

Elder Bobby Willis



Proverbs 29:4, **“The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.”**

A solid foundation is always to be sought anytime something is to be established. The one who should be the leader in righteous judgment is the king of any land. He is in a position of authority and should seek for all under his authority to be established in the rules and laws of the land and that all should be willing to follow the commandments of the king. As to the church, the pastor and the flock should be well established in the commandments of God, seeking to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

The way a righteous king rules is by judging righteously over the land. Oh, praise be to God that we have such a King, ruling over us with righteous judgment; our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Revelation 16:7 declares, **“Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”** John proclaims the same truths as David did in Psalm 19:9, **“The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”** Any king, or ruler, or church for that matter, is to exercise righteous judgment after the manner of Christ and it will be profitable in the land or the church.

Solomon has drawn a sharp contrast between good judgment which is good for the land, and one who exercises poor judgment in the reception of gifts and is guilty of causing the land to be overthrown. Personal gain can be equated with gifts received. If a ruler is out to serve his own personal fleshly desires, he looks to receive gifts (benefits or gain). Sometimes these gifts may come in the form of power and control. They may come in the form of prestige and/or influence. Or, maybe just plain bribery. These kings (or corrupted church leaders) **“love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues...”** (Matthew 23:6) and grow to expect them. The result is the downfall (overthrow) of the land and even the church if we are not careful.

There are good gifts which we are to desire. Notice what Paul said in I Corinthians 14:1, **“Follow after charity and desire spiritual gifts...”** There is a vast difference in desiring gifts intended to bring benefit unto one’s self, and the receiving of spiritual gifts from God. Paul went on to say in I Corinthians 14:12, **“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.”**

The wisdom of Solomon in Proverbs 29:4 is the proclamation of righteous judgment of a God-fearing king bringing forth the establishment of a good land in which to dwell, versus the poor judgment of a self-serving king which would lead to the eventual downfall of the land. John made this profound statement in John 7:24, **“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”** The leaders of the church need to make sure they do not fall into the trap of unrighteous judgment. ***Think About It!***