

**The Character of a Great Nation
America Has a Heart Problem**
Proverbs 14:34 **October 15, 2017**

I begin today with a poem sent to me via email.

Mary had a little lamb,
His fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went,
The Lamb was sure to go.
He followed her to school each day,
T'wasn't even in the rule
It made the children laugh and play,
To have a Lamb at school.
And then the rules all changed one day,
Illegal it became;
To bring the Lamb of God to school,
Or even speak His Name.! ;
Every day got worse and worse,
And days turned into years.
Instead of hearing children laugh,
We heard gun shots and tears.
What must we do to stop the crime,
That's in our schools today?
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,
And teach our kids to pray!

On Sunday, October the 1st 2017 64 year-old
Stephen Paddock **killed at least 58 people** and
wounding more than 500 people during an outdoor
concert in Las Vegas, when he opened fire on
concert-goers from the 32nd floor of a hotel window.
What is going on in America?

Everyone seems to have an opinion on what is wrong! In some ways everyone is right. But there is a core issue!

What makes a nation great? If it is armament and the ability to conquer then atheistic Russia must be a great nation. If it is great wealth then the oil barons of the Middle East who worship false gods have a great nation.

Well, what does? The answer is in **Proverbs 14:34** **Righteousness** exalts a nation, but **sin is a reproach** to any people.

I. **The Characteristic of a Great Nation** Speaks of its **Righteousness**: (34a) "**Righteousness** exalts a nation,"

Righteousness = blameless behavior, honesty, Right Relationship with one who has been harmed!

What is righteousness? It is the rendering to all their due, whether to God or man. A righteous person and a righteous nation will have both a **vertical and a horizontal** dimension.

Righteousness means to be **upright**, to be a person of **integrity**.

Integrity stems from the Latin word '**integer**' which means **whole and complete**. In Math and Integer is a whole number not a fraction!

The Bible speaks of God being righteous therefore righteousness is a **Godlike characteristic**.

Man is incomplete! Remember in our last series we discovered that man was physically alive but **spiritually dead**. Jesus came to rectify that! In **John 10:10 Jesus said:** “A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. **I have come** so that **they may have life** and have it in **abundance**.”

Abundance = exceeding the **usual number** or size

The Bible Speaks of Believers having **Biblical Integrity**:

- **Righteous Paths** **Genesis 5:24** Enoch **walked** with God, and he was not, for God took him.
- **Righteous Offering** **2 Corin. 9:7** Each person should do as he has decided in **his heart**--not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a **cheerful giver**
- **Righteous Speech** **Colossians 4:6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
- **Righteous Labor** **1 Corin. 10:31** So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- **Righteous Desires** **Galatians 5:24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

How? Galatians 5:25-26 Since **we live by the Spirit**, we must also **follow the Spirit**.²⁶ We must not become **conceited**, **provoking** one another, **envying** one another.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- **Righteous Fruit** **Matthew 7:17** So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.
- **Righteous Thoughts** **Colossians 3:2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
- **Righteous Home** **Matthew 12:25** Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.
- **Righteous Heart** **Matthew 5:8** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Look at the Screen. Now look at the music on the screen. Does it mean anything to you? This music in the hands of a musician becomes alive and meaningful.

It is one thing to show a person what it says in the Bible and another to live it before him.

The only way a nation can be righteous is for the people who make up the nation to be righteous people. We cannot expect those who don't know Christ to understand righteousness and to live righteously. Most of all, Christ expects us to live righteously. "Live so that when people speak evil of you no one will believe it."

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and **His Righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you.

Does Gods Righteousness agree with **Abortion on demand?**

Does Gods Righteousness agree with **Homosexuality?**

Does Gods Righteousness agree with the **Acceptance of other gods?**

Does Gods Righteousness agree with the **Flippant attitude toward His Word?**

All of these areas are under attack in America Today.

Have we in America **forsaken** Gods Righteousness? **This Proverb** is for a great nation. It must be headed by individuals who make up that nation.

Today, I may have upset your applecart! **GOOD**
As you pick up your apples, why don't you leave the **rotten ones** on the ground?

Transcript of PAUL HARVEY'S 'IF I WERE THE DEVIL' TRANSCRIPT

If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness.

And I'd have a third of it's real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree. So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United

States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

"To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

"And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

"If I were the devil I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

"Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could

evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress.

And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deity science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

“If I were the devil I'd take from those who have, and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what do you bet? I couldn't get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work, in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing on what he's doing. Paul Harvey, good day.”

Matthew 23:37-39 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem! She who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, yet you were not willing! ³⁸ See, **your house is left to you desolate.** ³⁹ For I tell you, you will never see Me again until you say, 'He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One!'"

Praise Team Takes the Platform