

## Life Link

**Video Illustration:** Living Hope

**Slide Background:** Can America Return to God

**Title:** "Sinking of America"

**Big Idea:** **Introductory Illustration:** Shortly before midnight on April 14, 1912, the RMS *Titanic* struck an iceberg roughly 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland. Two and a half hours later, at 2:20 a.m., the ship sank with approximately 1500 people still on board. This letter, written on *Carpathia* stationery by first-class passenger Doctor Washington Dodge, is a vivid account of the sinking that describes the *Titanic's* final hours. It is one of the earliest, most immediate, and compelling accounts of the disaster. In addition, the carelessness of Dodge's handwriting offers a glimpse into his state of mind as he penned his testimony.

Dodge's tale begins at 11:40 p.m. when he and his wife were awakened by the ship's impact with the iceberg. Twice Dodge went on deck and was told there was no danger. "Having been told that there was no danger, and believing such to be the fact from the general conduct of the passengers & such officers as I saw I insisted that my family remain in bed and await developments — Once more returning to the companion way I asked our steward who was standing in there was he had heard — He replied the order has just come down for all passengers to put on life preservers."

The ocean being as calm as the waters of a smooth flowing river we rowed off to overtake a boat having a lantern aboard, we being unable to find one in our boat - As the Having rowed about 1/4 mile we found ourselves in close proximity to five boats - We observed the closing incidents the gradual submergence of the ship forward - The final extinguishment suddenly of all her lights - The final plunge downward.

The United States could be compared to the sinking of the Titanic. We have collided with a moral iceberg. While the captains of our (USA) ship are telling the passengers (citizens) there is not a need to be concerned, the USA is gradually sinking in to destruction.

**Read Sermon Text:** **Ezek 3:17-19** "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: 18 When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. NKJV

### 1. Hear the Word of the Lord (vs. 17)

**Ezekiel 3:17** "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: NKJV

America is a great and mighty ship sailing on the sea of life. Little do the passengers realize the it is gradually sinking. Like all great sailing vessels they depend on the integrity of the

hull to keep out the flood of destruction. But, it is not a "iceberg" that is bring destruction to its residents. That which keeps America safe it the moral and spiritual strength of our nation.

America has been described as the greatest social governmental experiment in the history of the world. with a doubt this is a true statement. Our form of government is unique in comparison to all other forms of government that has ever existed. History has recorded more than 28 forms of government. The United States was formed under a " **Constitutional** - a government by or operating under an authoritative document (constitution) that sets forth the system of fundamental laws and principles that determines the nature, functions and limits of that government." The USA has reached a point where the government listens to the majority but, only hears the minority. A minority who's moral standards are predicated on the Word of God but, on the whims of the world.

**Text Illustration: *William J. Bennett said*** Last year I compiled the Index of Leading Cultural Indicators, a statistical portrait of American behavioral trends of the past three decades. Among the findings: Since 1960, while the gross domestic product has nearly tripled, violent crime has increased at least 560%. Divorces have more than doubled. The percentage of children in single-parent homes had tripled. And by the end of the decade 40% of all American births and 80% of minority births will occur out of wedlock. These are not good things to get used to.

In 1940 teachers identified the top problems in America's schools as: Talking out of turn, chewing gum, making noise and running in the hall. In 1990, teachers listed drugs, alcohol, pregnancy, suicide, rape and assault. These are not good things to get used to, either.

There is a coarseness, a callousness and a cynicism to our era. The worst of it has to do with our children. Our culture seems almost dedicated to the corruption of the young. We have become inured to the cultural rot that is setting in. People are losing their capacity for shock, disgust and outrage...

The ancients called our problem acedia, an aversion to spiritual things and an undue concern for the external and the worldly. Acedia also is the seventh capital sin--sloth--but it does not mean mere laziness. The slothful heart is stepped in the worldly and carnal, hates the spiritual and wants to be free of its demands.

When the novelist Walker Percy was asked what concerned him most about America's future, he answered, "Probably the fear of seeing America, with all its great strength and beauty and freedom...gradually subside into decay through default and be defeated, not by the communist movement, but from within, from weariness, boredom, cynicism, greed and in the end helplessness before its great problems."

I realize this is a tough indictment. If my diagnosis is wrong, then why, amid our economic prosperity and military security, do almost 70% of the public say we are off track? I submit that only when we turn to the right things--enduring, noble, spiritual things--will life get better.

Today, much of society ridicules and mocks those who are serious about their faith. America's only respectable form of bigotry is bigotry against religious people. And the

only reason for hatred of religion is that it forces us to confront matters many would prefer to ignore.

Today we must renew our struggle for the country we love. We must push hard against an age that is pushing hard against us, but not against us but against God. If we have full employment and greater economic growth--if we have cities of gold and alabaster--but our children have not learned how to walk in goodness, justice and mercy, then the American experiment, no matter how gilded, will have failed.

**Do not surrender. Get mad. Get in the fight.** (Excerpts from What Really Ails America, condensed from a speech by William J. Bennett, delivered December 7, 1993 at the Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C., reprinted in Reader's Digest, April, 1994.)

God has placed us on the wall to sound the impending destruction of our way of life. God sent at least 48 prophet to the nation of Israel to call Israel back to Him. Yet they would not listen. Today Christians are called to proclaim the message of God. We are called to call the wayward to God. Condemnation is not our message. We need to proclaim the message of reconciliation to all who will listen. We must proclaim the "Good News" of Jesus. (point 2)

**Isaiah 56:10** His watchmen are blind,  
They are all ignorant;  
They are all dumb dogs,  
They cannot bark;  
Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. NKJV

**Jeremiah 25:4** And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear.  
NKJV

**Ezekiel 33:2-9** "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, 3 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.' 7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. 8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. NKJV

**Habakkuk 2:1** I will stand my watch  
And set myself on the rampart,

And watch to see what He will say to me,  
And what I will answer when I am corrected.  
NKJV

**Acts 20:27-31** For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.  
NKJV

**Hebrews 13:17** Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.  
NKJV

**Jer 25:4** And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear.  
NKJV

**Acts 20:27** For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.  
NKJV

**Heb 13:17** Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. NKJV

## 2. Herald The Good News (vs. 18)

**Ezekiel 3:18** When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. NKJV

1. God has called us as watchman to tell all who will listen the USA is slowly and gradually sinking to impending destruction. The fabric that once made us great is now growing old and weak. It is time for a spiritual renewal, a revival of Gods people to believe, teach and proclaim the message of God. While the list of moral decay is lengthy here are some of the significant event that are leading to the "Sinking of America".
  - 37 years after Roe v. Wade, 50 million babies have been killed and yet the United States is still continuing to abort babies with no end in sight.
  - According to one new report, Barack Obama is planning to issue a letter in the next couple weeks that will guarantee U.S. government

support for a plan to give much of the West Bank and eastern sections of Jerusalem to the Palestinians within two years.

- As if going through airport security was not enough of a hassle, now TSA employees are playing cruel pranks on passengers.
- Goldman Sachs has officially confessed to "improper behavior" during the housing crash - but they aren't about to give all that money back.
- The World Health Organization is pushing for a new global tax which would be used to fund their operations.
- A bill now before the California legislature would essentially treat marijuana the same way that alcohol is treated under the law and would allow adults over 21 to possess, smoke and grow marijuana.
- Things have gotten so bad south of the border that some mainstream media outlets are finally acknowledging the obvious - the economy of Mexico runs on drug money.
- A stunning new poll has revealed that only 39 percent of the members of the largest Presbyterian denomination in the United States believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. -  
(Source: <http://themoralcollapseofamerica.blogspot.com/2010/01/20-signs-that-moral-decline-of-america.html>)  
 (Point 3)

### 3. Heed the Warning of God (vs. 19)

Ezekiel 3:19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. NKJV

1. Our only salvation is not in the government, political leaders, it's not in the Republicans or the Democrats are in any other political party. Our only hope is in Jesus Christ. God has given us a formula for healing our country in 2 Chron 7:14.

**2 Chron 7:14** if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. NKJV

2. It is only by repentance and faith can we save America. Christians it is now time for us to stand up and repent, turn back to a righteous God and He will "heal our land". It is impossible to please God without faith, and without faith we cannot hear from God. The answer is clear and simple but not eazy "Turn back to God".

Heb 11:30-35 <By Faith They Overcame>

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. 31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. 32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again. NKJV

**Conclusion:** This formula for the salvation of the USA is simple. If God's people, not the government, not those citizens but, God's people will humble themselves and pray and seek God and turn away from the things of the world. God will hear our heartfelt prayer and forgive our disobedience and heal the gaping in the moral fabric of our land. Regardless who the president is, regardless of who is in political office, regardless of the decisions of the Supreme Courts. God is able and willing to forgive close the gaping hole in the moral fabric of this sinking ship called "America" and once again we will be "one Nation Under God".