

THE REAL ENEMY

Edward Gibbon, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, has attributed the fall of the Empire to:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion — faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.

We compare these things to what is the breakdown of our society today. If we wanted to label these five problems categorically we might say:

1. The breakdown of the traditional family.
2. The unwillingness of able-bodies to enter the workplace.
3. Entertainment seen as a basic need rather than recreation.
4. Defending against enemies on foreign soil rather than materialism on home soil.
5. God and the Bible for consumerism, rather than individuals for God and the Bible.

The real enemy lies within. Satan is still active. He is doing his work to make a nation built upon faith in God reject the very principles of its foundation. Each heart must undergo a serious self-examination if we are going to make a turn-around before it is too late.

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Proverbs 14:34

- Jeremiah Tatum, Lawrenceburg, TN, via *Bulletin Digest*

Evil unchecked grows, evil tolerated poisons the whole system. J. Nehru

News & Notes

IN NEED OF PRAYERS: Remember all on the sick and shut-in list. The following need to be especially remembered: Dan, Sharon & Brenda Williams, Bette Gentry, Crystal Spencer, and Cole Bellon (nephew of Michelle Hanlon), and Mary Powell (friend of Marlene Reynolds) has an advanced stage of lung cancer. Mary's address: 2136 Sherwood Ave., ELO 43920.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Today at Noon at the Multipurpose Building. All are invited.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

SONG PRACTICE: Instead of Bible study Wednesday, Oct. 31st.

TIME CHANGE: Next Saturday, Nov. 3rd., TURN CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR.

PANTRY: Macaroni & cheese. Also, to help needy families at Thanksgiving, bring a turkey.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Glen Dale, WV: Gatha Beagle (Jim's mother). AT HOME: Don Parsons, Ella Beagle, Diane Robinson, Jackie Parsons, Dan Williams, Bobby Hadley, Taylor Heinselman, Ruth Brewer, Lloyd & Virginia Ferrell, Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Bette Gentry, Fred & Jean Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole, Betty Dunn. NURSING HOMES: Fox: Ray Baker, Opal Howell. Calcutta Health Care: Virginia Clutter. Pleasantview N. Retirement & Rehab., Salem: Ruby Kenney. Weirton Geriatric Center: Edna McKittrick, Ila Plum. Aspen Manor, Wellsburg: Ione Asher.

What Will You Take With You?

Your home is flooding because the river near you has burst its banks. A small rescue boat is waiting outside while you gather a few precious belongings. What will you take with you?

A forest fire rages and races towards your home in a hot dry area. You have 10 minutes to grab whatever you can and safely get out of the danger zone. What will you choose to take with you? What would you latch onto? Family photos? Important documents? Money under the mattress? These would be good and logical choices. You would be wise to save all the valuables that you could for later.

However, when the Lord returns, we will not have time to grab anything, fix anything or change anything, as it will all happen in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:52). We will also not take anything with us (1 Timothy 6:7). In the past, we have said that we will take our record of life with us, but in reality, God holds those records (Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10). So what is the point of this lesson? Be faithful every day. Be prepared to leave this world every day.

- Rick Laing, Austin, TX, via *Bulletin Digest*

Meetings

6th & Washington, Marietta ----- Oct. 28-31 ----- Clarence DeLoach
Steelton ----- Oct. 28-Nov. 1 ----- Jeff Tucker