

BIBLICAL • FAMILY • MINISTRIES

Friend of the Family

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Family Issues

Dr. Allen Griffith

God planned and intended that the family should be the basic unit of society. Now society is in trouble, because the family is in trouble.

We must face the fact that an election is not going to solve the underlying problems of our country. We can be grateful that changes in our government policies promise to halt the political push for moral perversion—but the real problems are spiritual and cultural, not political.

Our cultural practices of government, education, business, entertainment, and social values reflect our views of God, and our degree of reverence for Him. Pressure from the top down can bring about submission in practice, but it will not bring change in one's heart. The views of leaders do not create morality or immorality. The fact that a man or woman has been put into a leadership position, reflects the moral condition of those who elected or appointed them.

Psalm 33:12 reads, *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD*. No doubt the writer had Israel in mind, but the psalm seems to open the door of blessing to any nation who will worship the LORD (Jehovah) and serve Him as their God.

That door was open to the United States. A review of our history demonstrates that our Founders believed they were establishing a Christian nation. It is estimated that today, however, about 67% would call



themselves Christians—whereas almost 90% called themselves Christians in the 1990s. Will things turn around? It seems unlikely, since only 24% of adults identify themselves as being born again—with that number decreasing by about ½% every year.

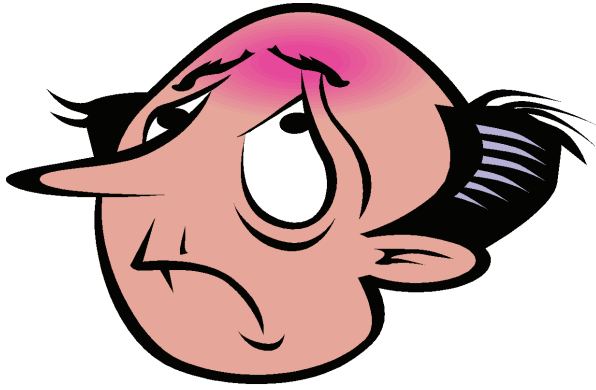
Is there an answer? I doubt that America will turn to God in repentance. I wish she would, but our nation is in Apostasy. As a nation we have known the truth, and honored the God of truth, but have now walked away. It seems that we have followed the pathway of the Romans 1 rebellion. God may have given us over to reprobation. If there is hope, it is to be found in one life at a time and one family at a time.

In our life and ministry, we have always wanted to reach as many as we could. In that process, we knew there was one group to be reached as a priority. That was our family. We have observed that many of the greatest rebels against God and His Word, were people who grew up in a family which professed Christ. It scared us to death and still does.

Our children and grandchildren are our best prospects for leading someone to Christ. Parents have their children with them every day. Parents can tell their children the Gospel message and protect them from the message and influence of the ungodly. Parents can demonstrate in their lives the sweet blessing of knowing Christ.

Is there hope for our country? It will begin in the living room of godly, born-again Christians.

Trends & Troubles



As we continue consideration of Titus 2:11-14, I hope you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ could return to take His Church to heaven at any moment. That hope is a God-given motivator to pure living. In case you discarded the last Friend of the Family (How could you?), I am going to again quote 1 John 3:2-3.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

No one knows how quickly, after the Rapture, we will stand before the Judgment seat of Christ. In Revelation 22:12, John quotes the Lord Jesus as saying, *And, Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

Paul speaks of the rewards that will be given to the believer in I Corinthians 3:14. Those rewards are described as crowns in I Corinthians 9:25, I Thessalonians 2:19, II Timothy 4:8, James 1:12, and I Peter 5:4. In Revelation 4:1, we see a clear portrayal of the Rapture, and in 4:10 the crowns of believers are cast before the throne of the Heavenly Father. It seems that judgment Seat of Christ is carried out in conjunction with the Rapture. It appears that after a very short time, the crowns received will be cast before the Father with the words of Revelation 4:11. *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

All of that takes me back to Titus 2:11-14. If we are anticipating the any moment return of our Savior and

Lord, and if we recognize that we will be judged when He comes, should we not be living a godly life? Remember the people of Crete professed that they knew God, but in works they denied Him. Were they unaware that Christ was coming back? For some reason they were not motivated to reject the world and worldly ways.

Paul's message to Titus was that looking for Christ should produce change in our ways. We will discuss more about the Titus 2 challenge; but I wonder if the growing rejection of Rapture is why so many believers live in spiritual compromise.

Are you ready? Are you looking?



As the Apostle Paul neared the end of his life, he wrote the following words to Timothy-- *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.* II Timothy 4:7 You may know that the first part of the verse is actually, "I have fought the good fight."

Many fight a good fight, but they may be fighting the wrong battle. I hope you are fighting hard, but I hope you are in the right battle. There could be no question about the conflict in which Paul was engaged—and in fact gave his life. A man does not have to be in formal ministry to fight the good fight. He must understand what in life he is to fight for and what he is to oppose.

It does not matter what our position may be in this world; our underlying God-given purpose is clear. We are to know what is right and stand openly/publicly for it. We are to speak the truth, in love, but we must speak it. Paul paid a great price to live openly and boldly for Christ. Every man is called upon to wisely and graciously live as Paul lived. I believe Timothy got the message.

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE THAT MAN?

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Prescription *For The Family*



In our last article we quoted Proverbs 22:15. It says, *Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.* The problem identified in this text is extremely serious. To ignore the resident foolishness in a child, in every child, is disastrous. Unfortunately, however, too many parents have allowed their children to mature into fools and suffer the consequences.

Proverbs 17:21 says, *He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow; and the father of a fool hath no joy.* The text puts great responsibility on parents, especially fathers.

How is the fool described in Scripture? We can give only a few illustrations.

Proverbs 1:7 says, *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 1:22 says, *...fools hate knowledge.* Proverbs 10:23 says, *It is as sport for a fool to do mischief.*

Proverbs 13:16 says, *“...a fool layeth open his folly.*

Proverbs 29:11 says, *A fool uttereth all his mind...*

Proverbs 23:9 says, *Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.*

On and on the Bible goes, to tell us of the one who will not listen, will not learn, does not know when to be quiet and likes to cause trouble, even for his

own family. There are so many more texts describing him.

Do you know people who grew up in a Christian home, but have turned out to be a fool? It did not have to happen. I emphasize – It did not have to happen!

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If you don't see the world through the Bible, you will never see it right.



From Under the Umbrella

By Patricia E. Griffith

I am thankful for a wonderful start to 2025! The burden of our government seems to be headed back to a godly foundation. Many turns are happening. God is so merciful to our sinful country! I am praying that we will be very busy for our Savior and that the “Church” will begin to live godly lives to point others to Him!

We are so thankful for our precious family and friends in the Lord, and for the privilege of serving our Lord and Savior! Praying we will see salvation for many this year, and for Christians to turn back to worshipping the God of the Bible, in spirit and in truth! Our time is short. Let's be busy for Him! *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.* Matthew 6:20-21

Another Year!

Genesis 1:1, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*” In conjunction with His creation of physical things like the sun, moon, stars, and planets, God included the elements of time. Time is a seemingly brief part of the eternal. Eternity obviously had no beginning and will have no end.

In creation God designed segments used to measure our earthly existence. Before the creation, there were no days. When God created the Earth, He established it to spin on its axis. Every full spin marks a day. He created the moon to circle the earth and thereby established the Lunar month. The Earth circles the Sun every 365 ¼ days, which establishes the year.

We talk about how old we are by years. That designation tells us how many times the Earth has circled the Sun since we were born. Without such design, we would have no way to measure existence, define historical experience, or lay out reasonable plans for the future. We don't do well trying to relate to eternity, but God has told us to carefully consider our time on earth.

In Psalm 90, Moses told us the days of our years are threescore years and ten. He asked the Lord to teach us to number our days, that we might apply our hearts unto wisdom.

It is a new year. May we be wise – We don't get that many times to circle the Sun.

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