

Greetings from Tyler,

The United States is on an emotional rollercoaster as to the direction the nation will take, and the outcome of the many disputes that have gradually gained traction over recent weeks. Despite a constant flow of propaganda from the mainstream media and liberal politicians, according to those who track public trends a great many (perhaps over half) Americans have become acutely concerned that the United States is being transformed into the kind of socialist society we've seen fail repeatedly in every nation it's been tried.

This week an article from Pravda (the official Russian news agency) on this subject has been making the rounds and twice been forwarded into the office. This very article, American Capitalism Gone with a Whimper, was highlighted in the Weekly Update of four or five weeks ago. Many, it seems, are recognizing how outrageous it seems to have a writer for Pravda criticizing the United States on the basis of a swift "descent into Marxism." It characterizes the American population as preparing for "the surrender of their freedoms and souls, to the whims of their elites and betters."

"First the population was dumbed down through a politicized and substandard education system... Then their faith in God was destroyed until their churches... were little more than Sunday circuses..." You get the point. Stinging as the criticisms are, particularly coming from this source, we'd be hard pressed to argue their accuracy. The article ended with, "The proud American will go down into his slavery without a fight..."

Certainly, the plight of the U.S. looked considerably more bleak just a matter of weeks ago. Lately it is beginning to look as though all Americans are not prepared to surrender their liberties and freedoms without a whimper. Lately it looks as though there may be at least some speed bumps along the road to socialism. At least there is a ray of hope that the transformation that our elected representatives have attempted to hurriedly foist upon the nation may not be as quick or easy as they'd presumed.

But the underlying problems remain, and the next several months may prove critical to the future of America as well as the rest of the world.

The situation in the Middle East remains as dicey and dangerous as ever. The Vatican is actively trying to bring all of mainstream Christianity back into its sphere of influence. Europe is headed for an inevitable collision with its huge population of African and Middle Eastern immigrants. Germany is now the target of numerous calls for jihad as it approaches an important general election.

As for the United States, maybe some prayers are being answered. But the big question remains. Will God see fit to save the nation that has turned its back, despite His abundant blessings? Or have we already squandered the incredible blessings and freedoms that fulfilled His promises.

These are incredible times in which we live, and we certainly need to remain vigilant in our commission to watch and warn, as well as to prepare for what we know must eventually come.

The Garner Ted Armstrong program this week brought 335 requests for the sermon and brochure on the 144,000 with one hundred fifteen first time contacts. I'm guessing you're as glad as I am that this week has come to a close. Hope you all have a terrific Sabbath.

Until next time,

Mark Armstrong