

Review of MSOP 46th Annual Lectureship

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The 46th annual lectures of the Memphis School of Preaching are complete. The theme is one that all in our great land should take to heart as we have sung the line from child hood "One Nation Under God." Far too long have set back on our heels and watched as we have corrupted ourselves as a people. Every nation that has surfaced in history and become a world power has gone through the motions of growth to demise. Poet George Santayana (1863-1952) said it best, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Arnold Tonybee declared in his work A Study of History that "Of the 22 civilizations that have appeared in history, 19 of them collapsed when they reached the moral state America is in today." If that does not get our attention what does? [John Deberry](#), member of the Tennessee House of Representatives, hit the nail on the head. He said he liked to call it "Peter Pan syndrome, Never Grow Up Never Grow Up Never Grow Up." In other words, I want what I want and you cannot tell me any different, mentality. My needs above your needs, my pride and embarrassment above yours.

Every nation that has fallen has gone through four phases of existence.

Freedom

Jeremiah 21:43-45

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July 4th 1776

Folly

Hosea 3:1-3, 4:1-13

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Roe Vs Wade- Jeremiah 1:5, Luke 2:22, Marriage- Romans 1:26-27, Leviticus 18:22,
Atheism- 1Samuel 8:7

Fear

Numbers 13:26ff; Judges 3:9, 4:3, 6:1-7

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Overflowing prisons, Rampant crime (murder, rape, abduction, theft, Security systems,
Metal detectors and police officers in the public schools, etc...)

Fetters

721 b.c. Assyria captures Israel (Northern Kingdom) 606 b.c. Babylon captures Judah
and takes some to captivity, 597 b.c. Babylon returns and takes more to captivity, 586
b.c. Jerusalem destroyed

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Currently, nearly 14 million Americans—1 in every 13 adults—abuse alcohol or are
alcoholic. It is estimated that over 3 million teens between the ages of 14 and 17 in the
United States today are problem drinkers. 2.5 million Americans are compulsive
gamblers, 3 million are problem gamblers, 15 million are at risk of becoming problem
gamblers, 148 million Americans being considered as low risk gamblers. Gambling
Addiction Index reports that 80% or more of American adults gambled at least once in
their life with \$500 billion + wagered annually. In the U.S. a pornographic film is made
every 30 minutes, pornographic material is viewed by over 30k people every second. The
U.S. produces 89% of web pages and it is a \$13 billion industry. Addiction has led to,
40% of addicts losing their spouses, 58% suffering financial loss, 1/3 losing their jobs
and, marital infidelity is increased by 300%. If these fetters are so harmless and
wholesome as many try to claim then why;

1. Are they considered addictions with national hotlines and treatment centers 2. Why are
families and lives destroyed by its harvest

It is high time this trend turned around and we as a people remember why this land is blessed. Freedom does not come without a cost and the thousands of men and women who shed their blood for that freedom should not have so done in vain. This country was established on Biblical principles and sadly many are trying to take those principles out of our lives. Margret Thatcher said, "Just a note about your moral decay. It should be no secret that you have such troubles. Your founders believed you should be one nation under God and now so many of you are committed to eliminating God from your life." Why is it easily seen by those outside of our own land yet impossible to see ourselves. This is not the only nation that God has blessed but the fact remains He has blessed us. Many think that this is God's nation but therein is the problem. In times past God's chosen nation was Israel, today it is the church (Galatians 6:16, 1:2). It is time we Wake Up, Stand Up and Light Up (Ephesians 5:14-15, Matthew 5:14) and stop letting the minority of opinion rule over the majority of the truth (John 8:32).

This preacher had his eyes opened this past week to many things that were mere fleeting thoughts of the mind. The question now is, are we going to continue to allow our families to fall into moral decay, or will we take a stand and be as the prophet Isaiah and proudly proclaim with the boldness of the apostle Paul, "Here am I, send me" (Isaiah 6:8, Ephesians 6:19)?