

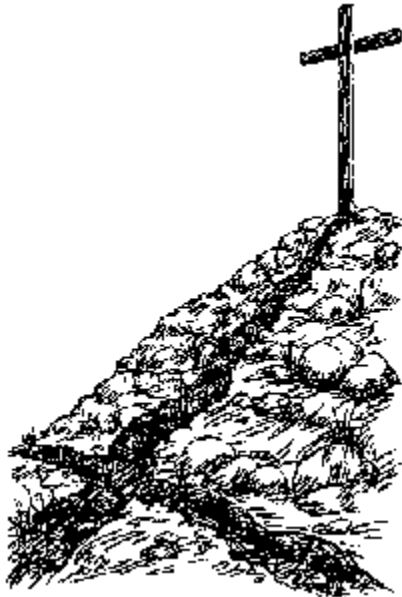
Yasha Yhvh: Help, Lord!

Psalm 12

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee
38351

Brother David Buffaloe, Pastor
www.bibleteacher.org

Phone 731-845-6104



Psalm 12 (KJV) "Help, LORD¹; for the godly man ceaseth²; for the faithful³ fail¹² from among the children of men. {2} They speak vanity⁴ every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak⁵. {3} The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: {4} Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us? {5} For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth⁶ at him. {6} The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. {7} Thou shalt keep⁷ them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve⁸ them from this generation for ever. {8} The wicked walk¹¹ on every side, when the vilest¹⁰ men are exalted⁹."

¹ Hiphil Imperative yasha' {pronounced yaw-shah'} + Yhvh {pronounced yeh-ho-vaw'}; The name most distinctive of God as the God of Israel is Jehovah (יהוה), a combination of the tetragrammaton (YHWH) with the vowels of 'Ādhōnāy, transliterated as Y'hōwāh, but read aloud by the Hebrews 'ādhōnāy). = deliver or give victory to us, Jehovah

² gamar {pronounced gaw-mar'}, Qal Perfect, is no more

³ 'aman {pronounced aw-man'}, Qal Passive Participle, pillars, supporters, the holder uppers

⁴ shav {pronounced shav'}, emptiness, falsehood, nothingness

⁵ Piel Imperfect dabar {pronounced daw-bar'}, make promises, speak. The double heart (labe labe) assumes corrupt dealing in business practices.

⁶ Hiphil Imperfect puwach {pronounced poo'akh}, puffs, breathes out, blasts at

⁷ Qal Imperfect shamar {pronounced shaw-mar'}, guard, watch, protect, oversee

⁸ Qal Imperfect natsar {pronounced naw-tsar'}, guard from danger, hold close

⁹ Qal Infinitive, ruwm {pronounced room}, lifted up, held up as examples, exalted, set apart, set up on high

¹⁰ zulluwth {pronounced zool-looth'}, worthless, vileness

¹¹ Hithpael Imperfect halak {pronounced haw-lak'}, traverse, strut

¹² Qal pacac {pronounced paw-sas'}, to vanish

Introduction

Not too long ago the United States “Pledge of Allegiance” was declared *unconstitutional* by one of our federal courts^a. A federal judge was ordered to remove a display of the Biblical Ten Commandments from his courtroom, and was eventually fired for failing to comply. The reason? The first amendment of the U.S. Constitution demands, so we are told, a separation of Church and State^b. Though the U.S. Senate has a chaplain that opens each session with prayer, our school children have been denied the same rights^c. Television, once monitored by censors, is now out of control. Few children need to be told about “the birds and the bees” - TV has already educated them beyond what we parents would have ever said^d. What happened?

I want to read this to you, because this is one of the best articles I've ever read. It's written by a *fourteen year old*

girl named Taylor Dockery^e.

“Over the past years, America’s morals have gone on a downward spiral. Today people accept everything and nothing comes as a surprise. Our society has embraced a multitude of immoral acts such as: premarital sex, gay rights, abortion, drug use, and violence.

I believe that much of the depletion of values in America is the result of forsaking our biblical foundation. A recent poll indicated that 91 percent of this generation say an absolute truth doesn’t exist. This means that people have stopped trusting in the Word of God. If people no longer believe that there is an absolute truth then they have no standards by which to live.”

This young lady understands the nature of our problems in America better than many pastors do! In every generation the *following generation* was either preserved or destroyed by the men of that nation. We must recognize that the solution to America's woes begins with us, brethren! Godly, Bible believing men are needed to reclaim this nation for Jesus.

1. When Godly Men Cease, The Faithful Vanish

Psalms 12:1 (KJV) "Help, LORD¹; for the godly man ceaseth²; for the faithful³ fail¹² from among the children of men.

The first two words of our text are “**Help, LORD**”¹. In the original language of this text, the ancient Hebrew, these are the words **yasha**‘ {pronounced yaw-shah’} + **Yhvh** {pronounced yeh-ho-vaw’}. These words are *breathed* - perhaps even **whispered, as if in shock**. What caused such dread? The lack of Bible believing men

Psalm 12:6 “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”

A clergyman took a seat in a dining car on a train traveling along the Hudson River. Opposite him was an atheist who, seeing his clerical collar, started a discussion. 'I see you are a clergyman.' 'Yes,' came the reply. 'I am a minister of the gospel.' 'I suppose you believe the Bible.' The clergyman, orthodox in his views, responded, 'I certainly do believe the Bible to be the Word of God.' 'But aren't there things in the Bible you can't explain?' With humility the minister answered, 'Yes, there are places in the Bible too hard for me to understand.' With an air of triumph as though he had cornered the preacher, the atheist asked, 'Well, what do you do then?' Unruffled, the clergyman went on eating his dinner--which happened to be Hudson shad, a tasty fish but noted for its bony structure. Looking up, he said, 'Sir, I do just the same as when eating this shad. When I come to the bones, I put them to the side of the plate and go on enjoying my lunch. I leave the bones for some fool to choke on.'

James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 43

Godly men see **no error, allow for no falseness in God's**

Word. They trust and depend on His Word. As they walk through life they, like **farmers, sow the Good Word of God** in the world around them. No farmer picks through his seed, tossing out or casting away any seed he considers suspect. Seed costs money! Instead the farmer sows the seed, trusting that the source and God Almighty will give him a good crop. As Godly men we must *cling to God's Word*, trusting that it will do what He has promised.

Godly men, **you must rally around God's Word**.

Experience as well as Scripture shows us that human beings are **designed by God to be social creatures**. Even the shyest of people has someone he confides in or bonds to. **God made Man (Genesis 2:7)**, then shortly after made Woman. This is our design. **Man was made first to lead in obeying God** and His Word while in that holy union we call “**marriage**”.

What happened **when man failed to obey God's Word**? What occurred when man decided, after standing to the side and seeing Eve eat the forbidden fruit (**Genesis 2:15-17**), to go ahead and ignore God's Word (**Genesis 3:6**)? The Bible says:

(1 Corinthians 15:21-22 KJV) "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. {22} For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

Man's failure to lead the marriage by following God's Word brought catastrophic consequences. I do not know

if Adam *fully comprehended* what his disobedience would cause – but his failure effected every one of us.

As social creatures our marriages usually lead to children, who in turn go out and make families of their own. The Bible says:

(Psalms 127:3-5 KJV) "Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is* his reward. {4} As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth. {5} Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

In ancient times the *gate of the city was where community business* was conducted. When the man is Godly, when he heeds God's Word, then his *children follow his example*. Godly parents make for Godly children who contribute to the community in a positive way. That is true of men who know and obey Jesus.

2. When The Faithful Vanish, The Faithless Take Control

Psalms 12:1-3 (KJV) "**Help, LORD¹; for the godly man ceaseth²; for the faithful³ fail¹² from among the children of men. {2} They speak vanity⁴ every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak⁵. {3} The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: {4} Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?**

When the *Godly man is no more*, then the *ungodly man takes over the nation*. Men, we cannot afford to be *apathetic* or *lazy* in the way we serve our Lord! When the Word of God is not spoken, revered, heeded - then the *Word of Man replaces the Word of God*. This is what has happened in our society! The Words of God, which are "**... pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times**" have been replaced by *humanism and traditionalism*.

Our **focal text** makes it plain that there is a price to be paid when we neglect the Words of God for the *emptiness, falsehood, flattering, and double heartedness* of the sons of men. If the *preacher fails to preach the Word*, instead relying on funny stories and entertaining anecdotes, then the Christian leaves the Church underpowered. Godly men who believe God's Word are needed in the pulpit. Godly men are needed in the pew as well. No preacher can turn the tide by himself ... we as Godly men must work together, sowing God's Word to this and future generations.

This is not a popular position – but Beloved, we are not called to win popularity contests. In World War II men committed to the protection of this nation and their families stormed Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6th, 1944. Three thousand casualties – many deaths – occurred that day. I am told that the ocean was literally red with blood as men charged that beach. The enemy did not want us there, and many suffered. In the same way Godly men can expect to suffer when they stand up for Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

Jesus said:

John 15:20 (KJV) "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."

We **will** suffer persecution when we stand up for Jesus and His Word^f. But listen ... **Jesus stood up for us!** He stood up and hung on that Cross for your sins and mine. When we, as faithful **ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20)**, study, teach, preach, and stand up for God's Word, we can see America's heart turn back to God. If not, then we need to fear one of God's Woes:

(Isaiah 5:20-21 KJV) "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! {21} Woe unto *them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*"

As a nation we are surely treading the same road that the **Roman, Babylonian, and Assyrian** Empires walked and it is a road to destruction.

3. When The Faithless Control, Wickedness Is Considered Good

Psalms 12:6-8 "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. {7} Thou shalt keep⁷ them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve⁸ them from this generation for ever. {8} The wicked walk¹¹ on every side, when the vilest¹⁰ men are exalted⁹."

Verse 8 literally reads: **Evil ones strut and prance all around us when worthless men are held up as examples.**

When faithless and godless people control the nation, worthless and useless men are the "heroes". When I was growing up **my heroes** were manly men - John Wayne (the Duke), Superman (Christopher Reeves), Batman (Adam West), and the like. **Who do your children hold up as heroes?** Who do they look up to? In many families the children's heroes

are adulterers, killers, extortioners, maybe even sorcerers or wicca (witches).

The families of today will be the nation of tomorrow.

In an article entitled "Dutch Euthanize 1,000 Every Year Without Consent"^s we read:

“Professor Henk Jochemsen, director of the Dutch Institute for Ethics in Medicine, reported that doctors in the Netherlands euthanize approximately 1,000 patients each year without prior consent. “

Four years ago “death on demand” was unheard of. Now it is not only tolerated, it is often *forced* on those considered too old or too handicapped to *be worthy of life*.

If you as Godly men do not stand in the gap, the next generation is going to be less Godly than this one is. So how do we turn the tide?

First, we bind ourselves to both God and to our Church. We insure that we are in fellowship with God. If your heart has been pierced, if you are convicted of the Lord that you have been ungodly. Then confess your failure to God. **Repent**, and seek a deeper relationship with Him through Bible study and prayer.

(2 Corinthians 7:9-11 KJV) "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. {10} For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. {11} For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

Second, if you are a Godly man - then realize **you belong to God in Christ**. As Godly men your calling is to first and foremost **serve your Savior**. If you are a Christian, **live like a Christian**. Realize that **you are the head of your household** - not the dictator, but the head - and you are to lead your family in study of God's Word and prayer. The Bible says:

(1 Corinthians 7:23-24 KJV) "Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. {24} Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God."

(Psalms 4:3 KJV) "But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him."

As servants of God "bought with a price" we are called to **hide ourselves in Jesus**. We do as He says, we support His agenda. Jesus never gave us the authority to barter His Word He commanded that we be obedient to it. As He said:

(John 14:15 KJV) "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

A young man told a friend of mine the other day that "times have changed". That's true, times have changed, and changed for the worst. Jesus Christ however has never changed. **God's Word is still just as powerful** as it has always been. The Word

(Titus 2:12 KJV) "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world"

(Hebrews 13:8 KJV) "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

May God bless you as you grow in Him, approaching Jesus both through His Word and through prayer. God Bless!

Footnotes

^a The Pledge of Allegiance was codified by Congress in 1942 as:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1954 the United States Congress, sickened by the godless evil of Communism and the

Cold War, changed the Pledge to read:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

On June 26th, 2002, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that the Pledge - even though it has been modified for nearly 50 years - is *unconstitutional*. On October 15, 2003 the Supreme Court of the United States said they would hear both sides of the argument. A verdict is expected June-July 2004.

^b The first amendment to the United States Constitution reads:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The American people knew what would happen if the State established the Church like it did in England. They knew that England forbade worship in private homes - people were under strict laws regarding their religion. No other churches besides the State sanctioned churches were allowed. The **Conventicle Act of 1665** forced believers to go to the State Church regardless as to their faith.

^c For 185 years prayer was allowed in public and the Constitutional Convention itself was opened with prayer.

When the Senate first convened in New York City on April 6, 1789, it appointed a committee to recommend a candidate for chaplain. On April 25, 1789 the Senate elected its first Chaplain. During the past two hundred and seven years, all sessions of the Senate have been opened with prayer, strongly affirming the Senate's faith in God as Sovereign Lord of our Nation.

Yet in October 1961 the Supreme Court of the United States removed prayer from schools in a case called **Engel v. Vitale**. Our Senate opens each session day in prayer to God, but our children are forbidden to do the same.

^d Television in its infancy had Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz sleeping in separate beds in their bedroom. When Lucy was pregnant with Little Ricky, network censors wouldn't permit her to say "pregnant." She had to say "expectant", or "with child".

Compare that to the Super Bowl halftime this year when Janet Jackson was exposed on national television.

^e From “**My Commitment To America's Future**” by Taylor Dockery. Found in “Pulpit Helps” magazine (April 2004), AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422”. Complete text of her message follows:

“There are many problems facing America today. Among these are war, disease, and unemployment. But to me the most widespread and devastating problem this country faces is immorality. Until we do something to change our ethics as individuals, our country as a whole will continue to suffer.

Over the past years, America’s morals have gone on a downward spiral. Today people accept everything and nothing comes as a surprise. Our society has embraced a multitude of immoral acts such as: premarital sex, gay rights, abortion, drug use, and violence.

I believe that much of the depletion of values in America is the result of forsaking our biblical foundation. A recent poll indicated that 91 percent of this generation say an absolute truth doesn’t exist. This means that people have stopped trusting in the Word of God. If people no longer believe that there is an absolute truth then they have no standards by which to live.

My commitment to America’s future is to spread God’s Word to anyone willing to listen. Ignorance causes many problems. If people can be introduced to God and His Word, how much He loves us, and what he expects of us, it might help them avoid much hurt and wrong choices. God’s Word calls us to share the gospel with others. If we do that, maybe more people will realize the deception they’ve been under and decide to change.

The commitment I make to this country involves voting in local and national elections and praying for our nation’s leaders. But the most important contribution I can ever give to this country is to be a vessel for God and let Him perform His perfect work through me. I truly believe that God’s love can change this country. He alone can transform people’s hearts for the better.

People think that one person can’t make a difference, but many examples prove them wrong. Paul made a difference by spreading the Good News to the Gentiles. Esther saved her people from being destroyed. Martin Luther created an entire Reformation by nailing ninety-five statements to a door. Rosa Parks started the Civil Rights Movement by merely refusing to get out of a seat on the bus. Jesus covered the sins of the entire world. He healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out devils, and then died on a cross so we could live. That represents the most perfect example of one individual making a difference. The time has come for everyone to stand up for what is right. Once we do, I believe we will begin to see America change drastically for the better.”

Taylor Dockery (age 14) wrote this article for her 10th grade English class. A student at Richard Hardy Memorial School in South Pittsburg, TN, Taylor received an “A” for her piece. It is uncommon in today’s public schools for students to be allowed to write about one’s personal faith in Christ. Taylor is the daughter of James and Amy Dockery of Whitwell, TN.

media when we revised the “Baptist Faith and Message”. There was a broad outcry when the BF&M was adjusted to state:

“While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture”

The SBC supported this resolution because we as Godly men believe that *the Bible is wholly inspired of God*. Thus when we examine a candidate for the office of Pastor, we insure that the candidate meets the *requirements per God's Word*. The Word states in:

(1 Timothy 3:2 KJV) "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach ... "

There were around 100, or so it was reported, women who pastored Baptist churches when the BF&M was revised. How the woman can Scripturally be called to the pastorate has yet to be explained to anyone: the Scripture qualifies men, not women to the office.

“So what does it matter?” says the world. “Back up, and tolerate it. We live in a new era.”

Other denominations backed up on this issue, and as soon as they backed up, found themselves backing up on other Biblical issues as well. If you ordain women to the pastorate, then why can't you ordain lesbians or homosexuals to the pastorate. In an Associated Press article dated March 22, 2004, we read:

BOTHELL, Wash. (AP) - A lesbian Methodist pastor was acquitted Saturday in a church trial over her sexual orientation, and will be allowed to continue her ministry. After about 10 hours of deliberations, a jury of 13 pastors ruled in favor of the Rev. Karen Dammann, 47, who disclosed three years ago that she was in a homosexual relationship. Eleven pastors found her not guilty and two were undecided. Dammann said she was happy and relieved. "It's been heart-stopping at times, too exciting at times," she said. Meredith Savage, Dammann's partner of nine years, said she called their 5-year-old son after the verdict and shouted, "Mama won!" Even the pastor who served as the prosecutor in her case and the bishop who filed the initial complaint against her said they were pleased with the verdict. Church law prohibits the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals and the church's Book of Discipline declares homosexuality to be "incompatible to Christian teachings." But the church's social principles support gay rights and liberties.”

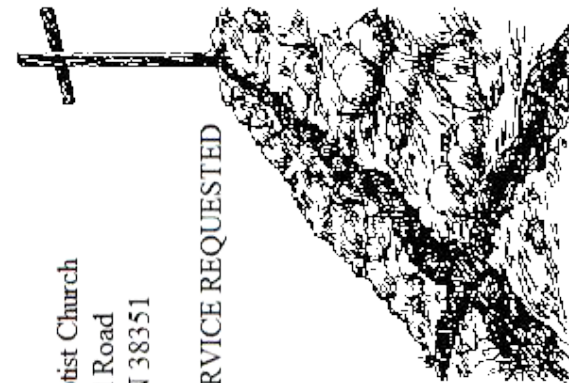
In an Agape Press article (August 6, 2003; Episcopalians Vote Robinson In, Turn Away From Scripture):

“By a vote of 62-45, Episcopal bishops made a historic decision Tuesday evening to break with the Bible's teaching on homosexuality and endorse openly homosexual Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Many Episcopal leaders, including Robinson, tried to put a positive face on the decision. He told reporters he is "proud to be in a church which works to be a safe place for all of God's children.””

Found in “Pulpit Helps” magazine (April 2004), AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422”.

^f A few years ago the Southern Baptist Convention received a lot of vilification from the

⁸ Professor Henk Jochemsen, director of the Dutch Institute for Ethics in Medicine, reported that doctors in the Netherlands euthanize approximately 1,000 patients each year without prior consent. Jochemsen presented these figures at a recent conference organized by the Christian Democrats for Life and the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation in Berlin. The Netherlands was the first European country to legalize “physician-assisted suicide” in April, 2002. The law requires that the patient must suffer from an incurable illness, must freely demand the termination of his or her life, a second medical opinion must be heard, and the death must be reported to the authorities. However, Jochemsen says doctors often dodge these requirements. An anonymous survey showed that in approximately 25 percent of the 3,600 annual cases no second medical opinion was sought, and that only 45 percent of all cases were registered. One in three patients asked for their lives to be terminated because they regarded themselves as an “unbearable burden” to their next of kin. Hubert Hueppe, a member of the German Federal Parliament in Berlin, is concerned that the acceptance of “death on demand” is growing. Just four years ago the European Council had rejected death on demand. “Today we have a European committee asking, Why not?” said Hueppe.



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED