

## I. Introduction to Proverbs 2:10-22

If you have your Bibles this morning, I would like to have you turn over to Proverbs chapter 2 again. We will be back in chapter 2, and we will be at the same place we started last week, in chapter 2, verses 10 through 22. You remember I told you we would take a couple of weeks to develop this passage. As we are coming through Proverbs, if we are going to do it, and there is so much in Proverbs that I do not want to just brush through it quickly. I want to make sure that we take the time to give you everything that you need, simply because I think that Proverbs is one of the main books in the Bible that at some point in your life you really have to understand.

I have said it many, many times that if I could have any one book in my life that I could have total recall with, that I could just remember everything in it and every verse and every chapter and every layout in it, it certainly would be the book of Proverbs. Unfortunately, I do not have that ability, but I would certainly like to.

I told you we would take a couple of weeks to develop this passage as it pertains to the two great aspects in this book that we have talked about that I think are absolutely invaluable to us, and that is the concept of the evil man and the strange woman. Last week we examined the doctrinal aspect of it. I think that is very important. I want you to come away from the book of Proverbs when we are finished with this with a complete, well-rounded understanding of it.

Last time we talked about the evil man and the strange woman being the Antichrist doctrinally and his religion as it applies to the nation of Israel in a prophetic sense. I showed you the great types or model in the Bible. We went to 1 Kings 17 and it is also in 1 Kings 18 in the lives of one of the wickedest kings that Israel ever had and his wife, who was a religious prophetess, and that is Ahab and Jezebel. They stand as the great model in the Bible of the evil man and the strange woman. We see how that through what they did and all that they brought in with the false religion of Baal worship, how that they basically infested the nation of Israel and then in time it brought them down to its demise.

I also promised you last week that we would look at the inspirational application, how it applies to you. We know now how in the prophetic sense it pictures what the Antichrist is going to do and is doing right now. The Bible says, "the mystery of iniquity doth already work." He is already at work doing what he is doing with the nation of Israel. There is a practical thing here. There is something that will help you in your everyday life. There is something that will help you tomorrow, next week, and you have to face the issues, and when you understand it, you have a better hope of dealing with it.

We are going to look at the practical side of this concept so you can see how it works in your life. We are going to talk basically about the real and present danger of the evil man and the strange woman in your life. Today we will start with the exact same passage that we had last week, and we will examine the evil man this week, and then next week we will come back and we will talk about the strange woman.

Let us pick it up here in chapter 2, verse 10, and it says,

*Proverbs 2:10-22*

*When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;*

*Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:*

*To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;*

*Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;*

*Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;*

*Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:*

*To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;*

*Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.*

*For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.*

*None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.*

*That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.*

*For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.*

*But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.*

Now Father, we thank you for last week. We saw how this applied in a prophetic sense, a doctrinal aspect to the nation of Israel. We saw how that this evil man and this strange woman prophetically foreshadow what is going to happen to Israel and what has happened to Israel by getting involved in the things of the world and Baal worship and leaving the paths of God, the guide of her youth, the covenant that God made with them.

Lord, yet there is a great practical side to this because just as Israel goes through the things that she goes through, we as Christians go through the things that we go through. The plan of the devil is not much different from what he wanted to do with Israel than he wanted to do with us. So help us today, help us to come to it from a sensible, practical approach. Help us to look at this passage as it applies to us as individuals. Help us not to worry today about saying, "Well, I know somebody like that," or, "I know this person is like that." But help us, Father, to look at ourselves and say, "Yeah, I am like that," and then to take it and to move from there. We will thank you and praise you for all that you do. In Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it. Amen.

## II. The Four Gifts of God

You will remember last week that I gave you four elements that you get, the treasures I called them, the gifts that God gives us when we get the mind of Christ. We talked about that is what the book of Proverbs is. I have said it many, many times that the job of every Christian is simply to find out what God wants you to do with your life, find out what God thinks about everything

in life, and then take our own private opinions that we built up over the years, throw it out, and make our opinion God's opinion. Taking the mind of God, the way God looks at things, and making it the way we look at things. That is very crucial in our lives.

I showed you four things that God gives us once we do that.

1. We talked about knowledge, and in every sense of God's sense, the knowledge of God.
2. We talked about that knowledge will develop into wisdom.
3. When you learn how to use knowledge and use wisdom, it gives you probably the greatest thing that it brings, and that is understanding.
4. Of course, those three things—the knowledge, the wisdom, and understanding—give you something that is absolutely invaluable as a Christian, and that is discretion.

God has told us in the passage that when we get discretion, it is going to preserve us, and understanding will keep us. What it keeps us from is the attack of the devil in your life and my life in Christianity by the evil man and the strange woman. We want to talk about what that means. I want to show you how in a practical sense what it really stands for so you can see it for what it is and understand better.

You remember the definitions I gave you last week. I think they were very important.

➤ **Understanding:** The ability that you come to in your life because you get knowledge, you get wisdom, you have a relationship with God. When you get understanding, understanding is the ability to grasp the principles that go along with any issue that you see in life. When you have understanding, you simply understand the principles involved. You have something come into your life, you have something you have got to deal with. You have heard me say it many, many times. Many times in your life and my life, I am not responsible for the bad things that happen to me in my life. Many times there will be things that come into your world that you are not responsible for. But even though I may not be responsible for them coming into my life, I am responsible how I deal with it. That is understanding. Understanding is the ability to grasp the principles that go along with any issue.

➤ **Discretion:** The ability to apply the principles to any issue because you now understand it. You understand what it really is and not how it seems to appear. That is discretion.

You will want to see this. I talk about breaking things down to the lowest common denominator. I talk about getting things down where you cannot divide it out anymore. That what you really have is what it is.

### III. The Devil's Attack on the Family

The main attack and the effect of Baal worship, we talked about it last week, and we talked about how to destroy the nation of Israel. That is true. But when you really lay it out and study it and you see it from the inspirational application and you put it all together, and this is what I call discretion at work, the main focus or the attack in the effect of Baal worship was not just to destroy the nation of Israel, although it really did, and that obviously happened. I want you to see this and understand this because here lies the heart of what we want to talk about today in relationship to the attack of the devil through the evil man and through next week, the strange woman.

In fact, the main goal was to destroy the families that were within Israel. You see, when God built the nation of Israel, and we have talked about it before, when God built the nation of Israel, He built it on a family unit. He built it on a family unit. He said over there in Genesis chapter 12, verse 3, He had a plan for Israel. You know what that plan was? He says in Genesis 12:3 that all the families of the earth would be blessed. You see, God knows that nations are made up of families. So God made the nation of Israel, and He built the unit that built the nation strong, which was the family unit.

That is why, maybe you never thought about it, that is why in Genesis chapter 18, verses 8 through 19, somebody asked a question in Bible study about a couple of months ago, what did God see in Abraham that He chose Abraham to be who he was and to be the friend of God? We could talk about a lot of things in Abraham's character that God probably saw. But keep in mind now that when God structured the nation of Israel and had a plan for the nation of Israel to have all the families of the earth be blessed by this nation, God set this nation up based on families.

When God looked for Abraham and when God looked for somebody that He wanted to put in charge to be the formulation of this great nation, He chose Abraham. He told us in Genesis chapter 18, verses 18 and 19, that God said,

*Genesis 18:18-19*

*Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.*

*For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

He knew that Abraham would keep the family unit together. Of course, this is why, and most people do not understand this, this is why in the Old Testament there are such harsh penalties for rebellious children in the Old Testament. Children get away with a lot of things today, and you have children that do things that are totally outside the scope of the Bible and God today in Christianity under grace. But it was not true under the law.

Under the law, if you had a child that was rebellious and talked back to the parents and would not do what the parents said and would not follow the rule of the father, it was not like it is today. It was the fact that the father laid down the law, began to talk and say, "This is what I want you to do." That child said, "I am not doing it. I am going to do my own thing." They took that child to

the elders. The elders of the nation of Israel tried to reason with that child. When that child portrayed the obstinance that many children do today to their parents and the church and the pastors or whatever, it was not a thing where they medicated them. It was not a thing that they looked for some alternative. What they did is took him out and put him in a hole and stoned him to death.

Children in the Bible and children in the family were dealt with very swiftly and very harshly. You know why? Now I am telling you why, because God knew that the success of the nation of Israel, its strength, was going to be in the family unit. So He is very protective of that. You are going to find that when the devil tried to destroy the nation of Israel, he did not come at the nation; he attacked the families. When the families got attacked, because when the family went, the nation went. The erosion of the family unit brought the downfall of the nation of Israel.

I tell you all the time, and it is the same thing when we get into the practical side today. We will see exactly the same thing: the total failure of the family. I am talking about the Christian family as God's structure for the church. The attack today, just as it was with Israel, and God wants to destroy what the church is called to do, He is going to do it the same way He did with the nation of Israel because the church is built on the family unit. You will see that as we come through it here in just a little bit.

#### IV. The Worthlessness of Christianity

I have learned something over the years, and if you do not get anything else out of what I say today, it will be worth your time to get what I am about to tell you. I have learned this over the years. I have watched this. I told the people in people ministry yesterday this, and it is so true. I have watched that what happens in the world, what the world embraces, what the world brings into its surroundings, if you watch that thing very carefully, whatever the world brings in and the world establishes and does, if you watch it, it will creep into Christianity in about 20, 30 years. It is just the way that it works. It is that effect that the world has, and it is just the way that it goes. The church is built on that family unit. So this is why he says that knowledge and wisdom and understanding and discretion will preserve you. It will keep you. It will keep your family. It will protect your family. It will preserve your family.

I had a couple of friends up where I work out that are Christians. They are really nice people. They do not have a lot of Bible knowledge, but they are nice people, and I enjoy them. We were walking around one day, and this was last week, and there were three of us kind of walking there, and both guys, and I was, we were, and I do not really say a lot. I just go do my thing and come home. So many people up there, when they got their memberships for the fitness center, they did not get workout permits; they got camping permits. They just sit around and talk all the time, which is fine.

They were walking around a track up there between my sets, and they were talking about, and one of them said to me, "Don't you think the world has gotten a lot more wicked today than it was, say, a hundred years ago?" The other guy said, "Yeah, I think it is terrible. I think the world is much more wicked today." I hear that. They went on about, "This is why we have all the

problems we have." I did not really say anything because I just did not want to get into it because there is no point to it. But I was listening to it, and they said, they talked about how much more wicked the world is today than it was a hundred years ago. That is really, you hear that a lot. That is the standard thought today.

The truth is, and the reality is, that is simply not true. It is just not. The world is not any more wicked today than it was in Genesis 3, 1 Kings 18, or Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Where did we get the idea that the devil waited until about 2000 A.D. and then said, "Okay, let us bring in the real wicked demons now to destroy the world"? I am not sure where that got started. But again, those are good people. This is not derogatory toward them because I love them, and they are good people, and they love the Lord and all of that. But it shows me that they did not have any discernment. It showed me that they did not have any understanding or discretion to make a statement like that.

It is not the fact that the world is more wicked. It is simply the fact that Christianity is more worthless. That is the problem.

*Matthew 5:13*

*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

Salt in the Bible is a preservative. It preserves things. We are the salt. Christianity is the salt. Israel in the Old Testament was the salt. The Word of God is the salt. We are the salt that preserves the world around us. When you go back 100 years ago or 200 years ago, it is not the fact that the world was less wicked. It is the fact that Christians were closer to God. They believed more about the Bible. They loved the Lord. They lived the life of Christianity. They were not Christians who talk about this and that. They were not churches who talked about, "We are a church, but we have a gambling ministry. We are a church. We have social drinking. We are a church. We have this. We are a church. We have that." They were a church that stood firm on the Word of God. That Word of God that they stood on was the King James 1611 Authorized Version, and it preserved this world. It is gone. The salt has lost its savor. It really has.

When a family goes today, the church goes. When the church goes, the nation goes because it is the church made up of the families that preserves the things of God. That is why you will find that you even go back to the beginning of our country back in the 1770s when our country was first established. Many of our founding fathers were Christians. They were born again believers, but many of them were not. When you read their bios and you read about them and you read their standards and their morals and what they look for to put in a country, you have got to really look hard because it is hard to see the saved people from the lost people because the lost people back then were closer to God than most saved people are today, and they were lost.

You know why that is? Because this country had a love and a reverence for God and the Word of God that we do not have today. They understood the aspect of families. Back then the families were one unit in a very solid way. They did not have all the gadgets and all the places that we have today to separate out our families. I am not saying it is bad, but you worked on a farm, you

lived in a log cabin, you ate together in the morning, you worked chores together in the afternoon throughout the day, you ate lunch, you ate dinner together, and you sat around a table and talked to each other. No TV, no radio, no iPod, no phone, no texting; it was just family communication. It was not a novel idea, but that is the way it was.

Christians today cannot see what I just said. Churches cannot see it because they have no understanding and they have no discernment. Remember now what comes into the world will seep into Christianity 20 or 30 years later. Today, Christians and churches, they do what everybody does in the world. The world today, instead of taking responsibility for Christianity, for taking responsibility for the mess we are in and pastors getting up and saying, "We have got to change the way we do business, we have got to get back to the old paths, we have got to do what the Bible says and start believing the book and preaching the book." Instead of doing that, we go around the famous blame game. We blame it on the world.

"Well, the world is more wicked today. It is harder to build a church today than it was 100 years ago because of how wicked the world is. It is harder to raise your family today because of how wicked the world is than it was 100 years ago." Let me tell you something. I do not care how bad it gets, the Bible is still the Bible, and it still means what it says and will still preserve and keep you based on what you do with it. Just that simple. But we have lost that today. The standard operating procedure is the blame game. Blame it on something else. Blame it on somebody else.

This is what goes on in our country. This is what is going on in Washington right now while we have a government shutdown. I had a number of people call me after the government shutdown and wanting to know what I thought about it, and they say, "Well, what do you think about the government shutdown?" My standard answer was, "The government shut down a long time ago." The government shutdown took place when the government threw God out of government. Just because it keeps going through the motions and pretends like it is doing something, it did not do anything. This government reminds me of a machine some guy invented one time. It had one million moving parts, and when he put the plug in and pushed the buttons, everything moved, and somebody said, "What does it do?" He said, "It does not do anything; it just moves a lot." That is the way we are in our country today. It is because nobody wants to take responsibility. The Democrats want to blame the Republicans; the Republicans want to blame the Democrats. Nobody wants to say, "We need to get our own house in order and get back to what made this country great." But that is where we are at today. That attitude has crept into Christianity today. It really has.

## V. The Practical Threat of the Evil Man

From a practical standpoint, this evil man is the main threat to you and your family because the devil wants to destroy your family. He wants to destroy everything in your life. He wants to take your marriage and destroy it. He wants to take your children and drag them into the world. He wants to take everything in your life that God put in your life to do something and take it away from you.

I have never understood what I am about to say. It has always been somewhat of an amazement to me. I have never really understood it. When your children are growing up, parents protect them from certain things, as you should. One of the main things you teach them is, "Do not talk to strangers." I remember when my two girls were growing up, we hammered down a lot. We talked, "Do not talk to strangers." I think we called them "men stealers" back then. We drove into them, "Do not talk to strangers." You get it all the time today, especially today. "Do not get into the car with them. Do not go, if they say, 'I have lost my dog, can you go help me find it?' Do not believe it. Do not get in the car. If they want to give you some candy or they want to ask directions, they want to get you closer to the car, do not do that."

Every parent's worst nightmare, I guarantee you, every parent's worst nightmare would be the abduction of their child. I cannot even fathom that. So we tell our kids, "If you see a stranger, if you see some man out there in a car, or he is standing on a street corner and he says, 'Hey, kid, come here. I need your help,' you run. You scream. You yell. You run to the nearest house. You run to the nearest policeman. You run to this. You run to that. You get away from that because we know where that is going to lead."

It never ceases to amaze me. When it comes to warning your children and training them about staying away and staying on top of them in their life, of staying away from the evil man and the strange woman, which will certainly hurt them, we say nothing about it at all. In many cases, I am going to tell you something. The evil man in the Bible, we are going to talk about the strange woman next week, but the evil man of the Bible will do much more damage to your children than any guy on the street corner will.

This evil man here for us in a practical sense, I mean, if you love your children and you do not want anything to happen to them, but you lose your kids to the world through the teaching and the seduction of the evil man and the strange woman, and you wind up that your child has been abducted right from under your nose. We had a case here a couple of years ago, but the baby Lisa deal was a tragic thing where the mom and the dad do not know how. I mean, they all went to, dad was working, she went to bed, and then she gets up in the morning, and the baby is gone. They have looked up one side and down the other. They have done every pain, run every lead they could to find this baby. How does somebody come into a home? How does somebody come into your house while you are there and abduct your child? Well, it happens all the time in Christian families.

When I was growing up in the 70s, preachers were railing against televisions, and many Christians, and I do not argue with them if they stand on it. I understand where a lot of them come from, but I have heard so many messages called "the thief in the living room" that the first introduction that your kids get to drinking, the first introduction your kids get to smoking, the first introduction your kids get to fornication or adultery or murder or rape or incest is the thing you put right in your home that they get introduced to, and the evil man will take that and he will use that. The strange woman will use that and will take that.

Today it is different. Today we have laptops. We have Facebook, MySpace, In Your Face, all those things that your kids communicate that most parents are oblivious to. Let me ask you a

question. How does an 18, 17-year-old girl get online in a chat room with some guy who they develop a relationship and talk back and forth, and then that guy in your own home gets her to meet him someplace for a sexual encounter, and while you are there watching what you are watching, doing what you are doing, whatever is taking place in your world, right from under your nose your daughter becomes abducted? How does that happen? Happens all the time. Happens all the time.

Many times the evil man abducts our children, your children, and it is because the parents drove them to the evil man drop-off zone. Many times, I have learned this, the greatest people get this wrong, the greatest sin in the Bible are not the things that you do. Do you know that? The greatest sin in the Bible is the sin of omission. The greatest sins in the Bible are not the things you do. The greatest sins in the Bible are the things you do not do.

When you look at your family, when you look at yourself and you realize you are telling your kids, "Do not go around strangers, stay away from strangers, do not talk to them, do not do this," and then you allow the evil man to walk right into your home. Many times you walked into the car and opened the door and buckled him in. It always seems to amaze me how parents can be so adamant about the stranger on the street corner, the evil man on the street corner, and forsake the one that got in their own house that will do everything they can do to destroy your kids.

I tell parents all the time, I tell them all the time, I preach this from day one, I tell them all the time that nothing or no one should have more influence over your child's life than you do. Nobody. No teacher, no coach, no Cub Scout leader, Girl Scout leader, nobody. No guy, no girl, friend. Nobody should have more influence in your child's life than you do unless you allow them to. But what we do is the same thing that they are doing in Washington right now. We want to blame it on everybody else. We want to blame it on everything else.

I tell you, and listen, you want to write this down. Parents who will not take the responsibility for their children while they are growing up and they wound up getting turned over to the evil man, most of them will never take responsibility when they are age 20, 30, and they are completely gone over to the world. It is always somebody else's fault. The truth of the matter is, it is our fault. It is our fault.

For you young parents, I have some good news. The book of Proverbs and your application of it into your family will make sure that that never happens. I am not going to be so foolish to sit here and tell you that you will not have tough times raising your kids. Kids go through struggles in their life that you as a parent will have to be on top of. Kids will have their ups and downs just like you and I have our ups and downs. Your kids will make goofy choices just like you and I make goofy choices. They will get into things that are wrong just like you and I get into things that are wrong. It does not say that your kid is going to be problem-free, but the key word there is preservation. The key word there is God will preserve them.

I believe this with all of my heart, and everybody in this church does. It is a member of this church. I believe the Bible is the absolute preserved Word of God. I mean, when God gave us this book, God preserved every word, every chapter, everything that He wanted. I believe it is the Word of God cover to cover, including the cover. I believe that when God gave us this book, He

gave us a book that was absolutely preserved that was never tainted or tanned with by man. Do you believe that?

Brother, you go down through history. This book went through some tough times, did it not? It was not smooth sailing all the way down through history. There were times when it was a capital offense to have the Bible that I am holding today, punishable by death. There was a time when it was hated so much in history that, and even today, I tell you all the time, the Bible is much more powerful than an atom bomb, much more powerful. You know why? Because I know five countries that outlaw Bibles, and I do not know one that outlaws atom bombs. This book is power, and it is preserved, but it went through some tough times. It had its own evil man after it and strange woman, but it was preserved. When you get the principles of the Word of God in your life first and you put them into the life of your family, no matter what bumps and rough times you go through, at the end of the day, it will keep you and preserve you.

This evil man here that we are going to look at today in a practical way will be the worldly wisdom that goes completely against God. It comes at you and me in many, many forms. Some forms are very clear, other forms, oh boy, you look at it, and you have to look at it and really know the Bible to see what is wrong with it. But it comes in many forms. It is what you will be exposed to every day of your life. If you turn on a radio, the evil man will be talking to you. If you turn on the television, the evil man will be talking to you. Whatever you do, wherever you go, if you drive down the road and just simply look at the billboards, he will be talking to you.

It was said to us in Daniel chapter 1 when the Hebrew children were taken down into Babylon in the captivity, children of the king, pictures of Christians, that Babylon, a type of the Antichrist and a type of the devil, and certainly the evil man in the Bible had a daily portion he prepared for them. Every day in your life and my life when we step out that front door, we turn on the TV, we read a magazine, we pick up a newspaper, the evil man goes to work. He has a daily portion for you and for me, and he has one for your children too. He simply does.

It is a thing where when you understand how that works, when you realize that he is going to come at you in many, many ways. We saw it in the book of 1 Corinthians, did we not? When we studied that book back there, we saw how worldly they were as a church, how many problems they had, and yet we know from studying it that the problem was that that was a church that was operating in worldly wisdom. Paul told him in chapter 2, verse 5, that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. There is the problem today. Notice he said your faith, they are saved people. This is what the problem is today. God's people's faith, God's people's faith is in the wisdom of men and not the power of God.

## VI. The Five Steps Down

When you define this evil man in Proverbs, you find five things about him. I want to talk to you about today. These five things, all the years in my life in the ministry and dealing with people and seeing people, how they react to the Word of God, some do what is right, some do what is wrong. I want to talk to you about this thing over 10,000 times and perform itself. This is exactly what happens when a man or a woman begins to leave God and go to the world. These five steps

are the five steps down. Remember in your Bible, five is the number of death. I do not care who you are, I do not care who you think you are, I do not care what you know. These five steps downward will lead you, me, your children right to the world if you do not deal with it.

When you go to the world, and people go to the world all the time, we have had people come to this church, every church I have ever been associated with, all my life. I have seen people come in, want to get into the Word of God, some of them do get into the Word of God, but then something happens. They quit growing spiritually, they quit doing what is right with God, they get a problem with God or something in their life, and they begin to go down these five steps. These five steps are the worst five steps that you could ever take in your life because they are not five steps up; they are five steps down. I have seen it all in my life.

Now look at Proverbs chapter 2 here, and look at verse 13.

5. Leaving the Paths of Uprightness
6. Walking in the Ways of Darkness
7. Rejoicing to Do Evil
8. Delighting in the Frowardness of the Wicked
9. Whose Ways are Crooked and They Froward in Their Paths

## VII. The Heritage of the Lord

You need to see this. The Bible says Psalm 127:3,

*Psalms 127:3*

*Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*

The thing I want to draw your attention to there quickly first here is the fact that it says, "Lo, children are the heritage of the Lord." The corrupt NIV says that children are a heritage from the Lord. That is not true. That is not what it is talking about. They missed the whole point, but then why would they not? No, "Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is His reward."

God's plan with Israel and the church was an unbroken chain of ministry within the family, one generation to the next. The family unit in the Old Testament was the same as the family unit in the New Testament and as far as God's plan to get His message to the world. I told you last week, you deliver a message as parents to your children. I told you last week, having kids does not make you a father. Anybody can find a woman and have kids or find a man and have kids. Being a woman, having kids does not make you a father, but rather taking responsibility for those kids is what makes you a father. You give your kids a message. You train your kids in a message. You teach them that message, and then they carry that message out that you gave them.

I do not know if you noticed or not, the first two attacks in your Bible in Genesis 3 and 4 were on the family. Adam and Eve were a husband and a wife. The first attack in Genesis 3, he came after

the weaker vessel and destroyed the family. Then just one chapter later, he got one of the boys in that family to kill the other boy. The first two attacks in your Bible are against the family, showing you that God's unit for His carrying the gospel is families ministering together in an unbroken chain down through the generations. The evil man got the parents first, then he got one of the boys, and then he destroyed the family. But it all started with the parents.

The children God has given us need to be protected. Those little babies and the little kids you have got in the elementary, those teenagers you have got, they need to be preserved. They need to be kept from the evil man. The families that are in the New Testament need to take the instructions of a father and the law of thy mother and apply all that he says to the families. Families ministering together. Keep that unbroken chain of ministering alive. When they are by your side, when they are 4, 5, 6, or 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, they will be by your side when they are 20, 21, 30. It is just that simple. The children of the family are God's heritage, not your heritage. Those kids are the fruit of His womb. They are for His honor and glory.

God's plan was to win the world to Christ by families in the Old Testament and the New Testaments who formed an unbroken chain. He gave you everything you needed to give you an unbroken chain of ministry that you minister with your children, they with their children, and it goes on generation after generation after generation.

I talked to Bryce this last week. Raise your hand, Bryce, so everybody can see who you are. I had no idea when I talked to him and they came over and talked about wanting to get married down the line someplace, and I said in a short time, 20, 30 years, we are just fine, and they agreed to that. In the course of talking, and he is a fine young guy, I mean he is a great guy. "Are you in a prayer group, man's prayer group?" "Okay, good." He is a fine young guy. We were talking back and forth. He is from Wichita. My old stomping grounds, I have preached down through Wichita many, many years. I got talking about a great pastor down there whose name was Doyle Hopper. Doyle Hopper was a great preacher. My pastor in Ohio, Dr. Harold Henniger, were both friends, Doyle Hopper, Harold Henniger, John Rawlings, and a bunch of them were out of J. Frank Norris' crowd. He is a great preacher.

Well, I did not know it at the time. When I saw his eyes light up and he told me, he says that he is Doyle Hopper, he is his great-grandson of Doyle Hopper. I thought to myself, "Wow. Wow." That is an honor for me, for somebody, but you know what it shows? It shows that Doyle Hopper died when he was 54, 55, back in '76 of a brain cancer. But the legacy of his family goes on with his parents and their parents and now him. When they get married with them, that is what I am talking about. One guy back there, boy, that preached the Word of God and preached it straight, hot, and true was Doyle Hopper. He believed that book cover to cover, just like I do. He preached just like what we believe. Here I have his great-grandson in my church today. That is an honor that I do not even know how to respond to. But that is what God intended.

Just like his daddy ministered in Wichita, just like his daddy grandfather ministered in that church, and now he is ministering in my church. That is what it is supposed to be. It is exactly what it is supposed to be. Families ministering together, keeping that unbroken chain of ministry alive. The need for parents to see this tremendous responsibility that they have to not only protect

and keep their family, but the bigger, large picture to preserve the chain of unbroken ministry. It is not just about, I mean, it is, but it is just about having your kids not go into the world. I mean, I do not want that for any family, and I am sure you do not either. But do not stop there. It is not about just your family not going into the world. It is bigger than that. Get some discernment. Get some discretion. See it as it really is. It is not just, "I do not want my kid to be worldly. I do not want my kid not to come to church. I do not want this. I do not want that either." I will do anything in my power to help you with that. But at the end of the day, that is not just what it is all about. The bigger picture is the unbroken chain of the legacy of children who are in a heritage of the Lord. Families ministering together in an unbroken chain, generation after generation after generation. There becomes the fruit of His womb for the Lord. The children God gives us. We train them up and raise them up to minister with us for Him. Training your children to train their children and their children until the Lord comes back, it never stops. It never stops.

Next week I am going to talk to you about the strange woman, but I want to say this. I know some of you got into Christianity later in life, later in life. Your kids were already grown. Your kids were already gone. Or maybe they were on their way out. You could not reverse the process. I understand that. Let me just say this to you, because I do not want this message to be a discouragement to anybody. There is always something you can do. There is always something that you can do, no matter where you are at in your given situation. The problem is not what you can do. The problem is, will you do what you have to do? That is the question.

Next week we will talk about the strange woman. We will detail her out, just like we did the evil man today. Let us have a word of prayer. In about five or ten minutes, I will call everybody back in here for a restart, and we will get going. Let us pray.

Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. Thank you for today, for the people that have come. Thank you for the book of Proverbs and its power and what it means and what it helps. Help us, Lord, to always stay focused on the families. Help us, Lord, to always keep before them the moms and dads in this church. We have so many of them that have little kids and kids that are approaching that age where they are going to have to make some decisions about Christ and, Lord, they are being faced with the things of the world. Lord, we just help us to always just take the stand that we can help them, be there for them, to give them the encouragement and instruction. Do not let this church be like all the other churches. We do not care about the big movie screens. We do not care about the chandeliers in the ballroom. We do not care about all of that stuff. We just care about a book that you gave us that will change our life, that will preserve and keep our families. That is what we want to do. We want this church to be an unbroken chain of families that will continue to minister, teach their kids how to minister, for those kids to teach those kids how to minister until Jesus comes back. We will thank you and praise you now in Jesus' name. For His sake, we ask it. Amen. God bless you. You are dismissed. I will call you back up here in about five minutes.