

Righteousness Exalts a Nation **Proverbs 14:34**

I. RIGHT: "righteousness exalts a nation" (v.34a)

A. Blameless: "righteousness"

1. Definition = justice, uprightness, what is right.
2. Description = legal term; good outcome of a verdict; innocent - cleared of all charges.

B. Blessing: "exalts"

1. Position = honors, lifts up to a higher plane.
2. Prosperity = triumph, leads to victory over enemies.

C. Belonging: "a nation"

1. Definition = a country; the people of a territory united under a single government.
2. Description = a group of people sharing economic life, distinctive culture, common language and border.

II. WRONG: "sin is a disgrace to any people" (v.34b)

A. Lawlessness: "but sin"

1. Definition = missing the mark or path.
2. Description = a lifestyle or act that deviates from that which God has marked out to follow.

B. Liability: "is a disgrace"

1. Position = reproach, shame, a very wicked thing.
2. Punishment = diminishes, squanders, strips of success.

C. Lawbreakers: "to any people" - [see I.C. above]

Next week: Read Romans 15:14-21