

Ecclesiastes

Avon Heights, 4th Quarter, 2009

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009

LESSON #7-D: Eccl.. 10:12-20

Theme: Proverbs

1. How does the fool differ from the wise man in the use of his tongue?

10:12-15

2. What does the fool lack?

3. What land is to be pitied? **10:16-19**

4. What caution does Solomon give those whose rulers are corrupt or foolish or both? **10:20**

5. Read examples of: "Civil Government Out of Control" on back by Bob Lovelace. What connection(s) can you make with what Solomon is saying in these verses?

Two Examples of Civil Government Out of Control - by Bob Lovelace

<http://yumavalleychurchofchrist.com/articles/civilgovernment.htm> .

Examples where civil officials either failed or succeeded in doing their required work at: This example begins with Lysias' letter along with Paul being presented to Felix governor of Judea. The Jewish high priest and elders were present with a hireling, a lawyer named Tertullus. Here is an example of a lawyer with well spoken lies! (Acts 24:1-9). Felix put them off by requesting Lysias' presence. He commanded that Paul be given some freedom & not to prevent any of his friends from ministering to him (Acts 24:10-23). Days later Felix along with his wife sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus (Acts 24:24-25). Note these important points:

1. What Paul preached to Felix: "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25). Dismissal was easier than dealing with the truth applied to him. Paul did not indulge in politics. No political platform should be confused with what the New Testament teaches about salvation!
2. Felix' motive: "He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him" (Acts 24:26). He illustrates greed. The corrupt take all they can get!
3. Man pleasing: "But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound" (Acts 24:27). Here Felix illustrates the desire & advantage for political figures as they work at pleasing others.

This example deals with Festus the governor who succeeded Felix (Acts 25-26). Following another failed ambush against Paul the Jews come to Caesarea before Festus but cannot prove their charges. Festus sought to please the Jews by asking if Paul would go to Jerusalem and stand trial there. Paul appeals to Caesar and is granted his request. After several days King Agrippa comes to Caesarea and desires to hear Paul's case. Festus tells Agrippa that the charges the Jews brought were not the crimes he expected, but disagreements with Paul about their religion and preaching Christ. Festus admits before the King and Bernice his wife, the commanders and prominent men of the city that Paul had committed nothing worthy of death. See the injustice! He states that he has nothing definite to write to Caesar, explaining it seems unreasonable to send a prisoner and not indicate the charges against him (Acts 25:26-27). As Paul strove to convert the King, Festus got embarrassed and accused Paul of being out of his mind. Paul defended his words as truth and reason even stating that the King knew about Christ. You don't tell rulers you know that they know unless you are right in what you say! Paul stated his desire that the King and all who heard him would become what he was - a Christian. Note: All the important people sitting with the King and Festus agreed that Paul had done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment (Acts 26:31-32; Cp. Acts 23:29, 25:26-27).