

How Long Will We Stand, America?

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 4, 2012 (by Ray Reynolds)

Introduction: Every four years we go through a national election and elect our president, in addition to many other political leaders. We need to realize that this is a blessing? We live in a free nation where our vote matters! However, right now, things seem pitiful in our country. We begin to wonder, "How long will America stand as a nation?" What mistakes and pitfalls should we avoid? This morning I want to share with you some thoughts from Edward Gibbon's work *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. In these history books (six volumes in all), Gibbon reveals 20 years of his research. His goal was to study the Roman empire and find out how a nation could be so great and then suddenly collapse so quickly. How could that happen? Is there anything we could learn from his research? Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. Five Steps Toward Our Demise

Gibbon gave five reasons for the fall of Rome, the great dynasty, at they include:

1. Breakdown of the Home
2. Higher Taxes
3. Entertainment
4. Homeland Security
5. The Decay of Religion

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THESE FIVE THINGS?



II. Five Steps Out of Danger

God's Word provides all the answers we need to get back on track:

1. Consider The Past
Deuteronomy 8:11-20
2. Proper Authority
Psalm 33:12
3. Righteousness vs. Reproach
Proverbs 14:34
4. Give To Caesar
Luke 13, Mark 12:13-17, Romans 13
5. Reap What You Sow
Galatians 6:7

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THESE FIVE THINGS?



Conclusion: I believe this is the greatest country on the planet. We owe a debt to the generations that preceded us that can never be repaid. However, we can ensure that this great nation stands for the next generation to enjoy the blessings we have been given. Above all, we need to remind people that God is on the throne and this is His Kingdom! We need to return to Him and He will return to us!

WORD OF THE DAY = "GOD"