



where mothers and fathers can kill their own children and be excused on the basis of “insanity”. But what else would we expect of a people where more than a million unborn babies are mercilessly killed each year by professionally trained doctors and nurses, at the instigation of the parents who should be willing to die to protect their young, even by the instinct of nature?

◆ We are a nation that has lost its spiritual moorings. Pagan religions are protected by governmental laws, while Christianity is repressed. Public mention of God, of Scripture, and the exercise of prayer in public/school/government activities are strictly prohibited and infractions are likely to be prosecuted. Atheistic organizations are fighting to remove the words “In God We Trust” from our money, and to delete “One nation under God” from our pledge of allegiance to our flag. God is denied as non-existent until some disaster strikes and then, conversely, many would blame Him for the tragedy.

◆ In years gone by, “My word is my bond”, was the sense of integrity that governed most lives. Honor, honesty, and genuine neighborliness were the norm, rather than the exception. Self-discipline, as well as parental discipline, resulted in a “civilized” society.

The current absence of discipline erupts in knock-down fights among students in schools, in mobs wrecking malls, torching vehicles, and killing helpless victims. School shootings are becoming commonplace. Undisciplined children are actually being trained to become violent criminals.

◆ A greater portion of the US population is confined to prison than in any other nation of the world, and yet our streets are filled with criminals who are suffering no punishment for their crimes.

How can we prevent such horrors in this world, and avoid having the wrath of God poured out on us as it was on the people of Sodom?

We must, **according to Romans 2**, practice and teach God’s righteousness. To the extent that we can persuade others to repent and turn to Him, they can be spared the tribulation and anguish promised to all those who live in sin.

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

..... George Santayana

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One of the sickest stories

in the Bible is the account of Lot and his family with the fall of Sodom and Gomorrah. As had been said of the people before Noah's flood, *"every thought and imagination of their hearts was only evil continually."* The people of Sodom were so consumed with their appetite for evil that when they were literally and physically blinded, the natural fear that should have shocked them back to rightness was totally overwhelmed by the unbridled lust that drove them to heap evil upon evil (Genesis 18,19).

It is the responsibility of those who know truth to **live** righteously and **teach** righteously, to bring the light of God to those around them. Lot knew God, and the evil of Sodom *"vexed his righteous soul"*. He was the "best" that God had in that place, and he was good enough that the angels saved him from the fire and brimstone.

But Lot's ensuing story is pathetic and shameful. During his years in Sodom, there is no record that anyone learned of God through him. Though the evil of the city hurt him, when the Sodomites stormed his door he suggested a cowardly compromise to their demands, offering to give his own young daughters into their evil hands. Where was the godly courage that

should have made him prefer death himself to the ruination of his children?

Living among heathens, Lot's daughters were either married or pledged in marriage to local men who did not believe in God — another compromise with the world. Lot had no influence over these men; he seemed to them *"as one who was joking"* (Genesis 19:14). So they, and his wife, were lost. And later, as Lot and his daughters hid in the mountains, we see the extent of the influence of Sodom's depraved sensual environment. Lot submitted to his daughter's encouragement to drink himself into such a stupor that he was totally unaware of her incestuous behavior during the night.

And where was his "morning after" shame about his drunkenness? That evening he allowed his second daughter to lead him into another night of drunken evil. The two sons that resulted from these sins grew into the nations of the Ammonites and the Moabites, continual thorns in the flesh of Israel (Genesis 19:37,38).

But what is the point?

There is a grim parallel between Lot and the world surrounding him in that time, and the world in which we live today.

◆ Our world? Sodomites are not being struck **blind**; they are being struck **dead** by HIV/

AIDS [*"...receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due"* — Romans 1:27], and yet they are not frightened into a change of life by their plight; they only *"weary themselves to find the door"*, as did their predecessors. And they, in their crazed lust, are symbolic of so many Americans as they engage in all types of deviant sexual immorality including pedophilia and bestiality, pornography, drug abuse, live-in relationships instead of marriage, and out-of-wedlock births. Most entertainment, and even advertisements, are sex-based.

◆ We are a nation of sexual exploitation in which even our children are taught — by words, photographs, and physical participation — not only of explicit adult sex but of perverted sex, in sick school programs called "sex education". The result? A very small percentage of the children reach adulthood before becoming sexually active — and the Center for Disease Control says that **1/3 of Americans are infected with STDs** [Sexually Transmitted Diseases], with **22 million being between the ages of 15 and 24 years**. These very young and impressionable children are also being trained to accept/practice homosexuality as normal behavior.

◆ We are a hotbed of child-, husband-, wife-, parent- abuse of the vilest and most atrocious kinds,

