

Daily Devotional, June 1, 2020

“Righteousness Exalts a Nation”, (Proverbs 14:34, NKJV)

“Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34)

“Righteousness exalts a nation.” The righteousness spoken of here speaks of putting God’s principles into action as a country. A *“wise and understanding people”* does that (Deuteronomy 4:6). Let us look at some of the ways. First, there is an acknowledgment of the value of human beings as created in God’s image and likeness and the inestimable value He places upon each man and woman (Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 10:30-31). Second, justice is done according to the rule of law without partiality and according to divinely revealed moral principles (Deuteronomy 5). Third, there is a public affirmation of the Christian religion both in words and actions (Matthew 10:32). Fourth, there exists Christian compassion towards the poor and less fortunate in society (Deuteronomy 15:7; Proverbs 17:5; James 1:27). We can never eliminate poverty through programs but we can show compassion for those who are in poverty (Matthew 26:11). By the way, if you are poor, I exhort you to put your trust in God and not government. Poverty will not be eliminated until the Millennial Kingdom. In short, a nation that stands for something (i.e. the truths and moral principles aforementioned) will be respected for that, whereas a nation that does not stand for morality will not be, as a reading through Kings and Chronicles attests to.

“But sin is a reproach to any people.” Sin degrades a nation when it is allowed to go unrestrained. When the Israelites erected and offered worship to the image of the golden calf and the leadership (under Aaron at that time since Moses was up on Mount Sinai) did nothing to restrain the people, the results were national shame and national judgment (Exodus 32:21-35). Jezebel, the ancient queen of Israel and wife of Ahab is another case in point. Jezebel was an idolatress, murderess, and a vain and prideful woman (1 Kings 18:19, 21:5-13; 2 Kings 9:30). The unrestrained sin that was endorsed under her watch resulted in anarchy and murder, thus bringing reproach upon Israel in the sight of all the nations. Jezebel is used in Scripture as a type of apostate church with all its characteristics (Revelation 2:18-29). Many in the church today put something before God, do not cry out as unborn babies are slaughtered throughout the land, and proudly flaunt sexual sin even in the churches! As the church goes, so goes the nation (Matthew 5:13).

Christian, please pray for those in your family, your friends, your neighbors, and those in authority in our city, state, local, and federal governments. God knows they need it in these difficult days, just as we all do. On the day of posting of this devotional, our City Council is taking up a resolution to celebrate sexual sins of all kinds in every month of June. Perhaps the Lord will hear our prayers, and this will not be endorsed. God may yet bring about true Christian revival in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and the United States, even now (Psalm 78:41; Mark 10:27).

Finally, let me offer you a personal application to these things. Those in whom God finds righteousness will be exalted someday. Those in whom God finds sin will be a reproach to Him. The only acceptable righteousness we can offer is that which Jesus Christ offers to us. Our own righteousness is insufficient (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21). If you have not done so, make your peace with God today.