

Proverbs 2

Sunday 2/15/2004

This morning, let us turn back again to the book of Proverbs chapter 2. We have been talking about keywords in Proverbs chapter 2. We have been looking at it from the aspect of how to build a relationship with the Word of God. Ever since we started our church, which has been about six months now, we have been focusing on that, trying to broaden the base, trying to help you understand where you are at with the Lord before we really delve into the things in the Bible.

At the same time, we have been dealing with many of you one-on-one in the Bible, trying to show you some things and help you lay out some things in the Bible. That is a standard offer that I have as your pastor here: anybody that wants to study the Bible, I will spend time every week with you, helping you figure out the Word of God and putting things together. My wife and I, we have couples that will disciple you. Whatever you need in your life, we want to try to make it there for you because the Word of God is the most important thing that you will ever have in your life.

We have been focusing on Proverbs chapter 2. I am sure now that you can see, as we have been through here over the last couple of weeks, how every verse is just absolutely filled with biblical principles that need to be applied into our lives. Remember, I told you that the first seven chapters of the book of Proverbs all start out with the phrase, "My son." God is showing us, as His child, some great things that we need to know about building a relationship with God. The book of Proverbs is one of the five wisdom books in the Bible, and in that book are the issues of life as you and I need to understand them. We have focused on and been focusing on every one of these concepts and what great, powerful words they are, examining them in the light of the Scriptures and the Word of God.

Today, we are going to be in chapter 2, verse 2. I am going to read the first five verses just to give us a kind of an application context here, and then we will come back and we will pick up where we stopped last week.

Proverbs 2:1-5

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.

Now, Father, we thank You and praise You today. We love You so much. We thank You for the time that we can spend in Your Word, and we just ask You to bless us now, give us wisdom and insight into all the things that we need to look at today, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

I. The Difference Between Reading and Applying the Bible

You notice the words that have been down through here. We have looked at some of them already, and we are going to continue to look at them in the weeks to come. We looked at the word "receive" or talked about receiving my word. We talked about hiding thy commandments with thee. Today, we are going to talk about inclining thine ear, or we talked about that last week, inclining ear unto wisdom, and today we are going to talk about applying thy heart to understanding.

All my Christian life, I have been taught and been told, and I am sure many of you have heard this too, that reading the Bible will solve your problems. All my life, I have heard preachers get up in the pulpit and say, "If you have problems in your life, read the Bible, and the Bible will solve your problems." Well, I want to say to you this morning, that is not exactly true. Reading the Bible by itself really will not solve your problems. Lots of people read the Bible. Reading the Bible will not solve your problems. This brings us to the message today: applying the Word of God, or applying what you read, will solve your problems. That is the difference.

I remember as a young Christian, I really wanted to learn the Bible. I grew up, as I have told you many times, with a gang load of old Philadelphian-type preachers that came out of that last period. They really, really, really believed the book, taught the book, and they were some incredible influences in my life. I will never forget, as a young man, I used to try to do everything they would say to do. A lot of it I would find out that I was either not listening or they were not explaining it very well, because I would get the wrong concepts, and it was a bust; it really did not work for me.

But I will never forget, I knew a preacher that put such an emphasis on the Word of God. I remember hearing him preach, and he would talk about the emphasis of the Bible in your life and my life, and how the Word of God will impact and change your life, and I wanted that. I remember him saying to me, and I remember him saying in his preaching, that the Bible was so important to him that he read the Bible through once every 33 days.

I wanted that too. So I embarked on an adventure in my life that for a long time, for over a year, I read the Bible through once every 33 days. To do that, you have to read 50 chapters a day. I want to say this to you: at the end of that 30 days, I was more screwed up and confounded than I was before I ever did it. My goal was to read that Bible through in 33 days because I thought that would make me like him. In the midst of all that, I got my priorities wrong, and I would judge my spirituality on if I got my 50 chapters in or not. If I got my 50 chapters in, I had a good day. If I did not get my 50 chapters in, I felt like I was a failure. I began to focus on what I was doing instead of what I needed to be.

For over a year, I did that, but I learned a great truth. I always learned things the hard way, but I learned a great truth. I enjoyed reading the Bible; it was good for me, it was discipline for me, but I learned a great truth. The great truth was it was not how many times that I go through the Bible, but rather how many times the Bible goes through me. When I learned that, it became an incredible concept in my life, because then I understood that it was not the fact that I read the

Bible; it was the fact that I applied what the Bible said to my life. That is what made the difference.

II. The Bible as an Absolute Standard for Nations

The Bible, as we all know, is a book of absolute standards and principles. The Bible, as the book that God has given us, is the absolute standard, a book of principles and concepts. We have heard the term or value the term "in a perfect world." Someone says, "Well, I would like for this, this, this," and somebody will say, "Well, in a perfect world, it ought to be this way." Well, that is the world the Bible is talking about. There is coming a time when the Lord Jesus Christ comes back and sits down on the throne in Jerusalem, and He runs and rules this earth with a rod of iron through the Word of God, righteousness, that it is going to be a perfect world. When we talk about it today, we talk about it the way we would like for it to be, that all the wrongs are righted and all the things are done the way they need to be. Of course, the Bible is what does that.

The Bible is a book that will change the life of anybody or any nation that embraces its principles as absolute rules of authority and standards. I talked last week about the Ten Commandments, and I told you how the Ten Commandments were not given to keep. God understood when He gave them that no man could keep them. In fact, Christ came to fulfill the law because no man could keep it. But the Ten Commandments were given as a moral code, as a moral standard by which, when you follow it, it gives you a concept of morality, an absolute principle in any society, and it sets a moral standard. That moral standard of that society or country will be higher because they follow it than it will if they do not follow it.

That is what is wrong with America. We are arguing and taking people to court because of the fact that they want to take the very basic, absolute standards of the Word of God out of our society. That is the problem. I remember years ago when they banned prayer in school. Most of you were not alive when they did that. Some of you were. I remember years later when I would hear preachers talking about that, and they would get on great crusades because they felt like banning prayer in school was a terrible thing.

Let me just clarify this: I really do not care if an unsaved teacher prays with my kid or not. I really do not care. Banning prayer in school from that aspect did not bother me one way or the other. My kid is going to pray in school. Let me tell you something: they had prayer day, no matter what the government said, no matter what society said, there were at least four days a year that were national prayer days in my two kids' lives when they went to school. That was the day they got their report cards. They prayed all day long that that thing would be good. So banning it from school did not change anything with my kids. On that day that report card came out, it was, "Oh, God, deliver me!" all day long. I mean, I would see them going out to the bus saying, "My Lord knows the way through the wilderness. All I need is A's and B's." That is how it was. God knows I would have needed that prayer when I was in school; I was not smart enough to figure it out.

From that aspect, banning prayer in school, I do not care, because nobody is going to have more influence in my kid's life than me. I will teach them how to pray, and I will pray with them. We

prayed before they went to school. We prayed when they came home from school. We taught them how to pray. But I also understand there is a greater issue here, and that is what I want you to focus on, because sometimes we lose the greater concept because we do not really get the meat of the message. So we get caught up in all kinds of movements without really understanding the movements.

The application of God's absolute principles will give you an absolute guideline in your own personal life. It will do it for any nation on this planet. Banning prayer in school may not have affected my children because Dad is going to pray with them, Mom is going to pray with them. But what it did do was set a moral tone in this country that began to turn its back on God. So on a big-scale picture, when America turned her back from the absolute principles, this country began to digress. We are living today in a day and age where we do not really understand where we have come from, to where we are at, to where we are going.

Our founding fathers understood this. I know that you do not get this today, but it is in... somebody asked me one time, and they were sincere, they said, "Bob, all this stuff you are telling me, how do you find that out? Where is it all at? How did you get that great information?" I looked at her and I said, "It is a conspiracy. They hide that stuff in books." We do not read today.

Any nation, any person, will only be as strong as the absolute principles that he has embraced. Our founding fathers understood this. They really did. That is why they embraced in such a great way the principles of the Word of God, even writing into the Constitution. When we broke with England, overnight, this country had lost any form of government. When the 13 original colonies or states, whatever they were at that time, went back to their states, they did not have a government. They had to come up with state constitutions that were going to give them some kind of governing body. Every one of those governing founding fathers and every one of those states, and by 1792 there were 44 states in the union, and every one of those states and their state constitutions had the following decrees: that if you were going to hold public office, you had to acknowledge God, you had to acknowledge the devil, you had to acknowledge that the Bible was the absolute final authority in all things, and you had to acknowledge the fact that there was a judgment of unsaved people, there is a heaven and there is a hell. As an elected official, someday, God is going to hold you responsible at the judgment for how you govern. That is the way it was in the beginning.

Noah Webster, one of the great founding fathers, we have the Webster's dictionary today, which is a shadow of what it was in his 1828 dictionary, which you can still buy. In his 1828 dictionary, he came up with the first dictionary in America, the English language, and he used the King James Bible as a defining book to define words. When you go to that, you will find a word and you will find, in most cases, a scripture reference defining that word. Why? Because our founding fathers knew that the absolute principles of the Word of God were absolutely necessary in this country for this country to be founded and to stand strong. On a national level, when you look at the Bible and you recognize the Bible and you see it for what it is, it sets an attitude toward God that is taken out, and the moral level declines when men turn their back on it.

William Penn, in 1681, wrote this. He said the key to good government is not good laws, because there was another guy at that time that was saying, "Well," because they were formulating all the plans of this infant government, and he said, "The one man said that the key to good government is making good laws." William Penn said, "No, no, no, the key to good government is not good laws. The key to good government is good men." When he said "good men," he is talking about born-again, blood-washed men who believe in God, who believe in the Bible, who apply what the Word of God says to their lives and into the country.

On June 28, 1787, we still did not have a Constitution. They were at ends. In fact, it was almost the end; they almost just gave up. It was a real crossroads in America. Ben Franklin, by this time an old man, ill in health, stood there and he watched the bickering back and forth of all these people trying to... and he came up and he gave an incredible address. Breaking it all down, it simply said this: "Look, a number of years ago, we were in disarray, and we went to God. We got on our knees before God, and God delivered us." He says, "You men have forgotten that." He says, "This Continental Congress that is trying to get a Constitution together needs to go back to your roots and go back to God in the Bible. Without God's divine guidance, we are going to be in a mess."

You know what they did? They shut down for three days, and they went as a body, as a group. They went from church to church to church, and they said, "Preach to us. Preach the Word of God to us. Give us the Word of God. Preach to us." A revival broke out, and they came to the point where they went back with their minds fresh, with a renewed vision, and they understood why: because the Bible is a book of absolute principles.

It was Franklin, Washington, and Madison that put together what is commonly called the Northwest Ordinance. The Northwest Ordinance said that no new states could come into the union unless they taught the Bible and God as Creator and the devil as the evil person of this world in the public school system. I said all that to say this: look at America then, look at America now. The problem was back then they received the Word of God. They knew the book was what it was. Today, we have turned our back completely on the absolute standard moral conduct that God has given to man.

You know what the greatest part of everything I just told you was? Ben Franklin was an unsaved man. He went into the Northwest Ordinance. He was an unsaved man. He was not even saved. Ben Franklin, he is the one that gives us the account. He used to hear Whitefield preach. It was Ben Franklin who said that one night he backed off over a mile and could hear every word that Whitefield preached, what power he had. He used to say, "I hate to go hear Whitefield preach because I just want to empty my pockets and give the man everything that I have got." But he was unsaved, and the record is there is no place where he ever trusted Christ. George Washington, the father of our country, an unsaved man. He is a Deist. A Deist is someone who believed in God, but they did not accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God. James Madison, not saved.

My point is this: there were many of the founding fathers who were not saved. Besides that, they recognized it even though they were not saved. They understood what the Bible was, and they

realized that the Bible was the greatest book the world has ever seen. Even though they never embraced it in their own life, maybe some of them got saved later, but the three that I am talking about, there is no record of them ever becoming a Christian. But they realized that there was an absolute standard of good.

I am telling you, in any society, America, all those years, was not a Christian nation. We use the term wrong. America was never a Christian nation. There has always been perversion. There have always been unsaved people. There has always been sin. America has never been a Christian nation, but America once was a nation founded on Christian principles. They will give you an attitude and a morality of conduct that any nation that does not have it will not have.

God, when God made this whole thing and fashioned this whole thing, He gave us three institutions. He instituted family. He instituted government. And He instituted the church. That is why you find in the Old Testament, under the nation of Israel, that God is so strict. When you got young people coming up and they show a rebellious attitude, you do not get away with it like we do today. Today, it is, "If Johnny, if I tell you that one more time..." Johnny is saying, "That means I got 12 more times." Back in the Old Testament, it was, "Son, do what is right." "Now, Dad, that is old-fashioned. I am not going to do it. I am with the hip crowd." "Son, do what is right." "Now, Dad, you are an old fogey. You go to that old church down there with that old man with that white beard preaching, and they do all that stuff with them dead animals. You know, you sacrifice them. We barbecue them. We have a great time." And he says, "All right, down to the little council, down to the little elders." The little elders said, "Okay, son, let us pull it up. Do what is right." "Now, you guys, you got maybe two or three times." And then they took him away, and he says, "Where are we going?" "We are going to a rock concert." "Oh, man, I am into that." "Where is that?" "Right here." "Well, that is just a big hole." "That is right. Get down in it. Where is the rock concert?" "Here comes the first one. Wham!" And they stoned him.

That seems wicked, does it? By our standard today, that sounds terrible. You know why? Because our society has lost any sense of morality. Today, in the day and age we live in, we care more about the criminal's rights than we do the victim's rights. That is what happens when you make evil good and good evil. The reason why God did that, and He had such stringent concepts of judgment for young men and young ladies in rebellion, is because God knew that the three institutions—family, government, and in the New Testament, the church—He understood when the family goes, the church goes. When the family goes and the church goes, the country goes. That is where we are at.

In our society, in our time, it was first this way: the church went. Quit preaching the Bible. Quit dealing with issues that make people mad. Try to get along, get a different agenda. But when the church went, the family went. When the family goes, the government goes. That is the way it is.

III. The Bible's Transformative Power and the Church's Role

The Bible is unlike any book the world has ever seen. It is the book of God. It is the only book that is supernatural. It is the only book that is alive. It is the only book that can do for you what no other book can do. Every other book you will read, I do not care what it is—science, political

science, politics—I do not care what you pick up. Every book you get and read can do these things for you:

1. These books can inform you.
2. These books can conform you.
3. These books can reform you.
4. These books can certainly misinform you.

But the Bible does one thing that none of these books can do. The Bible will not bother informing you. The Bible will not misinform you. The Bible will not conform you. The Bible will not reform you. What the Bible does is transform you. You do not do that by reading it. You do that by applying it. You do that by putting an absolute standard of code in your life, an absolute standard in your life, and then applying it to your life.

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

When you go to Titus 3:5, Ephesians 5:26, you find that renewing of your mind is done by the washing of the water by the Word. I am not a very smart guy, but I have figured some things out. I know how important the church is today, and I know a lot of God's people do not want to go to church, and they all have their reasons, but I do know that the church is God's institution, and I know that the Bible was given to you and to me to read, to apply, and all that, and the Bible says you are made clean through the Word. I understand.

But the concept of the church for our country and for our families is vital. I am not talking about the building; I am talking about getting there and getting the Word of God preached to you to keep you clean. God could have chosen to do it any way He wanted to do it. You know what God chose to do? God chose to call the church His body and have them meet together in local congregations, have men come to the point where they preach the Word of God, and when you come and you look into the Bible and you bring your Bible, the Holy Spirit of God, through the Bible, touches your life, that you get under conviction, and then you judge your own sin, and you get right when you leave, before you leave, right now, whenever.

The bottom line is this: if you do not judge your own sin now today and through the preaching and the Word of God, you look at it... Thursday night we had a gal come in. She had some other questions. She was going to ask me about the Bible, had nothing to do with getting saved. Somebody asked a question about the upcoming movie of Christ being crucified by Mel Gibson. We batted that around for a while, played a little volleyball with it, had a good time, and at the end of that thing, she forgot completely about her question about what she wanted to ask. When I gave the invitation, her hand went up like a ballistic missile. She wanted to get saved. Why? Because in the process from that time, God's Spirit said, "I just thought you wanted to ask those questions. The real question you need is your own soul," and she got it squared away, and someplace in that process, she said, "I need to get saved."

God gives you a preacher, He gives you a church, and He calls you together and says, "Forsake not the assembling yourself together as the manner of some is," because He wants you to look at your sin and judge yourself, so He does not have to come down and judge you Himself. As much as you dislike me sometimes when I say things and I make you mad and turn you off, I am a lot easier to get along with than when He comes down and whacks you. When He takes you to the woodshed, it is a small woodshed and no place to run.

I will never forget, I was a young guy. My mom got remarried after my dad died, and I was by myself. I will never forget. I went down to wash some clothes one day, and I put the clothes in, put the stuff in, pushed the button, and it would not work. I did everything in the world. I checked all the breakers; it just would not come on. So I thought to myself, "Well, I am going to call the Maytag repairman." He does not do anything anyhow. It cost me 45 bucks. This is back in 1969, 1970. That was a lot of money back then. He comes over there, and I explained to him what I was doing. He says, "Huh." I said, "That is a strange thing." He said, "I have never seen that before." I said, "I do not know. It is not that old." So what he did was, he walked over and he closed the lid and pushed the button, and it started to work. I paid \$45 to learn the lesson that you put the lid down before you push the button. You are laughing. You know what? Do you think I ever forgot that lesson? As the Bible says, "I trown not." I got it, man. I got it. But then it was really funny because I did not want him to know that I am stupid, which I am sure by that time he had already figured out, but he did not care; he was getting 45 bucks. So I looked and I said, "Hmm, that is strange. It did not work that way for me when I put the lid down. Must have been a power outage, huh?"

Ever since that time, I thought to myself, "You know, a washing machine, that is the way churches are." Because you have to get clean. The Bible says you are clean through the water. Ladies, I am not sure that you men do not know this, but ladies, we know this: when you wash clothes, you put the clothes in, put your whatever you are laying in, and then you turn the water on. When it fills up, does it just get the clothes clean? No. There is a little thing in that washing machine called an agitator. That agitator kicks them clothes six ways from Sunday. When that agitator is done beating you over the place, going back and forth... Oh, that was another great thing I had. Have you ever had one that gets out of balance? That was an experience when I was by myself. I turned that thing on, and I did not know you had to balance it out. I am sitting there, turn it on, it starts filling up, and then the agitator starts going, and all of a sudden, that washing machine starts going boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. It is like we are doing the rumba together. I am trying to catch it, man. It is going all over the kitchen. You have to balance it, but it does not get cleaned by itself. You put the clothes in, put the water in, and then the agitator beats those things six ways from Sunday, and the clothes come out clean.

That is like going to church. You come here, you have the water, but just reading that book by yourself will not always get you clean. You know what you need? You need the agitator. You need somebody to stir it up in your life, because I know you. I know you. How do I know you? Because I know me. You know what I know about both of us? Given a chance, every time we will read the passage of the Word of God that fits us best and not read what we need to read. How many times we all had pets in our life that we did not want to dump, and we just steered

away from those one thing there that always pointed the finger? I am telling you. God's program is a church, and when you come, you come to get clean.

Where all the other books in the world will inform you, misinform you, conform you, the Bible will transform you by coming, getting the Word of God, and then letting an agitator stir it up in your life that God gets you to deal with your sin in your life so God does not have to come down and deal with it. That is what is wrong in America. There is no Bible. There is no water, and there is no agitation. Preachers today, they are not going to preach on anything that is going to cost them their job. They are not going to preach on anything that is going to damage their income. They are not going to do anything. Why, when you have some big project you have to do, do you think you are going to get up and make people mad so they will leave? I am telling you. When your preaching is dictated by other things than being the agitator and realizing what the Word of God does, I am telling you.

The world sees that, and they look at it this way: "Oh, do not go to his church. No, no, no, do not go to that church. No, no, no, that is a cult. What they will do there is they will brainwash you." Well, I have news for you. That is exactly what some of God's people need. You need your brain washed. You need to stick your head in a washing machine and let that agitator kick you six ways from Sunday for a while. You get the evilness out of your mind and out of your heart, and your heart gets washed. The world calls that brainwashing. The Bible calls it brainwashing. That is what you are supposed to do.

I have never figured it out. You join the Marines, and they take you down there at Pendleton or out in San Diego. Here is how they do it: "Okay, guys, line up. Today, we are going to march. I know that some of you did not sleep well last night because you are away from home. I want you to look at me as your mama, as your father. I am going to lead you today. If you get tired, just raise your hand, and we will have a jeep come up and we will put you in it. We will take you all the way up because I do not want you to be hard. I do not want you to hurt because if you get mad at me, you might get mad at the Marines, and then you might go join the Army or the Air Force or the Navy or the Coast Guard. We could not have that because we are Marines. So let us all line up now. Come on, get straight. Hey, no talking in line. No talking in line. Come on. No, no. I like the sunglasses, but could you take them off right now because nobody else has them, and in a code of military code, we all have to look alike." Is that how it works, John? John never did get over. Look at his haircut. It looks like the planet Mars from 4,000 miles away. It is shaved off. Is that how it went? No. You guys been in the military. Is that how it goes? No. A thousand times no. Why? Because they want to build Marines. When they bring you in there, they have to tear down what you are, brainwash you.

When I got out of basic training, the last thing they said to us was... I mean, they had run us, done us, and did everything, and we, I mean, when you come out of there, you think you can whip the world. I was during the Vietnam War where a lot of people were not happy with the war. A lot of hippies were spitting on uniforms and all those things. The last thing they said before we went home for Christmas was they lined us up, and this guy, this big old colonel or whatever he was, had been in for a thousand years, he says, "Look, you guys are going home, and you are going to get left at and spit at because you want to stand up for your country." He

says, "If anybody in the airport, in the training station, your old high school friend, your old high school..." He went down the list. He said, "You take them aside and you beat the blinkety-blink-blink-blink-blink-blink-blink-blink-blink." I never heard somebody had to just script the badges in my life. You know what? There was not a man that was not standing there that morning at 5:30 that did not understand or did not think you could rip the world. You know why? Because you have been brainwashed. You have been brainwashed. You have been brainwashed to the point where you thought you were invincible. You have been brainwashed with a Marine code. You have been brainwashed to rip that rifle apart and put it back together blindfolded. You have been brainwashed to do everything, everything. You march in a line, you can turn in a dime. Everything is just perfect. You are a Marine. You are tough. You can eat the world. You are the epitome, and you can go anywhere in the world because your nation is going to call on you first. Off you go.

They look at that and they say, "Whoa, that is great." But when a preacher does it, by the way, the Bible says you are to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ is the captain of your salvation, and you are in an army. I know you do not hear that today. You do not sing "Onward, Christian Soldiers" anymore. You sing nice little things, nice little songs. I am not fighting that. I like nice little songs too. But do not ever forget that you are a soldier, and you have to endure hardness. You do not get there by somebody standing up in the pulpit and saying, "You know, because I came out today, I saw who drove by the park, little ducks swimming. Then I looked over to the other side, and there were some beautiful white swans, so elegant. I thought at that moment, 'Oh God, take this ugly duckling and make me a swan.'"

I was preaching someplace one time, and I was getting ready to go, and a guy was praying before I had to preach, and everybody's head was bowed. He made me so mad, and this guy would get up there and he says, "Oh God, no," it starts out, "Oh, loving Father." I know where it is going, and I have to preach after this guy is done. I am saying, "Oh God, what?" I was mad. I do not need anybody to put my people in a passive state before I get up and call them to war. He is going through this ugly duckling swan thing. I hate to admit this. I had a piece of paper down here, and I wound that thing up, put my eye, everybody was looking, and I said, "God, when David slung that rock, You put it right between his eyes. God, I need You." I fired that thing, and he backed it and went like that. That is not what we need. That is not what we need. We are in a war. People are dying and going to hell, and the wrong things that are wrong with this country is it has got no steel in its backbone. The politicians do not have it. The preachers do not have it. So God's people do not have it. We need to wash out our minds. We need to get brainwashed with the Word of God.

We have already talked about it last week, Isaiah 55. God said, "My thoughts are not your thoughts. My ways are not your ways." You do this by applying what you read. You do this by applying what you get God's mind and you get God's thoughts and you get God's definitions by reading the Word of God, finding out what God says to do, and then doing it in your life.

IV. Understanding: The Missing Element

The book of Song of Solomon, what a great book. That book basically, if you want to read it sometime, does two things. It talks about the Christ looking at His bride, us, the church, in a very descriptive form. I know it talks about the fact that her nose is like cherries and her neck is like a high tower and she has got hair like the goat locks of... and all those things. As they always say, "Do not try that at home." Do not walk into the bathroom and say, "Darling, your hair looks like goat locks out of the Mount Bashem." It does not work. Trust me. It will cost you more than you think it will.

When you go through the Bible, those things are defined. When you get the picture of the goats of Gilead in the invasion, they all mean something in the beautiful picture. Then the other half of the book talks about the bride looking at Christ. When you come through, you see each one has different characteristics, and they are unbelievable. It will show you not only what He looks like, but how much He loves you and what He thinks and what He feels for you. But there is one thing that is the same in everything that is different.

Song of Solomon 1:15

Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes.

Song of Solomon 4:1

Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from mount Gilead.

You see, we both have dove eyes because we both are supposed to see the same things the same way, which brings us to our next point. He said, "Apply thine heart." Apply it to what? Apply it to understanding.

Now that is a great thing. I know I have given you this before, but this is one of these things that you just have to hear over and over and over again. In the book of Proverbs, you have three things that you get:

5. Knowledge
6. Wisdom
7. Understanding

Knowledge is information. Knowledge is facts. Wisdom is how to make those facts work for you, looking at it and seeing it and making those facts and seeing how it works. But understanding is seeing it from God's standpoint, from God's perspective. Understanding puts it all together. I am going to give you an example, show you what I mean.

Today, we live in the information age. Back in the 19th century, men got information from books, newspapers, and a little bit later on, the telegraph. When we entered the 20th century, we got telephones. We still had newspapers. We still had books. A little bit later on, we got TV. Now in the 21st century, and really the last part of the 20th century into the 21st, we have the internet. We have everything. We get information faster than we can handle it.

On TV, you have all the news programs. Everybody is reporting anything. You have ABC, NBC, CBS, you have all the cable channels, Fox News, you have Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather, Peter Jennings. On the radio, you have Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly, you have Hannity and Colmes on the TV. They all have, all these guys have knowledge. Incredible. All these guys have wisdom. You understand that an unsaved man can have knowledge and he can have wisdom. But an unsaved man cannot have understanding. He cannot. Because understanding only comes from God. Only comes from God.

I am telling you. So when you look at that, you hear those guys, they have the facts. They know how to work the facts. They give you information. They will tell you what is going on. They will tell you why it is going on, how it is going on. In a very limited way, 24 hours a day, we are bombarded with that. You know what? You get the liberal perspective, and you get the conservative perspective. Then you get the real left perspective, and then you get the real right perspective. Very rarely do you get somebody that is just in the middle. All these guys make their living by taking knowledge and making it into wisdom and then presenting it to you and to me that we get information.

I use these guys. I do not play video games. I cannot get a hooked up on my TV set. I do not play video games. I do not play golf. I do not play softball. I do not hunt. I do not fish. To me, other than going out looking through my telescope, things to me, I enjoy sitting down, put me in a room with a bunch of self-righteous, egotistical guys who are unsaved, who think they know all the facts and wisdom of the world, and then just let them talk. Just let them go. Man, I am in my element. I enjoy that. I may not say anything, but I will write down and remember everything because I realized that the Bible will supply the missing element in everything that you hear today. This is what is wrong with America. America has facts and America has wisdom, but America does not have understanding because understanding only comes from a book.

V. Applying Understanding to Current Events and Prophecy

In just a minute, about 20, 30 seconds, I am going to give you a hundred-thousand-dollar verse. You notice how I have been giving you a lot of those big dollar verses lately? You ought to have a bunch of them. I am giving you another one, and I do not know what you are doing with them, but if you are writing them down someplace, this one here is so good. I almost could not wait. I almost called all of you last night just to give you the verse, but I did not have time to do it.

Let me show you what I mean. I am going to show you here. We have fun, so just stay with me here. Here we go. Two newscasts, one with and without understanding.

News Report Without Understanding:

President Bush today, with members of the National International Peace Delegates, began a series of peace talks to bring together Jewish and Palestinian leaders to end the bloodshed in the Middle East. The president, along with the panel, said today that at the head of the issues was religious tolerance, stating that all religions were of God and good, and that ending the differences was close at hand. The panel called on the leaders of Israel to recognize the Palestinian government under Yasser Arafat and to allow the West Bank to be their land, to tear

down the wall, to stop the opposition, also to stop killing and persecuting the so-called leaders of the PLO, who it has been reported wanted Israel to be killed and wanted their land. The panel also called upon Arafat to stop the suicide bombing and killing of innocent Israelis to help the peace process and to stabilize that region. For some reason, Bush stated, "This area of the world has always been and had problems. Two peoples can coexist, but they have to work at it, and they have to be willing to work at it. You have to give up some things to gain some things. The war in the Middle East has gone on for too many centuries between the Jews and the Muslims, but now today, through our efforts, we have the ability to bring peace to this area of the world, and then to the whole world, for America is a peace-loving nation and is a nation committed to the peaceful coexistence of all the peoples, whatever their faith." Then what does he always say at the end of that? "May God bless America."

News Report With Understanding:

Bush today, with international and national peace delegates, called for an end to violence in the Middle East. Speaking to Yasser Arafat, he stated that in the Bible in Genesis 12-15, it made it very clear, and the issue was unnegotiable, this land belonged to the Jew. It was given to Abraham in a covenant that goes back to Genesis 12 and 15, and it was later called the Promised Land. Not only to Arafat, who had questions, but to all the panel, the president used a large drawing board, and he drew the land grant that was given to Abraham, marking it from Egypt to Babylon and going north to Turkey in a gigantic triangle. President Bush also stated that this pyramid-shaped land grant was also a model of the universe, and that someday the Jews would inhabit that triangle and then branch out into the universe, Isaiah 9:7. NASA had no comment. That is my remarks, not his.

He also stated that this land was a dispute for so many centuries because before Genesis 1:1, the area was under Lucifer's control. It was lost through a rebellion, and then it was given to Adam, and the devil came back and took it from Adam, and it goes down through the descendants to what comes to Abraham, and then the covenant was given unconditionally that Abraham and his people, it was their land, and ever since that time, the issue is the devil has tried to take the land back.

Arafat brought up the fact that Abraham was a father, had two sons, Ishmael, which is the Arabian, and Isaac, which is the Jew, and that Ishmael's descendants, that they too were given the land according to their prophet Muhammad. Bush then took Arafat into a private room for a private Bible study. Turning to Galatians 4, he showed him that the land was Isaac's land, and that Ishmael was to be kicked out, and that the United States would give any and all military hardware to accomplish this. He then stated that Muhammad was a phony and a demon-possessed man, and that Islam was a satanic religion by which the devil tried to wipe out the real people of God. He also stated that all the trouble down through history was caused by Turkey, Arabia, Iraq, and Iran, and anybody else that rejected God's covenant to the nation of Israel as God's people, and did not see them as the true chosen people of God. Arafat had no comment.

That is where you are at. I do not care what it is. I do not care if it is history. I do not care if it is science. I do not care if it is politics. I do not care if it is human rights. I do not care if it is civil

rights. I do not care about slavery. I do not care for religion. I do not care if it is theology. God has the inside on it, and when you get the inside, you are not reliant on ABC, NBC, CBS, who like to stir everything up, who have their own political agenda. You just get what God wants you to have, and you get His understanding in the matter.

VI. The Importance of Understanding God's Judgment

Here it comes. Jeremiah 23. You are going to love this. Jeremiah 23. Here we go, verse 1. Look at verse 1. Get a good... It is always nice to have a context. Let us look at the context.

Jeremiah 23:1

Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Well, that is where we are at. Verse 16.

Jeremiah 23:16

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.

That is where we are at today. That is where you get all this stuff. It is out of somebody's private political agenda. It is out of what somebody wants to do. So look it up, and they will talk about how God is and how this, and they have no care for the Word of God and what it says whatsoever. Do not tell me you believe in God and God bless America when you do not sit down with Arafat and put him straight where he is at. Because God is going to come down and put him straight where he is at, and then He is going to put you straight where you are at for not getting on line earlier.

Let us go on. Excuse the outburst.

Jeremiah 23:17

They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

Boy, is not that it today? We are trying to get everybody together. We are trying to work it all out. We have all the president and congressmen. I do not know what you are going to do when it comes to the election time. I have heard preachers all my life say, "Well, when it comes to election, every Christian ought to vote." Well, I agree with that. What do you vote for? Here is how it works. You say, "Well, George Bush, he is conservative. He is the right. He believes in God. He says, 'God bless America.' I will vote for him." All the liberals over here. It is a mess.

Do not tell me God bless America and you love God and He has changed your life when you do not apply what it said in every area of your life. What would you think of me as your preacher? If I get up here and preach, I only preach things that did not offend anybody. You say, "Well, you

got the national policy with the Arabs over. You have to be careful." Let me tell you something. My Bible tells me that if God is your God, you do not have to be afraid of anybody.

The little Jews proved that. In 1960-something over there. When Saudi Arabia, you ever hear how big Saudi Arabia was, and little Israel? It is incredible. All of Saudi Arabia were going to attack and wipe out that Jew in the Six Days' War. Those old Israelis got wind over there. They said, "No problem. Here is what we will do. You take off with the first flight of jets, and what you do is you fly below with your tail sections, you cut their telephone lines. We do not have time to send somebody in. You are going to have to fly your plane low, get any of those lines raised up, and cut the phone line with your tail of your plane." "Whoa." And then the next flight is taking off, and they are going to hit us at nine o'clock. "Okay. Wake up, call at 6:30." When those planes came in and destroyed every one of Arafat's and Arabia's planes on the ground, they had no air force in 20 minutes. Then those Israelis rolled through there, and they wiped them out. They call it the Six Days' War. Why? Because they did it in six days and rested on the seventh. Genesis 1-3. You see, understanding.

There is not going to be any peace. I hear preachers get up and say, "Well, I believe that God could send one more great revival before the Lord comes. So let us all, all, all, all, all..." He is not going to send any more revivals. You do not know where you are at. My Bible tells me there is going to be, everybody is going to say there is peace. There is not going to be any peace.

At Christmas time, I always enjoy it. Everywhere I go, I see half of Luke 2:14. It says "peace on earth. Goodwill toward men." Drive down my street. Big sign. "Peace on earth." I got this bozo down the street that puts a sign on his garage door. One of those lights, you know, that lights it up. He has got it for everything. I was coming down there, walking the dog, and there it was. "Peace on earth. Goodwill toward men. Peace, peace, peace." I mean, you drive down the street, big old jingle bells. "Peace on earth. Goodwill towards men. Have a drink. Seagram Seven peace on earth. Goodwill toward men. Drink some more." The whole world gets caught up in that. You go to church, and they have little pageants, and it is "peace on earth." Everybody gets up and says, "Pray for peace." Why? When the war started over there, I know preachers in this city that get up and have special prayer meetings to call their people together to pray for peace in the Middle East. Not me. I know the book. I got understanding. There is not going to be any peace.

You ever read Luke 2:14? Do not turn to it. "Peace on earth. Goodwill toward men." You better read the first part of the verse. It says "Glory to God in the highest." Then "peace on earth. Goodwill toward men." There is no peace in the earth till God gets the glory. It is not going to happen now, but it is going to happen soon. Do not worry about it. Do not worry about who to vote for. Just go in there and put it right in: candidate Jesus. That is what you do.

I heard somebody say, and this is the way they think, "Well, vote for George." I heard somebody say this: "Vote for the one that really will give you the most and do what is right with the Bible." Okay. Well, wait a minute. If my prayer in the Bible is, "Lord, get me out of here and come right now," why would I want that? Put the other guy in, get this thing over with. If I get the anti-Christian power two years earlier and get out of here in a rapture two years earlier, do I have to

pray about which way to vote? People are wild. You know why? Because they do not have any understanding. They do not have any understanding.

Jeremiah 23:18

For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?

I hear my mother used to say that. "Bobby, mark my words." Mark his words.

Jeremiah 23:19

Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked.

Jeremiah 23:20

The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

I got understanding. I consider it perfectly. I got a book that tells me what God does. You see, you thought the Bible was a record of God's searching for man. "God. Man, man, man." And some guys say, "No. God, the Bible is a record of man searching for God. God, God." No. The Bible is a record of what God is doing from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 to establish His kingdom. You do not have to worry about God finding you. He is the true light, the light of every man that is coming into the world. You do not have to worry about finding Him. He knows where you are at. He has got your address. He has even got your social security number. He is probably charging stuff on your credit card. You do not even know it. He says, "Consider it perfectly."

A couple of Thursday nights ago, and I might lose some of you on this one, but I had to say that a couple of Thursday nights ago, remember somebody asked about UFOs, and we were talking about Roswell and all that. I am just telling you, there are no aliens on other planets, but we know there are demons out there, and no demons are going to come down that way. We do not have time getting to all that. We were talking about the fact that in Roswell in 1947, we played that whole thing out with the restoration of the nation of Israel, how that they found ships and they found bodies, and everybody says, "Well, it is a conspiracy, and it is a hoax. It is this and that." You know that stuff. You know what? You can have understanding in those things. I am not the smartest guy in the world, but I know that I know that how they came in Genesis 6. I know the Bible says that there was in the days of Noah, so it is supposed to be in the coming of the Son of Man. I know that the Bible says in Daniel, there is going to be iron mingled with clay again. How is that going to happen? Do you think all these things about cloning just coming up because of the fact that science has just stepped forward now and got the idea of cloning? No, there is a reason for it. I watch things. I never say much, but I watch things. I watch how things go. When I see a gap, I know there is something to it. You see, I have understanding. I have considered it perfectly. Not that I am perfect, but I got a book that is, and it will help me consider it perfectly.

I mean, incredible, incredible. Let us go way back. A long time ago they had, it was the Bronze Age, and they had bronze swords, and the bronze sword was all they had. Then somebody found

out how to make steel or iron. You know how they found that out? It was a bad way to get it figured out. They were going into battle, and one guy went to hack somebody with his bronze sword. That guy held up a steel sword, and that bronze sword just cut like butter and broke in half because bronze is softer than steel. So a couple of years later, everybody has got steel swords.

Then somebody came up and said, "Look at bow and arrow, take a stick, put a string on it, put an arrow." It works good. Do not you imagine that was an exciting thing the first time they went with swords and they said, "Oh, arrows." Yeah. Then two years later, everybody had arrows. Then somebody got the idea of mixing that all stuff up, and, "Oh, gunpowder." It is Chinese. He said, "Oh, gunpowder." He put it all stuff together. "I do not put it in, put a rock in it and put it in." "Oh, boy." Do not you know that was a trip at the first battle lined up. "Get your bows. You got your arrows. I got lots of arrows. You got your sword made of steel. All right, man, we are going to let them have it. Here they come. Let us go." "Where did you all go? Where did I go?" Three years later, we all had them.

Then it got better. Around the end of the century, somebody said, "Well, this is a rifle. This is an Enfield." Somebody says, "This is a Mauser." Somebody said, "Well, we can shoot five times. Bam, bam, bam." But he said, "Wouldn't it be neat if you had one that shot a lot?" Somebody said, "Well, let us work on that." So they came up with a machine gun. Do not you know that was a trip the first time out. "Come on, man. We are in the trenches. We are going to get them. Let us go. They only got rifles like we got. Let us go for mother and country and up that thing." "Where is everybody at? Where am I at?" Machine guns. A couple years later, everybody had them.

Then he went out on a battlefield one day, and somebody said, "What is that? Looks like a big turtle." Somebody says, "I heard about that. It is a tank." A couple years later, everybody had them. They both start with T. What is your problem? Later on, somebody is down there, and they are saying, "Airplane, airplane." Little guy said, "The plane, the plane." Then, pretty soon, a couple years later, somebody else had them. Then they are shooting each other. Then they are big planes. They are dropping bombs. Then somebody said, "Hey, jets, planes real fast." Three, 400 miles an hour. Then somebody said, "Sound barrier." "We got the planes. They got the plane. We got the jets. They got the jets. We broke the sound barrier. They broke the sound barrier." Somebody said, "A-bomb." "Oh, we got an A-bomb. They got an A-bomb." Somebody said, "Nuclear subs go for 25,000 years on one little grain of pellets about the size of your thumb." They got them. We got them. Somebody said, "Outer space, capsule, astronaut." I always liked the story where the guy says, "Are you an astronaut?" He is dressed in a suit. "Yes." He says, "Is that your astronaut suit?" "Yes." He says, "Is this your crash helmet?" He says, "Oh, I hope not." Anyway, you had to be there. Up in outer space. We are up in outer space. Did you ever see it? We get it. They get it. We get it. They get it. We get it. They get it. We get it. They get it. Stealth fighter, invisible to radar. Mach five can fly into radar. Nobody can track it. We get it. They do not. They do not have it. Russia does not have it. Nobody else has got it. How come they got everything else we got? But when it came to that in the last part of the 20th century, they did not get it. I will tell you why. It came from some other technology. You say, "Oh, you mean down

there in Roswell?" Yeah, Roswell. How do you get to Roswell? Well, if you have understanding, you just go down. It is in New Mexico, and it is right off our state route 666. Consider it perfectly. Understanding.

Proverbs 8:8

All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

You know what? When you get facts, great. When you get wisdom, that is good. Then you are like Dan Rather and the rest of the board. When you get understanding, you have got a book that gives you the insight that shows you what is going on behind the scenes, and you can figure this thing out.

I have told you before, World War I, World War II. Somebody says, "We are going to have Memorial Day tomorrow. We got all, you know, this, that," and I am all for that. I thank God for the men that died in World War I and World War II to free us from oppression. But I still feel oppressed. In fact, I got less freedoms now than I had before World War I and World War II. I have read Dan Rather's book. I have read all these guys. I mean, I have. I have read the guys. I have read all those guys. I know. You know what? They all have facts, and they all have wisdom, but they do not have understanding. They do not see World War I got the land ready for the Jew. World War II got the Jew ready for the land in 1948. Israel is back in the land. The fact between those two wars, God killed 200 million Gentiles to get His people back in the land without even blinking an eye. That rubs us the wrong way, you see, because you do not know Isaiah 40 and you do not understand Jeremiah 46, a bunch of other places where God thinks the Gentile nation and He does not give a flip.

If you are a Christian, that is my big deal. I am a Christian. I am not a Republican or Democrat. I am a Christian. I am in this world, but I am not of this world. I do not care if He blows the whole place up tomorrow. It is okay with me. Somebody said, "Well, you know, I think war is a terrible thing." You do not understand. You do not understand hell. Hell is God's judgment for sin in the afterlife, but war is God's judgment for sin in this life. God judges people in this world. You do not just be a Nate, go back and read the Old Testament. You do not just do what you want to do and get away with it.

Somebody said 9/11. It was a terrible thing. Somebody else said, "It was God's judgment on this country because of its ungodliness and turning its nation from God." Everybody screamed and yelled and said, "Big, racist, what a terrible wicked prophet of doom." You know what? That is exactly what it was. It is exactly what it was. You see, you have understanding. I know that a lot of people do not understand that, but here comes another verse for you.

Proverbs 28:5

Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

You know why? You consider it perfectly. I look at the Middle East. All you have going on there now is what was going on back in the Old Testament. Back in the Old Testament, you had the Kenites, you had the Hivites, you had the Jebusites, you had the Moabites, you had the

Ammonites, you have every group back there that hated Israel, and the devil put them over there on that land to stop them and to keep them from getting into that land. They were against God and God's people, and God wiped them out. Anybody that went along with them that helped them in any way, shape, and form got clobbered too.

Today, you look over there. What do you see? Iraq, Iran, Persia. I see Saudi Arabia. I see this. I see that. That is facts. That is wisdom. When you have understanding, you know what you see? You see the Babylonians, you see the Hivites, you see the Ammonites, you see the same group there was back here. The same group. I am telling you, God, I mean, I got some news for you. Do not you get all caught up in this great thing about America. Daniel 2, Daniel 7, and Daniel 10 show you very clearly that America, the nation of the Antichrist goes with. He lays those things out from 606 BC right up to the time we are living and then right into the great white throne judgment.

You see, evil men understand not judgment, but they that fear the Lord understand all things. Why would you think, you know what? I know you do not probably believe this or do not even care about this, but you know what? You know why America has got problems. You know why the farmers cannot plant, why they go to a funk every year and they have to get money from the government to subsidize, and the cows will not give milk, and this and that, and it rains droughts here and it floods out here, and it just seems like wherever you go. "Well, I planted down here in this state, and I got rained out. So I am moving over here." "When I moved over here, I got droughted out," and it just wherever you go. Do not you know this country has got it? Do not you know that land has got a curse on it? Do not you figure that out? You say, "Well, I got to understand. I got facts and I got wisdom." Let me give you the understanding. You know why it does? Because in the Old Testament, back in the book of Exodus, it says if you take away capital punishment and you do not cleanse the blood from the land of the murder, the murdered people, God is going to pollute your land, and you are not going to get any crop from it. Somebody says, "Oh, you are so old-fashioned." No, I just consider it perfectly in the latter days. I have something that the average person does not have. It does not make me any better than anybody else. I just believe a book that gives me understanding. It is as simple as that. I am telling you, you consider it perfectly because God gives you a book that tells you His mind, that tells you His heart.

VII. Conclusion: How to Gain Understanding

Here is what you do. Here is what my goal is for every one of you. This is why I spend time with you helping you learn the Bible. This is why we talk about whatever you need to talk about on Thursday night. This is why I focus these messages to give you insight and understanding, help you build a relationship. This is why one-on-one, I will do whatever for you, give you whatever at your own pace, at your own speed, to help you wherever you need to be. Because what I am going to tell you is what you need to do.

The Bible says, when you receive the Word, you receive His Word. That means you are absolutely bought into the fact that that book is the number one book in this world, and no other book can do what it can do for you. You buy into it, it becomes your book, and then you hide it in

your heart, and then you learn that book, and then you apply it. You take that book and you put it in, and you make His thoughts your heart thoughts, His ways your ways, His definitions yours, and you get God's opinion on everything else in life and you make it your opinion. You put whatever you want to think, whatever you want to believe. Like I said last week, throw it out, make His concept your concept.

Now you are ready. Now you know what you do? You get a hold of every book on science you can. You get a hold of every book on philosophy you can. You get a hold of every book written by every unsaved man on everything in this world, and you start digesting it, and you start reading it. I do not encourage you to do that until you are set with the Bible where nobody will get it from you. Nothing you read will change your mind on it. You know that is the book, and then do what I did. I got everything I could get my hands on. I read history. I read European history, American history, ancient history, medieval history. Everything you can get: science, medicine, politics, everything you can. Read biographies about great men that forged and shaped this country. Find out why they thought. Find out what they did, and then you judge everything you read in the light of considering it perfectly in the light of one book.

You know what? You will get understanding. You will see this country, and you will see it as God intended it to be and what it is today. You will see the people in it of what God intended them to be and what they are today. It will not be any illusion why the problems are in America the way they are. You will not have to get your news update from anybody on NBC or CBS. You will not have to go to Rush Limbaugh to find out what is wrong with the Democrats or the Republicans. You will not have to go to Hannity or Colmes, or you will not have to hear Bill O'Reilly to find out what is wrong. Those guys are great guys, and they have facts and they have knowledge, but they do not have a clue when it comes to God being in the equation. You get that from a book by applying it to you. You get that in a book by making that book your book and loving that book with all your heart, with all your mind, and all your soul, and then you study to answer.

Now when you look at the world, you see it. You get your book on music, go back in history and look at the periods of music and see how music changed as man's attitude toward the Word of God changed. Go back and look at art and look how the pictures changed when man's attitudes toward the book changed. Go through the Baroque period, go through the middle period, look at sculpture and see how it changed as man's mind... This whole world and the outcome of it has been influenced either by men loving this book or leaving this book. We are where we are at today because of that.

When you consider it perfectly in the last days, you have understanding, and then you understand judgment, and unsaved men do not get it. I understand it. I realize that all the words are righteous and plain to them that understand it. It is not hard; it just comes down to you believing the book that God gave you that has every answer in it for the 21st century, just like any other century. You are not caught unawares with where you are at and what is going on and where God is at and where you need to be in relationship to God.

I told you this the other night, I was reading back in the Gospels a couple of while back how that Jesus was with His parents, and they were going somewhere, and suddenly they turned around,

and for two, three days they thought He was with them. They finally realized that He had not been around for a couple of days, and they are saying, "Where is He at? We did not even know He was not with us." I said to you at that point, if His own family could misplace Him for two or three days and not know where He is at and still think He was with Him when He was not, I promise you God's people can go on through this life thinking that God is with them when He is not. Because it comes down to that book in your life and my life, not just reading it, but in applying it. I do not want to help you read it. I want to help you apply it. I want to show you how it works and what it will do for you, and then how to put the pieces together to make it work in your life. Every head bowed and every eye closed.