

Seeing America through the lens of the media is like looking through a prism. Just as a single beam of light shines through a prism and creates many smaller rainbows, so I, a single viewer, am exposed to the varied facets of American society through the 'prism' of the media. Through it I see an America that is turbulent, superficial, of fading beauty. I see in our country a remnant of people who still profess Christianity and uphold America's founding values, even though many in our society have scorned them. And as the many rainbows created by a prism can be reunited into one beam of light, so I collect these 'rainbows' and mold them into something unique – my personal perspective of America.

Celebrity gossip pages certainly imbue this perspective with a cynical tinge. When the exploits of Lindsay Lohan or Jessica Simpson take front-page prominence a certain adjective comes to mind: superficial. I see America as a culture that has become obsessed with frivolous, trivial things. We idolize Hollywood celebrities and sports stars, while those whose pioneering research provides us with plentiful food and amenities such as flat-screen TVs and computers are left in anonymity. We spend millions of dollars on sports each year, investing ourselves emotionally, mentally and physically on the wellbeing of our favorite team.

Stories of crime continue to gain prominence on newspapers and blogs, and through them I see an America that has begun to embrace a culture of violence. Violence, and the rejection of fatherhood. Fully 40% of children born in the US last year were illegitimate, the New York Times reported. Children raised without a father's stabilizing presence are highly susceptible to becoming involved in criminal activities. Consequently, as the first of these fatherless generations have hit the streets, violence has risen. America, I believe, is reaping the consequences of abandoning morality.

Christian media sources often further my belief in America's decay. Their reports tell of the increasing liberality of our federal government; of the acceptance of homosexuality in the public

square; of the growing popularity of occult religions. These Christian sources, however, also contain stories of self-sacrifice and compassion that lift my heart and change my perspective. The tales of a woman who ministers to prostitutes and of the men who teach street children about the love of Christ tell me one thing. Though American society as a whole has morally degenerated, there remains a remnant of people dedicated to our founding values, dedicated to service and compassion, and, above all, dedicated to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Overwhelmingly, when I survey America through the media's lens, I see our country as the soil upon which two great powers are engaged in a epic struggle. God and his angels are warring against the forces of Satan for the possession of men's souls. This battle is evident in every media blog, every web page and newspaper. It is evident in the daily conflicts that occur in our country. It is not merely a battle for the acceptance of creationism or the outlawing of abortion. It is not merely about keeping legislation that sanctions homosexuality out of our laws. It is about whether the people of our country will see and accept the Truth, the Lord Jesus Christ, or whether they will believe the lies of Satan and surrender to the darkness.

The media shows me an America that is material, compassionate, and war-torn. It shows me an America that is decaying. The beauty of our country is fading, like the beauty of myriad rainbows when the light shining through their prism dims. I believe that it can be revived, though. The only thing the rainbows of a prism need to restore their brilliance is a stronger light beaming through the prism. In the same way, America only needs to allow the 'Sonlight' of God to shine through it and renew its beauty!