

Proverbs 2

Sunday 2/1/2004

SEC: Introduction to Proverbs 2 and Personal Relationship

If you have your Bibles this morning, I would like to invite you to turn again to the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 2. We have been in a study to broaden our base and get everybody on the same page as far as our own personal relationship with the Lord. We have been dealing with a lot of different aspects, redefining a lot of things that need to be defined, and helping you understand what it means to have a personal relationship with the Lord.

We talked about how to build a church in the Book of Nehemiah. In a couple of weeks, we will get into the Book of Ezra and I will show you some things there about your own personal relationship with the Lord. We have really focused here in the last month or so on that aspect of that personal concept with the Lord. So many times we use the word so cheaply. They get thrown around for years and years and years, and certainly we know that the marker of a Laodicean church is a church that lost its definitions of really understanding. They still use the term, but nobody understands what they mean anymore.

So we have really been focusing on this personal relationship aspect. We talked about personal promises, talked about what that means, talked about Christ being your personal Savior, and focused on how that all translates into a personal relationship with the Lord. Before last week, we started in Proverbs chapter 2. I do not know of any passage of Scripture that probably changed my life more than Proverbs chapter 2 once I understood it. When I broke it down and I really looked at it and saw all what it saw, it is just absolutely loaded. Every verse is just loaded. When I understood it, it really changed my whole perspective of the Word of God and how the Word of God really fits into my life and what God wants from me. That is why we chose a couple of weeks ago to start looking at this and to put it together.

It says in Proverbs 2:1-6:

Proverbs 2:1-6

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

Father, we thank You and praise You for today. We thank You for those that are here. We pray, Father, that You will bless us as we come to Your Word. Lord, this is a message, Father, that I have so many things I want to say. Lord, some of them I do not need to say. Some of them I do need to say. Lord, You have to separate out today what needs to be said, and give me the words and the wisdom to apply it to our hearts. Holy Spirit of God, we know that You are the only One that can help us receive anything from God. We pray that You open up our understanding now, that You will give us the ability to learn Your Word that we love so much. We ask now all these things in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

SEC: Hiding God's Commandments: The Whole Counsel

Last week when we started this, I showed you how the first seven chapters of the book of Proverbs all start out the same way: "My son." It is a picture, obviously, historically, of Solomon talking to his own sons. Inspirationally, it is a picture of God speaking to you and I as God's son. Doctrinally, it is a picture of God dealing with the nation of Israel, as Israel being God's son in the Old Testament scenario, like we talked about Thursday night. When you look at it and understand it, for you and for me, the impact is overwhelming.

Last time we talked about what it meant to receive my word. We talked about what it means when you and I receive the Word of God. For when you receive the Word of God, the Bible says you received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God which effectually works also in you that believe. We talked about how that impacts our lives, receiving it. What does that mean? We use the word, but how does the Bible define it? So we got that out of the way.

Today we are still going to be in Proverbs 2:1. We are going to talk about the second thing because the second thing is an impacting aspect that is just, we could be here all week. He says, "My son, if thou wilt receive my words and hide my commandments with thee." What a great concept. The first thing I want to draw your attention to is the fact that he says, "my commandments." He could have said "my word." He could have said "my precepts." When you come through the book of Psalms in particular and the book of Proverbs, you will find the Word of God likened to a lot of different things: testimonies, precepts, teachings, sayings. You will find all of those things. He chose the word "commandment."

It brings up a great truth because the first thing you have to understand about the Word of God after you have committed into your heart, into your mind that you are going to receive it, the next thing you have to do is you have to hide it. When you hide the Word of God into your heart, when you put the Word of God into your heart, there is a great concept you have to grasp: you have to hide all of the Word of God. That is why he chose the word "commandments."

You see, you do not just take from the Bible what you really like and leave what you do not like. We do not have the luxury. I am just going to be honest with you, I love the Bible. B-I-B-L-E, that is the book for me. We forgot to sing our song this morning, but that is my own stupidity book. But I love the Bible. I want to tell you something, I do not like everything the Bible says to me. I do not. If you think I do, or a preacher gets up there and says, "Oh, I just like everything,"

he is lying to you. I am human just like you. I have to work just as hard as you do to like all of the Bible.

Now I love all of the Bible, and intellectually I know the Bible is my book and I love it all. But you know what? Do your kids love you? Sure they do. But do your kids always do what is right? Are they always happy with you? No, they are not. That is the true test. I am just being honest. You know what the true test of your kids is in your family relationship? It is not when everything is going good and you get along fine. It is when you have to discipline them and something is not going right. I have met parents all my life that they thought, "Well, my kids are great," and they are, as long as you do not have to challenge them on anything. As long as they can pretty much do what they want to do and they do not have to obey your commands, when push comes to shove, then you have a problem.

The true marker of your handle on your family is not how everything goes when it goes great. It is how it goes when it does not go great. That is the same characteristic that is in your own personal relationship with the Lord. Your relationship with God is not good or bad based on how everything goes when you get your own way. Your relationship with God is based on how you respond to the Word of God when it rubs you the wrong way. I would be a liar to you and a fool to tell you that the Bible does not rub me the wrong way. I do not care that I am a preacher, I am human. I have to work at putting that book in my life in the areas I do not really want to, just like you have to. We all do. A man tells you he does not, he is not telling you the truth.

The Bible says, when he says, "My son," he says, "if thou wilt receive my word and hide my commandments," he is talking about the "thou shalt nots."

Proverbs 27:7

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

That verse says that the full soul, somebody who has got all the things of the world, they do not like the Word of God. They do not need the Word of God. A lot of God's people are in that category; they have their soul filled with everything else in life. They loathe the Word of God, the honeycomb. They loathe it. They do not have any use for it at all. But the Bible says to the hungry soul, that is somebody who wants to do what is right with God so desperately that they know that they are wicked and they know they are not right and they know they struggle and they know they do not have life figured out and they know they have to deal with problems in life and they know they have heartache and they have temptations and they have everything that we all struggle with. But the bottom line is they love that book so much and over it all, they know what the book will do for them, even though maybe you do not want to do it at that particular time in your life, but you know that it is the best thing for you.

When I disobeyed my parents, it was not because I hated my parents; I loved my parents. But the bottom line is, even though I was doing wrong, I knew that my parents probably had the best intentions and their way was right. But I wanted to do my thing. That is the way we are with God. But when your soul gets hungry, when you realize what that book is, when you realize that that book is the greatest book this world has ever seen, when you receive it to the aspect that the

Bible is talking about, even the things that are in it that you do not like become sweet because you realize that that is what the Word of God is. It is good for you. It is good for you. It is good for you.

When you are sick, I have yet to find medicine that tastes good. I have yet to find anything that when I do not feel good, that I am sick and I go to the doctor, he prescribes to me that I am glad I just swallow it and not chew it. I do not like it, but you know what? I take it. You know why I take it? Because if I want to get well, the bitter things have to go down. That Bible is based on not just the things that God writes to you that are the good things in your life. The only thing that makes you what God wants you to be is to accept even the things in it that you do not like.

All my life I have dealt with people who did not like me and did not like you and did not like anybody who just stood up to the fact that told them what the Bible said because they all, in all of our lives, we know people that just want to hear what they want to hear. Yet the Bible says in Acts 20:27, Paul said, "Hey, look, my job is to declare unto you the whole counsel of God." I have to give you the bad with the good. Paul experienced in the book of Galatians when he is dealing with the church in Galatia and they are having all kinds of problems and they are upset with him. He says, "Am I therefore your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" Yes, you will be. I have known Christians all my life that did not want anything to do with what the Word of God commanded them to do, but they were just fine as long as you preached what they wanted to hear.

I am telling you, receiving the Word of God, receiving that book, Proverbs 2:1, gives you an absolute, and that absolute is the standard. When you receive the Word of God, like we talked about the last time we were in this passage, it gives you the right absolute standard for everything in life. But when you hide that absolute into your life, it produces the right attitude. When you have the right absolute and you hide that absolute in your heart, then you have got the right attitude. That right attitude produces, "Hey, Lord, you know what? I am a sinner and I am a miserable wretch, but I am so glad that You saved me." Lord, I do not like everything in there. I do not like to be told this. I have never met anybody in my life that liked to be told what to do in everything in their life. You know why? Because we have an old sin nature that wants to do its own thing. But part of accepting and receiving the Word of God is taking the good and the bad with it and loving it because of your hungry soul, even the bitter things become sweet. So when he starts this passage out, he says, "hide my commandments."

SEC: Defining the Heart and Will of God

Turn over to Psalms 119. If you are paying attention here, we have been dealing with Psalms 119 quite a bit, and we will because it goes so hand in hand with the book of Proverbs, especially in this passage here. All my life, and here again, these are things that are misdefined. All my life, I have heard preachers use the concept of God's heart as a pitch line. I have heard them all my life because they think that God's people do not know what the Bible says. They can manipulate them by making the heart of God whatever their pet deal is.

When a man wants to raise a lot of money for missions, you know what he will get up and say? He will preach a lot of weepy, hard-fire messages that the heart of God is missions. If somebody

wants to build a building, then he will get up and he will preach that the heart of God is the church. Therefore, the first thing we need to do is go out and buy a building. I have heard it all my life. When a guy is a liberal, you know what he will do, and he does not want to go one way or the other, and he does not want to make anybody mad, and he tries to compromise, he will get up and he will take the old pitch that the love of God is the heart of God, therefore we are going to love everybody. When a guy wants to think that he wants to build a church by soul winning, and that is the way you build it, and that is not the way you build it, by the way. When he wants to make soul winning the program, that soul winning is not the program, by the way, but he wants to get that out, he will throw you the pitch that the souls of men are the heart of God.

I tell you what, if the heart of God is all the things that I have heard over the years, then there are a lot of gods out there, or God cannot make up His mind. But I will tell you the truth, I believe in missions. I believe in missions as much as anybody. I believe in God's love. I believe that. I believe that the souls of men are precious. I do. I believe that the church is the most important function in the world today. I believe that, but I do not believe that is the heart of God. You know what the heart of God is? The heart of God is the Word of God. That is the heart of God.

It is a lot like this old thing, the will of God. All my life I have heard the will of God. Every time I hear a preacher or a young kid or somebody get up and they start to give a testimony and they are something or another, they get up and they say, "Well, you know what? I was 20 years old when I got the call of God in my life. For me, God's will for my life was to go and be a missionary, or God's will for my life was to go drive this bus, or God's will for my life was to do this and do that." The moment I hear somebody start to talk that way, I know one thing about them. They may be a great person. They may be saved on their way to heaven. They may be a fine guy or a fine woman, but I know one thing about them: they do not understand the biblical definition of God's will.

God's will is never something you do. Now God has a plan for everybody in this room and your plan may be different, but God's will is the same for everybody in this room. You know what God's will is for you and for me? God's will is not for me to be a pastor, you to be a missionary, you to be this, you to be that. God's will is that you are more like Jesus Christ today than you were yesterday, more like Him tomorrow than you are today, and that is the same for everybody because God's will is not something you do. God's will is something you are. You are more like Christ. When you do that, you do not have to worry about what you are doing. Is what God wants you to do or not? You do not have to worry about what you are doing is the right thing. When you focus on God's will in your life is being more like Christ and loving that book and receiving that book, you will never be doing something wrong. It will be exactly the right thing that God wants you to do.

That goes along with what I am saying about the heart of God. When you understand that the heart of God is the Word of God. I am going to tell you this: if the heart of God is the Word of God, then the soul of God is Psalms 119. Because Psalm 119 is the greatest chapter in the Bible that takes you down so deep and shows you where God's heart is. That is where this message is going this morning. I am going to have to get you to understand this concept of getting God's heart by receiving His word and hiding His commandments and what it produces. The right

attitude, the right attitude will always be based on where your heart is at. "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks."

Psalms 119 runs 176 verses. Every one of those verses has some different concept about your relationship with the Word of God. If the book of Psalms is the heart of God and the Word of God is the heart of God, then I am telling you that Psalm 119 is the very soul of God. Because there is no place in the Bible that takes you in a deeper depth and penetration of what God's attitude is toward His book than Psalm 119, verses 1 through 176. It is like the will of God. The will of God is not something that you do, it is something that you are. The attitude and the heartbeat of God is not something that you do, it is the book that God has given you. It is something that is in your heart that it lines up with God's heart. You are going to see that before we are done.

SEC: The Concept of a "Whole Heart"

I have to go through this verse with you first because you have to see it.

Psalms 119:9-11

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

The key here is "whole heart." I am about to take you on one of the greatest studies you will ever take. We will not get through them all today and I cannot do them all today, but if you want to find out where you are at and I am at or anybody is at in this room this morning, where you are at with God, if you want to cut down through all the shenanigans and all the veneer and all the paint and get right down where the river meets the road, you want to get right down to the baseline, you want to find out, here is the study for you because the key is "whole heart." No question about that. The key that you and I have to have if we are going to be everything that God wants us to be is we are going to have to love God, search for God, be with God, seek God with our whole heart.

Now, we have to define that because the "whole heart" concept is one of the greatest studies in all of the Bible. I know that most of us, and it is okay, I thought this too for a long time, but if you had asked most Christians what the most boring books of the Bible are, probably they would tell you 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles. I have to admit, you have to wade through some stuff in there. Now 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles give you a recording of the Kings of Israel and Judah. After Solomon, the kingdom gets split. One set of tribes is called Jerusalem, the southern tribes are called Judah. You are going to find that the rest of your Bible through the rest of 1st and 2nd Kings and 1st and 2nd Chronicles, when those kingdoms are divided, they have different Kings. They never really get along. Neither one of them get along with God very well. But oh my goodness, what a study.

There in the most boring books of the Bible, God has given you a record of 41 Kings. We do not have time to go through all 41 of them. He gives you the intimate details in their life if you want

to study it by going through. It is a labor because some of them are in 1st Kings, some of them are in 1st Chronicles. You get the same King over here, same King over here because both books are covering the same period just from different aspects and different angles. So you read this guy over here and then you read over here. If you just read this one, you may not get what else is said in this one. You have to get it. So it takes some work. It is not going to be like just sitting down and opening up your daily bread and having a hunk fall on the table. There is nothing wrong with that. But there are some times you have to go a little deeper than that if you want to have the right kind of relationship with God.

Now we ask the question, it ought to be the question on everybody's mind. It ought to be the only question you really ask yourself because it is the question whether you are successful in everything else you do or not. That question is, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" That is the question. The answer is, "With my whole heart have I sought thee," and "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." But it does not do any good to hide the word if you do not understand what "whole heart" means.

My Bible tells me that the Old Testament has something that it does for me. I know there is a difference. Yes, I know that. I know that the Old Testament is the nation of Israel and the New Testament is to the church. I understand. I know there are a lot of things that they do that we do not do. I know that. They were allowed to have inside bathrooms. Thank God we do. They were allowed to have any pictures on the wall. We do. They were not, they had to kill a lamb. Thank God I do not have to. I know there is a lot of difference. They have to keep the stringent law. I know I am under grace and I am under liberty. I know that is true. I know there is a big difference between the two.

But I want to tell you something else. That Bible says in 1 Corinthians chapter 10 that the events in the Old Testament, the events in the Old Testament, 1 Corinthians chapter 10, the events in the Old Testament were for my examples and my ensamples.

1 Corinthians 10:11

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Examples and ensamples. Most people think they are the same. Then the rest of the preachers just do not know the difference. Let me tell you something. There is a difference between an example and an ensample. You say, "How do you know there is a difference?" They are not spelled the same. I am telling you. When you see your Old Testament and the New Testament says these things were written for our ensamples and our examples and for our admonition, then you just cannot brush through 1 Kings, 1 Chronicles anymore. When he says, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way" in the Old Testament, nobody talks like that in the New Testament. You know why? Because the base foundation of your relationship with God is laid out in the Old Testament. It is only supported with what is written in the New Testament. You will never find it in there without looking in the Old one because there is a man in the Old one that is not in the New one.

He is the only man in the Bible. I told you this Thursday night. Only two men in the Bible, the Bible says, walked with God. More walked? Yes, they did. But why did he pick just two to say that? Because you want to learn how to walk with God? Study those two men. Only two men in the Bible, the Bible says, was God's friend. You mean God only had two friends all down through history? Certainly not. Why did God just choose two men? Because he wants you to study those two men if you want to learn how to have the same kind of relationship. And only one man in the Bible that the Bible says had God's heart. One man. One man. One man. One man. Out of all the characters in the Bible, out of all the 21 types of Christ in the Old Testament, out of all the men all the way from beginning to end, one man.

I am telling you, those kings back in 1st, 2nd Kings, 1st, 2nd Chronicles are all compared to one man, the man you and I need to be. Therefore, my examples, that is something you do. And for my ensamples, that is something you are. In those four books, my friend, you have recorded the men who are given charge of the mission of God in the Old Testament. After the kingdom gets divided with Solomon, you have Saul, David, Solomon, then the kingdom is divided and those kings running down through there as you come down through the rest of those books of the Bible are given charge of God's mission in the Old Testament. Now in the New Testament, that translates into you and me because you and I are given charge of the mission in the New Testament. It is not just a preacher. We have to get that straight. It is not just a preacher. It is not just my responsibility to carry out the mission of God. It is every born-again child of God's mission to find out what God's mission is and make that your mission.

When you study these kings down here, you know what? Go through this thing. I have to tell you the truth. I found a book one time, and I hate to say this, but Jan Hill is going to drive me crazy now the rest of the week. I found a book one time in a little bookstore, Jan, and it was only four and fifty. You know what that book is? The name of that book is The Kings of Israel and Judah. This book was written back in the last part of the 19th century. I am sure it is out of print. I am sure I probably got one of the last copies. But in that book, this guy went through and chronicled, he made it so easy. He chronicled and split up the kings of Judah and Israel and laid that thing out to such a degree that it made going, banging back and forth. But it was not until I read that book that I understood what I had.

When I realized that, I realized, you know what? In the Old Testament, the kings of Israel were given the charge of the mission of God. And the New Testament is me. Then I began to see that those guys back there were faced with the same challenges that you and I are faced with today.

SEC: Lessons from the Kings of Israel and Judah

- The First Challenge: Attitude Toward the Word of God
- The Second Challenge: Attitude Toward God Himself
- The Third Challenge: Attitude Toward the People of God
- The Fourth Challenge: Attitude Toward the Mission of God

➤ The Fifth Challenge: The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

Do you think you do? I like to think I do. I am sure you like to think you do. I am not passing judgment on you. I am going to give you a little honey today. I am just going to give you a little honey today. I have told you, when you receive the word, you get an absolute standard. When you hide the word, you get an absolute attitude. That standard is your Bible. You judge everything by that standard.

All my life, all my life, I have heard people say. They use it because people, they throw words around. We throw words around. Nobody, because we do not read the Bible anymore, we do not use the Bible anymore. We are not accountable anymore to what we do. So we say anything. We say, "You know what? I will pray for you," and then never think about praying for that person again. You know why? Because as Christians, we are supposed to say, "I will pray for you." That is the catchy thing. That is the Christian thing. We say, "Brother, I will pray for you," and you do not think about it anymore all week long. I am not talking about you. You know what I am saying. We say, "I love you," and you do not love anybody but yourself. We use the words so flippantly and we do not really mean them because we just toss words or words because we have no accountability for what we say because it does not go back to the book.

I have heard them say all my life, "Well, you know, brother so-and-so up there in Vermont, up there in Maine, up there, wherever. He has done a really good job, you know." I ask myself, "Really? Compared to what? Mussolini? Pope John the Sixth?" "Well, he is a really good man." Compared to who? "Well, that is a really good church." Compared to what? "Brother, that was a great message." Compared to what? The Declaration of Independence? The Mormons over here with a tower where Christ is going to land when he comes back with a landing light on the top so he can fight it in a fog? Compared to what? You see, those questions have to come up against an absolute standard. When we look at ourselves and say, "Well, I am a good Christian," I ask me, "Compared to what?" "Well, I want to do what is right." Compared to what? "Well, I love God with all my heart." Compared to what? The standard? We will see.

Right. You know what you are going to learn today? If you do not get anything else out of here, you are going to learn this: Right is not always right. Right is not always right. Sounds like a contradiction of terms coming from a preacher, does it? No, not when you understand what you have here in Kings and Chronicles. No, not when you define right from the standard instead of right from our standard. I told you this was not going to be nice. You know how I am not yelling and screaming today? I am trying to be level back. You know why? I do not want you to think I am mad at you personally. I am toning down my whole, I mean, I have got passion coming out. I have wanted to preach this message for two weeks. I just could not wait. In fact, I said today, I said, "You know, last week I put it off because I wanted my people to hear it and I was mad at God." I said, "God, I do not understand this." I said, "You know what? I have to preach," and I repented and I am okay now. But I made up my mind that it is coming both barrels today and whoever is here gets it and who is not. I could not hold it any longer. My wife all week long said, "What is wrong with you? What is wrong with you?" And I look at her and I say, "Honey, I do not stop and I want to preach and I have no way to preach it to." I feel better after that.

I am telling you, you want to find you and me in the Bible? There are 41 guys. I am in here. You are in here.

- Jehoash (Joash)
- Abijam (Abadiah)
- Amaziah
- Ahab
- Jehu
- Joram
- Asa
- Two Kinds of Preachers
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah

SEC: David: The Man After God's Own Heart

"Perfect heart. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" That is what we said, "With my whole heart have I sought thee." Every one of these kings, all 41 of them, and everything they do or do not do, is compared to one man. That man is David. A man after God's. I wish to hear guys say that they used to say. And they all quote it wrong. They used to say, "David was a king and a man after God's own heart." Everybody. That is not what it says. It says that God made him a king. But it says he was a man after God's own heart before he was a king.

I like to throw that all together because we like to think that a spiritual position makes us godly. We like to think of a place of leadership makes us godly. We need to look at me and look at you and think, "Well, he is a pastor. He has got me." Hey, let me tell you something. There is no position in any church anywhere on the face of the planet that makes you godly. The only thing that makes you godly is getting God's heart and you have to get it with a perfect heart. That is what David did.

1 Kings 15:5

Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

In all his life and all his thing. God only had one thing against him. You know why? Because David sought God with his whole heart and it was David that said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." He is the king after God's own heart and he is the one that every man is accountable to in the kings and chronicles because I am telling you getting God's heart, getting the Word of God starts with getting the right absolute and then getting the

right attitude and realizing if you want to have a perfect heart with God, it is not about the mistakes you make in life. It really is not. We are all going to make them. Do not let any preacher ever stand up there and beat you over the head because of some of the dumb things we all do because he does them too. I am telling you.

You know what God did. Do you see what he said about David? I am going to tell you what, that is not the truth. That is not the truth. David lost faith, lied, and scrabbled with the gate. He ran afraid from Saul and ran. He was down there in the cave of Adullam because he is afraid to death and he is without God. He goes out there and he fights. He fights Goliath with a slingshot, then a little bit later on five, six, seven years later. He is down there hiding and they say, "They are coming after you, David. They are coming after you," and he says, "Well, I need a weapon. I need a weapon." And somebody says, "Well, the only weapon we have is Goliath's sword." He says, "Give me that one. I will take that." "Well, you need a sword now, David. You did not need one back there." But do you not know that God does things like that? Do you not know when he got that sword and he says, "I have the sword now, I can fight him." He is walking out there and about the time the Holy Spirit of God says, "Hey David, David, hey Dave. Hey, you have the sword? Yeah, I have the sword. You are going to fight him? Yeah, I can, I can, I can make it now." "Hey, you did not need one when you fought Goliath. You just needed Me." See how it changes. But in spite of that, God never brought it up. You know why? Because David had in his heart that he loved that book more than anything else in the whole wide world and those kings in Israel. You find some that do right. They do not do right. They have a perfect heart, half-hearted. You have every scenario in the world that you are going to find you and I, and some of them will not leave their sin. Other ones leave their sin, do what is right. But they cleave to this double standards, that whole thing, they go after the worldly wisdom, the whole nine yards, and the bottom line is they are all compared to one man who never went one way or the other. He just stayed with God and he loved that word with all of his heart, with all of his mind and soul, and at the end of his life, it does not matter how you start. It only matters how you end. God said he did what was right all the days of his life except in one matter. You know what? He is a man after Mine. He is the only man in the Bible that the Bible makes that statement.

You want to find out how to do it? Go through Saul, go through Solomon, go through Abijam, go through Hezekiah, go through Joram, go through Jehoash, go through Joram, go through Amaziah, go through Asa, go through every one of them and then come down to the final conclusion that none of them had a perfect heart because a perfect heart means an attitude and realize that right just does not make it right. It is more than just doing right. It is an attitude about doing right. It is an attitude about a book that makes you do what is right. It is understanding what you are doing that is right. That is the key. With that, you have got the greatest study that I could ever give you on finding yourself in the Word of God and getting a perfect heart, getting a perfect heart before God.

I do not know what else to tell you, those kings are for your examples and your ensamples and our admonition. When you start going through them, you will see yourself someplace. That is between you and God. It is not my job to look at you, that is your job to find out where you are at with God and He will show you and when you leave here today, you have everything you need.

Now whether you do it or not, you are in one of those 41. See that thing? That is where you are at. That is what I love about the book. It just takes care of all the issues and you now have without a doubt the greatest study in the Bible to show you where you are at in your own position with the Lord, with your attitude of heart because we think we are doing what is right. When God says, "I really do not care about right, where is your heart?" "Well, God's will is for me to be a missionary." God's will is you be more like Me and when you get more like Me, you get My heart and when you get My heart, you get the Word of God and when you get the Word of God, you do not turn from the left to the right, you stay right in the middle. And you will do what is right all the days of your life even when you screw up sometimes because it is not, God looks beyond what we do. You have to see it. God looks at your attitude of heart and when your attitude is in that book, whatever you do, you will not go far from God.