



12 It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness. 13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right. 14 The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it. 15 In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain. 16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver! 17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. 18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. 20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he. 21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. 22 Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly. 23 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips. (Prov 16:12-23)

It is a rule both material and spiritual that the one holding greater authority also owes a greater debt of responsibility. The leader of soldiers must also be exemplary soldiers ready and able to lead the way into the field of battle. A good leader will never require more of his followers than the leader is able and willing to do. God has blessed us with wonderful resources and facilities of the mind and soul. The greater the degree of blessing, the more investment that is required of those blessings for the good of our fellows. “. . . **unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.** (Luke 12:48) There is a popular teaching about these days that we owe unquestioning allegiance to governments since governments are the administrators of God for good works. But suppose the government is not an agency of good, but of evil. Is a Christian bound to follow the dictates of an unGodly law? Of course, he is not! The authority for all legitimate law descends from God. He gives life and liberty to all who believe. Any impingement on life and liberty by government, or anyone else, is a violation of God's immutable law. In the hierarchy of laws, God's Law stands supreme above every other law of man. A nation, bearing rule under the legitimate laws of God, will be a blessed nation. **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.** (Psalms 33:12) Of course, the reverse is true of a nation whose God is NOT the Lord – cursed are they.

12 It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness. If it is true (and it is) that thrones of authority are established in righteousness by God (righteous intent), then any violation of that righteous rule is abomination to God. I wonder if any may believe that our American government today is very righteous, or if they have impugned the righteousness of Godly rule and demeanor? God blessed this nation above every nation of the earth for security, for plenty, for morality, and for liberty. What has happened? Have we not gone after mammon in calling 'good, evil' and 'evil, good?' Have we not demolished the sanctity of marriage and reduced it to the most vulgar and depraved institution befitting only the cities of the plain – Sodom and Gomorrah? Have we not offered our babies in sacrifice to Moloch? Woe be to that nation who has known the God of blessings, and turned away!

13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right. But suppose the lips of even the king are not righteous? Is this not also abomination? Look at the favorite verses to be quoted by those who claim that we must obey the government always – right or wrong: *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.* (Romans 13:1-5)

Is any so naïve as to believe that our government today promotes only that which is GOOD? Do we believe that our government will not transgress any of God's Laws? Have we been in a deep coma - if prayer is good, how does an ordained government interpret its powers to forbid the prayers of children at morning and before meals at school; or to permit the slaughter of millions of innocent babies in their mother's womb; or the labeling of the filthy sin of sodomy as honorable marriage? God is King of Kings and I can tell you with certainty that He is not pleased with the unrighteous lips of our present-day kings and citizens whose vocabulary have become a wealth of filth and vulgarity.

14 The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it. Certainly, we do not seek to provoke unnecessarily the Caesar in his palace, but who is Caesar in America? Is it not "*we the people?*" Have we become so effeminate and meek as to labor at the table of government to forge the chains of our own enslavement? The anger of the American citizenry is the equivalent "wrath of a king" in America. When shall the American stand up in righteous indignation at the gossamer ruse that is being perpetrated against him? God has given us a very specific counsel: *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.* (Jer 6:16a), but how have we responded to that counsel? *But they said, We will not walk therein.* (Jer 6:16b)

15 In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain. This is no reference to the Throne at Buckingham, or the Office at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, but to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. *There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.* (Psalms 4:6) There is only One whose countenance is the Light – the Lord Jesus

Christ! He is the Light of the World! His loving kindness is compared to the latter rain – that is the rain that comes just before harvest to mature the crop. Do we not seriously need the latter rain of God’s Holy Ghost today in America and around the world?

16 *How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!* In that day when the “*elements melt with fervent heat*” (2 Peter 3:10b), what will your treasures of gold and silver be worth? What will your Wall Street portfolio profit a man in that day? Is not wisdom, like love, eternal and untarnishable? *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.* (Matt 6:19-21)

17 *The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.* Though the Narrow Way that leads up to the Gate of Heaven is not wide, do not worry that space is not available on it for the great majority of people choose the Broad Way that leads DOWN to destruction “*and many there be thereon.*” So, since few choose the Narrow Way, there is certainly room for you, my friend. In the early times of Europe, if a man was travelling on the king’s highway between the hours of sunrise and sunset, was robbed, he could recover all damages from the government of the country; but if he travelled in any other path or at any other time, it was at his own hazard and peril. So with God’s Highway, prepared for the redeemed to travel. If we walk on God’s Highway, we shall have God’s protection. But woe to us if we choose any other route, or any other way, to walk than He has directed for us. Just think: a great many of those on the Broad Way are professed, but not genuine, Christians. They are deceived into believing that the ways of the world are just another expression of Christianity.

18 *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.* How well I know this rule from my own personal experience. The proud, following the God of ME, have unmerited confidence in their own folly. Pride is the God of ME-ONLY, and a haughty spirit is of man’s own manufacture. It is better to share the Godly company of a family of the shanty than the mansions of the wicked. Perhaps the words of Thomas Gray (Elegy) describes it best:

*Let not Ambition mock their useful Toil,
Their homely Joys, and Destiny obscure;
Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful Smile,
The short and simple Annals of the Poor.*

*The Boast of Heraldry, the Pomp of Pow’r,
And all that Beauty, all that Wealth e’er gave,
Awaits alike th’ inevitable Hour.
The Paths of Glory lead but to the Grave.*

*Forgive, ye proud, th’ involuntary Fault,
If Memory to these no Trophies raise,
Where thro’ the long-drawn Isle and fretted Vault
The pealing Anthem swells the Note of Praise.*

*Can storied Urn or animated Bust
Back to its Mansion call the fleeting Breath?*

*Can Honour's Voice provoke the silent Dust,
Or Flatt'ry sooth the dull cold Ear of Death!*

*Perhaps in this neglected Spot is laid
Some Heart once pregnant with celestial Fire,
Hands that the rod of Empire might have sway'd,
Or wak'd to Extacy the living Lyre.*

*But Knowledge to their Eyes her ample Page
Rich with the Spoils of Time did ne'er unroll;
Chill Penury repress'd their noble Rage,
And froze the genial Current of the Soul.*

*Full many a Gem of purest Ray serene
The dark unfathom'd Caves of Ocean bear:
Full many a Flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its Sweetness on the desert Air.*

*Some Village-Hampden, that with dauntless Breast
The little Tyrant of his Fields withstood;
Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest,
Some Cromwell guiltless of his Country's Blood.*

*Th' Applause of list'ning Senates to command,
The Threats of Pain and Ruin to despise,
To scatter Plenty o'er a smiling Land,
And read their Hist'ry in a Nation's Eyes,*

I recommend that, if you haven't done so, you find the entire poem and read.

19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. Better to share Godly company in a shanty than dwell with the wicked in their mansions. Whatever nature of company you share at the point of death is probably the same company you will enjoy in eternity – choose well.

20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he. Wisdom often requires patience and forbearance, but such patience will pay ten times more than a hasty disposition. Trusting in the Lord, regardless the outward circumstances, edifies the heart where happiness is born.

21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. “Those who, in the confidence of superior capacities or attainments, neglect the common maxims of life, should be reminded that nothing will supply the want of prudence; but that negligence and irregularity, long continued, will make knowledge useless, wit ridiculous, and genius contemptible.” Ben Johnson. The ability to speak and teach with eloquence does, indeed, improve the comprehension of the listener.

22 Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly. Though all others around reject the understanding of a wise man or woman, that understanding will yet be a fountain of living waters to the owner. It is my fixed opinion that true understanding is not even sought by 90% of professed Christians and an even larger present of those who do not claim Christianity.

23 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

What a wonderful truth this is! *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.* (Matt 12:34) Of course, heart of the fool also teaches HIS mouth so that no thing of any worth is spoken from that foolish heart. But the words of a wise man are always profitable for learning – and quite rare today.