

Text: Psalm 101

Title: A Standard For Godly Rule.

Thesis: Ps 101 provides a standard for those who rule in society, in the church, and in the home to judge their conduct by and conform their lives to.

Intro: How should Christian rulers rule? What is the standard by which the actions of rulers must be judged to determine if their rule is godly or not? Ps. 101 provides such a standard by which you may judge your rule and those who rule over you.

I. Examination of the text:

- A. Historical context: Most likely just after David ascended to the throne after the death of Saul.
- B. We saw last week that in Psalm 101 David sings his vows to live a life of piety and in doing so calls us to sing along vowing to live lives of piety as well.
- C. Davis sings his vows to live a life of piety not just as a private citizen but particularly as a ruler under God and over God's people Israel.
- D. David's vows as a King.
 - 1. A vow to maintain both mercy and justice (v.1 I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.)
 - 2. A vow to rule himself and his house well. (v. 2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. [3] I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. [4] A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.
 - 3. A vow to rule others well. (v.5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer. [6] Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. [7] He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight. [8] I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.
- E. Since these vows are given by inspiration of God they speak to all rulers under God and over His people not just of David's desire for his own rule.
- F. The point: Ps 101 provides a standard for those who rule in society, in the church, and in the home to judge their conduct by and conform their lives to.

II. Application of the text: A Standard For Godly Rule

- A. You must rule in such a way as to maintain both mercy and justice.
- B. You must rule yourself before you can rule others.
- C. You must rule well in your home before you can rule in the church or society.
- D. You must rule in reliance on God's enabling grace.
- E. You must rule in such a way as to discourage wickedness.
- F. You must rule in such a way as to encourage righteousness.
- G. You must rule with the intent to purge as much evil from your realm of responsibility as possible.

Conclusion: Ps 101 provides a standard for you who rule in society, in the church, and in the home to judge your conduct by and conform your life to. How does your rule measure up to this standard? Are you a godly ruler?