

# 2 Corinthians 9

January 1, 2024

## I. Introduction and The Law of Sowing and Reaping

Last week, we started 2 Corinthians chapter 9. I told you that chapter 8 and chapter 9 are probably for us as Christians two of the greatest chapters in the Bible if you are ever going to do what God wants you to do with your life. They deal with the key to everything, and that is the heart of the minister.

In that passage last week, we started verses 1 through 5. I gave you yet another couple of great principles, and we talked about some things that you are going to use, especially you folks that are going to really commit yourselves to work with people and try to help people through the struggles of their life. You need to really make sure you get these down; they are just incredible.

We talked about the great principle of sowing and reaping. He said in verse 6, and this is where we were last week:

*2 Corinthians 9:6*

*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

We talked about that, and I showed you how that goes along with Galatians 6:7, which talks about:

*Galatians 6:7*

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

I showed you how those two coming together really form for us one of the seven laws in the Bible. I told you that there are seven absolute laws that the Bible and everything in life really runs by—all life, all science, everything. It is a great concept to understand the law of sowing and reaping. I told you that there are four practical applications to it.

1. You reap what you sow. We all do. That is just an absolute law. There is always the law of sowing and reaping.
2. When you get away from the Word of God and the things of God, that compounding effect kicks in, and it is not just your sin anymore. Now you bring in your family; you are bringing in other people with it. You reap what you sow, but we always reap more than we sow.
3. You reap how you sow.
4. Sometimes when you reap down here the things that are not right with God, it does not always come home here. You will get it at the judgment seat of Christ, or for an unsaved person, at the Great White Throne Judgment.

George Bernard Shaw was probably the greatest atheist that I have ever read or read about in my whole life. I think he lived to be 95 or 96 years old. After he died, they found a Bible that somebody had given him, and in the flyleaf of that Bible, he had written a little note saying that

this is the most undesirable book that anybody has ever given me, and I never will pick it up and read it again. That is what he thought about the Word of God. He was a rank atheist all of his life and yet lived to be 95 years old. I do not think he was sick a day in his life. He had good fame and fortune. He wrote a lot of things and did a lot of things. If you would look at his life, you cannot see one downside to it. My point is, you do not always reap it in this life. Sometimes you get it in the life to come, and you have to understand those things.

You will see and use this material a thousand times in dealing with people. When you start to work with people, most biblical counseling, when you start to deal with situations, very frankly, will simply be when you work with somebody, whether it is a couple, a family, or an individual, it is nothing more than just peeling back the layers, peeling back the different levels of a compounding disastrous life that has been going on for 10, 15, 20, or 30 years. I have dealt with couples that were married 50 years, and their life was an absolute mess. It all goes back to the violation of this simple, basic principle that has disastrous effects on our lives if we do not follow it. So I encourage you, those of you that want to work with people, you want to be part of a church that really helps people, learn it well because you are going to deal with it very, very often in everything that you do.

Then I gave you the great concept that he talked about there: provoking with your zeal, provoking very many. We talked about how you provoke people to good works, and it has a negative aspect and a positive aspect. When you preach the Word of God and you get motivated about the Bible, you have a passion about the Bible; it gives you, it motivates some of you, it gives you a passion. You see the excitement in somebody else's life, and then of course, it gets infectious into your life. But it also has a negative effect. Not everybody wants to do what the Word of God says. Not everybody wants to take the Bible and apply it. Some people want to live their life the way they want to live it, and it provokes them to a negative aspect. So it works both ways.

## II. The Principle of Purposing in the Heart

Now today, we will pick it up in verse 7, and we are going to read down around verse 15. In fact, I am going to start in verse 6 where we ended last week.

*2 Corinthians 9:6-15*

*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

*(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.*

*Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness)*

*Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.*

*For the administration of this service not only supplyeth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;*

*Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;*

*And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.*

*Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*

Now Father, we do thank you and praise you today for the Lord Jesus. We thank you for those that have come out today. Thank you for weathering through this storm that we had this last week and yet the one that looked like it might come this Monday. We pray Father your protection upon all those that have to work and travel and Lord their hand upon us and we pray today that you will give us what we need to have. We love you and we are needy people Lord in a world that has so much to offer, Lord, to take so much away from what God wants to give us. Help us see the true riches today and understand how that we need to be everything that God wants us to be. And we will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

Now I want you to look at verse 7 here, and here is another great principle we want to mark in our Bibles. He says:

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

The first thing I want you to see, and this strikes home in everything that we have talked about so far in chapter 8 and chapter 9, is how absolutely everything will go back to our attitude of heart toward God, everything. He says in verse 7, "purpose in his heart."

When you go back and you look at probably in Daniel 1, one of the greatest examples of how that, and we have our young people in here today. Daniel was a young man just like many of you are, and he came to the point in his life where he was faced with the same things that you are going to be faced with. The Bible says that he was taken down into Babylon, and there King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to make him like the world, make him like everything that it was. The Bible says in Daniel 1:8, one of the greatest principles in the Word of God for you young kids, for every mom and dad, for every single, for every elderly couple in this church, when Daniel was faced with what he had to do and what the world wanted him to do and what Nebuchadnezzar wanted to give him, the Bible simply says:

*Daniel 1:8*

*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

He purposed in his heart. I am telling you, everything that we are, everything that we do as Christians, everything we attempt to do, will go back to our attitude of heart with God. That is a great verse where it says, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart."

Then I have to say this: this verse, and I have said this all through this, this verse is used 100% of the time by most preachers to manipulate their people into giving money. That is what they do. They use this verse to beat people over the head, and pastors are so busy trying to get their hand into your wallet that they never bother to spend the time to get the context of both chapters. The context of both chapters is nothing about money. That is not what he wants anybody to give. He does not want the money; he wants them. It is about you. It is about me. It is about you and I giving ourselves first and giving your heart to the Lord. That is what he wants.

We know that in this chapter, the story is built around the fact that the saints here in the church at Corinth did take up an offering for the saints at Jerusalem. We know that. They were having a tough time down there, and they were very poor themselves, and they wanted to take up to help them with all they were going through. But you have to remember first things first. 2 Corinthians 8:5 told us that they gave of themselves first. 2 Corinthians 8:12 said that they first had a willing mind. It was their attitude of heart that they gave to God that God used to get everything else done: simply being very happy, joyously giving all of ourselves to God, fully understanding that on the cross of Calvary, He fully gave everything of Himself for us.

Hebrews 12:2 says that the Lord, for the joy that was set before Him. We think of the crucifixion; we do not think of it as a joyous occasion. But to God and to Christ, it was. Do you know why it was? Because it was the joy in His heart of what He was doing for you and for me. That is why the Bible says in that great passage:

*Hebrews 12:2*

*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

That is a great concept. Our job as a church, my job as a pastor, and most pastors never figure this out: the pastor really has a love for people and a love for the Bible, and he has the call of God in his life of helping people. That is really our job. That is really what our job is all about. Our job simply here is one thing: making people better. Sometimes we do that by people getting saved. Sometimes we do that by people who are already saved, struggling through issues in life, that we hook up with them and help them get a pathway out of what they are going through. Because as a child of God, our lives should be devoted to making other people successful, whether it is God's people as Christians or just unsaved people helping them find the Lord Jesus Christ. We do that by provoking them with our zeal. That is the job of the church.

A smart pastor who has a love for people will realize that he cannot do it all himself. He will realize that one man cannot handle everybody. So what he does is he takes the people that God

sends him who get his heart for ministry, who have a love for people, who want to work with people, much like many of you do, much like we do in the people ministry and other people that work with people and disciple people, much like the Turnaround Program or the Restart Program. There is no way one man can do that. There is no way that one man can do everything in people's lives that needs to be done. So instead of trying to do that, what he does is he takes the people that God brings him, the people that want to, and then he invests himself in those people, and he replicates, he reproduces his zeal, his passion, his love for people, the Word of God. He gives them all the tools that they need. Then instead of one guy doing it, you have 60, 70 people doing it. That is how you do it. That is how it needs to be done. You do not look at building a church and look at all the people out there. You look at building a core base of people who understand that our job is simply making people better. Our lives should be devoted to other Christians. Our lives should be devoted to helping them be successful, provoking them with our zeal to good works.

I cannot tell you how I saw this in action. Sometimes you go along, you go along, you go along, you put a lot of effort into things, you see a lot of good things happen, but sometimes it is like that Polaroid shot that God just gives you that just shows you what is really going on. Last week at Restart, and I have always been proud of everybody here that works with me and proud of everybody that wants to be part of this work, and I love you all, but I have never been more proud of you, I think, in these last couple of months. Restart last week was just a tip of the iceberg for me. I carried it around all week; it was a medicine to my soul.

We started down at Turnaround last week. We went down there and had a team go down and organize their clothes. Richard Phillips, who is the guy who is going to be over what we are doing, is just really a great guy. The Lord just opened up the opportunity. I wanted him to see, because I know they get a mindset of volunteers, and I wanted him to see what really volunteers who love the Lord really do. So the Lord just opened up the door, and I took him around to all the different places. I did not get to get into all the teams, but I took him up to the mission and showed him the guys. All were very nice and kind, and he really just, you could tell you guys had met him, he is just one of us. I took him up to Restart, and walked him through, and he was just absolutely blown away. It is a classic example that your zeal was provoking him to good works.

We got in the car and went back, and he says, "You know what?" He says, "I thought we were going to help you. It looks like we were coming to your rescue and help you. It looked like you are going to come to our rescue and help us." He could not get over it. Do you know what really impressed him? The joy that everybody had. It was not like you are here just doing this, grumbling and complaining about it. It was hard work. It was a lot of things that people were doing, and yet everybody was happy. Everybody got along. There were no fist fights that broke out. Everybody was just wonderful. The kids really impressed him.

I have to tell you, it is a thing where, you know, I watch you little guys up there with the little kids helping do their crafts. I watch you kids out there wrapping hot dogs with your mom and your dad. I watch you out there pulling big boxes out and helping them there. At the Turnaround thing, there were a couple of little kids over there that were helping out. He was blown away with that.

Then we get into the car, and we are ready to haul out of there, and your team starts coming in. You are coming in for more hot dogs, Will's team. They all just kind of descend over the car, and there again, everybody was happy. Everybody was out there laboring in the Lord and doing this thing, and he is just blown away. Then somebody, I forget who it was, somebody came over to the car and told me this story. I do not have all the details, but I guess Woody and Jordan were out on your team, and as they were walking down the streets and doing everything, they picked up some homeless guy that walks with you every on Sundays and goes out with you. He was going along talking with everything. So they got ready to park, and they were going to pray for him, and he asked Jordan to pray for him. I guess Jordan just prayed him under the church pew. I mean, it was not like, "Bless my doggy, bless my cat, bless my..." It was down the line, brother, line by line, exactly what he should have done. I am thinking to myself, and this guy is seeing all this and hearing all this, I am telling you, it is incredible. It is incredible.

That is what our job is: making, being blessings to other people, helping other people be better, helping them be successful. Many times they have struggles in their life. Many times they are going through issues. Our job is to help peel back those layers. Our job is to work with them and to help them and be a blessing to other people.

### III. God's All-Sufficiency and Good Works

Now look at verse 8; it goes right along with this:

*2 Corinthians 9:8*

*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

I want to tell you right here, I mentioned this to you last week, and I am telling you now, this is for a child of God, this right here is the greatest verse in the Bible that God ever wrote to you and me after we are saved. It is right here. This verse is everything that you could ever want. It is without a doubt to be memorized by every child of God on the face of this planet because it is to you and to me as God's children, the greatest single verse in the Bible. For it simply says that God is able to make all grace abound toward you that ye always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work. It simply says that God is able. And how many of us really believe that? We talk about it until some catastrophe comes into our life. We talk about it until we do not get things the way we think we ought to get them. We talk about it until something does not go right in our lives. And yet the truth of the matter is, in every circumstance and situation, God is able. He is able to give us in abundance all sufficiency in all things. The Bible talks about walking by faith and not by sight. That is what that principle is talking about. It is talking about truly walking by faith and not by sight, believing that God is able.

You see it all the way through the Bible. It is what Noah had. He believed that God was able. Way back in Genesis 6, God told him that He was going to destroy the earth with a flood, and nobody knew what a flood was. Nobody knew what rain was. Nobody believed in God's judgment. For 120 years, all he had was the promise of God that God told him what He was going to do in a world. Noah has to be the most lonely man in the Bible. He had nobody to hang

out with. Him and God, he walked with God, and God gave him through the promises all the sufficiency that he needed to get through everything that he went through.

We see it in Moses. That is what Moses had when he believed God was able, when he had to wander for 40 years to a place that he never even saw before, that he did not know anything about, a place that only God had promised him that God was going to send him to and that God was going to give him everything that he needed to get to that land. God was able.

We see it in David's life when David had to go out as a young boy and fight that giant Goliath, a man of war versus a man of youth. That giant was standing in the way of God and God's people. That giant was standing in the way of what God wanted to accomplish with His people. There will be giants in your life that will stand in the way of what God wants to do with you. Little David, 15, 16, 17 years old, about 110 pounds soaking wet, up against a 13, 14, 15 foot giant weighing over probably a thousand pounds with all his armor on, took him on and defeated him. Do you know why? Because he knew God was able.

I think of Daniel. I think that is what Daniel had when he was taken into captivity and taken away from his family, never to see him again. When he was pulled out and taken into Babylon and through a process of Nebuchadnezzar. Let me tell you, if the devil cannot get you one way, he will try to get you another way. When he could not get Daniel one way and he could not get him this way, he could drive the plan to get Daniel to be killed. Do you know what they wound up doing? They wound up throwing Daniel in the lion's den. We learn that God is able. You see, it does not ever matter if you get thrown into the lion's den as long as they had Lion in the den as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He believed God was able.

It is what Paul had when he said:

*2 Timothy 1:12*

*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

All that he went through and all that he struggled with, but he believed that God was able.

It is what you and I will get us through. It is the fact that God gives us all sufficiency. It is the fact that God will get us through. It is the fact that God saved us for a purpose. When we do what is right with the Word of God, we do what is right with God in our lives, God is able. The question is never, "Is God able?" The question is, "Are we willing to let God be able?"

## IV. The Process of Transformation

I also have to tell you this: it does not just happen, does it? I think most of God's people think God runs a big lottery, and some people win it and get spirituality, and some people lose it and do not get the ticket and do not get it. It does not work that way. There is always a process to getting what God wants you to get.

5. You have to decide that you are done with this whole world. I do not care what your problem is. I do not care what your issue is. People have a variety of issues, and I always tell them this: until whatever is holding you back—maybe it is drugs, maybe it is booze, maybe it is women, maybe it is just the mixed multitude that you hang out with—until you look at that and mark it and see it the way God sees it and hate it like God hates it, you are never going to get out of it. Never going to get out of it. Never. It will never happen. You are the one that has to decide. You are the one that has to decide that you are done with this whole world. I cannot decide it for you. I cannot do it for you. I can put all the people in place to help you, but until you come to that point in your life, it is a waste of time because you have to decide. Until that happens, nothing ever changes.
6. You have to decide to divorce yourself from the mixed multitude and the worldly crowd, the weight that so easily besets you, we talked about in the book of Hebrews. The weight that drags you down. Until you decide in your life that you are done with that and you make a break from those things and you start going where God wants you to go and walking with God, you are not going anywhere.

It is ludicrous to think that, you know, I had a lady one time, she says, "I need you to help. I need you to put some people in my boy's life so he will start making good choices." I said, "Lady, I do not have any of those people in my church. What am I going to do? Put a hundred, two hundred, five hundred that are going to follow your boy around for the next 20 years, making sure he does not make bad choices?" When does it ever come? Here is responsibility to start making good choices. Until that happens, folks, it is not going anywhere. It is not going anywhere. You may want it to, but it did not.

I told you last week, it is like that medical procedure. Four or five of you looked up that 300-pound tumor that woman had. Is not that the ugliest thing you ever saw in your life? I told them last week, there was a woman who did not weigh more than 110 pounds, looked like she had a 300-pound tumor they took out of her. I mean, it looked like a bowl of jello that had been sitting around for a couple of weeks. I am kidding you. What I know is gross. I should have probably said that, but that is what it looked like. But I told you, what do you do? I said, what you need to do is whatever is in your life, look at it like a fat, ugly tumor, whoever it is, whoever it is, and it is eating away at your flesh and wants to destroy you and in time will, and destroy your family.

A couple of weeks ago, I gave you an insurance policy. A couple of weeks ago, I gave you the greatest outline for an insurance policy on you, your family, your wife, your husband, that you are ever going to get. Prudential Assurance Company talks about "get a piece of the rock." The policy I am passing out is you get the whole rock. You do not just get a piece of it. I told you that, and I will tell you today, God has a policy, an absolute policy that will guarantee that your family will be everything that it needs to be, but there is a premium that needs to be paid. And you are the only one that can pay it. I cannot pay it for you. I can give you the policy. I can fill out all the, and point out all the fine print. At the end of the day, you are going to pay the premium.

Remember, we talked about three things, and I think it was probably the single greatest message that I could have ever preached to you on the success of you as an individual and in time as you get married and have a family. I told you three things.

7. Build an altar. That is your own personal walk with God, building an altar, your own personal place in your life where you decide what you and God are going to do.

*Psalms 1:1-3*

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

And then the next verse simply says, "But the ungodly are not so." You see the process of how it goes? The Bible says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." The first thing that happens when you stop walking with God is you start walking with the counsel and taking your counsel from somebody that is ungodly. When you quit getting your counsel from that book, you are going to get counsel from somebody. So you are going to get counsel from somebody, and you start walking with them instead of walking with God, and you start listening to what they say. Then the compounding effect takes place. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." After a while, when you walk with them and you take their counsel, the next thing is, "standeth in the way of sinners." You are no longer walking with them; you are standing with them now. You are taking your stand with them. "Standeth in the way of sinners." You started out walking with them, now you took their counsel, now you are in the crowd with them, you are standing with them. Then the third one says, "sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Now you are in. Now you are in with the scornful. Now those who you once loved the Word of God, now you do not love it as much as you did. Those of you who loved this church and loved what the church was all about, now you do not love it anymore. You have been sitting in the seat of the scornful. You have been hearing what scornful people have been saying because you have been standing with them. You started walking with them, and it all goes back to either you walk with God or you walk with the ungodly. There is no middle ground to it. Never has been. Never has been.

8. Pitch your tent. That is your family. That is building your home. I showed you how you pitch it toward one of two things. I gave you the example back there of Abraham and Lot. Abraham pitched his tent, his family, toward Bethel. Bethel in the Bible is the house of bread. It is where he had a great relationship with God. Lot pitched his toward Sodom. We know what that is all about.
9. Dig a well. That is ministry. Ministering with your family. Laboring to get water for yourself. Digging a well to get water, the type of the Word of God, for your family. Then, as so many of you do, get it for others.

A pastor always looks at his people and he always evaluates them. In his mind, I do anyhow. I think he should. He says that a pastor should "know the state of his flocks and look well-nigh unto his herd." If anybody was a herd, you guys certainly are. But if there was ever any question as to the state of most of you young couples and where you are at and what you want to do, it has been answered in the last couple of months, I guess. I know where many of you are because we work so closely together in ministry and all the things that you do. But we have had a host of brand new couples just coming in. It has been answered in the last month, and it has been overwhelming, the response of so many of you, fathers and mothers and you young couples.

I probably have been booked up every week with appointments, everything that I have had, probably 40 or 50 phone calls of people calling me. They all basically say the same thing: "I want my family to be safe. I want my family to be what God wants it to be. I want to be able," a dad saying, "I want to be able to rule and command my family." I have heard it over and over again. "I do not want my kids turning out like so many people's kids, drinking beer and smoking cigarettes and smoking dope and fornicating and just being a general reject when it comes to the things of God. I want to learn to pitch, I want to learn to build my altar. I want to learn to pitch my tent. I want to learn to dig my well with my family." And I commend you for that. That is what it is going to take. And I commend you for wanting to do that.

I think that our church is at a place right now where it is, we have got everything in the right spot, everything in the right place. We have grown through every process and every challenge that God has given us. I told you, you remember, I also told you that when you do that and you pay that premium, here is what God does. He providentially blesses your family. He providentially preserves your family, and He providentially provides for your family. You see, eight and nine tie together because in nine, eight, this is the all sufficiency and all things that he is talking about. God just does not want to take care of your family and making sure you have got food on your table. God wants to take it one step beyond and guarantee that your kids will minister with you. That unbroken cycle will keep on going. God just does not want to give you what you need to get through the week. God wants to take your family and preserve it, that you can rest in it, that when you go to bed at night and lay your head on the pillow, you know because you have done what God wants you to do, that God is going to—and you paid that premium no matter what comes. It may be some rough time. There may be some hard time. I am not going to say that all the bumps are going to be taken out of the road of life. I am not even going to tell you that all the potholes will be taken out. I am telling you that your family at the end of the day will be preserved. It will be provided for. I am telling you that it will be blessed, and you will have the blessings of God in your life. I see it in so many of yours. I see it in so many of your lives that the blessings of God—and I do not think many times you actually see it where you are at because it is hard to see it sometimes. But He promised us if we built the altar, pitched the tent, dig the well, that our families, your marriage, you would be providentially blessed, providentially preserved, and providentially provided for.

It is a simple law. Sow sparingly, you reap sparingly. Sow bountifully, you reap bountifully, good or bad, but you get to choose whatever it is. Two simple principles, I think, for the Christian life. I can honestly say I have lived my life by these for 40-some years. I believe it just like I believe

everything that is true in my life. It is just two simple things that I do not think I have ever preached on it. But there has always been—there is a day goes by that is not in the back of my mind that these two things that I actually can honestly say I live by these in everything that I do because I believe it more than probably anything other than I believe. They are real simple. They are real basic. But I have lived my life by these for about 40 years now, and I want to tell you something: they work. They work.

> *Principle 1: You take care of God, He will take care of you.*

> *Principle 2: You do right by God, He will do right by you.*

Bob Jones used to say, "Do right till the stars fall out." You will get accused of not doing a lot of things right. That never bothers me as long as I know by the Bible I did what was right. I am not interested in pleasing you or somebody else or convincing you what I did was right. I am only interested in convincing God that it was right because if you do right by God, He always does right by you. Those two principles will get you through everything in life. The Christian life, without a doubt, is the most simple, basic, uncomplicated way to go through this life. God simply gives us all sufficiency for all things, and we simply do the work that He saved us for and basically following the design that He laid out through the Word of God. It is just that simple. You take care of God, He will take care of you. You do right by God, He will do right by you.

But remember, it is the other side of that coin. Job 9:4, also one of my favorite verses:

*Job 9:4*

*He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?*

And the answer to that is nobody. The answer to that is nobody. That is why so many of God's people struggle. They want to pretend that everything is right with God when everybody knows that it is not. They want to pretend that them and God are okay when they know that it is not. They play this silly little game of pretending that everything is where it needs to be with God, and yet in everything in their life, it is a dead end street. Do you know why? Because nobody, nobody, nobody hardens his heart against Him and prospers. You just do not. You want to prosper? Select the insurance policy that God has got for you.

Now I want you to see verse 8, and I want you to get this. Here is the deal breaker, as they say in the world, with God. 99% of God's people never figure this thing out. They never do. They never do. They never figure it out. He says:

*2 Corinthians 9:8*

*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

Now get this, and I want you to listen to me on this. Everything God gives us, everything God has given you, everything God has provided for us—your job, your family, your house, your car, your food, your abilities, your clothing, everything you and I have—it comes from God. But it

comes from God for one reason and one purpose: verse 8, "that ye having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work." He puts everything in your life after you are saved and gives you everything you have got for one reason: for you to do the work that He saved you to do. When you foul that up, when you get that system out of whack, when you get that process backwards, it is going to be problems in your life. It is just that simple. It is just that simple. He says that you may have all sufficiency and all things may abound to every good work. That is the work of the ministry in Ephesians 4:12. That is what 2 Timothy 3:17 says when it says:

*2 Timothy 3:17*

*That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

The work of God. No other reason. No other reason.

That is why some of you struggle in everything that you do. I have seen God's people all my life in the ministry struggle. They struggle with this. They struggle with that. They never can get ahead. They never can do anything. It all goes back usually to the same exact two principles. They are not taking care of God the way they should. They are not doing what they need to do. You take care of Him, He takes care of you. You do right by God, He does right by you. I watch some of God's people struggle in everything they do, in spite of all they have. I am not talking about people that just do not have anything. I am talking about people who have everything, being the most miserable people you ever saw on planet earth. Do you know why? Because things do not satisfy you. They do temporarily. But it is like going out and buying something new. Then after a week, it is not new anymore. So you have to go out and buy something else to keep you propped up. Hey, I have something for you that will last. It will not cost you a dime. It will be the greatest thing you ever put in your life, and it will keep you like you have got your fingers stuck in 440 volts.

I have seen God's people all my life struggle in everything that they do, in spite of all that they have and all that they try to get. Yet they are still miserable. They are still unfulfilled. They still just cannot get ahead in anything, anything. They just cannot. Somebody says, "Can you help them?" How do you help them? Rule number four in counseling is simply this: you cannot make somebody do right more than they want to do it. How do you help somebody that refuses to change the things in their life that are a fundamental change? You cannot. Do you want them to? Absolutely. But that is where you have got to draw the line. You cannot step over that line. Many times families have a tough time with that. They love their kids. They love their this. They love their that. And they are out there in left field, and they try to do everything in the world to try to make it for them and try to set it off. You know what? You cannot do it. This person, whoever it may be, decides, "I am done with this world," you are not going anywhere.

I drove down my street. I was lucky enough by God's provision to have a four-wheel drive to get around when a lot of people did not. But I loved it. I loved the object lessons because I drove down my street and counted 15 cars that were stuck spinning their wheels. Do you know what? I named them after some of you people in here. That is all you are doing in life is spinning your wheels. Do you know where you live? You live at 1401 Dead End Street, and you are not going to get any better. It is not going to get any better. It just is not going to get any better.

You see, the Bible is about a wise man, and the Bible is about a foolish man. The wise man, he figures all this out. He gets blessed, and "blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in this law doth he meditate both day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, and his leaf shall not wither." That is Ezekiel 38 through 40. That is the water of life. And bringing forth his fruit in his season. You only have a season to your life. You better be bearing fruit to it. The foolish man, he never figures it out. He never figures it out. Never does. I have seen it all my life in ministry. I have seen people all my life that just would never figure it out. I almost said "could not figure it out," but that is not true. They do not want to figure it out.

The theme of chapter 8 and 9 is the heart of the minister. The heart of the minister is giving. Giving your life to God based on His giving His life for you. Romans 12:1-2. What a great passage. Everybody ought to have it marked in their Bible. You ought to know it.

*Romans 12:1-2*

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*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.*

Here it comes: "And be not conformed to this world. But be ye transformed." See, that is the problem. Conformed to the world. As long as you are conformed to the world, transformation cannot take place. It is not about getting 1,000 people in your life to help you. It is not about getting everybody in the church to pray for you. It is about a transformation that has to take place in your life. It is not about getting 9,000 people to make sure you do not make any more bad choices in life. It is not about helping you get away from this person or that person or this crowd or this crowd or booze, cigarette, dope, whatever it is. It is not about that. It is about, as long as you are conformed to something, you can never be transformed away from it. Can you not get that? As long as you are conformed to the world, there will never be a transformation from the world to Christ. That is what it takes. I have no mystical, magical power to make you spiritual. Nobody has the power to make you anything. You have to decide, "I am not going to conform. And now I am going to get transformed." Until that transformation takes place, you are wasting your time. I do not know how you cannot get it. I mean, it is just that simple.

"But be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." There it is, the renewing of your mind. You cannot think the way you think. I tell you all the time, you cannot solve problems in your life with the same kind of thinking that caused those problems. You have to renew your mind. You have to renew it. "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." Simply, here it is: He died for you. He died for me. He died for us so you and I could live for Him. His sacrificial death in God's mind should have produced our sacrificial life for Him. He never asked you to die for Him. He asked you to live for Him.

No, He went through the agony to die. Now, that does not mean that you will not die in some case, but most of us will not. He never asked me to die for Him. He asked me to live for Him.

I will never understand. I will never understand why some of God's people have such a tough time with that. I guess it goes back to they do not care. They do not understand what He did. Do you know what the Bible says? It says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Why do God's people take something that in God's mind is so simple and so reasonable? "I died for you. Look at what I did. This is what I want you to do for me." Is that unreasonable? Why is it that we as God's people think living for Him after what He did for us is so unreasonable? The older I get, I will be honest with you, the older I get, the tougher time I have with that. I do. I do. I really do. To think of a child of God would let God die for him on the cross, that a child of God would understand. Maybe that is the problem. Maybe you do not understand. But you do not understand the agony that He paid on that cross. And you would just snub that. You would just walk away from that. You would just say, "Thank you very much. I will take the salvation, and I am going to keep it to myself. But I just do not think it is reasonable that I give up what I want to give up and who I want to hang out with to do what you want me to do." I do not understand that. I wish that somebody would explain that to me. I have a tough time with that, and I will be honest, the older I get, the tougher time I have with it. He died for you and for me so we could live for Him. The Bible is about a wise man. The Bible is about a foolish man. Your reasonable service. In God's mind, He thought it was only reasonable. Is it unreasonable? He died on the cross, what He went through. He died so you and I would live for Him. And yet you have some of God's people that says, "Thank you very much, but no thanks. I will take the salvation. I want the blessings. And every time I get in a jam, your phone is going to be the first one I call, God. But as far as me doing anything for you, that is just a little unreasonable. I am going to pass," because the more I talk about it, the angrier I am getting. So I am going to move on before I say something I am surely sorry for. No, no, no, you do not want to hear what I am thinking.

The Bible is about a wise man. A wise man loses his life, the Bible says, but then he finds it. Then through a life of giving back to God, he has all the blessings, all the protection, all the provision that he needs in this whole life. The foolish man, he keeps his life for him and himself. He squanders it on the foolish things of this world. He keeps his life and loses all the blessings of God that He has for him in this life and the one to come. Many times he loses his kids. Many times he loses his family. Many times he loses his wife. Many times he loses his job. Many times he loses everything that he has got because he wants to keep it all when he thinks it is all his. Do you know where he lives? He lives at 1401 Dead End Street.

## V. The Ministry of the Word and Thanksgiving

Now look at verse 10 and 11. Two more great verses.

*2 Corinthians 9:10-11*

*Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)*

*Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.*

There it is again. One more time, the aspect of our job is the work of the ministry. There are four things here I want you to see.

10. "Now he that ministereth seed to the sower." That is God. We are the sower; we are supposed to be. God ministereth the seed to the sower. That is God to us. That is on Thursday night, Sunday morning, your time in the Word of God with all that we do, God giving us the Word of God. He ministereth us and gives us this book. That is the first thing I want you to see. "He that ministereth seed to the sower."
11. "Both minister bread for your food." Now there is your daily family job, all the physical needs that you have. There is Philippians 4:19:

*Philippians 4:19*

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

There is God first of all supplying your physical needs. He is giving you all sufficiency in the physical things. There is the kick-in policy for the insurance of your family. There is the providentially blessed, the providentially provided for, the providentially preserved right there. God making sure you get what you need. I am going to show you the process in a minute.

12. "And multiply your seed sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness." Now that is the spiritual side of it. The ministry of the Word of God to others and God giving you the increase. Do you know what? Our church is full of those examples. I know because we do so much, and many of you do not see it from my perspective. I have a better angle on the church probably than most of you because just of where I am at and what I see, and I do not let my emotions get involved in things, and I deal with things pretty much black and white. But I have seen that same thing increase. I was looking the other day at going looking for somebody's phone number, and I started looking at people. I counted about 35 people in our church. 35 people in our church that when I got looking at those, and they started to sink in, that about four people in this church invested their life in. People that came into this church just like many of you are here today. Somebody disciplined them. Somebody worked with them. Somebody took them and helped them. About four or five people in this church were responsible for the multiplication of 35 people. I am not talking about just people that come to church. I am talking about people who are online in ministry getting a job done. Do you know how that happens? It is not because you are such a great person, though you are. It is not because you are such a great Bible teacher, though you probably are. It is simply the fulfillment of that promise. "Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness" is what causes us thanksgiving to God. It is God multiplying your seeds sown in the increase of your fruits of your righteousness. That is all it is. It is God taking a man or a woman who says, "God, I am going to give everything that you want. I understand what you did for me the rest of my

life. Here it is. I am probably going to screw a lot of things up, and I am not going to have a good day all the time. But I guarantee you, at the end of the day, you and me will still be working together." And then you let God do it. He builds you. He molds you. He puts you where He wants you to be. You are flexible enough that God can put you with anybody, any circumstance, any situation. And you adapt to it. You bring those people in. You give them what they need. You help them. You bring them along. And in time, they are out now discipling other people, doing this, doing that. That is the example of the people in this church.

13. Hey. And I understand at the same time. When you talk like that, and I hate to have to even take time to say this, but you have got to do it. Because if you do not, people think, "Well, you know, he does not see what." Believe me, there is a lot of idiots in this church. I understand that. I know that. There is a lot of goofballs in this church. I should not say a lot. Three this morning are here. No. I should not say that. But I have to say it. I understand. I understand there is always going to be, when I say, you know, and I have a tendency, you know me, I have a tendency to focus on what I have, not what I do not have. And I get very blessed by what God, other people that get in my heart and do the ministry. That is all it is for me. Nothing personal. I have a job to do. I am going to stand before God someday and give an account. Maybe you do not care that you are. Do not get mad at me because I care that I do. Do you know what I am going to give an account for? Everybody sitting in this room. I know some of you like me to get up here and do a nice, chirpy message and tell you how nice you are, and tell you how great you are, how sweet you are. But you know what? That is not going to cut it up there. So when I stand up here, you want to take it on to me now? Okay, we will take it up with the boss when we get home. My job is to tell you the truth. You have a right to get upset with me when I tell you a lie, or I tell you something that is not true, or I go out of my way to try to hurt you. Then you have every right to be upset with me. But when I am preaching the truth, you still have a right to get upset with me. But we will iron it out up there. But I am not coming up here and think I am going to stand before God, get up there and tell you some flowery message, and then you all lose your reward that the gentleman is here to cry. You will be a lot more mad at me up there than you are right now. But either way, I do not care. I do not care. Do you know why? It does not matter. Restart will get done next week. The job will get done this week. People will get ministered to this week. If somebody gets saved this morning, there will be somebody to win them to Christ. You do not win place or show in this thing. So it is okay. It is okay. But I am just telling you. I am just telling you. That is how it works in our lives. That is what the church is about. It is what we are here for. I am not sure why some of you think we are here. We are here to make others better. You know as well as I do, if you have got a kid in sports or you have got a kid in this, in academics, in school, and they are not doing well, you have to motivate them. You have to find a way to get them motivated to what they need to do. Well, that is what the ministry is. Hopefully that through my zeal, it will provoke you to good works. But honestly, I do not really care which way it provokes you. It will get you in or get you out. And it is okay with me either way because the job will get done. You see, that is the thing most people do not understand. You are missing out on it. Some of you people think that if you quit the church, we will fall apart. No, no, you are laughing. There are people that think that. They think, "Well, I will show

them. I will not come to church anymore." Oh, oh. "I just do not know what I will do if you will not come to my church." You are the one that is going to lose. That is how it works.

Hey, God saved you for a purpose. He saved me for a purpose. He left us in this old world. He left us in this old world to do a job. He knows we have to live here. He knows we have to have a house, a car to get around, a job to pay the bills, money for kids to go to school or buy food or clothes. So He provides all our physical needs. He gives us the all sufficiency in all things. He gives us a job. He gives us food. He gives us a home. He gives us clothes, a car. He provides a family, a husband and a wife. But He also feeds us His word. He provides us with the scriptures, the seed that needs to be sown. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:20 that we are ambassadors for Christ. That is our job. So the Lord does all those things in our life that He can show His word through our lives. That is how He does it. He wants to give us everything in our life, all sufficiency, everything, everything He gives us. He gives us for the work. He gives us our families. You have those kids. Our job is to raise them up, put them back into ministry. That is our job. So the Lord does all of those things in our life so He can show His word through our lives and our families. He takes the word of God, the seed, that He puts in you and motivates you with His passion. He puts the mind of Christ in you. He gives you the passion that you have for God, and other people see it, and it provokes them to good works. He uses that to bring people to Christ, and He uses it to provoke other Christians to good works. He does this by giving you His righteousness, that will in time. When you get a heart for God, bring about a willing mind and giving yourself to Him, and that is when you bear fruit.

And the last thing that it does, and this is the fourth thing, it brings about the final aspect of everything that God gives us. That is found in verse 11, our thanksgiving to God. Remember now what is through us. The person you minister to thanks God for sending you to them. And the person who got sent to them who ministers the seed in the Word of God thanks God for allowing him to be part of all that God is doing. You see how it works?

14. Thanksgiving to God.

Now, may I speak frankly to you? That is praise in the Bible. I do not know where anybody got the idea that four or five people up here singing some crazy, goofy song is praise. I do not know anybody got the idea that having a rock band up there is praise. I do not know where that came from. Well, I know where it came from, but I do not know how they got that idea. I mean, praise is not some band. It is not some singing group. It is not pretending we praise God in a Christian nightmare, nightmare nightclub atmosphere. Yeah, that was right the first time. Praise is twofold.

15. You thank God and praise Him for sending somebody to you that told you the truth.

16. I am the one that told you the truth. I thank God for allowing me to be part of what He is doing to tell you the truth.

It does not go any other way than that. That is praise. You do not have that in your life? We have no prayer. Do you know what God's people do? I am embarrassed sometimes about myself with God because we as God's people, we only call on God when we want something. If you want to get a piece of advice, drive out in the country sometime by yourself, find an open field where there is nobody around who can hear you, park your car in the middle of it and get out for an

hour or two, you go hoarse. Just praise God and scream glory to God and praise Him for everything He has done in your life. It is so redundant that we always ask God to help us here. Give us this, give us that, but we never stop and just praise God and say thank you for what you have given me. We never do. We never do. Do you know why we do not do that? Because God is not using you in anything. God is not using you with anybody. There are some of you people in here that if you ever opened up a praise session of the people that God has put in your life and you are working with right now, it would take up two days of your time. There are some of you people here this morning that were the people that have invested in your life and done with you. If you start thanking all the people and thanking God and praising Him for He cared enough to put people in your life to give you everything that you want, it would take up two days of your life. Amen. You did not get here, you did not get here on your own, and you did not get where you are at on your own. You got here because God took somebody's life, gave them that passion. They gave that passion to you, and that is why you are here today, and they are thanking God that God uses me, and you are thanking God that God sent them to you. Praise the Lord. Mother and author, there is nothing to praise about. So we can dump the dark lights and the smoke and the music coming out from under the thing. We do not need it. Because real praise is not about that. Real praise is thanking God. But when you are a big multimillion dollar church and cease to be about a book that God gave you, and that is now it is all about your building your millennial inheritance down here, that is all you have got. You do not minister anymore to people. You are in the entertainment business.

Hey, if you are not as a child of God, if you are not provoking people by your zeal and what you are doing and not praising God for the people that God has put in your world that you minister to, and they are looking back and praising God for God putting you in their life. Did you ever read that story in Acts chapter 8 when Adam and Adam and Adam don't build buildings? We build people. The ministry is people getting them saved, peeling back the layers of life, spending time working with them through their issues, making them better, putting up with their issues and yes, even their stupidity, developing them into strong Christians, strong moms, strong dads, strong families, helping them build their families strong, making them successful for the work of the ministry. And now you have something to praise God about. Thank you, Lord.

*2 Corinthians 9:12*

*For the administration of this service not only supplyeth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;*

That is my daily needs, but is abundant also by our thanksgiving to God. Praise God for what He has done with me and allowing me to minister the Word of God when I do not deserve it. Praise God for God sending me that person that helped me get where I am at. Thank God for the person that helped me peel back that layer. Thank God for the person that I was so caught up in and could not get out of and trapped in it for so many years that they were patient enough. They took the time. They met with me every Tuesday, every Wednesday, every week, and they took the time and that Word of God, and he peeled back those layers one at a time. They helped me walk out. They threw me a cake with a hacksaw in it so I could break out of the jail I was in.

Then verse 15, and he closes with this chapter, with this great verse.

*2 Corinthians 9:15*

*Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*

What can I say? What is there left to say? God's gift to us, His Son, His Word, His plan for us to be part of all that God is doing. Not just a bystander, but right in the middle of all the action. You ought to be proud to be God's help meet. I know the story in Adam and Eve is a picture of the first marriage and all that, but it is also a picture of my relationship with Christ. Eve is the weaker vessel. We are going to see it when we get into chapter 11. Eve is the weaker vessel. Adam is the type of Christ, first the type of Christ in the Bible. Do you know what she was to him? A help meet. Not a help mate, help meet, M-E-E-T. Help Adam meet the needs of the ministry that God had given him to accomplish in this world. When you got saved, I got saved, I became God's help meet. I know I have got my problems, and I know I have got my issues, but I will tell you what, the thing that scares me to death that I never want to be an unfaithful mate to my God. I want to be a help meet. I want to be there for Him to help Him meet the demands for the ministry. Very frankly, some of you just find that unreasonable. And I do not understand it. I do not understand it. I do not understand it.

God getting our hearts, us giving our life to God, then God taking us, taking our families, giving us all sufficiency to accomplish what He has for us as a family, and we minister together. The gift that God gave us, I told you Christmas, I preached on that very verse, was the gift that keeps on giving. It is a gift that never ends. It is a gift that brings eternal praise to God, and that is what He deserves and that is what He wants because it goes back to every day of my life, thanking God for saving me out of the mess that He saved me out of. Every day of my life thanking God, "Why me that you would pull me out of the cesspool and the sewer that I was and put me in the ministry and allow me to have part of this precious book?" There is another time that I do not open this book and God shows me something. I look at the 300, 400,000 notes I have got in that Bible that I do not ask myself. I do not look at it and say, "Wow, look at what I got." I look at that and say, "God, why would you ever give something like that to me? Why would you ever entrust that to me? Somebody like me. God, if I am all you have got to do this, you are in sad shape." Amen. And you give Him praise.

The Bible says someday, Revelation, it talks about the fact that we will get our crowns. When we get those crowns, the Bible says, that we lay those crowns at the throne at His feet at the throne of God. That is how it works. Real praise is understanding that no matter who we are, what we have, how good you preach, how good you sing, whatever you do well, it is all because of what He gave you to do. That is all. When you get all those crowns at the judgment seat of Christ, if we get anything at all, and we say, "wear them around," we wear them around, and some of you will have dump trucks, some of you will be trying to borrow one from somebody. You know, we are walking around and we have those crowns. Everybody says, "Wow, what is the purpose of God giving all those crowns? Why do you want a crown?" Do you know why you want a crown? Because there comes a point when you walk into that throne room and you have got all those crowns that God gave you for what you did for Him. But the real truth of the matter is, the only

way you got those crowns is what He did for you. And it all goes back to Him. The ultimate praise takes place at that point. There will not be a band. There will not be any smoke, there will not be any lights, there will not be any rock band. It will be just you walking up to that throne, laying down those crowns at His feet. He says, "Lord, I love them, thank you." But you know what? "I could not have done it for you." And at the end of the day, it all goes back to you. All praise and glory to God. Because that is where it goes back to.

The wise man, the foolish man. Some of you, very frankly, are some of the wisest people I have ever met. You really are. I have watched you make good choices, watched you turn your life around, watched you get into the book. Just the last couple of weeks, and I am not going to say how, a young couple here just started coming, gave me one of the greatest testimonies that anybody could ever give me and show me that they are on the road to being a wise man. There are some incredibly wise people in this church. But I also want to tell you, there are some incredibly foolish people in this church. You will just never get it. You will never get it.

I did not play volleyball last night because I had not been feeling well all week. I had a terrible cold. I wanted to be ready for the day, so I just stayed home last night. It is amazing how dog's licking you when I suppose that the face will just be the greatest message you can ever have. I watched on TV last night the movie Schindler's List. It came out 20 years ago. Probably one of the greatest movies I have ever seen talking about the Holocaust. Oscar Schindler, for those of you who do not know the story, was a German who started out trying to be a privateer by making money, by taking Jews and making them slave labor to make money. In the process, he saw what the Germans were really doing, and he really fell in love with the Jewish people. The movie title Schindler's List goes back to the fact that he had a factory, and he got all these Jews out of the concentration camp that were destined for the gas chambers. Four or 500 of them, he put them on a list that they became workers in his factory. In fact, the factory was a bust. They were an armament factory, and none of the shells would work so that he had to spend all of his money buying shells from other places so he could just keep those people till the war ended. I do not know if you have ever seen the movie. I love it. I think every young kid at some age ought to see it because it is a true story. Oscar Schindler is buried in Jerusalem. At the end of the movie, it shows all the descendants. There are over 6,000 descendants from Schindler's List that are alive, well, it was 20 years ago. And they all walked by his grave and everything, and it is a moving thing.

But I have always thought at the end of the movie, the war is over now, and Oscar Schindler has to flee because as far as the world is concerned, he is a privateer and he is a war criminal. The Jews made him a little gold ring, and out of the Song of Solomon, inscribed it and gave him a declaration that they all vouched for him and sent him on his way. But at the end of the movie, he stands there as he is ready to leave. And he now understands what he did. He understands now that the Germans had killed eight million Jews. There are almost no more Jews left in Europe. The four or 500 that he protected, that he put on that list, and it finally hit him. And he breaks down in an emotional moment in that movie at the end. Where because he was a very rich man, he dressed very nice, he had nice things, he had a nice car, and he starts going through his life, and he says, "I should have done more." He takes the ring off, it was a diamond ring, and he says

that ring would have been worth four more people. He looks at his fancy car, and he said, "I could have done more, that car, I should have got rid of that car, I could have brought 10 more people over." He looked at his clothes and all that he had, and he said, "I could have sold all of that," and he says, "I could have brought over much more." He says, "I should have done more." And I cannot ever see that part of the movie that I do not think that that is going to be what it is like for you and me at the Judgment Seat of Christ. We are going to look back at all God gave us, the all sufficiency, and go, we are all going to say, "We could have done more." We are going to look at the time that we did not go to Restart or we thought something else was more important, and we would have said to God, "I could have done more." Maybe I could have influenced one person. We are going to look at the opportunities that God had for us that we did not care about. We went and did something that we wanted to do. Or we are going to look at all that we had and all that we amassed in our life, and yet what we did knew nothing for God, and we are going to stand there. And just like Oscar Schindler at the end of that war, it showed in what really happened and what he really did, and it had got to him because at this point, he really loved those people that he could have done more. God has given out you and me all sufficiency that we will do what God wants us to do. And I look at that boy, and I just cringe because I know with the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will all have our list of the things that we did, bought, got into, and became part of that we could have put away and reached more people. Because that is the only reason we are here.

You can kid yourself, you can kid yourself. You can be the best baseball player, the best basketball player, the best football player. I have seen guys who could hit the ball out of the park and could not guide their kid through the Romans Road of Salvation. What is the point? I have seen people be able to do this and do that, and when their own family came to it, they were inadequate. What is the point? He gives us everything. That we take our families and build them, and then we give it all back to Him. That is praise in the Bible. Praising God. Praising God for when I was out there and nobody cared. When I was out there lost and without there with nowhere to go, that somebody cared enough to invite me to volleyball. Somebody cared enough to invite me to softball. Somebody cared enough to invite me to church on Sunday morning, and I got saved. Then, you know what, it did not stop there. That same person cared enough to disciple me, to get into my world, get into my life, meet with me every Tuesday, every Wednesday, every Monday, every day you do it. Met with me every Sunday morning on prayer group. Met with me here, whenever I had a problem, there is always somebody I could call. They became a mom to me or a dad to me. Oh, we had little groups of eight or nine people where we all just met, and they just spread out the Word of God and gave it all and praise to God. Thank you, Lord. Thank you for sending that person in my life. That person is on the other side of the fence saying, "Lord, I do not deserve any of this. This is the greatest thing in the world, man, to be used of the God of the universe." Praise to God and thank you, Lord. "Thank you for as unworthy as I am. Thank you, Lord, for as stupid as I am and as stumbling as I am and as for messed up as I am. Thank you for allowing me to be part of all that you are doing." That is all the praise there is, folks. Every head bowed and every eye closed.