

# How Can The Church Survive?

(Daniel 2:44)

- Introduction:
1. During 1800's our nation witnessed a move westward and that westward movement was called the "Wild West."
  2. Fast forward 100 years: America moved from this individualistic code of ethics and came much closer to a moral consensus.
  3. Fast forward not 100, but 50 years and we see we've come full circle.
    - a. America is every bit as wild today as it was in the Wild, West of the 1800's.
  4. Today we see social injustice (Matthew 23:23), homosexual marriage (Romans 1:26-27), divorce (Matthew 19:6), cohabitation (Hebrews 13:4), adultery (Galatians 5:19-21), premarital sex (1 Corinthians 7:1-2), pornography (Matthew 5:28), abortion (Proverbs 6:17), casual drug use (Ephesians 5:18), the rejection of absolutes (Isaiah 5:20), the immorality of the entertainment industry (Philippians 4:8).
  5. Is there any hope for the church situated in such a wicked culture?
  6. Can it survive 21st century American culture, or will it become a decaying relic of the past?

## I. What Does The Bible Say?

- A. A common mistake that we may make is that the success of the church depends on the culture in which it is situated.
- B. The church can be planted in any soil and live.
- C. Did Noah and his family remain faithful in the midst of a corrupt world (Gen. 6)?
- D. Did Israel stay faithful in Babylon and Persia (Daniel, Esther)?
- E. Did the church survive under Roman rule and in idolatrous cities (Acts; 1 Corinthians, Revelation)?
- F. God's people have never existed in a culture that wasn't hostile.
- G. The success of the church doesn't depend on our Supreme Court, our President, or our legislature.
- H. (Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:28; Romans 8:31,35-37; Psalm 47:8; Jeremiah 32:37).

## II. What Should We Do?

- A. Live for the Lord.
- B. The answer is the same whether we lived in a godly culture or an ungodly culture.
- C. Don't grow weary (Galatians 6:9).
- D. Allow the wickedness of the world to cause you to lift your eyes and long for heaven!

- Conclusion:
1. Rather than despairing, we should be rejoicing that our faith gives us the victory over the world (1 John 5:4).