

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#130) The Proverbs of Solomon 17:26- Why Governments Fail

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 17:26:

Also, to punish the righteous is not good, nor to strike princes for their uprightness.

Since all of God's commandments are what's right ("righteousness" **Psalm 119:172**), and all who practice them are "righteous" (**1 John 3:7**), then the last thing anyone with any moral sense should want to do is "punish the righteous!" It has already been established that

- Whoever rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house. (**Proverbs 17:13**)
- He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike *are* an abomination to the LORD. (**Proverbs 17:15**)

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (**James 4:4**)

According to the history of the world, you do NOT want to be "an enemy of God," for, "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble" (**James 4:6**)! Government is to be respected and obeyed by citizens (**Romans 13:1-2**), and Government is to respect and obey its God-given work!

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. (**1 Peter 2:13-14**)

AND "princes" (government leaders and servants of the people) should NOT be afflicted when they practice "uprightness." The authority of Government is misused and abused when it upholds wickedness or condemns righteousness!



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Proverbs 18:5 also teaches this truth: "It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment."

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