

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

(#193) The Proverbs of Solomon 29:5- What Liberty?

Proverbs 29:5:

A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

One "who flatters" is using words to cover up the truth, and therefore is not helpful. To keep repeating the mantra that America is the "Land of the Free" while becoming enslaved by government is nothing but "flattery." Peter's inspired word of warning to the church of Christ also applies to a country, for:

[There are those who] speak great swelling words of emptiness; they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. (2 Peter 2:18-19)

"Flattery" will get us nowhere, because:

1) *It is not the whole truth*, and Jesus said:

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
(John 8:32)

2) *It gives a false sense of security to our "neighbor,"* God said:

They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14)

3) *We will give account for "idle words"* for Jesus said:

"I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
(Matthew 12:36-37)

David had understood that only enemies would flatter:

Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face. For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is destruction; their throat is an open tomb; they flatter with their tongue.
(Psalms 5:8-9)



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Following God’s Way of Righteousness makes enemies clearly identified, and they are not faithful, are full of destruction, speak deadly words, and use flattery and not truth!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ has no “flattery” in it, as Paul wrote:

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness-- God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. ([1 Thessalonians 2:4-6](#))

Jesus Christ stated the truth when He declared:

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” ([Mark 16:16](#))

We either have, or have not, obeyed it! We either are, or are not, free!

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