Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT **ESTABLISHED 1786** MISSIONARY

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

December 1968

AMERICA IS LAUGHING ITSELF TO DEATH

Anything for a laugh. On television and radio, in the movies and newspapers, we see people knocking themselves out trying to entertain us.

Everywhere you go, billboards shout at you: " Hilarious . . . . funniest comedy of the year." Entertainers seem to feel that if only America would collapse in a paroxysm of mirth, all our problems would be solved. But frankly, I see American ideals and heritages dying before our eyes. I believe America is laughing itself into hell.

Location: 3.3 miles out Bryan Station Road. Right on Briar Hill Road.

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Evening Service	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting	7:30 p.m.

Air-Conditioned Nursery Provided

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At a Washington cocktail party, some top government officials stand in the corner, glasses in hand, planning defense strategy. Around them, partially drowning their conversation, is the hollow laughter of men and the shrill cackling of sophisticates. One tells of having lost his shirt at the race track. He makes it sound funny and all the listeners laugh.

In a big city night club a half-nude woman comes out on the stage, goes through some contortions and tells a filthy

story. What happens...wild and raucous laughter rocks the room.

Someone caricatures Stalin and we laugh.

Overseas the entertainers "make the boys laugh." After all, they might die tomorrow. Let's laugh today!

Two men stand on the corner talking. Of a passing girl they say: "She's quite a chicken," and they both laugh. A drunk staggers down the exit at a football game, shouting and singing. Everybody laughs.

Whether we believe it or not, America finds sin hilariously funny. But we are not the first nation. Babylon saw it that way, and the handwriting came on the wall. Rome saw it that way, and faded from power. France followed suit and the moral decay became a cancer. Now America laughs at sin, and I see the handwriting on the wall.

Today all around us there seems to be an absolute absence of heartfelt sorrow for sin. We need a real recognition of sin and a genuine heart sorrow combined with a turning away from sin, if we are to survive. To a nation of old, God said in II Chronicles 7:14: "If My people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

What is so funny? Are atomic bombs and broken bones funny? Are drinking leaders and shady business deals causes for mirth? Are open gambling and full sanitariums funny? Are dirty books and immorality causes for hilarity? Why laugh when the fiber of a whole nation is being wrenched apart by godlessness?

But there is good news for America and for you. Deliverance is found only through a personal faith in the Son of God who died for our sins and rose again. The Holy Scriptures say: "This is

a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (I Timothy 1:15).

Instead of seeking to drown sorrow and uncertainty in the pleasures of sin and hilarity, the Lord Jesus Himself gives you this gracious invitation: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me" (Matt. 11:28; Rev. 3:20).

"What must I do to be saved?...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:30, 31).

—Edgar M. Arendall

WILL CHRIST RETURN?

WERE TWO COMINGS OF CHRIST PROPHESIED?
Yes. Hebrews 9:28: "Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and to as many as look for Him, shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

DID CHRIST PROMISE TO RETURN?
Yes. John 14:3: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself."

WHERE WILL HE COME?
To earth. Zechariah 14:4: "His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east."

WILL THE WORLD HAVE ANY ADVANCE NOTICE?
No. The world will be following its usual course. Matthew 24:37-39: "As the days of Noah were, so shall the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and

took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDES?

One of readiness. Titus 2:11-13: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

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If you would like to receive a copy of the "Pioneer Baptist" each month, just send your complete name and address to the pastor, Alfred M. Gormley, 347 Sierra Drive, Lexington, Kentucky, 40505. We will gladly mail you this paper free of charge.

Listen to our radio broadcast every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. on WPDE-Paris, 1440 on your dial.