

STATE OF THE NATION

- we have just gone through another election, and people are questioning what's going on with our country
- people have become disillusioned, and trust in our government is at an all-time low

FROM GOOD TO BAD

- how did we get from a God-fearing nation to where we are today
- there was a time in our history that God and His word were the central part of our society and government
- church attendance and prayer were the norm, not the exception
- children learned to read using the Bible as their textbook
- even the major colleges and universities were founded to further equip men in the word of God
 - Harvard's founding was authorized by the Massachusetts colonial legislature, "dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches, when our present ministers shall lie in the dust"; though never formally affiliated with any denomination, in its early years Harvard College primarily trained Congregational clergy.
 - Yale was founded to fight the liberalism at Harvard!

LESSONS FROM THE PAST

- 450 years of Judges where everyone did what was right in their own eyes – [Judges 21:25](#) = In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.
- we want to be like the rest of the nations. Give us a king – [1 Samuel 8:5, 7](#) – "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." ... And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people

in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

- There is a great similarity today except it is a world-wide cry today for a leader that will solve all of our problems

- the kingdom age

- The combined kingdom = Saul, David, and Solomon
- The divided kingdom = from the death of Solomon to the Babylonian captivity

- the northern kingdom had no good kings, but was in a continual downward spiral

- Why? They forsook God and lived like the people around them

- the southern kingdom had a few good kings, but for the most part, the people still followed their own way as evidenced by the numerous references to worship in other places than where God had prescribed

- One of the things that is so prevalent today is how much our personal preferences play into what we call worship

(TITUS 1:16) FAITH THAT IS NOT GENUINE

- people in their profession claim to know God

- Our national motto = In God we trust
- Fox News reported in June of this year =
 - The percentage of Americans who say they believe in God has dipped to the lowest number in the past nearly 80 years, according to a new Gallup poll published Friday.
 - The Values and Belief poll, conducted from May 2 to 22, showed 81% of people answered that they believe in God. That is down six percentage points from the 87% of respondents who

said they believed in God in the 2017 poll. This year is the lowest percentage in Gallup's trend since the public opinion polling company first asked the question in 1944.

- This year's poll found 17% of Americans said they do not believe in God.
- When asking the question first in 1944, again in 1947, and twice each in the 1950s and 1960s, a consistent 98% of respondents said they believed in God. When Gallup asked the question nearly five decades later, in 2011, 92% of Americans said they believed in God.

- people in their works deny God

- Why do we accept abortion as being ok?
 - People post on their social media accounts that they personally do not approve of abortion, but they think it is okay for someone else
- Why do we struggle with things that the Bible strictly forbids
- Why do we have think it is okay to be gay or have gender confusion
- Why do we think it is okay to mutilate children by allowing horrific sex change procedures
- Why do we think that church attendance and prayer aren't really that important

(2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9) ABSENCE OF MORALITY AND CONVICTION

