**The Book Of Proverbs – Thoughts On God And Government**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* We have discussed several topics over the last weeks as we have been in Proverbs.
* Today we are going to cover two areas, both we could say are theological, meaning what the Bible says about certain beliefs, and see how we can apply them to our lives.

**What Proverbs Says About Government**

 

**How does righteousness exalt a nation? – Pro. 14:34**

* There is a belief system in America known as Dominion Theology, Christian Reconstruction or Theonomy. It does not have a large following.
* One of the basic views of this teaching is that government should apply the judicial laws of Moses to our society. Those who hold to this have varying views of how much of the OT law should apply to us.
* To get our bearings regarding this verse, we must keep in mind that after Solomon’s death Israel was split into two nations – Israel and Judah. Israel had no godly kings; Judah had a handful of them.
* An example of a godly king would be Josiah, who we read about in **2 Chron. 34-35**. The two kings that followed him in Judah did not obey the Lord **(Note 2 Chron. 36:14)**.
* Righteousness requires a majority of the leaders or people of a land to be morally right in how they live. This would include justice, treating people properly.
* Does **Pro. 14:34** teach that everyone in the nation must be a Christ follower for righteousness to “exalt” (lift up, elevate) a nation. When nations and their leaders as a whole act morally and follow what is right towards God and others, God honors that.
* Nations can be blessed even if everyone is not a believer.
* **Pro. 14:34** says that sin is a “reproach” (shame) to a nation that ignores God.
* **Our first point is that despite our penchant to sin and disobey, when leaders or individuals in a nation choose to practice righteousness, God notes that.**
* **Second, poor leadership can destroy a nation, family, church, business, etc.**
* **Pro. 16:12** tells us that leaders who do “evil” (wickedness) are an “abomination” to God. The word “abomination” means “detestable, repulsive.”
* We need an objective standard by which to determine right from wrong. Subjective standards always fail because they are always moving.
* **Practical:** Do not focus on the government but on us. Be honest, truthful, ethical in our dealings with others and live by God’s standards. Deal with sin and stay away from things that can ruin us.

**A look at the character of God – Pr. 19:21**

**\*\* Providence Of God**

* God has an overall plan for the world and His creation that has been in place from eternity, and He will finish what He started.
* Within that plan He has given us freedom to make choices, but His eternal plan will be completed.
* **Pro. 19:21** tells us that we make “plans” (projects), but what we choose to do will not alter God’s ultimate work. God also limits our spiritual enemy because we belong to the Lord.
* **Point:** Be thankful for the freedom we have in Christ, and the freedom He gives us within His plan. We can choose who we will marry, where to live, etc. Be thankful God is in control of everything.

**\*\* God knows everything and is everywhere present – Pr. 15:3; 5:21; 15:11**

* **Pro. 15:3** reminds us that nothing is outside of God’s view or knowledge.
* **Pro. 5:21** mentions the fact that God knows all. The word “paths” means “course of life, action.” He examines what we do, but again, He knows everything that there is possible to know.
* We see His Omniscience in **Pro. 15:11**. God can see the hearts of the living if He knows the situation of those who have passed. The word “hearts” describes our inner person, our will, emotions.
* Point: There is comfort in knowing that God is aware of everything going on in our lives. He knows everything about us, and nothing is hidden from Him. This should lead to humility and a submission to His Lordship in our life **(Pro. 3:5-6)**.

**\*\* God is gracious and holy – Pr. 9:10; 1:20-23; 28:13; 16:6**

* **Pro. 9:10** and **Pro. 30:3** refer to God as the “Holy One.” He is good and truthful, morally perfect.
* **Pro. 1:20-23** tells us to turn from our sins. That is grace in action.
* **Pro. 28:13** reminds us that sin has a way of eating at us **(see Ps. 32:3-4)**.
* **Pro. 28:13** also tells us that the person who “confesses” (throw, cast) their sin, who deals with them, will experience mercy as will the one who “forsakes” (abandons) sin.
* **Pro. 16:6** is a picture, we could say, of what Christ would do for us by dying and rising again. God is loyal in His love for us and is kind and gracious. God forgives us of our sin.
* God is reliable, He is faithful, to deal with our sin. We can take Him at His Word.
* Point: God’s love is trustworthy. He never ceases in His love for us. He is merciful and kind.