

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship this Sunday

July 6, 2025 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Fellowship Following

For Information - meadowbrookbaptist.cc

Bible Studies - bmarcaurelle@charter.net

WHY ROME FELL

In Jesus' day the Roman Empire seemed invincible but when it laid its persecuting hands on God's church, God, in the Book of Revelation (Ch. 17-18), said it was going to fall. He did not predict a more powerful nation would invade it, the sin at its core would make it rot from the inside out. Edward Gibbon in *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, gave five reasons Rome self-destructed. Reason number one was:

A. The Breakdown of the Home

In Jesus' day the Roman home, the bricks of any healthy nation, was solid. There were rules and order and the authority of parents because Rome operated that way. But when wealth and indulgence came, the home was not enough to "satisfy needs." (Really, "Wants" The ancient historian, Seneca, said of Rome, "They divorce in order to remarry and they marry in order to divorce."

This is "legalized adultery" and Philip Myers said it all began when affluent Roman mothers and fathers indulged and showered their children with gifts to "gratify expensive whims." That next generation, then, became lazy and selfish.

Jerome Caropino, in Daily Life in Ancient Rome, writes: "The stern face of the traditional father had faded out and instead we see on every hand the flabby face of the son- the eternal spoiled child of society, who has grown accustomed to luxury and lost all sense of discipline.

Right after I came to Anderson, a mom and dad gave their daughter a beautiful new Ford Tauros car when she turned 16. It wasn't "nice" enough and she refused to drive it. They got her a "nicer" car. In my day, if anyone did that, they would ride the bus until they graduated. That day is gone!

Praying through the Lord's Prayer

"Our Father in heaven..." {Matthew 6}

One thing that makes having "alone time" with God is, after a while, we run out of things to say, Mary Ann and I picked up a little boy and took him to R.A.'s at our church. It took about twenty minutes and when we got to the church he propped his arms on the back of our seat and said, "Y'all don't talk much do you? Not realizing it, we had not said one word to each other.

One thing we can do is pray through the "Lord's Prayer" word by word. This 20 second prayer is not intended as a model of what to say, but an outline. Every phrase is a gateway to those areas where communication with God is needed.

"Our Father" is The Proper Place to Start. If you are like most people, when you close the door, leave the world behind and find yourself spirit to Spirit in the presence of a holy God, you start with your sins "Woe is me!" with Isaiah (Ch. 6) or "Go away, Lord, I'm sinful" with Peter (Lk. 5:8).

If we do this prayer will be negative, depressing and of little value. We will be like a ship, run aground, unable to go into the deep places with God. We who are unworthy and unlovely must start with a God who loves us and accepts us and calls us His own, no matter how much we have fallen short of being what He wants us to be.

Paul knew a lot about losing battles sin. He was brave enough and honest enough to let us know about it. In Romans 7 he said, "I want to do what is right, but I do not do it. I don't want to do what is wrong; but that is what I do. I do the thing I hate."

But it is Paul who tells us the Holy Spirit urges us to cry "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:6), which in our language means "Hi! Dad!" Prayer ought to start with praise and joy for who God is and how much He really loves us.