

The BEACON



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RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION

"Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov.14:34) So go the words of the wise man through the inspiration of God. We know that God works and rules in the affairs of men. Daniel is clear on that point. I am certain that I am not the only one who has agonized over the degree of decadence in our nation. We are still a people who "say" we are "under God", but are we really? Is it pleasing to God to:

1. Murder over a million babies each year?
2. Condone and defend homosexuality in society?
3. Prohibit the reading of the Bible or the offering of prayer in public assemblies?
4. Provide open opportunities for people to be immoral, and call it "open-minded and progressive?"
5. Undermine and destroy the foundation of a godly society (the home)?
6. Put pressure on families financially, so that the mother will be all but forced to work outside the home, in order to provide adequate income for the necessities? **OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS NOT PLEASING TO GOD!!!**

Russia allows the Bible to be read in their public schools and encourages prayer, also! WHO REALLY RESPECTS, REVERES AND HONORS GOD? While we are still in the beginning stages of a new year, why not take this opportunity to rate your spirituality: with 1 being very low, 10 being very high, and 5 being moderate. Are you more spiritually minded than you were last year? Can you still improve your spiritual stature? Are you growing? (Heb.5). Often a store will give as a prize, a shopping spree. This is an opportunity for someone to spend as much as they can in a certain amount of time. We all need to have the attitude of being extravagant in our love for God. We need to recognize that we must spend and be spent in service to our King!

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1. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME IN PRAYER. God answers prayer according to His will. Sometimes the answer is YES, other times the answer is NO, and even further sometimes He answers, WAIT! Prayer is vital to the Christian's spirituality. Will you improve your prayer life? (James 1).

2. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME READING, STUDYING AND MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD. The Lord calls a person "blessed" when that person "meditates on His law, day and night (Psalm 1:2). The word "meditate" comes from a word that means, "regurgitate". A cow regurgitates food so that she may receive vitamins and nutrition from the grass. A child of God also read and studies the spiritual food, (the Word). He then recalls and brings it back to memory on a daily basis. It is not enough to cruise through the Word occasionally; we must dig deep and meditate on it.

3. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH MY SPOUSE AND CHILDREN. Often couples neglect one another. They get caught up in the daily affairs of this life and begin to take one another for granted. This is not done because of a lack of love, but because we just get too busy with other things! Often parents neglect children. Maybe not in a monetary sense, but emotionally and spiritually. Mom or Dad when was the last time you really talked with your child? Have you ever had a conversation with them about God, where there were no distractions such as TV, radio, friends, or work? Make it a goal to spend more time with your family this year. YOU WON'T REGRET IT AND NEITHER WILL THEY!

4. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. The true essence of greater spirituality is found in how much we truly "love belonging to GOD"! How much time do you spend thinking about and developing your character to be more like His? Do you consider it a compliment to be thought of as "holy, righteous, pure and loving?" If the government declared tomorrow that no more public worship or Bible classes would be allowed, WOULD IT ALTER YOUR LIFESTYLE? From the attendance and attention of some to the local congregation, it seems as if some would be affected little, if any? WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

5. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME WORKING WITH GOD. God is disturbed that many are lost! We are the messengers, the farmers who sow the seed. We are the ones the world looks to as examples. Are you willing to spend more time letting your "light shine" this year? Will you spend more time "seeking and saving the lost?"

DO YOU PLAN TO SPEND A LOT IN 2013? I HOPE SO. –SWA

A man came into a garage to have a noise checked out on his car. Sure enough a bearing was burned out due to a clogged oil line. "But, the light on the dash never indicated anything wrong," he said. The light had burned out. The bulb cost \$.75, the bearing and labor \$190. Conscience is like that warning light (I Tim.4:2). If our conscience does not bother us when we deliberately miss services, dress immodestly, or walk in other disorderly ways, maybe we better check our spiritual "bulb!" If your conscience never bothers you, why not have a "spiritual checkup?" YOUR BULB MIGHT BE BURNED OUT! (adapted) --- SWA---



Let Your Light Shine!

Since the Gospel is declared to be, "the power of God unto salvation", doesn't it follow that all who live after the Gospel will live lives that are powerful and effective in leading others to Christ? If there is one lesson that

Christians need more than any other it is that our lives must match up with our profession. The greatest teaching tool in the world is the life of a faithful Christian. Notice a few scriptures:

Matt. 5:13-16: "Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown down and trampled underfoot by men. Ye are the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

If our light is not glowing then how can we lead the lost out of darkness? Indeed, how can we see our way out of it?? How does one make sure his light will continue to shine? Is there a formula?

Can I protect my light from the devil and his agents who will try to extinguish it?

Romans 12:1, 2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

1 John 2:15-17: "Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

We must never be fooled, whenever we are not "different" from the world, our light grows dim or goes out completely! Those in the world cannot put our "light" out, unless we help them along! No matter how ungodly and disobedient people in the world become, "true lights" will continue to shine! Listen to Paul: "only let your conduct be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel." (Phil 1:27) Paul said the key was a life "worthy of the Gospel." What kind of life is that? It is one built on valid information (Col.1:10; 2 Pet. 3:18). The key is applied knowledge! Has your light gone out?

GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MANKIND

God's Grace- Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood- Romans 5:9
The Gospel by the Holy Spirit – 2 Peter 1:21; Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith- Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance- Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38
Sinner's Confession- Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism- 1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work- James 2:24
Christian's Hope- Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance- Revelation 2:10

The question is not, which one of these will save;
Through ALL these combined we have assurance of salvation.
Do not delay

Your soul is important to us.

If you would like to set up a study, or if we can help you in any way,
please contact us..

Remember to tune in to

The Word and The Sword

every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month
from 8 to 10PM on WHKY14.

We meet at 656 St. James Ch. Rd. in
Newton, NC
Join Us

Sunday
Bible Study - 9:30 AM
Worship – 11:00 AM

Wednesday
Bible Study – 7:00 PM

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