

Righteousness Exalts a Nation

Pastor Robert Haehl

First Baptist Church
Shelbyville IN
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Call to Worship:

Seek the LORD while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.

**Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the LORD,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.**

“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,
Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD.

**“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,

**So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.**

Hymn: #234 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Prayer of Confession :

Children of God, when your Father sent his Son to die as your sacrifice, he also raised him as the everlasting King!

Jesus brings the dawning of a new reign, and when we believed, we were reborn as citizens of his new world.

We have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the kingdom of Christ.

But we prefer the old system. We want to contribute something. We want to take care of ourselves, handle our own messes, make our own way, in our own strength, by our own reason, for our own purpose.

Father, we repent again this morning. We need you again to forgive and heal and restore us.

We need you again to be the one who makes us new and holy.

We need you again to carry us all the way into the kingdom of your beloved Son.

Father, help us to live in the light of what we have already attained.

Hymn: None Other Lamb

None other Lamb, none other name,
None other hope in heaven or earth or sea,
None other hiding-place from guilt and shame,
None beside thee.

My faith burns low, my hope burns low;
Only my heart's desire cries out in me
By the deep thunder of its want and woe,
Cries out to thee.

None other Lamb, none other name,
None other hope in heaven or earth or sea,
None other hiding-place from guilt and shame,
None beside thee.

Lord, thou art life, though I be dead;
Love's fire thou art, however cold I be:
Nor heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head,
Nor home, but thee.

None other Lamb, none other name,
None other hope in heaven or earth or sea,
None other hiding-place from guilt and shame,
None beside thee.

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.
Listen, you poor in spirit, the kingdom is yours!

We are his chosen people, his holy nation.

We were called out of darkness to be a people belonging only to God.

We have been seated at the right hand of the throne of God, and we have been made a kingdom of his priests.

We have been clothed in the garments of salvation and the robes of righteousness.

We are inheriting everything that belongs to God, and are treated as though we deserve the glory of Jesus.

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah!

And he will reign for ever and ever!

Hymn: Echo Holy

Hymn: #201 Grace that is Greater

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture: **2 Chronicles 7: 12-22; Proverbs 14:34**

Sermon: Righteousness Exalts a Nation

2 Chronicles 7:12-22

¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. ¹⁷ As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, ¹⁸ then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man as ruler in Israel.'

¹⁹ "But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, ²⁰ then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

²¹ "And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and this house?' ²² Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.' "

Proverbs 14:34

³⁴ Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a reproach to any people.

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

²⁸ "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

³ “Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

⁴ “Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

⁵ “Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

⁶ “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Deuteronomy 28:58-59, 62-63

⁵⁸ “If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, ⁵⁹ then the Lord will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.

Deuteronomy 28:62-63

⁶² You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God. ⁶³ And it shall be, that just as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.

2 Chronicles 36:14-16

¹⁴ Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the Lord which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in¹ authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness an reverence.

Psalm 51:17

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

Isaiah 57:15

¹⁵ For thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy:
“I dwell in the high and holy *place*,
With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit,
To revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Psalm 34:15-17

¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their cry.
¹⁶ The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears,
And delivers them out of all their troubles.

Hosea 10:12

¹² Sow for yourselves righteousness;
Reap in mercy;
Break up your fallow ground,
For it is time to seek the Lord,
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Communion

Hymn: The Goodness of Jesus

Benediction

Upcoming Announcements

Women's Bible Study is focusing on "Relying on the Holy Spirit" by Charles Stanley. Join us on Mondays at 10 am at the Christian Center.

FBC is now a member of Christianbook.com GiveBack Program. It is similar to Kroger Rewards. When ordering and you are ready to checkout (whether it be books or gifts) scroll down toward the bottom of the page and you will see a "Find Your Church" button. You can then find FBC by name or location. By doing this FBC receives a quarterly check for 4% of your order amount.

FBC has partnered with Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) of Shelby County. This national organization is dedicated to providing holistic support grounded in faith. Addressing both immediate crises and equipping individuals with the tools they need to achieve long-term self-sufficiency and become engaged, contributing citizens of Shelby County.