

February 6

Ecclesiastes 10:20 (KJ21) Curse not the king, no, not even in thy thoughts, and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber; for a bird of the air shall carry thy voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter. **Romans 12:21 (NIV)** Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

Another Olympics is upon us. Because of COVID, both summer and winter games come in successive years. Unfortunately, the games, once a testimony to the world coming together to compete on equal terms, have become another source of contention and debate. As the games start, we hear much about how difficult it will be for athletes to compete if all the rules are not equal. If some are offered advantages that are denied others, then the playing field is nothing more than a reflection of a world that shows favoritism. Expecting a fair playing field seems reasonable and fair.

As I read today's scriptures, I immediately realized that, as God's children, we do not live life on a "fair" playing field with the world. The world can remove standards on a whim and ignore what displeases it. We, on the other hand, are held to a higher standard that defines the Kingdom and not the world. Solomon reveals a very interesting truth about what is fair. He tells us that even in the privacy of our homes, we are not to curse those in authority or speak evil of those with whom we disagree. As a matter of fact, we are not to think such thoughts. What is stored in our hearts will eventually come out of our mouths; therefore, if we, even when alone, speak or think curses, we are storing them up. They will eventually make themselves known. I immediately thought of a little bird telling the Lord, "Do You know what David was saying?" Every thought we have will be revealed to the Lord. We will never overcome evil with more evil. We can disagree. We can cry out for justice. We can pour out our hearts to Him. Yet, we will give an account of every word we think and say. The children of God live by His standards, not by the standards of this world. We are to overcome evil with good. By this, they will know who we are.