



# PASTOR'S NOTES

## America: One Nation Under God

Isaiah 1

### God's blessings do not ensure a nation's faithfulness (vv. 1-4).

God said of Israel, "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me." (Isaiah 1:2b)

The Lord reared the people, brought them up, provided for them, and claimed them as his own. Yet they rebelled against him. His blessings should have led the people to a life of gratitude, humility, worship, and obedience. Instead, the people took the blessings for granted and lived rebelliously against him.

Prosperity can become spiritually dangerous; it has a way of dulling our dependence on God. And material abundance can harden the heart, stoke up pride in us, and slowly lead people away from humbly trusting and obeying God.

*Beware lest you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth."* (Deuteronomy 8:17 ESV)

By God's common grace, our nation has enjoyed remarkable prosperity, military strength, technological innovation, worldwide influence, and freedoms that many in the world have never known. Yet the question is this: What have these blessings produced in us? Have they led us to greater gratitude, deeper worship, and more humble dependence upon God? Or have they tempted us toward self-sufficiency and pride?

One of the greatest dangers facing a prosperous people and nation is not poverty or weakness; it is forgetting God.

Let's think of this personally.

- Have the blessings of God made you more dependent upon him or more independent of him?
- Have God's blessings led you to worship him as the giver, or have his gifts become the focus of your affection?

### A nation can be prosperous but spiritually sick (vv. 5-9).

*Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel?* (Isaiah 1:5) In other words, God asks, "Why won't you learn? Why continue to persist in the sins that have brought destruction upon you?"

Then Isaiah describes the people as those who have been beaten up and left untreated. Their head is sick, their heart is faint, and from head to toe they're bruised and battered. That is the condition that sin and rebellion leave us in. The prophet is using physical descriptions to show their spiritual and moral brokenness.

Isaiah points out that Israel's problem, above all else, was spiritual, and God's judgment had already begun to fall. Yet, they continue to ignore the issue.

The health of a nation is not ultimately measured by its gross domestic product, stock market, military power, or international influence. God looks deeper. He measures the heart.

Whether it's a nation, congregation, or an individual, the truth is that outward strength can conceal inward spiritual decay.

The spiritual renewal of a nation begins with the spiritual renewal of God's people. We each have a part in the spiritual health of the nation.

### Religious activity cannot replace faithful obedience and righteous living (vv. 10-17).

*Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!* (Isaiah 1:10)

Undoubtedly, the people viewed themselves differently, as covenant people, worshippers of Yahweh, and descendants of Abraham. Yet God looked deeper into their hearts and saw a rebellious people who had forsaken him and were unrighteous.

A person, a congregation, or a nation can present themselves as people of God and practice the religious expressions to God while being far from him and rebellious against him.

While living in unrighteousness, Judah continued to sacrifice, celebrate religious festivals, and go through the motions of the Sabbaths, congregational worship, and prayer. However, their hearts were far from God. And clearly, God is more focused on the heart of worship than the practice of worship.

God's response is beyond alarming. See Isaiah 1:11-15.

From the outside, it seemed that their practice of the faith was as God prescribed through Moses, but it was repulsive to God because it was carried out by unrepentant, disobedient people.

After exposing their sin, God graciously tells them how to return to him and invites them to repent, the evidence of which is seen in the imperatives in verses 16-17.

### God extends an invitation of grace (v. 18).

*Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.* (Isaiah 1:18)

The hope of any people is not found in national strength, political platforms, or religious activity. Our hope is found in the mercy of God that cleanses sinners through Jesus Christ.



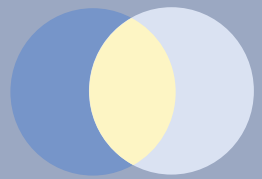
MeadowBrook  
CHURCH

Sunday, July 5, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter  
mbchurch.com





**CONNECT** *people to Christ and His church*



Pray for our Young Adult  
**DWELL RETREAT**  
JULY 7-10 • OCOEE, TN

**THE WELL**  
*mom connections*  
**TUESDAY, JULY 7 | 9:00-11:00 AM**  
Moms, join us in the Round Room for a time of fellowship, devotion and prayer!  
*Childcare will be provided in the gym*



**LIFESOUTH BLOOD DRIVE**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**  
**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**PICKLEBALL NIGHT**  
  
**MONDAY, JULY 27 • 6:00 PM • GYM**  
A fun, competitive evening, open to all! We will have a beginners clinic for those wanting to learn the basics of Pickleball, and we will have a King and Queen format tournament for individuals who are looking to put their skills to the test!  
**Cost: \$5 | Register on the App or mbchurch.com**



**GROW** *them as disciples and equip them to*

**WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!**

**TODAY**  
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105  
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center  
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group  
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater  
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool  
6:30 pm - The Collective (Young Adults) - Theater

**JULY 7-10**  
Young Adults Dwell Retreat - Ocoee, TN

**TUESDAY, JULY 7**  
9:00 - 11:00 am - Mom Connections - Round Room & Gym

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm - LifeSouth Blood Drive  
6:00 pm - God's Heart for the Nations - Café '59  
6:30 pm - Middle School Girls Bible Study

**2026 DAILY BIBLE READING**

July 5 - Isaiah 40	July 9 - Isaiah 44
July 6 - Isaiah 41	July 10 - Isaiah 45
July 7 - Isaiah 42	July 11 - Isaiah 46
July 8 - Isaiah 43	

**life group**  
*Life together for the Kingdom of God*

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.

*Welcome*

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE** gift!



**SERVE** *through missions, ministry and worship*



*Help Lead our Church in Worship*  
**WORSHIP CHOIR KICKOFF**  
**Wednesday, July 15 • 6:30 PM • Worship Center**

Do you love to sing? We'd love for you to use your gifts to help lead our church in worship!

**Now is the best time to join.** As we begin a new season, we'll be learning new songs together and preparing to lead our church each week. We'll also begin rehearsals for our **Christmas Celebration** in late August, making this the perfect opportunity to become part of the choir.

Whether you've sung in choir for years or this would be your first time, you'll find a welcoming community and a meaningful place to serve.

**Come worship. Come serve. Come sing with us!**

*Prayer Needs*

Cancer/Treatments: Rob Morris, Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Janye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sabrina Freeman, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Max & Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Rita McClure

- Larry Ingram - Gadsden Regional
- Ivan Fike, father of Matt Fike - North Alabama Medical Center
- Traci Hindsman - recovering from surgery