

# MESSAGE

Occasion : Thursday Night Prayer Service  
Theme : Being Enriched in All Things According to His Grace  
Venue : Lighthouse BBC Tatalon  
Date : May 2, 2019

**TITLE : BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES IN CHOOSING PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT**

Text/s :

Prov 29:2

2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

(KJV)

Prov 14:34

34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

(KJV)

Exod 18:21-26

21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

(KJV)

Deut 1:13-17

13 Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you.

14 And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do.

15 So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes.

16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him.

17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

(KJV)

**Bible Reading :**

2 Chr 31:20

20 And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God.

(KJV)

Song/s :

Other references :

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## INTRODUCTION

The Word of God is clear in specifying that it is righteousness that exalts a nation (Prov 14:34). This righteousness, while fundamentally referring to the righteousness that comes by Jesus Christ, reflects the qualities of being just, right and moral.

Moreover, the Bible declares that when righteous people are in authority, the people rejoice (Prov 29:2).

The aim of this lesson is to provide practical Biblical guidelines for Filipinos, especially Christians, in choosing the right people to elect in May 2007.

## BODY

### A) The Biblical provision in the installation for civil servants

“...Thou shalt provide out of all the people...” (Exod 18:21).

During Moses’ time, civil servants were “provided” through appointments. Note that this was during the time when the law was not yet given; but already, there was a method of provision.

In our day, the provision of civil servants comes by election. Our constitution calls it “suffrage.”

Suffrage is the right and obligation to vote of qualified citizens in the election of certain national and local officers of the government and in the decision of public questions submitted to the people.

### B) The Biblical qualifications of civil servants

Exod 18:21

21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

(KJV)

Deut 1:13

13 Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you.

(KJV)

#### 1) People who have able. With leadership abilities. Maabilidad.

“...provide out of all people able men...” (Ex 18:21)

In our time, this means we should look for people who have leadership abilities. Those who can stand as heads and rulers of people.

Ex 18:25-26

25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

Prov 28:2

2 For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged.

KJV

Dan 1:4

4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

KJV

Eccl 7:19

19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

KJV

Dan 2:20-22

20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

KJV

Acts 7:22

22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

KJV

**2) People who fear God. People who recognize the Person, Authority and Will of God. May Takot sa Diyos.**

“...such as fear God...” This means reverence for God.

“You have no security for a man who has no religious principle” - Richard Cobden

This is one quality that is paramount: That of having the Fear of God!

Gen 22:12

12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

KJV

Ex 23:2-3

2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:

3 Neither shalt thou countenance a poor man in his cause.

KJV

2 Sam 23:3

3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

KJV

2 Chron 19:4-7

4 And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beer-sheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the Lord God of their fathers.

5 And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city,  
6 And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment.  
7 Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.  
KJV

Neh 7:1-2

7:1 Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed,  
2 That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.  
KJV

Eccl 12:13-14

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.  
14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.  
KJV

### 3) People who stand for truth. Truthful. Honest. Makatotohanan.

“...men of truth...”

This quality is of prime importance. We need people who are truthful. Honest.

Isa 59:2-4

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.  
3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.  
4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.  
KJV

Isa 59:12-15

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;  
13 In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.  
14 And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.  
15 Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.  
KJV

Ezek 18:5-9

5 But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right,  
6 And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman,  
7 And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment;  
8 He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man,  
9 Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord God.  
KJV

Zech 7:9-10

9 Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

KJV

Zech 8:16-17

16 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord.

KJV

**4) People who hate covetousness. People who are not for self-gain. Who have proven in service. Mapagkawang-gawa.**

“...hating covetousness...”

They should be people who do not work for self-gain. They should be people who can do universal service - the greatest good for the greatest number.

Governance is service. Service is beyond one's self.

Luke 12:15

15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness : for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

KJV

Mark 7:21-23

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness , wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

KJV

Ps 10:3-11

3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the Lord abhorreth.

4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

5 His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them.

6 He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity.

7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.

8 He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.

9 He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net.

10 He croucheth, and humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones.

11 He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it.

KJV

Ps 62:10-11

10 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.

KJV

Ps 119:36-37

36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

KJV

Prov 28:16

16 The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.

KJV

Jer 6:12-13

...for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the Lord.

13 For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

KJV

Luke 21:34

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

KJV

1 Tim 6:7-10

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

KJV

2 Tim 3:2-5

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

KJV

## 5) **People who are learned and skillful. People who have competence. Maykahusayan.**

“Take you wise men...” (Deut 1:13)

They should be people who can apply practical knowledge in public administration.

We need people in government who have competence. Who can deal with specific issues. Who can provide solution.

James 3:13

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

KJV

Ps 107:43

43 Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.

Prov 15:21-22

21 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.  
22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

KJV

Prov 28:26

26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

KJV

Luke 11:35

35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

KJV

Eph 5:15-17

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

KJV

Eccl 8:1

8:1 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

KJV

Job 28:28

28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

KJV

Prov 10:8

8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

KJV

Prov 14:8

8 The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.

KJV

Jer 9:23-24

23 Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

KJV

Matt 7:24-27

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

KJV

**6) People who have understanding. People who listen. Who understand. Maunawain.**

“...and understanding...”

They should be people who have good discernment of times, situations, and people.

We need people who have understanding. Who listen.

1 Chron 12:32

32 And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

KJV

Est 1:13

13 Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:

KJV

Isa 33:6

6 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.

KJV

Matt 16:3

3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

KJV

#### **7) People who are respected, known and recognized. May Karangalan.**

“...and known among your tribes...”

They should of course, be known; as being respected and recognized. They should have been “proven.”

#### **C) The Biblical measurement of performance for civil servants**

Exod 18:21-27

21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

27 And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.

(KJV)

Deut 1:13-17

13 Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you.

14 And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do.

15 So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes.

16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him.

17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

(KJV)

Deut 16:18-19

18 Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

(KJV)

**1) Have they been available at all times?**

“And let them judge the people at all seasons...” (Ex 18:21)

“And they judged the people at all seasons...” (Ex 18:26)

**2) Have they been working for people's cause?**

“Hear the cause between your brethren...” (Deut 1:16). The greatest good for the greatest number.

**3) Have they been just and fair in all their dealings?**

“...Judge righteously between every man and his brethren, and the stranger that is with him...”

(Deut 1:13b)

“Thou shalt not wrest judgment...” (Deut 16:19a)

**4) Have they shown partiality or favoritism in judgment?**

“Ye shall not respect persons in judgment..” (Deut 1:17a)

“Thou shalt not respect persons...” (Deut 16:19)

The word persons here does not signify a man but those things in man which usually conciliate favor, honor and dignity, or attract hatred, contempt and disgrace. Such are riches, wealth, power, elegance of form; on the other, poverty, necessity, contempt and the like.

**5) Have they been fearless in character and principle?**

“...ye shall not be afraid of the face of man...” (Deut 1:17). Has there been any “fear of man” in their judgments and dealings?

**6) Have they taken matters into their own hands?**

“...the cause that is hard for you, bring it unto me...” (Deut 1:17b)

**7) Have they been bribed?**

“...neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous...” (Deut 16:19)

**8) Have they been influenced to do wrong?**

“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil...” (Ex 23:2)

## CONCLUSION