

*8 The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted. (Psalm 12:8)*

A nation is the product of its leadership, and given the operation of representative government by popular vote, the leadership will in turn continue to reflect the morals of its people. When we have corrupt men exalted to places of leadership and authority, we can be sure that the “wicked will walk on every side.”

This axiom from the word of God ought to shock us. Do we have increasing crime and lawlessness? Is the safety of citizens being threatened more and more every day? Then it is because we have political outlaws holding high public office. Indeed, it has been lamented over and over in the recent elections that there seem to be no eminently qualified men willing to seek the office of President.

Is declining quality of public education an increasing concern? Have we disorder in classrooms, violence on the school grounds, immorality among students? Dare we suggest that it is because we have a declining quality of teachers, and that because we have vile persons in high places of public education? Sound principles of learning and discipline are thus forsaken, and wickedness abounds.

Are qualities of goods and services offered by business growing worse daily? Has the confidence of people in the integrity of business and industry dwindled? Then it is because men of low integrity and low morals are exalted to places of leadership and management in business. Business therefore thrives, not on honesty, quality and fairness, but on cheating, lying and fraud.

We surely moan and weep over the low state of our churches. We complain over the lack of concern for spiritual matters among church members, their unwillingness to make sacrificial commitments, and their deadness toward truth. We are shocked at the sin that saturates their lives and their unwillingness to repent and forsake the ways of the world. There is a cause: A decline of quality in the pulpit. A church will certainly rise no higher than the spiritual level of its pastors. But before you complain too much about the vile pastor you have, ask yourself this: Did you vote him in, and do you deserve a better man? “The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so” (Jeremiah 5:31).

-C.M.