Is God still Blessing America?

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We've just begun 2016 and the question that always comes up for me is, "how does this compare to earlier times?" How does the $13/hour minimum wage compare to the $1.20/hour I made in 1959? Or how does the $28,000 for a new car compare to the $2800 one paid for a brand new Chevrolet when I was growing up?

But what's really on my mind is the present quality of life in America. Father once said that 1952 was the high point of Christianity in America. I remember doing a Divine Principle program at the University of Illinois some years ago and seeing a picture of a Presbyterian Church at that time. Every seat was filled; every pew full and everyone—from grandpa to the 6 year olds was wearing a suit and tie.

And what about crime and morality? I remember when I was working in Aladdin's Delicatessen in Oakland, California around 1978. I remember taking checks from people and for the first time in my life, noticing that the two names were different. In other words the couple were living together but not married. When I was in college, in Indiana a few years before, landlords were known to refuse to rent their apartments to a couple if they were not married. It was actually against the law to live together if you weren't married.

And how about crime? I live in a big city, so when I turn on the news the top stories are always about shootings and murders in the city; women who are molested and raped; fires that were often cases of arson; teachers who were arrested for touching, molesting or having inappropriate relationships with their students; seemingly outstanding citizens who were arrested for having child pornography on their computers; parents who were arrested for beating or killing their babies; and finally, the normal stories about graft and political corruption.

The Dickensian question I now ask, "Is this also the best of times and the worst of times?" I'm sure it is, but are things actually getting worse? I'm sure that there has always been political corruption, lust, greed, licentiousness and crime. But I have to wonder if it is worse than it was in 1950? 1850? or even in 50 B.C. Of course, with the media today, many crimes are being exposed, caught and reported. But I wonder, if the crime rate per capita is actually getting worse than it used to be in times past.

The Divine Principle teaches that the Pilgrims came to America in search of God while the conquistadors who went to South America were searching for gold. As a result, North America prospered greatly while South America remained stagnant. During the 1950s most Americans felt that this country was truly blessed. After all, we had saved the world from tyranny both in World War I, again in World War II, and Korea. We were making the world "safe for democracy." Americans were all singing "God Bless America" along with Kate Smith, and in 1955 we even added the words "under God" to our Pledge of Allegiance.

But since that time, we have taken prayer out of schools, entered wars in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and exported an immoral lifestyle all over the world. So what has happened? We have experienced 9-11, (the first attack on our mainland since 1812). Then came Columbine, Sandy Hook, the Denver Theatre shootings, San Bernardino. Whereas Columbine was a freak event at the time, it has become almost a regular occurrence on our nightly newscasts. I remember years ago when tragedies only seemed to happen in far away places. Yet today we get Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, tornadoes across the South and Midwest and even an earthquake in Southern Illinois. Is this just a coincidence?

I think not.

So the question: Is God still Blessing America? If not, then maybe we better examine our lifestyles and our moral standards a little more closely.