

The Strength of Any Nation **by Dr. Ron Harvey**

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).

The resounding message of the Word of God is that the strength of a nation, any nation, is directly related to that nation’s relationship with God. If a nation walks with God in righteousness and holiness and purity, and if a nation seeks to be obedient to the commands and precepts of God’s Word, then God will be true to His Word and bless that nation and protect that people. But if a nation departs from God’s Word, and decides to go it alone without God, out of a sense of arrogance and pride and self-sufficiency, then God will allow that nation to do so, but it will do so at its own peril.

God’s Word answers the question, “What is the strength of any nation?” The answer is—*“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.”* That is something we used to know as a nation—

In 1620 when the pilgrims landed in America on the Atlantic shore, they signed the Mayflower Compact which began, “In the name of God Amen...the reason we came was for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith.”

In 1630 the colonists in the New England Federation signed this compact, “We have all come into these parts of America with one and the same end, namely, to advance the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut was the first written constitution to embody the ideal of a democracy, drawn up by a popular convention, and it became the model for the United States Constitution a few years later. It states in that constitution that government owes its origin to “the wise disposition of the Divine providence and that the Word of God requires an orderly and decent government established according to God and to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the gospel.”

This country was conceived out of a time called by historians as “The Great Awakening.” From 1740 through the 1770’s revival fires burned bright at the preaching of men such as George Whitfield, John Wesley, and Jonathan Edwards. It would be difficult to exaggerate the transforming influence and importance of this spiritual awakening on the character and conduct of the American people. It was in this context that our nation was born. The early Americans, as a whole, were a deeply religious and devoted people.

M.E. Bradford in his book *A Worthy Company* details the lives of the Founding Fathers and reveals that 52 out of 55 signers of the American Constitution were Christians. David Barton, leading scholar and historian on American religious life, has chronicled that, “Out of 200 founding fathers, only 12 were not Christians.” As a whole, these so-called founding fathers were not Christian in name only; they were devout in their beliefs and piety. We know that from their own writings, public records, and early biographies from those who knew them best and who had firsthand knowledge of their lives. They were deeply devoted to God and their writings

reveal their dependence upon the benevolent hand of God. Personally, I am convinced that is why God gave the miracle of the birth of this great nation.

A South American president was speaking with world economist Roger Babson and the economist asked, “Why is it the United States is so blessed economically?” And the president said, “I’ll tell you why. The people who came to South America came because they were seeking gold; the people who came to the United States came because they were seeking God. That is why God has blessed the United States.”

Alexis D. Tocqueville came from France in 1830 and travelled across the United States. Later he wrote, “I sought for the greatness and genius of America in fields and bountiful forests, it was not there. I sought for it in her free schools and institutions of learning, it was not there. I sought for it in her matchless constitution and democratic congress, it was not there. Not until I went to the churches and temples of America and found them aflame with righteousness did I understand the greatness and genius of America...America is great because America is good. When America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

President John Adams once said, “We have no government armed with power, capable of contending with human passions that are unbridled by morality and religion. Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

The constitution only works for a righteous people. In 1787 George Washington said, “The propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right that heaven itself has ordained.”

Our Founding Fathers understood something that we have forgotten or, at least, forsaken. It is that there is a direct connection between the righteousness of a nation and the blessings of God upon that nation. The security of a nation is tied to the purity of a nation. The safety of a nation is tied to the sanctity of that nation. America was established as a great and mighty nation for no other reason than she was a nation borne in righteousness and a nation with a profound trust in God. As it was then, so it is today, and so shall it be for evermore. It is righteousness that establishes a nation, and it is wickedness which abolishes a nation.

That is something we used to know as a nation and it is what we should remind ourselves today— *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).*