

Happy Birthday Canada

“God keep our land glorious and free – O Canada, we stand on guard for thee”

Personally, I am proud to be a Canadian as we celebrate our 150 birthday. As a student of history, I recall the “Law of Periodic’s” which teaches that every 500 – 1000 years a great civilization falls or undergoes a change equivalent to a fall. A younger, more vigorous nation, almost always lower on the stage of culture, rises to the top on the world stage.

Some examples are ancient Egypt, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. In his book, The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Edward Gibbons highlighted five contributing factors that led to the disintegration of that mighty civilization.

1. The rapid increase of divorce and the undermining of the home.
2. The rise of taxes and the craving for pleasure.
3. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within.
4. The decline of religion resulting in immoral and unprincipled behavior.
5. The widening gulf between the very rich and the very poor.

Many thoughtful people agree that these same factors describe life in North America today. Historians tell us that “Western Civilization” is now about 1000 years old, but we are in serious trouble. If you need proof just listen to the daily news. All around us we have violence, sexual abuse, vile pornography in the hands of minors, personal and national debt out of control. History teaches us that no civilization has ever survived the disintegration of its home and family life. Unless some real changes take place, the future decline of our civilization seems inevitable.

Is there any hope? Yes! Life in early 18th century England experienced a widespread transformation. The British courts had reached an advanced stage of corruption. England was in a state of serious decline economically, socially and morally. Then came a great spiritual awakening under such leaders as William Wilberforce, George Whitfield and John Wesley.

Historian William Lecky was convinced that this revival was responsible for the reversal of this downward trend. Slavery and child labour were both abolished. Tens of thousands joined the churches resulting in stronger moral character and home life. The economy was strengthened and there was a fresh breeze of honesty and idealism. A series of reform laws were passed, and Great Britain went forward to the peak of her power.

How did this change come about? Through government legislation or education? No, these came afterward; they were the results of the revival. Societies are changed only when people are changed, and it must begin in your heart and mine.

Can Canada survive? God promises that he will heal our land if we meet his condition's: "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" (2nd Chronicles 7:14).

"Lord of the lands, make Canada Thine own."