

Sermon: What Has Happened to Christian Influence in America?

Text: II Timothy 3:12-17 ESV

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Introduction: Christian Influence in America is waning. We have for some time now lived in what most people call a post-Christian culture. We should not be surprised. It has happened most recently in England, the home of the Great Awakening in the 1800's and the great Wesley revivals.

I. _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____, _____ and _____

II. _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____ is in Jesus alone.

Conclusion: The reason for the Church's influence being diminished is the church has believed Satan's lie: [Genesis 3:4 \(ESV\)](#) "You will not surely die." **Illus.** Just like our doctor's advice, we ignore God's counsel in the Bible - thinking that our lives will somehow be the exception to God's rules and judgment. The Church seems to be more concerned about personal wealth rather than giving - and accumulating and collecting rather than dispensing (even the Gospel).

[Ephesians 5:5 \(ESV\)](#) For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

[II Timothy 3:12-17 \(ESV\)](#) 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

[Ephesians 5:1-9 \(ESV\)](#) 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),