

An Impractical Prayer?

Prayers are often led in our assemblies lamenting the deplorable state of morals and spirituality in our country. The ones offering the prayers sometimes express the hope that “somebody will do something about it,” or that there will be a return to biblical standards in our nation. Rarely do these prayers specify who that somebody is, or what would motivate the nation to return to its religious foundation.

We need to clearly understand that there is only one valid system of morality and spirituality, and that it is found in the New Testament. We also need to realize that Jesus has given His church the job of making that teaching known at home and abroad (Mt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15, 16). The church is the God-ordained institution that is supposed to “do something about it.” Through the preaching of the gospel, we are the ones whose job it is to motivate the nation to return to its religious underpinnings.

In 1 John 3:18, John said, “Little children, let us not love with word or tongue, but in deed and truth.” It is perfectly legitimate to pray for the spiritual welfare of the nation. But let us also pray that the church will perform its divine mission to promote that welfare. Let us also individually and congregationally become more active in applying the only solution to the problem.