

individuals will accomplish far more for a nation's well-being than anything government can do.

Neither physical pleasure, the amassing of goods or the building up of human pride will bring real happiness to an individual or to society. Any society that honors God's law and seeks to put Him first will usually be happiest in the end. Hedonism is a false approach which rarely attains its goals. Jesus said, "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mark 8:35).

The United States was founded by those who desired to advance the Gospel of Christ and to put God first in everything. God has wonderfully blessed our nation, but in recent years it has more and more departed from the foundation on which it was established. The Supreme Court has forbidden that God be recognized in our schools. Prayer has been outlawed. Pornography and enticement for wickedness are widespread. Things that would hardly have been mentioned among decent people a few years ago are blatantly proclaimed and discussed on TV. Violence and corruption have increased to an alarming degree. We wonder whether our nation deserves God's favor.

As we look at world conditions we wonder what is ahead. The Bible does not give us precise information about the near future. Personally I feel convinced that one of three things will happen: 1) We cannot rule out the possibility of a great sweeping revival like the Reformation of four hundred years ago, that would change the whole attitude of the greater part of the world, causing the nations to recognize God and His Son Jesus Christ and leading many thousands to turn to Him as Savior. If this were to happen there might again be a blooming of civilization all over the world. God can cause this to occur if He should choose, but I see no evidence that this is what is going to happen.

2) The second possibility is that the Lord Jesus Christ might come back to earth in the near future and set up His wonderful kingdom of righteousness and peace, in which He will rule with a rod of iron. He will take out from His kingdom all that is evil, and will establish universal justice. All external danger will be removed. Many feel, perhaps rightfully, that His coming is very near. Yet He stated very clearly that we are not to know the time of