

“I Was Wrong”

By Stan Mitchell more difficult to pronounce than "Mephibosheth" are, "I was wrong."

He wrote these words with a fountain pen before the greatest invasion in history began. The attempt to take the beaches at Normandy against Germany's entrenched defenses was a fearful risk. The effort would be massive, and if the attempt failed, he wanted someone to blame. Himself.

"Our landing has failed," he wrote, "And I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air, and the navy did all that bravery and devotion could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine, and mine alone" (Dwight D. Eisenhower, June 5, 1944).

Thankfully that was a message he never had to deliver. It's ironic to learn that the secret to greatness is the ability to admit failure. Three words,

It's hard in a marriage to learn that the problem with us is me. It's too easy when we abandon the Lord to blame his church. People wonder why Saul was considered a failure as leader of Israel, and the flawed but earnest David achieved greatness.

It's not that David made fewer mistakes; he admitted responsibility for them.

"For I know my transgressions," he declared. We know our brethren's transgressions. David knew his own. "And my sin is always before me" (**Psalm 51:3**). In contrast, our sin is constantly repressed in our memories!

How's your pronunciation of hard-to-say words?



Classes this Week

Kid's Class at the Building at 5:15 All Are Invited	Monday Night Ladies' class at the Building at 7PM	Wednesday Morning Ladies' class at the Rouse's at 10 AM
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Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Pam Dial (Laura Weldon's Mother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Ruby Johnson (Erica Seymore's Grandmother)
Adriana Mininno (Haley Chittam's Cousin)	Dave and Betty Bradford
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)
Johnny Adrian (Friend of Sullivanne's)	Lori Holloway
Chick Wade	Jared Nixon
Ross Folmar	

News and Notes

- Let's remember our expectant mothers: Laura Weldon, Anna Miller and Nicole Pender.
- Here is the Burton's address: Jared and Terria Burton, Grant and Kenlee 2927 McKinley Dr. Opelika, AL 36804
- Larry will be speaking on Monday Night at 6:30 (CST) at the Broad Street church of Christ in Phoenix City, Georgia. This is a special opportunity and hope you can attend. The address is: 1213 Broad Street, Phoenix City.
- All are encouraged to use and share our website. www.aubeacon.com
- Audio CDs of Today's Sermon will be immediately available.

The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

By R. J. Evans



Thought to Ponder

If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in character. If there is beauty in character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

Edward Gibbon authored a six-volume series of books between 1776 and 1788. In this series he covers the deteriorating conditions of the Roman Empire from 180 A.D. to 1590 A.D. He points to five major factors in which he attributed to the fall of the Empire. Let's list the five reasons for Rome's fall, and then make some comments and observations as applied to America today:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.

Right now in America, one out of every two marriages (50%) are ending in divorce. It is becoming more and more common to talk to individuals who have been divorced three or four times. Then we have a large number of our population who do not bother to get married, they just live together—in the sin of fornication. (**Col. 3:5-7**) And if that is not bad enough, the sin of homosexuality is gaining acceptance, and "same-sex marriages" are becoming le-

gal in some states. (**See Rom. 1:26-28**) But just because some sin or vice is legally right, that does not mean that it is morally or biblically right! "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (**Isa. 5:20**).

Concerning the undermining of the sanctity of the home, we live in a time when husbands and wives are ignoring and giving up their God-

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Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or E-mail: LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

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given roles in the family. Many homes today are run by children, which is appalling!

2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace.

Consider all the debates that are now being considered over tax issues. Christians are to pay their taxes (**Rom. 13:6-7**). But there is so much controversy over tax hikes and where Americans' tax dollars are to be spent. Part of the discussions over the new health-care bill involved tax payers' money being used to fund abortions. In fact, it was included in the Senate bill until the president signed an executive order to stop it. If funding abortions with tax payers' money ever starts (and many want to see that happen), it will be the first time in American history. While abortion (the murder of the unborn) has been legal in this country since 1973, that still doesn't make it right in view of such passages as **Psalm 139:13-16**. How tragic for a nation to even allow abortion in the first place! And, of course, "the right to choose" (or "choice") sounds so much better than *killing or murdering unborn babies*.

3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.

We live in a pleasure-crazed culture. That is all some live for, especially their partying, dancing, beer-drinking weekends. (**Lk. 8:14; Gal. 5:19; 2 Tim. 3:4; 1 Pet. 4:3-4**) The obsession with sports has just about gotten out of hand. I must say that I enjoy sports, but in recent years, my enthusiasm has waned. The last time I attended a college football game, I asked myself, "What am I doing here?" — many who were seated around me were acting totally out of their minds; appeared totally drunk; and talked like they would fight you "at the drop of a hat." The mad craze for sports

reflects a warped value system in America today. It is truly amazing to think that athletes and coaches are paid multi-millions each year to play or coach a game.

4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.

Over and over, the Old Testament prophets warned the people of God to place their faith and trust in Him, not in horses, chariots, or weapons. Some years back, a world leader stated that America would fall without a shot being fired. Think of how far we have fallen into decadence within one or two generations. Young children are growing up without any training on morals or teaching concerning respect for the authority of God or their fellowman.

5. The decay of religion—faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.

Paul spoke of those in the "last days" who would be "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power" (**2 Tim. 3:4-5**). Many denominations have become nothing more than glorified "social clubs". Even some of our own brethren have lost sight of the spiritual mission of the church. All they think of is fun, food, and frolic. There is no authority in the New Testament for churches to build gymnasiums, have ball teams, dining halls, day-care centers, etc., etc.

I fear that America is rapidly forgetting God. Some of our own leaders resent this nation being referred to as founded upon biblical principles—"under God" or "in God we trust." The Psalmist stated, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God" (**Psa. 9:17**). We all need to be praying for America and its' leaders (**1 Tim. 2:1-2**). May we always remember: "**Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people**" (**Prov. 14:34**).



Living Together Before Marriage

By Ray Fowler

Here are some statistics on living together before marriage from Michael McManus, the president of Marriage Savers. Statistically speaking, living together is not a trial of marriage, but rather a training for divorce.

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- The number of unmarried couples living together soared 12-fold from 430,000 in 1960 to 5.4 million in 2005.
- More than eight out of ten couples who live together will break up either before the wedding or afterwards in divorce.
- About 45 percent of those who begin cohabiting, do not marry. Another 5-10 percent continue living together and do not marry.
- Couples who do marry after living together are 50% more likely to divorce than those who did not.
- Only 12 percent of couples who have begun their relationship with cohabitation end up with a marriage lasting 10 years or more.
- A Penn State study reports that even a month's cohabitation decreases the qual-

ity of the couple's relationship.

Here are some more statistics relating to the children of cohabiting parents.

- Children of cohabiting parents are ten times more likely to be sexually abused by a stepparent than by a parent.

- Children of cohabiting parents are three times as likely to be expelled from school or to get pregnant as teenagers than children from an intact home with married parents.

Children of cohabiting parents are five times more apt to live in poverty, and 22 times more likely to incarcerated.

Editors Note: This has become a *very common practice* on campus and unfortunately has influenced some Christians as well. Parents need to talk to their children before they go to college about purity and proper relationships.

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

