

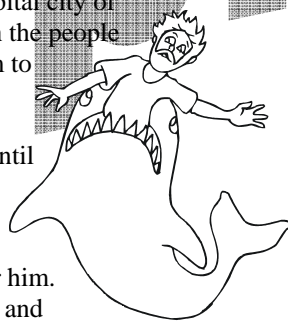
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The Word's Out
PO Box 1442
Owensboro, KY 42302

render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God” (Romans 2:6-11). Notice that those who “do not obey the truth” will be punished by God. The truth, the word of God, will either condemn us or sanctify us (John 17:17), depending on how we respond to it. The gospel is God’s power to save us (Roman 1:16), but woe to those who do not obey the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

In the Old Testament the nation of Assyria had become so corrupt that God had decided to judge it. But first he sent Jonah to preach to the capital city of Nineveh to warn the people and to urge them to repent (Jonah 1:2). Jonah was reluctant to go until he experienced the inside of the great fish God had prepared for him. Jonah then went and preached to the people. In recalling this event, Jesus said, “The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.” (Luke 11:32). Because the people did repent, the city was spared.

Our nation needs to repent. The message of one “greater than Jonah” says, “I tell



you, no, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). We are calling upon our nation to repent of its sins and to return to following the directions of the Bible. We hope you will join us in this effort.

The next lesson in this series is entitled, “Our National Leaders Need to Repent.”

Sample Copy

Repent
AMERICA

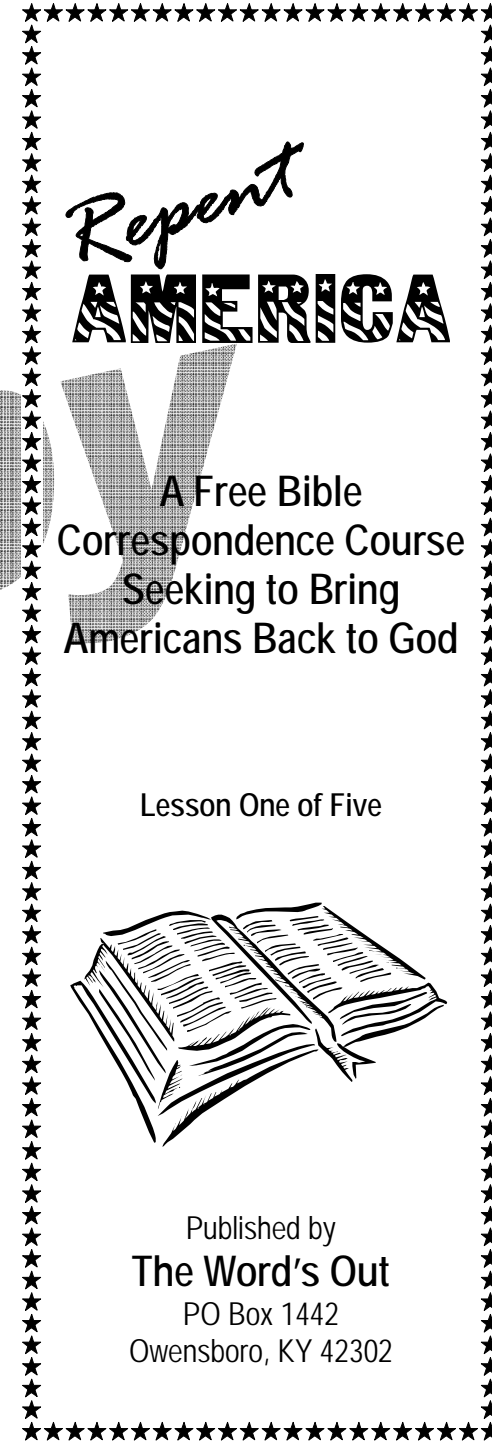
A Free Bible
Correspondence Course
Seeking to Bring
Americans Back to God

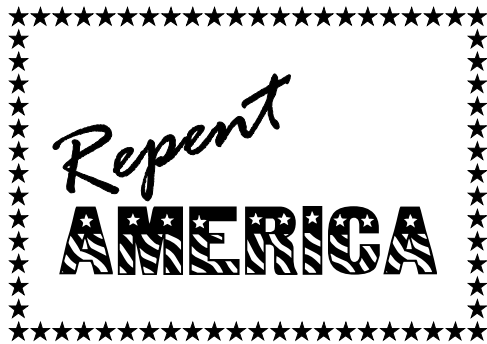
Lesson One of Five



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The Need for Repentance

What has happened to America? There has been a big change in the moral climate of our nation over the last fifty years. In 1962, the Supreme Court banned school prayers. In this case, the prayer under question was "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our Country." This simple prayer asked God's blessings on four groups. Since those daily prayers of innocent children are no longer being prayed to God, all four areas have declined.

What has happened to the children? Our country has the highest incidence of teenage motherhood of any Western country. 80% of pregnant teenage girls are unmarried. Two-thirds of our nation's teenage boys report that they have had sex with a girl. We are told that by the time they are 18, the average teenage boy has had sex with five different girls. Since this prayer was banned from schools, premarital sexual activity among 15 year old students has increased almost 500%. Sexually transmitted diseases have increased over 200%. Since 1962, teenage student pregnancies have increased over 400%.

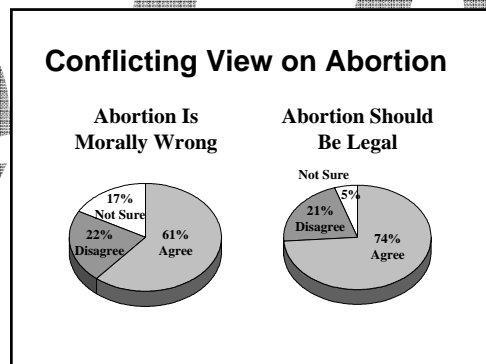
Similar sad results are seen among the parents of children. Divorces are up almost 120% since the time when all children were praying daily for God to bless their parents. Single parent families have increased 140%. Many couples have given up totally on marriage as the number of unmarried couples living together has increased over 350% since 1962. During this period, adultery has increased three to four times over previous levels.

There has also been a big change in our schools. Before 1962 the top school problems were talking, chewing gum, making noise, running in the halls, getting out of turn in line, wearing improper clothing, and not putting paper in the wastebaskets. Today, the top school problems are rape, robbery, assault, burglary, arson, bombings, murder, suicide, absenteeism, vandalism, extortion, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, gang warfare, pregnancies, abortions, and venereal disease.

Finally, the wellbeing of the nation as a whole has declined. Since 1962, the serious crime rate (murders, rapes, robberies, burglaries) has increased 332%. There has been a steady increase in the sexual abuse of children. Per capita alcohol consumption has increased by over one-third during this period. And, illegal drug abuse is up 1,375% since 1962.

Yes, things have changed in America. And yet, we are said to be a "Christian" nation. According to polls, 94% of Americans believe there is a God. 84% say they believe Jesus is the Son of God. 77% say they believe the Bible is the word of God. If we have this large of a percentage of people who believe in God, Christ, and the Bible, then why is it that we have seen such a great moral decline in our nation?

When asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement, "There is no such thing as absolute truth," 66% of Americans said they agreed with this proclamation. So while we say we believe in God and the Bible as His word, we do not believe it is the standard by which we all must live. An example of this relativism can be seen in the hot topic of abortion. Once again, according to polls, 61% of Americans believe that abortion is morally wrong. Yet, when asked if abortions should be legal, 74% said that it should be legal. It seems that no one wants to set an absolute standard of right and wrong for anyone. Yet, God has set a standard!



Jesus said in John 12:48, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." Every person who has ever lived will one day stand before Jesus to be judged (2 Corinthians 5:10). The inspired apostle Paul also speaks of the standard of judgment when he wrote in Romans 2:16, "in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel." Earlier in this chapter, he contrasted those who would receive a reward with those who would receive condemnation. He declared that God "will

(continued on outside page)

Questions

After reading the lesson, answer the following questions and return them to the address on the reverse side of this section.

True or False:

- ___ 1. School prayers were banned by the Supreme Court in 1972.
- ___ 2. France has the highest incidence of teenage motherhood of any Western country.
- ___ 3. Unmarried couples living together has increased over 350% since prayer was banned from public schools.
- ___ 4. No change has occurred in our schools since prayer was banned by the Supreme Court.
- ___ 5. Most Americans say they believe in God and the Bible.
- ___ 6. Most Americans do not believe in an absolute moral standard.
- ___ 7. Every person will one day be judged by Jesus.
- ___ 8. Those who do not obey the truth will receive God's wrath and fury.
- ___ 9. The people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Joseph.
- ___ 10. Our nation needs to repent.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____

Cut off this section and return it to the address on the outside page to have your answers graded.