If The Foundations Be Destroyed

Intro: The Psalmist asked, Psa. 11:3: “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” In this Psalm, David stresses our need to place our trust in God, verse 1: “In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?” However, the wicked are making plans to destroy, verse 2: “For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.” To accomplish this destruction, they must destroy the foundations. David then reminds us that Jehovah rules, verse 4: “The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD’S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men”; He is omniscient, verses 4-5: “The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD’S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth”; and He is just, verses 6 -7 “Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.” God in His justice will punish the wicked—those who destroy the foundations.

In our nation, the foundations are being destroyed and possibly have been decimated to the point of being irreparable. As we look at the immorality, ungodliness, wickedness all around us, we see the foundations are being destroyed.

I. FOUNDATIONS OF THE HOME

A. God’s establishment:

1. Gen. 2:23-24 “And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”
   a. God made woman for the man and presented her to him, thus creating the first home.
   b. This relationship was to last till death do them part.

2. Mat. 19:4-6 “And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5And said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

3. It is in the home where God intended children to be brought into the world and raised.
   a. Gen. 1:28 “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”
   b. Parents are given the responsibility of teaching and training them.
      (1) Deu. 6:7-9 “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”
      (2) Pro. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
      (3) Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
      (4) 2 Tim. 3:15 “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
B. Attacks on the home  
1. Winford Claiborne wrote: “Attacks against the home are so numerous and so vicious that it appears a conspiracy to destroy the home exist in our society. Some of those attacks against the home are theological; others are social, political and academic. Secular humanism has had a detrimental impact on everyone of those attacks against the home. It has provided the inspiration for sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, media personnel, liberal politicians and theologians” (86-87).

2. Attacks from within the home.
   a. The ease and false doctrines relative to divorce and remarriage
      (1) God’s law only allows the spouse sinned against by fornication to put the fornicator away and marry another.
      (2) We have reaches the state of serial polygamy in our society with the ease of divorce.
   b. The roles of the husband/father, wife/mother have been confused to such an extent that many do not even recognize the roles God has given.
      (1) The unisex movement went a long way in destroying such.
      (2) Multitudes growing up in a home without one of the parents (generally the father) results in the child’s lack of example of that role model.

3. Attacks from without the home.
   a. Marriage is being denigrated by such statements as, “it’s only a piece of paper.”
   b. We see many today living together without the benefit of marriage.
   c. The homosexual community changing the definition of marriage so they can join together in their sin.

4. Training of children:
   a. Many parents have turned over childcare to the television.
      (1) Millions of latchkey children are in this situation.
      (2) They learn improper values from the Hollywood elite.
   b. Many parents have turned over child rearing to day care centers.
      (1) The day care center gets the child beginning at a few weeks of age, and then raises it.
      (2) They instill their values more than the parents.
   c. The godless school system has taken over training our children.

II. Foundations Of Society

A. With the destruction of the home, society is being destroyed.
1. Adage: As the home goes, so goes the nation.
2. President James A. Garfield stated, “The sanctity of marriage and the family relation makes the cornerstone of our American society and civilization.”
3. Since society is made up of people and people are built in homes, when the home fails, society suffers.
4. Kerby Anderson writes:

In his book Our Dance Has Turned to Death, Carl Wilson identifies the common pattern of family decline in ancient Greece and the Roman Empire. Notice how these seven stages parallel what is happening in our
nation today. In the first stage, men ceased to lead their families in worship. Spiritual and moral development became secondary. Their view of God became naturalistic, mathematical, and mechanical.

In the second stage, men selfishly neglected care of their wives and children to pursue material wealth, political and military power, and cultural development. Material values began to dominate thought, and the man began to exalt his own role as an individual. The third stage involved a change in men’s sexual values. Men who were preoccupied with business or war either neglected their wives sexually or became involved with lower-class women or with homosexuality. Ultimately, a double standard of morality developed. The fourth stage affected women. The role of women at home and with children lost value and status. Women were neglected and their roles devalued. Soon they revolted to gain access to material wealth and also freedom for sex outside marriage. Women also began to minimize having sex relations to conceive children, and the emphasis became sex for pleasure. Marriage laws were changed to make divorce easy.

In the fifth stage, husbands and wives competed against each other for money, home leadership, and the affection of their children. This resulted in hostility and frustration and possible homosexuality in the children. Many marriages ended in separation and divorce.

Many children were unwanted, aborted, abandoned, molested, and undisciplined. The more undisciplined children became, the more social pressure there was not to have children. The breakdown of the home produced anarchy.

In the sixth stage, selfish individualism grew and carried over into society, fragmenting it into smaller and smaller group loyalties. The nation was thus weakened by internal conflict. The decrease in the birthrate produced an older population that had less ability to defend itself and less will to do so, making the nation more vulnerable to its enemies.

Finally, unbelief in God became more complete, parental authority diminished, and ethical and moral principles disappeared, affecting the economy and government. Thus, by internal weakness and fragmentation the societies came apart. There was no way to save them except by a dictator who arose from within or by barbarians who invaded from without.

B. Our nation is in trouble.

1. Crime:
   a. It has soared in our nation.
   b. People live in fear of being accosted, beaten, robbed, raped, murdered, etc.
   c. Drive-by killings, those avenging themselves of some supposed wrong and killing anyone around.

2. Abortion:
   a. The Supreme Court legalized this murder January 22, 1973.
   b. Those helpless human beings who deserve to be protected are now ripped, torn, and destroyed legally.
   c. What was once the safest place in the world (and still should be) has become one of the most dangerous places.

3. Homosexuality:
   a. God destroyed Sodom, Gomorrah, and the cities of the plain because of this sin.
      (1) Gen. 19
      (2) Jude 7 “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”
   b. It has been foisted upon our nation in a progressive way:
      (1) Just an alternate lifestyle
      (2) Civil unions
(3) Now perverting the sacred institution of marriage
c. Sodom, Gomorrah, and the cities of the plain were destroyed for their
homosexuality, how long will it be till God destroys this nation?

C. Paul’s description of the Gentile world mirrors our society today.
1. Rom. 1:19-31
2. Paul’s conclusion; Rom. 1:32 “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such
things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”
3. If this is true of individuals, would it not also be true of nations (including our own)?

D. Pro. 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

E. Historians have given ten states of a nation’s birth to its downfall:
1. Bondage to spiritual faith
2. Spiritual faith to great courage
3. Great courage to liberty
4. Liberty to abundance
5. Abundance to selfishness
6. Selfishness to complacency
7. Complacency to apathy
8. Apathy to moral decay
9. Moral decay to dependence
10. Dependence to bondage.
11. Which stage is our nation in?

III. FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHURCH

A. With the destruction of the home, there is a lack of respect for authority.
1. Children have grown up failing to learn respect.
2. That disrespect spills over into every aspect of life: school, government, and the
   church.

B. Disrespect for Spiritual matters.
1. Disrespect of God
   a. How many times do we hear of God being spoken of as “the man upstairs”?
   b. In a public prayer one addressed the Father as “Daddy-O.”
   c. We need to respect God:
      (1) Isaiah’s vision of God:
         (a) One seraph cried to another; Isa. 6:3 “And one cried unto another, and said,
             Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”
         (b) It caused Isaiah to say; Isa. 6:5 “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because
             I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for
             mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”
      (2) Psa. 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for
          ever: holy and reverend is his name.”
      (3) Heb. 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
2. Disrespect of God’s all authoritative, all sufficient, Word
   a. James Woodroof wrote, “The idea of adhering to the Written Word is noble, but
      it is fraught with as many problems as there are people viewing the Word” (36).
b. The “New Hermeneutic” rejects the Bible as being authoritative and a pattern for us to follow.

c. Rubel Shelly and Randall Harris wrote, “We reject a rigid ‘pattern theology’… It [Scripture—mh] certainly does not present an absolute blueprint for building a church” (31, 36).

3. Disrespect for the church of our Lord.

a. Changes made in the worship of the church.

b. Changes made in the organization of the church.

c. Changes made in the fellowship of the church.

d. Changes made in God’s scheme of redemption.

e. The very nature of the church itself has been altered.

   (1) It becomes nothing but a denomination among denominations.

   (2) It is no longer the church that the Lord built; Mat. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

   (3) It is no longer the church that Christ is the head of; Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

   (4) It is no longer the church our Lord is going to save; Eph. 5:23-27 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Conclusion: When the foundation in the home is destroyed, society will follow in its destruction, and the church will also be ruined. Unless things are built upon the solid foundation of God and His Word then those foundations will ultimately be destroyed. However, if we live righteously, we will be justified.

Endnotes:


