

Study Guide for July 15, 2012. Godly Leaders. Selected Proverbs

The following study has as its starting point the truth communicated through Prov. 14:34
“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.”

I. The King’s Pronouncements: (Prov. 16:10-11)

The lips of a king speak as an oracle, and his mouth should not betray justice.

Honest scales and balances are from the Lord; all the weights in the bag are of his making

- 1) What principles should guide human rulers as they speak and lead? (See Pr. 8:15)
- 2) What standard should govern commerce? Who is the source of that standard?
- 3) When have you be satisfied by some act of justice and/or disappointed by injustice?

II. The King’s Purity: (Prov. 16:12-13)

Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness.

Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.

- 1) What values should human rulers follow as they make decisions? (See Pr. 15:9)
- 2) What kind of speech is “fitting for a king?” (See Pr. 22:11)
- 3) Identify some ways that your values and speech fall in line with God’s standards.

III. The King’s Power: (Prov. 16:14-15)

A king’s wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man will appease it.

When a king’s face brightens, it means life; his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.

- 1) Why should the king be respected and obeyed? (See also Pr. 19:12 & 20:2)
- 2) How can a person appease the king? (See Pr. 15:31, 32; 33 & 28:13)
- 3) What image does a rain cloud in spring signify?

No earthly ruler lives up to God’s ideal. But note Ps. 72:15-17. What is hoped for?

Read through John 5:19-30. In what sense does Jesus fit the bill as an ideal king?

How then shall we live under human authority? What is our role as Christian citizens?