

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

Righteousness (Heb. תְּצַדִּיק *tsedaqah*) in the Bible refers to the high moral behaviors that God expects of His people, in which He instructs us “to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age” (Tit 2:12). In order for a nation to be great, its leaders and people must have upright, moral characters known for their righteousness.

The generations have repeatedly proved the truth of this proverb. A nation which conducts itself in righteousness ‘exalts’ itself. The word ‘exalts’ describes the lifting up, or elevating, of the people’s collective life. It is more of a moral term than descriptive of material benefits ('for cities' Prov 11:11 & 'kings' Prov. 16:2; 14:28). In contrast, the people who tolerate and promote sin find it, in the end, to be a disgrace (Lev.20:17).

As we approach Australia day (26 Jan), let us realise that as God's chosen people, his royal priesthood, 'we are the righteousness' of God in Christ Jesus in this land. Individually and as the body of Christ, we can make a difference in this land by living outstanding lives that show forth the goodness and blessing of God to others. We share the love of God by practical demonstrations of encouragement, care, giving and serving our community. We can also repent for the sins of this land and intercede for God's kingdom and will to be done. Let us be the salt and light in our community and city.

PRAY: Firstly, for all our leaders - from political, church, community, and business (etc) arenas, that they will make wise and righteous decisions. Bind the enemies’ plans and demonic influences over them. Declare God's kingdom and will be done.

God, save Australia. Save our city. Use me today to be salt and light.

ACTION: Invite your unchurched friends to join our Australia Day Service (9am) this Sunday (22 Jan) at Newmarket and southside, followed by food & game etc.

{Answer to yesterday's trivia question: The Blues Brothers}

Link to all devotionals: iccbribsane.org/journaling