Groaning People, Proverbs 29.2

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;

But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.” NKJV

The NKJV translates the first part of this verse in light of the last part. “Authority” is actually the term “many.” The people rejoice when here are a lot of righteous people. The more righteous people in a culture the better, and everyone knows this is true. My daughter lost her wallet; it was found by a postman who took it to lunch with his fellow mail carriers. One of them recognized her and said, “she is on my route.” She got her wallet back before she knew it was lost! More righteous people make the world a better place. “In many righteous persons, the people rejoice.”

The second half of the verse does look at leadership: “In the rulership of the wicked person the people groan.” They groan or moan in pain. This person is not only guilty of violating the standards, he may even declare his own evil standards as righteous. This sort of ruler causes the people to end up in pain.

Come study Proverbs with us this evening from 7-8. Let us know you are coming early and we’ll have a pre-meeting snack!

*Dr. Marvin J. Effa*