

The Decline of the Republic

Psalms 33:12 - "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD..." Prov. 14:34 - "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people." Prov. 11:11 - "By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked." Isa. 1:4 - "Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward."

"Where men are forbidden to honor a king, they honor millionaires, athletes, or film stars instead; even famous prostitutes or gangsters. For spiritual nature, like bodily nature, will be served; deny it food and it will gobble poison." - C. S. Lewis

"The men American people admire most extravagantly are the most daring liars; the men they detest most violently are those who try and tell them the truth." H. L. Mencken

"Tolerance is the last virtue of a depraved society. When an immoral society has blatantly and proudly violated all the commandments, it insists upon one last virtue, tolerance for its immorality. It will not tolerate condemnation of its perversions. It creates a whole new world in which only the intolerant critic of intolerable evil is evil." - Hutton Gibson

"If we continue to teach about tolerance and intolerance instead of good and evil, we will end up with tolerance of evil." - Dennis Prager

"Tolerance is the virtue of a man without convictions." - G. K. Chesterton

"Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption." - President James Garfield

"A nation which can prefer disgrace to danger is prepared for a master, and deserves one." - Alexander Hamilton

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." - Teddy Roosevelt

"When small men cast long shadows, it is a sign that the sun is setting." - Venita Craven

"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing." - Albert Einstein

"No greater wrong can ever be done than to put a good man at the mercy of a bad, while telling him not to defend himself or his fellows; in no way can the success of evil be made surer or quicker." - Theodore Roosevelt

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." - Thomas Jefferson

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves money from the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most money from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's great civilizations has been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through the following sequence: from bondage to spiritual faith, from spiritual faith to great courage, from courage to liberty, from liberty to abundance, from abundance to selfishness, from selfishness to complacency from complacency to apathy, from apathy to dependency, from dependency back to bondage." - Alexander Tyler on the fall of the Athenian Republic

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." - Martin Luther

The Greatest in the Kingdom

“But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many’ (Matt. 20:25-28).

In Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, Malvolio comments: "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." There is a measure of truth in this observation; that is, so far as the world is concerned. However, Jesus showed how true greatness is obtained for the Christian. It is not by being born great or having greatness thrust upon him, but it is by humble service. Truly, the greatest in the kingdom is the one who serves.

God is Timeless

Day after day for years Harry prayed to the Lord about his concern for his son-in-law John who had fallen away. But then Harry died. A few months later, John was restored to the faith. When his mother-in-law Marsha told him that Harry had been praying for him every day, John replied, "I waited too long." But Marsha joyfully replied: "The Lord is still answering the prayers Harry prayed during his earthly life." Harry's story is an encouragement to us who pray and wait. He continued "steadfastly in prayer" and waited patiently (Rom. 12:12).

The author of Psalm 130 experienced waiting in prayer. He said, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits" (v.5). He found hope in God because he knew that "with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption" (v.7). Author Samuel Enyia wrote about God's timing: "God does not depend on our time. Our time is chronological and linear but God is timeless. He will act at the fullness of His time. Our prayer may not necessarily rush God into action, but it places us before Him in fellowship." What a privilege we have to fellowship with God in prayer and to wait for the answer in the fullness of His time! God may delay our request, but He will never disappoint our trust.

The Anvil

By John Clifford, 1836-1923

I paused last eve beside the blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring, the vespers chime,
And looking in I saw upon the floor
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had?" said I
"To wear and batter all those hammers so?"
"Just one," he answered. Then with twinkling eye:
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word
For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon,
But though the noise of falling blows was heard
The anvil is unchanged; the hammer's gone.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matt. 24:35)