



**Join us this Wed'day to watch  
fireworks at Brevard College.**

**We'll be in the grassy quad in front of  
Dunham starting at about 7:30**

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small plants. The text 'PROVERBS' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image. Below it, a thin white horizontal line separates the word 'PROVERBS' from the phrase 'LIVING WISDOM', which is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters.

PROVERBS

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LIVING WISDOM

## Proverbs 16:10-15

An oracle is on the lips of a king;

his mouth does not sin in judgment.

<sup>11</sup> A just balance and scales are the LORD's;  
all the weights in the bag are his work.

<sup>12</sup> It is an abomination to kings to do evil,  
for the throne is established by righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> Righteous lips are the delight of a king,  
and he loves him who speaks what is right.

<sup>14</sup> A king's wrath is a messenger of death,  
and a wise man will appease it.

<sup>15</sup> In the light of a king's face there is life,  
and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.

21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD;  
he turns it wherever he will.

24:21 My son, fear the LORD and the king,  
and do not join with those who do otherwise...

25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things,  
but the glory of kings is to search things out.

<sup>3</sup> As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,  
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> Take away the dross from the silver,  
and the smith has material for a vessel;

<sup>5</sup> take away the wicked from the presence of the king,  
and his throne will be established in righteousness.

28:15 Like a roaring lion or a charging bear  
is a wicked ruler over a poor people.

29:4 By justice a king builds up the land,  
but he who exacts gifts tears it down.

14 If a king faithfully judges the poor,  
his throne will be established forever.

PROVERBS  
LIVING WISDOM



# *The Creation of Leadership*

16:12 It is an abomination to kings to do evil,  
***for the throne is established by righteousness***

21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD;  
***he turns it wherever he will.***

Daniel 2:20

Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. <sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

John Calvin:

We naturally fancy that they acquire their power by their own talents, or by hereditary right, or by fortuitous accident. Meanwhile, all thought of God is excluded when the industry, or valor, or success, or any other quality of man is extolled! Hence it is said in the Psalms, neither from the east nor the west, but God alone is the judge (Ps. 75:6f). The Prophet there derides the discourses of those who call themselves Wise, and who gather up reasons from all sides to show how power is assigned to man, by either his own counsel and valor, or by good fortune, or other human and inferior instruments. Look round, says he, wherever you please, from the rising to the setting of the sun, and you will find no reason why one man becomes lord of his fellow-creatures rather than another.

God created leadership hierarchy:

- 1) Leaders to guide and guard
- 2) Followers to work and respect



# *The Responsibility of Leader*

Parents, bosses, community leaders, team leaders, church leaders...

You have been installed by God and are God's representative.  
Consider that as you lead, especially those less leadable

## **Reliant upon the Lord**

*25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.*

God is the Leader of Leaders. We are his representatives and he guides us by his Spirit to lead wisely

## **Fair and Just**

*29:4 By justice a king builds up the land, but he who exacts gifts tears it down.*

Treating people (our kids, employees etc.) with justice and fairness, not elevating ourselves at their expense.

## Blessing

*16:15 In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.*

A leader's responsibility is to bless those under our care.

## The Poor and Needy

*29:14 If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.*

Bless and care for those who have extra need rather than discard them.

PROVERBS  
LIVING WISDOM

# *The Responsibility of Followers*

16:14 A king's wrath is a messenger of death, and a ***wise man will appease it.***

Leaders (parents, presidents, bosses, coaches) have been installed by God

(FYI - Democracy wasn't even a concept until a few hundred years after this was written, so we have to contextualize this to our current world...but that doesn't mean that it's a "take the gloves off" free for all.)

LIVING WISDOM

## Reverence / Respect

*24:21 My son, fear the LORD and the king, and do not join with those who do otherwise...*

Showing appropriate respect for the person in the role, loving him/her out of love for the Lord.

## Kind Words

*16:13 Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.*

What would it look like to elevate your leader, or, if you disagree, do so without slander and demonizing?

LIVING WISDOM

## 1Peter 2:18

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

Matthew 22:19 Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” <sup>21</sup> They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment

Follow and Respect not because they are worthy but because God is.

## Yeah, BUT!!! What about bad leaders?

The SS doctor who witnessed Bonhoeffer's (a German pastor) death at a concentration camp (he had been convicted of rescuing Jews and helping plan an assassination attempt on Hitler: "devout . . . brave and composed. His death ensued after a few seconds . . . I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God.")



Bonhoeffer final message, to George Bell in England:  
"This is the end, for me the beginning of life."

Daniel 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Act 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”

Is my opposition based upon disagreement or protecting others?

The vast majority of our leader-conflict is based upon disagreement and differences, not on a “gospel obligation”

# *The Ultimate King*

16:10 An oracle is on the lips of a king;  
his mouth does not sin in judgment

25:5 take away the wicked from the presence of the king,  
and his throne will be established in righteousness.

29: 14 If a king faithfully judges the poor,  
his throne will be established forever.

**This is only truly found in Jesus!**



## Reliant upon the Lord

*Matt 26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."*

## Fair and Just

*Prov 16:11 A just balance and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are his work.*

## Blessing

*John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

## The Poor and Needy

*Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

# *Following Our Ultimate King*

Phil 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

“Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

When we are frustrated, remember the big picture:  
King Jesus is on his throne, ultimately executing perfect justice through perfect love and sacrifice.

# *Living Authority*

- **As a child of God** under His Authority believe that he is a perfect benevolent dictator (not a representative leader) who sacrificially leads with perfect love and justice.
  - **As a leader** (family, church, school, sports, work, state):
    - 1) *Am I leading sacrificially for God's glory and others' benefit?*
    - 2) *What would those I lead say about that?*
  - **As a person under human authority** (family, state, work etc):
    - 1) *What would it look like to show respect (even if it's not "deserved")?*
    - 2) *Pray for your leaders...even now.*