

Righteousness Exalteth A Nation
Proverbs 14:34
7-3-16

In 2001 I wrote a song for our Tent Meeting which was taken from the verses we will read this morning:

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.
Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

This is July 4th weekend. I thought it good to look at these verses again and use them as a springboard to stir our hearts for our nation.

Everywhere I turn, people are grieved over the spiritual, moral, and political state of our nation. People just shake their heads. There is a disgust all over the world for what the older generation sees as a decline in their nations--not only in this country, but around the world, the older generation is getting disgruntled about the trends they are seeing in their nations.

Recently, Britain voted to exit the EU ... 75% of their young people who voted chose to stay in the EU. It is mostly the older generation that remembers what it was like to be independent.

In fact, in some parts of Europe, over half of all the people of the stronger nations are also asking for their nations to vote to leave. The gripes of the people are mostly economic. I say what they should be concerned for is their spiritual condition.

When Obama and John Kerry went over to England to encourage England to stay in the Union, the Brits fired back and called them hypocrites. They asked, "How is it the US fought a war for independence because they found it oppressive to be governed and taxed by a foreign nation like Britain, but now Britain is wrong for despising Brussels dictating to them and taxing them?!" They then fired back, "Why doesn't America seek a United America and include Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Cost Rica, and Panama?"

All this reminds me of the prophecy of Daniel where he predicted (in his vision of the image that had legs of iron) ... that latter day kingdom where, in his vision, the feet of the image which was:

Daniel 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Daniel 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Interpretation of the vision:

Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

Daniel 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

Daniel 2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

So before our very eyes we are seeing the fulfillment of this prophecy—the one nation. You have them in this order, and the two wealthiest and strongest nations are becoming disgruntled...

1. United States
2. China
3. Japan
4. Germany
5. England

Now in light of the turmoil around the world, I have one thing to say ...

God is in control, and our redemption draweth nigh!

This weekend we celebrate the 4th of July. Of course, the 4th of July is the day we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence from Britain.

John Adams had written to his wife Abigail after the resolution was made to declare independence from England. He said:

“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, forever more.”

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4—the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Coincidentally, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence to later serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration.

Note what Adams said... I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.

It certainly cannot be argued that our nation is not the same nation spiritually today that it was when our country's forefathers signed that Declaration.

In light of that, many Christians weep and are grieved for our nation. Yet, let me remind you of the words of our Lord Jesus when he said..

John 18:36 My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

I believe that one of the great errors of our mindset is that we are too much of this world. Just like I preached last week, for most Christians our affections are too much on earth. The Bible says:

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Why are we surprised that the nations that forget God are going into confusion? How is it that they seek unity—and can they ever attain it?

Which by the way brings me to this sad note - it is a great disgrace when God's people manifest a spirit of division and contention. When we are under the command:

I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Which brings me to this truth found in our text:

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

And how can there ever be a righteous nation? The only way for this to happen is that there be some righteous people in that nation.

I. SO ... PRINCIPLE #1 - TO HAVE A RIGHTEOUS NATION, THERE NEEDS TO BE SOME RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE IN THAT NATION.

Now with men that is impossible because the Bible says, There is none righteous no not one.

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

Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

As believers are multiplied in a nation, that nation becomes righteous.

If you remember the story of Abraham bartering for the life of his nephew Lot—how he determined that the presence of believers ("who were declared the righteous") ... would cause the Lord to spare the cities.

Genesis 18:20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

Genesis 18:21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

Then Abraham said to the Angels:

Genesis 18:23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Genesis 18:24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

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?

Genesis 18:26 And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

You remember the story .. how the Lord bartered for the city ...

... 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10. He stopped at 10, and the Jews established a law in Israel, that they needed 10 Jewish men to establish a synagogue in a city.. This was called a quorum!

minyan (Hebrew: min'jan lit. noun count, number; pl. minyanim minjan'im) is the quorum of 10 Jewish adults required for certain religious obligations. In more traditional streams of Judaism only men may constitute a minyan. The most common activity requiring a minyan is public prayer. Accordingly, the term minyan in contemporary Judaism has taken on the secondary meaning of referring to a prayer service.

The Jews get this from the story of Abraham bartering for Lot's city, and also there were 10 spies who brought back the evil report which caused the majority vote against God, to the condemnation of the nation.

So now one of the ways that we can make our nation blessed is by seeing more and more people saved.

Once a person believes ...

Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

His faith is counted as Righteousness..

And then ..

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

The proof is in the pudding. The redeemed do not just talk a good talk, they walk the walk.

When the Bible says that righteousness exalteth a nation, it is saying that there is a good quorum of righteous people in that nation.

Remember, God spared the nation Israel because He said there were 7000 that had not bowed the knee to Baal.

What America needs is a righteous remnant who not only claim to be saved but also do what John said..

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I John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Now in light of the fact that the righteousness that exalteth a nation is a nation that has an abundant amount of redeemed people in it. This is why the government was friendly toward the church for years. They gave tax exemption to clergy and churches. Lately we have seen this changing. For the first time in 33 years of ministry I am seeing a strain being put on the church economically for pastors because of the new tax laws. How sad for the nation.

How can a nation be righteous? It's only the people who can be righteous or unrighteous.

But let us consider what righteousness really is ...

II. WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

1. WHAT DOES THE WORD MEAN?

Dictionary Definition:

RIGHTEOUSNESS

tsaddiq, adjective, "righteous," or occasionally "just"
noun, occasionally = "righteousness," occasionally
"justice"; whose first meaning seems to have been
"custom";

The general use suggested conformity to a standard:

righteousness, "the state of him who is such as he ought to be" (Thayer));

H6664tsedeq, tseh'-dek; from 6663; the right (nat., mor. or legal);
also "equity or (fig.) prosperity: (X that which is
altogether) just (-ice), (un-) right (-eous) (cause, -ly, -ness).

"even just, justice, right, righteous, righteously, righteousness, unrighteousness "

Basically the Bible declares that when a nation does what is right and just, they will be exalted. When a nation has a certain set of standards that are godly, that nation will be exalted.

But how do we determine what is right or just...

2. WHAT IS THE STANDARD OF RIGHT AND WRONG?

It is either man or God!

There needs to be a standard. Standards are dictated by rules or laws.

Character is defined as having "POSITIVE MORAL QUALITIES." In other words, a person with character will do right, and to do right is to be righteous.

THE REASON KIDS DO NOT HAVE CHARACTER IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO ONE TO TEACH THEM CHARACTER. You see, it's that age-old fight between God and Satan – and who will sit on the throne. who will determine right and wrong. Humanism teaches man is on the throne and has the right to determine what is right and wrong. The Bible teaches God is on the throne and He alone has that right. So as a test to all God's creation, He put a tree in the midst of the garden and called it the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That tree, in essence, symbolizes man's quest to follow in a satanic plan to oust God from His throne and usurp it. This life is a grand experiment in trying to do this. So we try to set up our own standard of what is right and wrong, and we are reaping chaos.

We have a problem with kids going into our schools killing one another. We are appalled and the people cry out, "We need some changes!" And the nation foolishly thinks the answer is gun control. The reason there was a second amendment is because people were different when our nation was young. There were more people who could be entrusted with arms, and the government saw that without armed citizens they would never have won the war for independence. What America needs to see against the war of terrorism is more militias being established. You can't have government everywhere, but you have citizens everywhere. Because there are not a lot of righteous people in our nation, there is a mistrust between the government and the people. What the media should spend more time exalting is when we see people who thwart off attacks. Like that young college student:

Jon Meis' reported habit of carrying pepper spray may have saved students' lives after a man opened fire at a Seattle college. The shooter had just wounded three people Thursday, one of whom died. He was reloading his shotgun when Meis, a volunteer security guard, saw an opening. He doused the gunman with the spray and tackled him to the ground. Other students at Seattle Pacific University piled on and took the weapon away from the suspected shooter Aaron Ybarra, 26, police said. Officers are convinced the bloodshed at the Christian school would have been worse had Meis and the others not intervened.

Why don't Obama and others mention this incident and encourage more acts of bravery like this? Why is it that this college security guard had to go up against terrorists with pepper spray while they have guns. You can't get guns away from oppressors, but you can arm a well-trained militia. The greatest source of these minutemen were local churches!!! The majority of the local militias, later called minutemen, were organized and trained by pastors in their local churches.

In fact, the revolutionary war could not have been won were it not for the pastors and the Christians of colonial America.

The government does not trust the people, and the people do not trust the government.

WHY? Because of the lack of righteousness in the nation.

By the way, the problem with our nation today is our churches. And the problem with our churches is the lack of righteous people. There is division and strife in churches. Gossip, evil speaking of one another, no acceptance of differences, people harboring grudges ...

People upset because this person didn't shake my hand.

People upset about this and that, like little kids.

What America needs are righteous people, and if righteous people are not nurtured in the church first, then where will they be nurtured?

There is a lack of righteousness in the nation because our churches are not producing righteousness.

What they are saying is we need righteousness. We need to teach our kids what is right. Whose job is that? The church, and the parents.

A. THE STANDARD OUGHT TO BE THE BIBLE

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

THE BIBLE IS CALLED THE CANON. THE WORD CANON MEANS STANDARD ... the Bible is the standard of Righteousness..

Question is this: Who has the right to make the standard?

We are not saved by keeping the law. But when we get saved, God writes His law in our hearts, and we desire to do the things that are written in this Book.

We hunger and thirst to learn what this Book says.

We will want to know and do His good pleasure.

The problem with our nation is we do not have a lot of righteous people—because we do not have a lot of saved people. Saved people have Christ's righteousness imputed to them, and they are given a spirit to want to keep God's law.

A Pharisee tries to keep God's law to be saved. A redeemed child of God is saved and seeks to follow the law because it is in his new nature.

HERE IS WHAT THE PROBLEM IS:

We have a lot of people who are redefining what it is to be saved.

God calls the saved His Righteous ones.

B. Consider How The Bible Uses The Term Righteous as a Synonym For Salvation ...

Noah was called Righteous

Genesis 7:1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Abraham Believed God and It was accounted to him as Righteousness and he was called Righteous.. Gen. 15;6

If there had been 10 saved men in Sodom, God would have spared it ... 10 saved men, Lot was only one.

Job: The whole lesson of Job was that his faith was more important to God than all his righteous works. Job was saved, and God promises that whom He loves He will chasten. Chastening is not only because we do wrong, but chastening comes to teach us lessons in life.

You see Job had a problem: it says he was righteous in his own eyes.

Job 32:1 So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

Job 40:6 Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

Job 40:7 Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

Job 40:8 Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? **wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?**

What was the lesson Job needed to learn?

Job 42:6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Repent of what? He needed to repent of his attitude, of thinking that it was his deeds that made him righteous, when it was really his faith that made him more righteous in the eyes of the Lord..

**C. THE WORLD MAKES "MAN AND HIS THINKING" THE STANDARD.
Any standard that men make will miss the mark of God's standard.
This is called secular humanism.**

The ACLU is fighting to remove every public display of the Ten Commandments in any public building—even when displayed as art.

Without the Word of God, the Bible, we cannot know what is right or wrong..

ATTACK OF SATAN THAT LED TO MAN'S SIN AND DEATH..

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

The attack was made on the basis of who has the right to determine standards of right and wrong, good and evil, justice, law, etc., etc.

What is the standard of morality?

What was the whole purpose for the Book of Job? The whole purpose was to humble Job and get to the point where he would say:

Job 42:6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

It is possible to actually get proud about the things we do to obey God.

It's a form of self-righteousness. And self-righteousness is sin, and has always been sin.

WHAT A NATION NEEDS ARE TRULY HUMBLE, BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS WHO WITH HUMILITY SEEK TO LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE, KNOWING WHATEVER GOOD THINGS THEY DO, THEY DO BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Such people will not have a condescending attitude.

Such people will not look down their noses at others.

Such people will have the mind of Christ.

Where it says in Philippians 2:

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

What America needs is Christ-like people.

What America needs is a remnant of people who live a righteous life like Christ lived.

What America needs is people who would say as Job:

Job 42:6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Humility ... God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

Jesus said in MAT 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

SO RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION. A humble, righteous citizenship will exalt AMERICA.

Do you want to make America great again? We need more righteous people in America.

My wife was recently cussed out at Wegman's by a lady who didn't like the way she inspected the fruit. We have neighbors who can't get along ... on and on we can go. DO WE WANT AMERICA TO BE GREAT AGAIN? WHAT AMERICA NEEDS IS TO EXTOL RIGHTEOUSNESS!!

What caused men like Joseph to rise to the top of their nation? He was righteous in the right way.

What caused men like Daniel to rise to the top of their nation where they dwelt? They were righteous in the right way.

We could talk about Abraham ... Jacob ...

You know Jacob, like Job, needed an attitude adjustment, and how did God give it to him? HE TOUCHED THE HOLLOW OF HIS THIGH, and he learned to live like Philippians 2 said he should live.

SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY NATION Part II
Evening Message
7-3-16

What is righteousness? Righteousness is a set of standards that a group of people follow from the heart with a right attitude, a humble attitude—an attitude that Jacob needed to learn. This is a group of people salting a nation to produce righteousness in that nation.

I Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

I think a nation also needs to be humble before God in a certain respect.

This is the righteousness that exalteth a nation.

BUT SIN IS A REPOACH TO ANY PEOPLE.

II. WHAT IS SIN

Sin is a violation of the righteous standards that God has set in His Word.

God said - Don't eat of the tree called "the knowledge of good and evil."

It was called “the knowledge of good and evil” because when men ate of that tree, they chose what was good based on their own thinking--and not on the Word of God.

GOD SPOKE, HE SAID, “DON'T EAT.”

Man chose to eat—in violation to the Word of God.

When Adam ate the fruit, he sinned..

IF THE BIBLE SAYS DO - and if YOU DON'T, YOU SIN
IF THE BIBLE SAYS DON'T - and if you DO, YOU SIN.

Just because men do not believe the Bible doesn't make their sin less of sin.

When we violate the Word of God, we sin.

WHAT IF SOME DON'T BELIEVE IT TO BE SIN?

IT DOESN'T MATTER. THEY WILL RECEIVE TO THEMSELVES A REPROACH ANYWAY.

Even if we enter a time like the days of Noah, and there is only a tiny minority that believe the Book, sin is still sin and will bring judgment and reproach.

You know there are a lot of people that don't like the things I say, but the question is, “Are the things that I am saying and teaching what the Bible says?”

The Bible says,

Romans 14:23 ... whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

I John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

You say, “I don't believe there is such a thing as sin.”

It doesn't matter what you believe. How well have we been doing since we as a nation have bought into that philosophy?

Sin is a reproach!

The Ten Commandments are a condensing of all the law. These give the mind of God to expose sin, and those who are given to these get a reproach.

Let's not even look at the first few commandments ...

Thou shalt not have any Gods before me,
Thou shalt not make any graven image.
Thou shalt not take God's name in vain.
Remember the sabbath day, etc...

These that only the righteous, or I should say, “saved,” would want to do.
These we might call religious commands, and how could a lost person want to keep them?

But let us look at those sins that are related to our dealings with man ...

Honor your father and mother, which I think to be on the first tablet, but nonetheless our nation teaches children to dishonor their parents in wholesale, and we have the most unruly young people that have ever existed on his planet. It’s hard to teach them anything in our schools. You cannot teach children who you cannot control, and you cannot control children you do not discipline; and you cannot discipline children properly according to our humanistic atheistic educational system! SIN IS A REPROACH, SIN IS A REPROACH!

Thou shalt not kill: Have we not given ourselves to wholesale killing in this nation? We think Hitler to be a monster, but how many unborn have we killed because of the same philosophy of Hitler? He declared the Jews less than human, and we declare a child in the womb less than human, and wipe our mouths and say we have done no evil. SIN IS A REPROACH. SIN IS REPROACH.. Furthermore, in 2015 there were 211,000 unsolved murders in the United States last year.. Again a reproach!

Thou shalt not commit adultery: Which includes all forms of sexual activity forbidden in the Bible: Adultery, Fornication, Homosexuality, Bestiality , Pedophilia, etc. These activities will bring a reproach to a nation given over to its vices.. IT IS A REPROACH!

Thou shalt not steal: I only have to mention one name.. Bernie Madoff, who made off with more than any other thief in history!

Thou shalt not lie (bear false witness) Most of our elections are nothing more than an open show of deceit and lies. It reminds me of the old TV show where a group of people would come claiming to be someone - "TO TELL THE TRUTH.." The only thing is—in that game show the viewer got the satisfaction that the audience got: to find out who is lying. But today no one finds out who is lying, and in fact those who are paid to expose the liars are often themselves biased and refuse to expose their pet candidates as liars, and they spend all their time only trying to discredit one party!

I mean it is so bad that we can have a President in the White House who point blank lies to the nation about committing adultery in the White House, and almost everybody in the nation says, “Oh well.. he was just naughty.” Now we are considering his wife for President. SIN IS A REPROACH TO THE NATION!

If this Bible says something and we do the opposite, we will get reproach.

Some will say, I know a lot of people who don't believe the Bible, and they seem to be rich, have money, and are doing well.

REMEMBER THIS - IT AIN'T OVER TILL THE FAT LADY SINGS—MEANING WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT IN THEIR LIVES AND THEY STAND BEFORE GOD, THERE WILL BE A RECKONING.

Note: It is a dangerous thing to entrust a man with power who does not believe that he will some day have to stand before his Maker to be judged. Nations are not going to be judged in the next life, they reap benefits or suffer what they do in this life. But men will be judged. Any man who

has no fear of divine judgment is a dangerous man to put into leadership—a man who does not believe in the judgment of God when put in a position of leadership—like Supreme Court judge, President, Senator, etc.—will do things only for his own temporal benefit, and can plunge our nation into divine judgment that can and will destroy us!

You may say, “I know churches not following the Bible and seem to have people who are doing OK. How will they get to themselves a reproach?” NOTE: God's judgment comes slowly, but it will come.

SIN BRINGS REPROACH..

A country that says OK to sin and promotes sin will receive a reproach.

Homosexuality.

Adultery.

Covetousness.

Lying.

Stealing.

Today modern humanistic psychologists are trying to reason away sin instead of encouraging responsibility, accountability, etc.. Modern psychologists are prescribing drugs trying to provide balm for the seared consciences of people. Modern humanistic experts on human behavior are reluctant to use terms like sin, evil, wickedness, etc.

SIN IS A REPROACH. THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH SIN IS TO REPENT OF IT AND FORSAKE IT. But how can we see repentance when men do not even acknowledge that there is such a thing as sin?

Many of the violent crimes committed by young people in our schools are committed after seeking humanistic psychological help that often rejects Biblical truth and morality. Below are a few documented accounts that should cause us to realize prescription drugs cannot solve unrighteous behavior. Here are some reports collated and which record the trail of wicked deeds committed by those who have sought treatment by drugs rather than repentance:

-Rod Mathews (November 20, 1986): In Canton, Mass., Matthews (14) killed a classmate with a bat. He had been prescribed Ritalin since the third grade. ("Students, Prescription drugs and murder", Dec. 20, 2001, Bruce Wiseman, CCHR)

-Laurie Dann (May 1988): In Winnetka, Illinois, Dann began shooting at a second grade class. She killed one, wounded six, and then killed herself. Autopsy reports revealed that she was full of Anafranil and Lithium.

-James Wilson (September 26, 1988): In Greenwood, South Carolina, Wilson (19) walked into an elementary school and killed two 8-year-old girls. He wounded seven other children and two teachers. "Wilson had been in and out of the hands of psychiatrists for years and within 8 months of the killings he had been on several psychiatric drugs which can generate violent behavior. Since the age of 14, he had been given psychiatric drugs, including Xanax, Valium, Thorazine and Haldol." ("Students, Prescription drugs and murder", Ibid.)

-Patrick Purdy (Jan. 17, 1989): At a Cleveland elementary school, Purdy (25) murdered 5 children and wounded 29 others before killing himself. He had been treated by psychiatrists who put him on the mind altering drugs Thorazine and Amitriptyline.

-Joseph Westbecker (September 14, 1989): In Kentucky, Westbecker shot 20 Standard Gravure Corp. workers, killing 8 before killing himself. He was doing okay until his doctor gave him Prozac. "The doctor noted that he got agitated and possibly deluded, and he said 'stop the prozac,' and it was days after that, with the prozac still in his system, that he committed these murders and suicide." (Peter Breggin, "Nobody Show", Jan. 24, 1996)

-Abby Hoffman (1989): At the age of 52, activist and author Hoffman committed suicide. He had been taking Prozac. ("Nobody Show", Jan. 24, 1996)

-Jarred Viktor (1995): In California, 16-year-old Viktor was convicted of first-degree murder for stabbing his grandmother multiple times. Ten days earlier, Jarred had been prescribed the anti-depressant Paxil. None of that class of drugs had been approved by the FDA for use in kids with depression. "'What jumped out at me,' says psychiatrist Alan Abrams, who testified for the defense at Jarred's trial, 'was this very withdrawn kid who started acting as though he was primed to explode' days after he started taking Paxil. Abrams believes the drug caused Jarred to become violent." ("U.S. News", March 6, 2000)

-Matt Miller (1997): Miller, a 13-year-old from Overland Park, Kansas, was given free samples of Zoloft by his psychiatrist. Seven days later, Matt killed himself. ("U.S. News", March 6, 2000)

-Jeremy Strohmeyer (May 25, 1997): 18-year-old Strohmeyer raped and murdered a 7-year-old girl in Las Vegas, Nevada. Strohmeyer had been prescribed Dexedrine, a Ritalin-like drug, just before the killing. ("Students, Prescription drugs and murder", Dec. 20, 2001, Bruce Wiseman, CCHR)

-Luke Woodham (October 1st, 1997): In Pearl Mississippi, Woodham (16) killed his mother and then killed two students, wounding six others. Published reports state that Woodham was on Prozac. ("Students, Prescription drugs and murder", Ibid.)

-Michael Carneal (Dec 1, 1997): In West Paducah, Kentucky, Carneal killed three students and wounded five others at a prayer meeting. Carneal was reportedly on Ritalin. (CCHR; also NewsMax.com, James L. Hirsen, Ph.D)

-Matthew Beck (March 7, 1998): At a lottery in Connecticut, Beck killed four people and then committed suicide. He had been taking Luvox. (Dr. Ann Blake Tracy, Drugawareness.org)

-Mitchell Johnson and Andrew Golden (March 25, 1998): Two young cousins,

Johnson (13) and Golden (11), fired 27 shots in Jonesboro, Arkansas at Westside Middle School. Four girls and a teacher were killed, and 11 people were wounded. A white van was found about a half-mile from the school with guns and ammunition in it. Mitchell Johnson was being treated by a psychiatrist and is presumed to have been on medication. "Dr Alan Lipman of Georgetown University, who was one of the experts interviewed on network television after the Littleton shootings, remarked that at least one of the boys who committed murder in Jonesboro had been 'treated' before the incident, for violent behavior. Treated how? With Prozac, with Zoloft, with a combination of antidepressants?" (The Truth Seeker Foundation, "School Violence: The Psychiatric Drugs Connection")

-Kip Kinkel (May 21, 1998): In Springfield, Oregon, 15 year old Kinkel killed his parents and then the next day walked into Thurston High School cafeteria and sprayed 50 rounds from a semiautomatic rifle. He killed two students and wounded 25 others. ***In his confession letter found at his home he stated that he heard voices in his head telling him to kill. He had been placed on Ritalin in middle school. Kinkel met with a child psychologist nine times between January and June, 1997. He was then placed on Prozac. After the killings, he spoke with psychologists and accused the government of placing chips in his head. (PBS Online- Frontline)***

-Shawn Cooper (April 16, 1999): In Notus, Idaho, Cooper fired two shotgun rounds, narrowly missing his classmates and teachers. According to his stepfather (i.e. grandfather), he was taking an antidepressant. "'A lot of things have crossed my mind,' Frank Cooper said sadly, trying to explain why the quiet youngster he raised in his God-fearing home went berserk. Frank Cooper and the boy's lawyer are now looking closely at the medication Shawn had been taking since January...Frank Cooper took his grandson to church and allowed him to enjoy boy things - baseball, sports cards, Christian rock music. Shawn even preached at a local church...After he was diagnosed with a condition where you fluctuate from deep depression to feelings of ecstasy, Shawn was given steady doses of anti-depressants...Frank Cooper thought he was helping his grandson by giving Shawn the drugs the doctor had prescribed. Now he's wondering whether he made a mistake." (Douglas Montero, "New York Post Commentary")

-Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold (April 20, 1999): Harris (18) and Klebold (17), in Littleton, Colorado, killed 12 students and 1 teacher in Columbine High School before killing themselves. 23 others were injured. Harris had been taking the drug Luvox for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. In an ABCNews.com report (1999), psychiatrists comforted the masses by a pitiful attempt to hide any personal guilt: "...Harris, one of the two teenaged gunmen, was seeing a psychiatrist and had been prescribed the antidepressant Luvox. Investigators at the scene of the accident speculated that the drug may have played a role in the massacre. 'These medicines for the most part are really quite safe,' says child psychiatrist Dr. John Dunne of Renton, Wash. 'They're an enormous step forward from what we used to have.'" Arianna Huffington is closer to the truth when she writes: "These antidepressants clearly did not exorcise the teenagers' demons. The question we should be urgently asking is: did they

embolden them?" ("After Littleton: Antidepressants in the Bloodstream")

-T. J. Solomon (May 20, 1999): 15-year-old T.J. Solomon Jr. shot 6 classmates in Conyers, Atlanta. The New York Times reported that he had been taking Ritalin and was being treated for depression. (Evangelical Press News Service, May 30, 1999)

-Mark Barton (July 29, 1999): Barton killed his wife and two children and then gunned down 21 people in two brokerage firms in Atlanta, killing nine. The shootings were the deadliest mass killings in Atlanta history. Police found several capsules of the anti-depressant drug Prozac in his van. (Reuters, Sept. 1, 1999)

-Larry Gene Ashbrook (Sept. 15, 1999): In a Fort Worth, Texas church, Ashbrook killed seven people and himself. "A doctor had prescribed the anti-depressant drug Prozac for Larry Gene Ashbrook". ("Ft. Worth Star Telegram", Sept.20, 1999)

-Andrea Yates? (June 20, 2001): Yates is charged with killing her five children in Houston. "In an interview with the online edition of Newsweek, Andrea Yates' brother, Andrew P. Kennedy, said his sister was hospitalized several months ago..." (AP, June 28, 2001)

Still More Examples:

"Mr. and Mrs. Phil Hartman (Zoloft)...Neal Furrow, in LA Jewish school shooting was reported to have been court ordered to be on Prozac along with several other medications; the Salt Lake Family History Library shooting, school shootings in Littleton, Colorado (Luvox), Atlanta, Georgia, Springfield, Oregon (Prozac), and Caldwell, Idaho; another boy in Pocatello, ID in 1998 who in seizure activity from Zoloft had a stand off at the school; 15 year old Chris Shanahan (Paxil) in Rigby, ID who out of the blue killed a woman;...the New York City Subway bombing by Edward Leary (Prozac); little 10 year old Timmy (Prozac) in southern Florida; Nick Mansies (Paxil) in New Jersey who was convicted of killing a little boy who was selling cookies door to door; in Orange County, CA Dana Sue Gray (Paxil) who co-workers described as a very caring nurse killed several elderly people; Officer Stephen Christian (Prozac) one of the finest officers on the Dallas Police force, who ran into a police substation shooting at fellow officers and was killed; 13 year old Chris Feters (Prozac) in Iowa who killed her favorite aunt; David Rothman (Prozac) killed two co-workers and himself at the Dept. of Agriculture in Ingelwood, CA; Williams Evans (Zoloft) shot one co-worker at the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services before shooting himself in Columbus, OH; Winatchee, WA where 43 people were wrongfully imprisoned in a false accusation of sexual abuse 'witch hunt' fury started by a child under the influence of Prozac and Paxil; Christopher Vasquez (Zoloft) killed Michael McMorrow in Central Park; Megan Hogg (Prozac) duct taped the mouths and noses of her three little girls and took a handful of pills; Vera Espinoza (Prozac) in Randolph, VT shot her small son and daughter before shooting herself; an elderly man (Prozac) in Layton, UT axed his wife and daughter

to death; Margaret Kastanis (Prozac) used a knife and hammer to kill her three children before stabbing herself to death; an elderly man (Paxil) in Dallas, TX strangled his wife before shooting himself.; Larramie Huntzinger (Zoloft) blacked out and ran his car into three young girls killing two in Salt Lake City, UT; Mary Hinkelman (Prozac), a nurse in Baroda, MI shot her two small daughters and her sister before shooting herself; Lisa Fox (Prozac) shot her small son and her dog before shooting herself in Brighton, MI; Debi Louselle (Zoloft) shot daughter and then herself in Salt Lake City, UT; a father in Wyoming shot his wife, daughter and baby grand-daughter then himself after only days on Paxil; a mother (Prozac) in Pleasant Grove, UT killed her 17 year old son...; Larry Butzz, a superintendent of schools in Ames, IA shot his wife, son and daughter before shooting himself - many cases pending in court are not mentioned. This is only a handful of MANY, MANY more cases - there would not be room for anything else if I continued listing the cases. A few additional famous victims: Princess Di (Prozac) and Dodi Fayed - via their driver Henri Paul (Prozac)...Chris Farley (Prozac), Pres. Clinton's ex-partner Jim Mc Dougal (Prozac), Abby Hoffman (Prozac), Del Shannon (Prozac), Danielle Steele's son (Prozac), INXS singer Michael Hutchence (Prozac), Sarah - Dutchess of York (Phen-Fen)...The latest figures show Prozac has about 44,000 adverse reports filed with the FDA. Out of those reports there are about 2500 deaths with the large majority of them linked to suicide or violence." (Dr. Ann Blake Tracy, "The Aftermath of Prozac...")

In closing this dreadful list of facts (that I do wish was unnecessary), I will quote Peter Breggin (psychiatrist, and critic of psychiatry). He writes:

"Well first of all it's a psychiatric drug Prozac, it's a drug that modifies the brain and the mind so that the question to start with is, is this something that people want to do? Is that a way to approach personal suffering? Is it by fooling around and tampering with your neurotransmitters?...its clinical effect is very similar to amphetamines and cocaine, and I document that very heavily in 'Talking back to Prozac'...What you're basically doing with prozac is you're flooding the connections in the brain with chemical sparks called serotonin by stopping serotonin from being removed and destroyed, you flood it, that's what prozac does. It stops the removal of serotonin. That jacks up the whole system. It's just as if you had no way of pulling the fuel out of your carburetor, no way of controlling the spark, the ignition process, you're jacking up the ignition process...I'm certain that what I'm saying is true because I was the medical expert in the first and thus far only product liability lawsuit against Lilly which Lilly settled for a large, secret amount of money sometime after my testimony and before it went to the jury...there are about 160 suits out against Eli Lilly, for murder and suicide mostly, people who either committed murder or suicide or mutilated themselves or done something horribly violent on Prozac...Ritalin is a stimulant, it's closely related to amphetamines. See, prozac has similar effects to amphetamine, but ritalin really is amphetamine, it's basically speed. And it has all the problems of that drug, including addiction, withdrawal problems, producing the very things it's supposed to cure,

inattention and things like that, and then there's just the whole idea of giving drugs to a growing young mind...in the '60s ritalin was a street drug. And when the 'just say no to drugs' campaign was developed for children a decade or so ago, one of the drugs of greatest concern was ritalin, along with amphetamines. So it's exactly the same drug that was a very heavy street drug...We don't have any substances to put in the brain to make it work better. All we can do is knock out some of its function or, as in the case of prozac, jack up some of its function. Those are abnormalities, so we don't know how to do anything but produce abnormalities in the brain. Now my colleagues, who are ever-fascinated with the big lie, claim that patients have biochemical imbalances in the brain and that it's terrible to have them. In fact there's no evidence that patients with psychiatric labels have imbalances in their brain, until they get drugs. And once you have a psychiatric drug you have huge imbalances in your brain. That's what they do...The last resort of the educated person these days tends to be the psychiatrist. That means that psychiatrists are really our priests. That they constitute our religion." ("The Nobody Show", 1-24-96)

SIN IS A REPROACH....

People are afraid to confront young people with the concept of sin.

In fact, modern psychology often blames religion as the reason many mentally ill people are plagued.

Repentance over sin is what cleanses the heart and conscience.

Proverbs 20:30 The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.

IV. WHAT IS IT TO HAVE GOD AS OUR LORD?

Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

What is the main problem with our nation today?

Is it not that we have forsaken God as our Lord?

BLESSED IS THAT NATION

Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Blessings come as we acknowledge God as our Lord. Who is the Lord of most people today?

When the Bible says. "Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord," we should know that the nation that has another God will not be blessed in the end.

WHAT GOD DO WE HAVE TODAY?

1. MORE AMERICANS HAVE MONEY AS THEIR LORD THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

So many people today couldn't care less whether the leaders of our nation are immoral, just as long as they help them financially.

This is how Hitler gained power.

This was motivation behind persecuting the Jews. They were hated.

They were hated because many of them were wealthy.

The Jews in Germany had a foothold in the banking system and Hitler blamed them for the financial woes of Germany.

The German people saw in Hitler someone who could solve Germany's financial woes.

So the German people voted their pocketbooks, so to speak.

Most people in our nation vote their pocketbook. The economy is all they care about. It is as if morality and the economy are not linked. Do we really think the one won't affect the other? How foolish this is. When a person's supreme purpose in life is to be wealthy, when that is what they love, that is what they live for. They have made money a god. It is idolatry.

2. FOR MANY AMERICANS THEIR GOD IS PLEASURE.

II Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

SEX ... GOOD TIMES ... DRINKING ... DRUGS ... etc...

There is nothing to oppose these because we have abandoned the absolute standard of the Bible.

3. MANY HAVE BECOME WORSHIPPERS OF NATURE: GONE INTO PAGAN WORSHIP

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Radical environmentalists are receiving tax dollars to fund their religion while anything that is related to the Bible is rejected.

Evolution is a religion—not a science.
Many environmental concerns are cover-ups for nature worshippers.

Righteousness exalteth a nation - a nation is exalted as it makes right decisions, justice and equity.

Many people have had their lives destroyed and businesses destroyed to protect a few trees, environmental concerns that have nothing to do with preserving human life and welfare..

Environmentalists used to be looking for hazardous chemicals that would kill people. Today many are out to protect the rights of frogs, animals and trees, and it matters not if people are hurt doing this.

Dangerous animals are being introduced into society to put our environment back into a wild state. It matters little if a child is killed. People get angry at the parents when an animal is put down to save a child's life. How wicked!

ALL THIS BECAUSE THE LORD HAS CEASED TO BE OUR GOD ...

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

This is 4th of July weekend and we celebrate the birth of our nation, the Declaration of Independence. We all want a nation that is great. We all want a nation that is blessed. Who wants our nation to suffer reproach? What better message for a nation than the teaching of Proverbs 14:34?

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Everywhere I turn I see people grieved about the spiritual condition of our nation. People cry out, "What is the answer to our dilemma?" I think the answer is simple. It is just that people do not want to hear it.

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

APPLICATION AND CONCLUSION:

What will make our nation great is to populate it with more righteous, God-fearing people.

Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

We will be blessed as we make God our Lord.

Our nation can only be blessed as we see more righteous people in this nation.

Can we really expect non-righteous people to act righteously?

Righteousness exalteth a nation, and righteousness only comes as we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and are made righteous in and through Him!

Consider the truth in this message. The best thing we can do to *Make America Great Again* is to seek to promote righteousness!

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.