

## RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION

The strength of a nation is based upon its people and how they treat each other. When everyone is selfish, then they are covetous. Covetousness is the motivation to steal, lie, cheat, and do many other things harmful to others in order to acquire the things that are desired. Other sins are an expression of selfish attitudes—outbursts of anger, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse. All sin destroys the trust necessary in relationships with other people, so society ceases to function in such an environment.

This is why Solomon said, “*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*” (**Proverbs 14:34**) Solomon ought to know, since he was king of Israel for forty years. More importantly, he was guided by the Holy Spirit to explain this truth to us in scripture.

Even our economic troubles can be traced back to foolish monetary policy. Everyone suffers when the government sets a bad example of excessive spending and borrowing so that the value of money is diminished. However, the typical citizen is facing the same problem in his own accounts, having been lured into easy credit (a sharper shovel that helps the consumer to dig the economic hole deeper and quicker). A significant number of voters do not pay taxes and keep voting for those people that continue sending them money. Politicians have been buying their votes with your money.

Government is merely a reflection of society as a whole. With a growing demand for instant gratification, easy credit only makes the problem worse. If people knew they had to discipline themselves, sacrifice and save in order to afford a purchase, they may actually change their minds about what is really necessary and what is impatiently desired.

Let us follow God’s principles of righteousness (**Leviticus 19:2**) and wisdom (**Deuteronomy 4:6**). God will bless us.