

# WHAT MAKES A NATION GREAT

## India—a Great Nation

*India is a land of ancient civilization. She is now emerging as a great nation. Every Indian should feel proud of the progress made in various fields. However, our nation is faced with problems which threaten her very existence. Corruption is more rampant than ever before. Injustice is being done to the poor and the helpless. Casteism is eating into the social fabric of our nation. Communalism and regionalism have become a threat to national unity. It is the responsibility of all Indians to pray and work for the peace and prosperity of our nation.*

*Knowledge of the true God brings peace and happiness to a nation.*

## A Happy Nation

The Holy Scripture teaches us thus:

“**H**appy is the nation whose God is the LORD; happy are the people he has chosen for his own! The LORD looks down from heaven and sees all humankind. From where he rules, he looks down on all who live on earth. He forms all their thoughts and knows everything they do.

The LORD watches over those who obey him, those who trust in his constant love. He saves them from death; he keeps them alive in times of famine. We put our hope in the LORD; he is our protector and our help. We are glad because of him; we trust in his holy name. May your constant love be with us, LORD, as we put our hope in you.”

## Pray for Our Nation and our Leaders

*An important leader of the early followers of the Lord Jesus Christ encourages us to pray for our country:*

“**F**irst of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence towards God and with proper conduct.”

## Our duty

*God's Word, the Holy Bible, encourages every citizen to do their duty for the good of the nation.*

“**E**veryone must obey the State authorities, because no authority exists without God's permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God. Whoever opposes the existing authority opposes what God has ordered; and anyone who does so will bring judgment to himself. For rulers are not to be feared by those who do good, but by those who do evil. Would you like to be unafraid of the man in authority? Then do what is good, and he will praise you, because he is God's servant working for your own good. But if you do evil, then be afraid of him because his power to punish is

real. He is God's servant and carries out God's punishment on those who do evil. For this reason you must obey the authorities – not just because of God's punishment, but also as a matter of conscience.

That is also why you pay taxes, because the authorities are working for God when they fulfil their duties. Pay then, what you owe them; pay them your personal and property taxes, and show respect and honour for them all.”

## Living in peace with our neighbours

*The Bible teaches that everyone should live in peace with their fellow citizens.*

**Y**ou must all have the same attitude and the same feelings; love one another as brothers, and be kind and humble with one another. Do not pay back evil with evil or cursing with cursing; instead, pay back with a blessing because a blessing is what God promised to give you when he called you. As the Scripture says, “Whoever wants to enjoy life and wishes

to see good times, he must turn away from evil and do good; he must strive for peace with all his heart. For the Lord watches over the righteous and listens to their prayers; but he opposes those who do evil.”

### **Work hard to make our Nation Great**

*The future of India depends on the sincere labour and the hard work of every Indian. The Scripture teaches us the value of hard work.*

**Our** brothers, we command you in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ to keep away from all brothers who are living a lazy life and who do not follow the instructions that we gave them. You yourselves know very well that you should do just what we did. We were not lazy when we were with you. We did not accept anyone’s support without paying for it. Instead, we worked and toiled; we kept working day and night so as not to be an expense to any of you. We did this, not because we have no right to demand our support; we did it to be an example for you to follow. While we were with

you, we used to say to you, “Whoever refuses to work is not allowed to eat.”

*Ours is a great nation. Each one of us is responsible to live as worthy citizens. Let us practise these teachings so that truth, peace, justice and good may always control our land.*

(The Bible passages are taken from Psalms 33:12-15, 18-22; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 3:8-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10)

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