

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

(#196) The Proverbs of Solomon 29:18- Be Happy

Proverbs 29:18:

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.

“Revelation” (“vision” in the King James Version) refers to God’s inspired Word. As God miraculously led His people, he spoke to them through a “prophet:”

So the LORD said to Moses: ‘See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.’
([Exodus 7:1-2](#))

Moses then became “the prophet” ([Numbers 12:6-8](#)) through whom God’s Law was given ([Deuteronomy 34:9-12](#)), and by following that written Law, the nation of Israel would remain separate from other peoples ([Joshua 23:6-8](#)). After Moses, unless God inspired a prophet to call the people back to that written Law, they forgot God:

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. ([Judges 17:6](#))

Then the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. ([1 Samuel 3:1](#))

King Zedekiah is an example of what this proverb is saying:

He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD. ([2 Chronicles 36:12](#))

Even though Christ’s Law has been given, people sin when they made to think there is no Law of God that applies to them:

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. ([Titus 1:15](#))

The New Testament is the written Law of Christ and God has not had a prophet since it was written:



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If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 14:37)

Whatever people say to demean, diminish, or destroy their confidence in God's Word does not change God's Word: "But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit" (Jude 17-19). Christians are admonished:

Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. (Romans 13:13-14)

God's written Word is our Judge, for Jesus said:

"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (John 12:48)

Where sin abounds is a fertile field for preaching and teaching the Word of God, for Jesus said:

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Mark 2:17)

"The revelation" from God is in our Bible – Be "happy!"

