUDY** [30/40] | (TBA) until January
- **2021 EVENTS**
  - Area-Wide Singing | Sat., 3/6
  - Gospel Meeting with Ed Brand | 3/28-31
  - VBS | 6/22-25\* (Tue-Fri)
  - Youth Lectures | 8/7-8
  - Gospel Meeting with Mike Wilson | 9/26-29

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett, Al, or Nathan know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **Willing to TEACH?** We now need teachers for Spring quarter. **Please contact Don Hooton if you are willing to teach.**
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel will coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period after surgery or for the family at a funeral.

## WEEKLY BIBLE READING

**Week Forty-eight** (beginning 12/6)

- READ Psalm 48, 98, 148
- MEMORIZE Psalm 148:1-3

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday Worship AM	<b>77</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>48</b>
Tuesday Adult Class	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>8</b>

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM   12/6	10:00 AM - 12/13	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Adam Bohanan	Craig Preuss	<i>Elders</i>
Foyer 2-Ushering	Nathan Shows	Leo Betancourt	Keith Arrants   936.582.1244
SongLeading	Dwight Osteen	Alan Stilts	George Chapman   281.298.1303
1st Prayer	Gerald Hodges	Adam Bohanan	Norman Davis   832.326.2966
Scripture	Ethan Dulin	Carson French	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Acts 3:1-10	Ecclesiastes 12:1-7	<i>Deacons</i>
Communion_Lead	Hayden Clark	Dwight Osteen	Adam Bohanan   281.798.1093
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Brian Clark   281.513.0706
2nd Prayer	Brian Clark	Michael Henss	Gary LeBlanc   281.292.0262
Announcements	Don Hooton	Keith Arrants	Craig Preuss   832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	Bohanans	C&T Chapman	<i>Evangelists</i>
Sanitize-Pews After	Chandlers	Randows	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	Hooton	Haas	<i>Website</i>
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>
Counting Contribution	Keith Arrants & Jonathan Chandler	Norman Davis & Michael Henss	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM   12/9	7:00 PM - 12/16	Church Email
SongLeading	Ross Randow	Hayden Clark	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Dwight Osteen	Jay Dulin	
Prayer	Troy French	Nathan Shows	
Announcements	Keith Arrants	Norman Davis	