

REPENI AUSTRAL

"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."

2 Chronicles 7:14

VOLUME 8:11

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MORE POTENT THAN POISON

Is the pendulum starting to turn? Two examples of a revolt against the continuing trend to degradation in society offer some hope for a better world. Stricter law enforcement is being welcomed by the Dutch people who have become exasperated by what they see as a decline in their society. Amsterdam, one of the first cities to adopt a relaxed attitude towards homosexuals, is working to shut erotic bars and clubs One of its commercial TV broadcasters, which operates three channels, recently announced that it would stop showing explicit sex, the feature that defined its launch a decade ago. Its manager confessed that "Erotic shows crept toward porn and overshadowed our image" He also admitted that the country was becoming more puritanical. Good for the Dutch! The same thing is also happening in Egypt, where the media itself has criticised overt sensuality in movies The result has been many film-makers avoiding risqué material and producing what has become known as "clean cinema"

Moral Pollution

However, it is still a different story here in Australia and the rest of the West. Moral pollution is steadily engulfing us in a quagmire of perversion, injustice, corruption and degradation. And just as the physical world is suffering from chemical pollution which is upsetting many people both young and old so the world of the mind, soul and spirit is being engulfed in abominable garbage and no one seems to care Our blasé acceptance of gross immorality in the form of fornication, adulteries, perversions and abortion, and our acquiescence of injustice and corruption, will ultimately destroy us even if the environment is saved One is external, the other internal. One affects our bodies, the other our souls As surely as poison will kill us from within so moral pollution will eat out the very fibre of our being. Without doubt, in the long run, pornography will prove more potent than poison.

"Anything Goes"

From the advent of the sexual revolution in the 1960s, which began with the lifting of the ban on "Lady Chatterley's Lover", there has been a steady slide into the miry pit of garbage entertainment. This visual depravity has led us a long way from the innocent fifties when rigid standards were applied. Now, as "anything goes", we have pornographic magazines in every newsagent's store, obscene films and programs on television, videos and the internet and school libraries are well dotted with obnoxious books posing as "literature" Blindly we are careering down a sheer descent into a dark abyss where this immoral trash threatens to engulf us completely Well, what price pornography? What is the result of the advent of the permissive society over three decades ago that spawned the modern industry --- an industry that from tentative beginnings has grown bolder and bolder? The use of four-letter words, nudity, sexual explicitness and perversion have become commonplace. The distasteful has become the obscene, the obscene the obnoxious, the obnoxious the vile and depraved. Humanists might argue that pornography is harmless; that no one has been hurt by it; and that people should be able to watch what they like In fact a prominent Australian Democrat senator has recently claimed that it is "therapeutic"!

"A Determining Factor in My Downfall"

However, the easy access to pornography can be blamed for how women are being abused, it now being part of our culture to see them as sex objects. No matter how much libertarians argue that it is harmless the facts speak otherwise. For executed mass murderer Ted Bundy his life of vicious crime began with

pornography and Gary Bishop, a homosexual paedophile who murdered five boys admitted that "pornography was a determining factor in my downfall". Moreover, an American psychiatrist who treated 350 pornography addicts (96% male) stated that empirical research shows that when subjects are exposed to repeated exhibits of non-violent pornography for six weeks they develop greater callousness towards women, trivialise rape as a criminal offence, develop distorted perceptions about sexuality and cultivate an appetite for more deviant, bizarre or violent types of pornography. They devalue the importance of monogamy and see extra-marital relationships as normal behaviour.

Tobacco Smoking

Crime, especially in the form of assault, rape and murder, is at an all-time high. The link between these attacks on people, particularly women, and the free availability of pornography cannot be denied. As minds feed on the lustful, violent and perverse they gradually become addicted. Even as drugs affect the mind and body so does pornographic addiction affect the moral and sexual being. Governments are spending countless millions attacking tobacco smoking. Yet they are quite blasé about the canker of immorality in the form of pornography in our midst even though it is the cause of untold harm to both the physical and moral welfare of the nation and far more damaging than the "evil" of smoking. It just won't do! We need to realise that this immoral sewer of pornography in our midst has spiritual, yes eternal, implications. For as surely as we sow the seeds of immorality we shall reap their fruits. Pornography is evil. It degrades humanity, it entices deviates perform animalistic acts; it encourages obscenity and outrageous behaviour; and it undermines us as a civilised society as nothing else can. "Be not deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows that will he also reap." (Gal 6:7)

A Nation of Zombies

Australia, be warned! Clean up your moral pollution, it is a stench in God's nostrils. Because His standards are constantly mocked by the media it is no wonder crime is rampant and young people are lost without a moral compass to guide them Why do we let them con us? Trash is trash, it is NOT social comment Even as toxic pollutants kill fish and birds in the natural environment so immoral trash will We are fast becoming a nation of zombies, immobilised by the flood of lustful, destroy our souls depraved material that surrounds us. We are God's highest creation, created in the image of our Maker---"crowned with glory and honour". We are meant to glorify Him through His Son Jesus Christ who has won all our battles at the cross for us to live with thoughts of purity, words of honour and deeds of valour We are to focus our minds, not on what is ugly, sordid and degrading, but on what is good, lovely and uplifting --- those virtues that strengthen, encourage and comfort us by His Holy Spirit within, enabling us to enjoy God and His wonderful world of beauty, goodness, truth and peace everyday of our lives through faith It is time to discard the sinful ways inherited by disobedience; we've had too much of them already. We want to please Jesus Christ the Lord who loved us enough to give His life on a cruel cross then rose again and now rules in the hearts of all who acknowledge Him as Saviour and Lord. Don't we?

PRAYER:

Omniscient Father of infinite grace and mercy; Creator of the universe; Spirit of life and Lord of light; The Great I AM; Abba Father, as soldiers of the cross of the Most High God, we reverently come in one accord, clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ to thank You for the gospel of Your saving grace to all mankind. Spirit of all excellence, we acknowledge that Your spiritual laws are perfect, converting the soul; Your testimony is sure, making wise the simple; Your statutes are right, rejoicing the heart; Your commandments are pure, enlightening the eyes; and Your judgments are true and righteous altogether. Spirit of the Living God, open the eyes of parents and leaders to take Your Word more seriously, to be single-minded in their daily decision making to do what is right. Bless them, Lord Jesus we pray

Lord God, forgive our blasé acceptance of the evil of pornography which is flooding across our land. Blessed Spirit of might and power, consume with Your holy fire the pernicious spirits of pornography in all their sordid forms that are fast destroying the moral fibre of our beloved nation. We beseech You, Lord God Almighty, to release the fountain of Jesus' blood to cleanse away our sinful carnal thoughts, words and deeds and renew our minds and save us all for Your glorious Kingdom of love and peace Grant us all, O God, wisdom, faith and obedience to walk in Your continuous anointing that we may be more like our Saviour, Jesus Christ the Lord. We ask all these things in His wonderful name. Amen