

**Subject: *The Key to Our Nation's Greatness***

**Scripture: *Proverbs 14:34***

I love the slogan, "Let's make America great again." The Bible tells us how that is possible. It's important that we think about what makes our country great. According to the Bible, the greatness of any nation is related to its righteousness.

The word "righteous" or "righteousness" is found many times in the Bible. We find that God is righteous, His word is righteous, and His people are to be righteous. This is really important.

## **1. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT GOD POSSESSES**

### **A. God is righteous in His character**

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**<sup>23</sup> *Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: <sup>24</sup> But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*

### **B. God is righteous in His ways and works**

**Psalms 145:17** *The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.*

### **C. God is righteous in His words**

**Deuteronomy 4:8** *And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?*

**Psalms 119:137-138**<sup>137</sup> *Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments.*  
<sup>138</sup> *Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.*

### **D. God is righteous in salvation**

**Romans 1:16-17**<sup>16</sup> *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

**1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

### **E. God is righteous in judgment**

**Genesis 18:25** *That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*

**2 Timothy 4:8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

F. God is righteous in His kingdom

**Psalms 45:6** Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the scepter of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

**Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**2 Peter 3:13** Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

## **2. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT GOD BLESSES**

Proverbs 14:34 marks a contrast between righteousness and sin. Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. If a nation does what is right, God will bless it and make it great. But if a nation sins, God will bring it down in disgrace and shame. I don't have to tell you that things in America are not what they should be. We sin openly in the face of a holy God and expect Him to bless us anyway.

A. Our nation laughs at sin

What used to amaze us now amuses us. You can tell a lot about people when you see what it takes to entertain them. The Bible says, "Fools make a mock at sin."

B. Our nation denies sin

According to some people, there is no such thing as sin anymore. There is no absolute right or wrong. It's not politically correct to call something good or evil.

**Judges 21:25** In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

C. Our nation redefines sin

We call it "pro-choice" – God calls it "murder."

We call it "alternative lifestyle" – God calls it "abomination."

We call it "profit" – God calls it "greed."

We call it "love" – God calls it "lust."

**Isaiah 5:20** Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

D. Our nation excuses sin

We say "Well, nobody's perfect." We're always trying to blame someone or something else. There was a cowboy who applied for health insurance, and the agent asked him if

he had any accidents during the previous year. “No, but a rattlesnake bit me and a horse kicked me in the ribs.” The agent said, “Weren’t those accidents?” “No, they did it on purpose.” People sin because they want to sin and they choose to sin.

E. Our nation legalizes sin

We allow sin to be protected under the law.

***Psalms 94:20*** *Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?*

F. Our nation is proud of sin

We celebrate it. Someone said “the sin that used to slink down the back alley, not struts down the main street.”

***Jeremiah 6:15*** *Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.*

America has become like the proverbial “frog in the kettle.” Will America be like Greece and Rome and other nations that were once mighty? I hope not, but the Bible says, *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God (Psalm 9:17)*. God is not only our greatest hope; He is our greatest threat.

**How can we become a righteous nation?**

1) We must confess our sins and unrighteousness

***Isaiah 64:6*** *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

***Romans 3:10*** *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.*

***Romans 10:1-4*** <sup>1</sup> *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.* <sup>2</sup> *For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.* <sup>3</sup> *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.* <sup>4</sup> *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*

***1 John 1:9*** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

2) We must trust Christ for salvation and receive His righteousness

***Romans 10:10*** *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

***2 Corinthians 5:21*** *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

**Isaiah 61:10** *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

3) We must be committed to righteous living for God's glory

**Romans 6:13** *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

**Titus 2:11-12**<sup>11</sup> *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,<sup>12</sup> Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.*

God is not looking for righteous perfection; He's looking for righteous direction. He will bless us when we are serious about learning and doing what is right in His eyes.