



Chapter 2

Government

*For as he thinketh in his heart,
so is he. Proverbs 23:7a*

When Noah Webster wrote his 1828 *Dictionary*, he said that government means “direction” and “control”.

Each person is governed — directed or controlled — by something. Each man, woman or child makes many decisions every day. We decide what to say, what to wear, what to eat, and how to act.

A good man
out of the good
treasure of the heart
bringeth forth
good things: and an
evil man out of the
evil treasure bringeth
forth evil things.

The Bible tells us that the ideas and thoughts which are in our heart will decide how we act. If our thoughts and ideas are controlled by the Bible, then our actions will also be controlled by the Bible. If our thoughts and ideas are not controlled by the



Bible, then our actions will not be controlled by the Bible.

In Matthew 12:35, the Bible reminds us: “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.”

Keeping the heart true to good things is not easy. Louisa May Alcott wrote about the hard task of governing the heart in her poem, *My Kingdom*.

My Kingdom

by Louisa May Alcott

A little kingdom I possess
Where thoughts and feelings dwell,
And very hard I find the task
Of governing it well;
For passion tempts and troubles me,
A wayward will misleads,
And selfishness its shadow casts
On all my words and deeds.

