

# Job 38:22

Sunday 3/24/2013

The Bible says in Job 38:22, “Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?” I found that verse many, many, many years ago, and I know what it means. In my Bible, which has all the scientific things about the life that's found in the Bible, Dr. Shutee, back in the 1920s, found out that there was \$17.89 worth of minerals in a two-foot snowfall. So when the Bible says, “Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow,” if you look around out there, there's a lot of money laying out there in the nutrients that are in the snow.

That's the scientific side of it. But snow in the Bible is likened to, in the tribulation period, bread from heaven; it comes down. It's called a hoarfrost in the Bible. And when the Bible talks about, “Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow,” obviously for the Jew, that comes back in the tribulation period, and it's very, you know, that's where their treasure is: the second coming of Christ.

For you and for me, treasures in the snow, I learned this a long time ago and years ago when I decided never to cancel anything. And yet I say that, and I'm sure there'll be many of you who remind me that I just canceled Bible study here a couple of weeks ago. And we had a statewide national emergency. I didn't want to get anybody killed. But that is the only time probably in 40-some years that I've ever canceled anything. And obviously, common sense prevails, and it doesn't mean if somebody didn't get here this morning that they're not spiritual. That's, you know, and you are spiritual because you got here. It probably means you're dumber than they are if we're not staying home.

But anyway, I'm here today, and I always take the philosophy that God will always give me on days like this, not only the people that need what I have to say, but He'll always give me the thing to say. So this morning when I got out, I knew it was snow, and I didn't even think about it because I knew God would do it in the morning. And I woke up about 5:30 this morning. I already had this outline in my brain. And so I just went downstairs, and I'll preach the one I was going to preach today, not next week—that's Easter—but I'll preach it the week after and then finish out 2 Corinthians 10.

But I want to talk to you today about something. And I think when I'm done, you'll see the concept of the treasures in the snow. Years ago, when I had a Bible study when nobody else was having anything, I think it was one of the greatest Bible studies we ever had. We had some people saved, and it was just a great time. And from that point on, I realized that, you know what? I'll just preach to who comes, and if nobody comes, I'll preach to my family if some of you come. And like I said, this is a great crowd today. So we'll have some things out of the Bible that I think will help you. And really, believe it or not, it just so happens that this fits right in with what we're talking about. This is just a little extra of what we're talking about with the mind of the minister, which we've been talking about the last couple of weeks. And so I think it'll help you.

## I. The Importance of Time with the Bible

Now, I know many of you, or most of you, are fairly young Christians. A lot of you have maybe been saved for a long time, but you're just now getting into the Bible. And you know, when it comes to the Bible, you've got to have a lot of patience. I see young men all the time, and young ladies too, when they get saved, they get on fire for God, and all that is good. But what they want to do is they want to try to learn it all right now, get everything right now, and everything going. And of course, you can't do it that way.

I have a little saying that I've believed for years, and it's simply: There's nothing like time with the Bible. And the Bible is something that you have to spend time with. And I'm not talking about once a week or every day or whatever. I'm talking about through the course of your life. It's a lifelong book that God put in a fashion that you have to spend the rest of your life to understand it and to get it. And when somebody would say to me, "What is the best way to learn the Bible?" My answer, I may give you some things to get and some things to study, but at the end of the day, the best way to learn the Bible is just to spend the rest of your life with the Bible. And there's nothing like spending time with the Bible.

You know, old friends are friends in your life that you've had for 30, 40 years. You know, some of you older folks, there's nothing like them. You know who they are, you know what they're going to do, you know if you can count on them or you can't. And the thing that has made them really work in your life and made them great in your life is the fact that they are simply that: old friends. And you've been through some things together. You walk through some good times, some bad times, and they've always been your friend. And that's why after 20, 30, 40 years, you can say these are some really old friends of ours, and they're really good friends. That's the relationship you need to develop with the Bible.

Not only is the Lord the best friend that you ever had—the Bible says He's a friend that sticketh closer than a brother—but at the same time, the Bible is the best friend that you'll ever have. And it needs to develop through a process of life where it becomes an old friend. Someone that you know everything about, someone that you know every aspect about it. You know, we talk a lot about getting the mind of Christ and letting this mind be in your soul so we can cry Jesus. That itself is a lifelong process. It's one thing to know when God is speaking to you. There's something else to know how the whole Bible is put together specifically for you.

And I know the Bible's a lot of things. The Bible's a great history book. The Bible shows you the plan of God, all those things. But the Bible in a practical sense was written to you and to me for one reason, and that is to get us through the things of life. And the Lord knows better, the Lord knows better than we do what's out there. And He has written us a book that if we'll just listen to it and follow it, will take us through, chart us through the easiest path of life that we could ever go through. Not saying it won't be some bumps, it won't be some heartache, but it'll be nothing like the bumps and the heartache with people who go through life without the Bible.

## II. The Five Wisdom Books of the Old Testament

I want to talk today about the five wisdom books of the Bible. I want to talk about some things that just come with time. You know, I've been in the Bible now for almost over 45 years, and it's

become an old friend to me. And people look at some of the things we do on Thursday night or what, you know, I teach about the Bible, and they marvel at it or wonder, "Well, when can I ever...?" It comes in time. It just comes in time. You know, knowing God and knowing the mind of God, we've talked a lot about that the last couple of weeks. And we've really laid out and looked at how that, you know, that's what we want to get to.

And believe it or not, there's five wisdom books in your Bible in the Old Testament. And collectively, if you would go wherever you would go and you would say, "What are the five wisdom books?" they would tell you basically what I'm going to tell you today. But after spending years in the Bible, I found out that there's really 10 wisdom books in the Bible. There's five in the Old Testament, there's five in the New Testament. In fact, they line up almost perfectly. And I don't have time to go through all of that today, but I do want to talk about the five in the Old Testament.

And I believe as I've come through the Word of God that you take these five books of the Bible, and then everything else in the Bible is built around these five books. I talk about the Bible being a complete circle. It starts in Genesis and ends in Revelation. It starts in a garden, it ends in a perfect estate in a garden. It's a perfect circle. It comes right around in a perfect circle. And yet, you know what? That's exactly what these five wisdom books do. Everything in life is going to come out of these five wisdom books that you and I are going to face in a practical sense. And everything that we are going to experience is going to go back through those five wisdom books. It's an amazing thing.

And it's something that I try to tell people all the time, the goal of every Christian, and in some time frame in your life—I'm not saying, you know, you've got to have it by the end of next year or this year or ten years from now—but I'm telling you, the goal of every Christian, if you're truly saved, at some point in your life needs to—at some time frame you need to get these books down. These books are absolutely crucial. These books, when you fully understand them, is what makes the Bible your old friend. It's really what makes your relationship with the Lord everything that it needs to be.

And you know, I tell Christians all the time that the goal of every Christian ought to be to learn everything that God thinks about, the way He thinks it and the way He sees it, and then throw out what you do and how you think and make that your opinion. And that's kind of a broad statement, but the reality of that statement, how you get there, is through the five wisdom books. When you put these books in your life—and I'm not saying now, again, I don't want to give the impression that what you've got to do today is go out and start a crash study on the five wisdom books. The best way to learn the wisdom books is to grow spiritually in the Lord, do what God's called you to do, understand what these books are, and then through the process of life, add to your life and learn from them and then learn them. You can't do a crash course with the Bible. You can't do a crash course with the five wisdom books, because wisdom, you can't do a crash course in wisdom. It has to build in your life as you do things.

I tell you all the time, the great verse in the Bible, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Over there in Philippians, everybody misquotes that. All the new Bibles take

out the word "which" and put in the word "who." And they give the modern Laodicean Christian the idea that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." And of course, that's not what it says. It says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." It's not Christ that strengthens you, it's the "which," the things that you do for Christ that strengthen you. So if you want to learn the five wisdom books, if you want to come to a point in your life at some time where you become acquainted with the Word of God, where you're old friends.

And that's the problem. Most Christians, it's a sad thing. I've met Christians who, when you talk with them or you get any kind of discussion going with them, you can pretty much tell. When they come to the Bible, they just have a passing acquaintance. I've met Christians, believe it or not, this is really a tragedy, that when they come to the Bible, you try to talk to them, and at least they claim to be Christians, they're complete strangers to the Bible. You see, the process of life, in your life and in my life, ought to be that the longer we live and the more we grow and the more we go for God and the more we do for God. God takes those things that we do, takes the books of the Bible, especially the wisdom books, and then He blends what we do together with what He says. And He makes a lasting impression in your life and my life of not only what the Bible says, but He takes what we're doing and mixes them together, and the end result of that is experience. And the end result of that is seeing these books lay themselves out. And of course, every book of the Bible can do that, but I go back to my original statement, everything in the rest of the Bible will flow through these five wisdom books.

I remember years ago, I read a book by a guy by the name of Tom Malone, and Tom Malone was a pastor at the Pontiac, Michigan Baptist Temple. In fact, I preached in a church one time, years and years ago, and I read a book on Psalms that he wrote, and it wasn't particularly a good book. I mean, it was all right, but I got a couple of things out of it that I never forgot. And he said in his book, and obviously somebody, he heard it from somebody, and he said, he talked about it, he said, you know, somebody said one time that the book of Psalms—in fact, by the way, the five wisdom books, if you don't know what they are, are Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

And he said, somebody said one time that the book of Psalms is about a blessed man, and that's so true. He said the book of Job is about an unhappy man. And he said the book of Proverbs is about a wise man. The book of Ecclesiastes is about a worldly man, and the book of Song of Solomon is about a heavenly man. And I never forgot that because, you know, in a practical way, from a practical standpoint, that's really true. And that's what they produce outwardly in life. These five books of the Bible, once they become the predominant aspect of your life in time, and you become friends with them, the book of Proverbs will give you a blessed life.

We like the word happy. And you find the word happy in the Bible, but happy is a word that comes from happenings. And many people get happy because they've got good happenings in their life, and then they're not happy when they have bad happenings in their life. When the truth concept is, in the book of Psalms, is the blessings of God. And the book of Psalms is all about it. The book of Psalms starts out. The first thing it says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." And it's about the blessings that God puts in our life. In a practical sense, that is so true.

You know, you take the book of Job, and the book of Job is about an unhappy man, and that's true. And you find Job going through the things of life that you and I went through. You find the book of Proverbs, and the book of Proverbs is about a wise man. And we've talked about that. In fact, we're going to study the book of Proverbs here once we finish with the book of 2 Corinthians. Then you have the book of Ecclesiastes, and from a standpoint, it shows you the world's view of things. And then you have the book of Song of Solomon, and it shows you the perspective of our relationship with Christ. And from a practical standpoint, it's really true, because what these books do when you put them in your life inwardly is they produce the right things outwardly.

And inwardly, basically, there are about five fundamental things that you've got to have in your relationship with God. It's kind of incredible. These five wisdom books represent five basic things that I call them the essentials. I call them the directive essentials that I have to have in my life out of these five books. And, you know, I told you we've been talking about breaking things down to the lowest common denominator. When you break these things down, these five wisdom books to the lowest common denominator, here's what you got.

Historically, these five wisdom books represent God telling the nation of Israel and giving them instructions of what they need to do. And they all gather around Israel at that particular time, and God historically is giving them what they need to do and understand. When you look at it doctrinally, these five wisdom books doctrinally, they deal with what God's given Israel instructions in the tribulation period and what they're going through. And that's why you'll find so many aspects of that in there. But then you come to the practical side of it. And the practical side of it is simply this. These five books in its lowest common denominator, these five books break down for you and me what are the five essentials we have to have in our life to be a functioning Christian. When I say functioning Christian, I mean to the aspect that you really have a relationship with God that works. And it all goes back to these five wisdom books of the Bible. When you want to talk about the five aspects of God and God's mind and all of the things that we have, it's these five books right here.

### III. The Book of Psalms: The Heart of God

Now let's walk through them very basically. And I want to show you some things about them that I think will help you with them and tie into what we've already been looking at. Now the first one, and these are not in the order they are in the Bible, they're the order I have in my Bible when I have these notes down here. But you take the first one. The first one is Psalms. And Psalms deals with the heart of God. There's no other book in the Bible that deals—we've been talking about a heart for God and loving God with all of your heart and developing the right attitude of heart with God that produces the right action. If you want a book in the Bible that shows you God's heart, then if you want to get God's heart, this is where you've got to go. And if you want a book in the Bible that is dealing with God's heart, then it's the book of Psalms.

You know the author of Psalms, for many of the Psalms, not all of them, Moses wrote Psalm, Asaph who was David's chief musician, Korah wrote Psalm, and then David writes a number of them. But they all follow a central theme, and David, as we know, was a man that the Bible says

was a man after God's own heart. We know that the heart of God basically, fundamentally, is the Word of God. And yet the heart of the Bible is Psalms. When you have the book of Psalms, you have everything that you need to understand where God's heart is at. It's an incredible book. It's a book that tells you exactly how to have a relationship with God. A lot of it is typified by David, and David is much like you and me. In fact, David is probably the greatest picture of the New Testament Christian that you're ever going to find in one respect. He's the only man in the Bible that got eternal security, called the sure mercies of David in the Bible. He's the only man in the Bible, and he's a unique example of what our life should be in every aspect.

I think David, the reason why David committed the two sins that he committed, and God worked through those with him, and it was the two sins under the law that there was no repentance for. There was nothing that he could do, no sacrifice: adultery and murder. The only thing that could happen was death. And he was totally without any kind of excuse or any kind of sacrifice. And yet, you know what? God made a special clause in his life. God made a special dispensation of grace in a dispensation where there was no grace applied in that sense. And yet in that, when you look at that, here's a man that should have died, and here's a man that by all rights under the law should have died for what he did, and yet God gave him an extra area of grace, another dispensation that he didn't apply that law to him. And you know what he's a picture of? He's a picture of you and me, because under the law there should be no sacrifice for you and me. Under the law we ought to die and go to hell. Under the law we ought to be in a lake of fire, and you know what God did? God did for you and me what he did for David. Now he only did it for one man back there, but he did it for all of us. He gave us another dispensation of grace, and he allowed you and me to get in where we really had no reason or no right to get in.

And that's the book of Psalms. You'll find in the book of Psalms not only how to have a relationship with the Word of God, you'll find in Psalms the attitude of heart it should have. Psalm 51 is David's famous prayer where he comes to God after he did these, and it shows you all of the aspects that we need to have in our life to keep a relationship with God. Psalms is an incredible book, and Psalm deals with the heart of God.

I remember, again, we focus it down even a little more. The greatest chapter in the Bible that you're ever going to find, the greatest chapter in the Bible that you're ever going to find on how to learn the Word of God is Psalm 119. It runs 176 verses, and 176 verses coming through that, and every one of them will deal with a different aspect of the Word of God. When I was young years ago and I had such a desire to learn the Bible, and very quickly I saw what Psalms would do for me. I don't think back then—it's hard for me to remember that far back—I don't think I understood it all like I understood it today. I don't think I put all these five books together yet, but I did have Psalms, and I did understand what Psalms was. And I understood about David's relationship with God, and I remember going back and reading Psalms 119, and I saw immediately what Psalms 119 was. Psalms 119 was nothing more than David's prayer for God to teach him the Word of God. And then David telling God, "God, if you'll give me your Word, I'll do this for you." And I was overwhelmed by that. I saw how easy it really was. It took away all of the things that we like to put up in our lives as roadblocks. I realized that our relationship with God had nothing to do with other people, or what they thought, or what they said, or what they

did. I realized now there should be no obstacles in life that should ever knock me down and keep me going, because I realized that the whole thing came back to just me and that book. And that was enough.

And I remember, I remember reading through Psalms 119. And what I did was, is that in that great chapter, I carved out my own prayer. It's still in that Bible, not that, my study Bible. It's in all of the Bibles that I ever really read or used. But I put in my own prayer. I put myself in a place of David, and I asked God for the same things that David was asking. And David started out, talked about, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." A little bit later on, he says, "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." He talked about that when he got the Word of God, he'd be wiser than his enemies, more understanding than the ancient and his teachers. Those are all things that I claimed. Those are all things that I wanted. And I saw the way to get them was the way David did it. And you can look at my Bible and you'll see, I broke it down. I was real spiritual back then. I knew that number seven was the perfection of God. So I figured I'd keep it perfect, a prayer. But I saw there was a lot in there. So I got 14 petitions made two, seven times two, you know, and they're marked in my Bible. Petition one, petition two, petition three, all lined out. I could just go through. You know what I did for years, for years before I'd ever do anything in the Bible. I'd sit there. There's been times when I sat in a chair and put an empty chair over here, and I read that prayer back to God like He was sitting right there and asking God to give me and telling God if He'd give me the Bible, I'll do this for you, just like David did. Now, I can't speak if it'll work for you, but it worked for me.

I look at Psalms as one of the greatest books in my life that God ever gave me because I know that the real key, the real key for all of us to do anything for God is to get God's heart. And I think that the frustration that so many of God's people go through who are basically probably good people. They want to get God's heart, but they're just looking for it in all the wrong places. You don't find it any other place than you find it in the book of Psalms.

#### IV. The Book of Job: The Suffering of God

And then the next book is the book of Job. And you can see how it was absolutely important. I talked about these things being the five essentials. You can see how it would be absolutely vital to understand God's heart. But at the same time, I guess when you put it on the next one, the book of Job, the book of Job deals with the suffering of God. And there's another whole aspect of God that I think is essential.

You know why I think so many of God's people don't do anything for God? You know why I think so many God's people are so caught up in all the things that go on in the world and lose sight of everything that God has for them? I think it comes down to one simple thing. I think it comes down to the fact that they do not understand or comprehend the suffering of God for them, therefore they're not willing to suffer for Him today. I think it's just that simple. I think it's just that simple. I think if we really understood the book of Job and what God went through on the cross and what God paid, the price that He paid for you and for me and then put all the other material into it, I don't think there'll be a child of God on this planet that would give his life and

serve God for everything that he wanted him to do. I think the reason why we don't, the reason why God's people don't is because not only do they not have the heart of God, but they don't understand the suffering of God. I don't think you can get the heart of God without at some point getting the suffering of God. I think it's vital. I think it's vital.

And there's many lessons in Job. I mean, Job was a great book. And we know what Job's all about from a historical standpoint. Job was a real man. Job went through what he really went through. Doctrinally, Job was a picture, as I said, the tribulation period and the suffering that he goes through is what they're going to go through. But from an inspirational application, many of the passages in Job are a picture of what Christ went through. They're a picture of his struggle.

I don't know, you know, we read coming up next week is Easter. And Easter is always a time that we've kind of set aside for the crucifixion. And there'll be all kinds of plays and pageants and all kinds of sermons about all those things. But the truth of the matter is none of them will ever get relatively close to what really the Bible talks about it. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John kind of give you a thumbnail sketch of the crucifixion. They talk about the—they're great for the times and the events. They're great for all the things that you want to get the order of events and see the events and lay them out. It's great for that. But if you want to understand the suffering, if you want to understand truly the suffering that he paid on that cross, you don't get it out of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. You start in Job.

I think Job chapter 30 is probably the greatest chapter in all of the Bible that talks about the agony on the cross. Why if you know the New Testament, you can almost tick it off on a timeline right down there from the time that he's before Pilate in the morning about 6 o'clock to the scribes and the Pharisees beating him right on down the line till he's hanging on the cross when he cries out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" He talks about the demonic activity that's going on around the cross while he's paying that price. He talks about the bull's abasement. That's the scribes and the Pharisees when you study them through the Bible. He's got everything there that you would need to know to fundamentally understand that that was the most horrific day on this planet. Not the fact that Christ died on the cross, the fact that God turned his back on his son dying on the cross for you and for me. And it's an incredible book. It really is. There's many lessons in it, many lessons in Job. But you're going to find out that Job is the, what I call my definitive passage on the Old Testament crucifixion.

Then you add to that Psalms 89. You add to that Isaiah 53. You add to that Job 16, Psalms 22, Isaiah 52, Isaiah 53. And then you add to that Isaiah 50. You get all those together and build them around Job chapter 30 and what you're going to have is an understanding of the sufferings of God. And like I said, we've been talking a lot about why people are the way they are. And I think that people are the way they are fundamentally simply because they don't get it. I think that the people who get the suffering of Christ and get the heart of God and put that in their life, they're the ones that are going to serve God and do the best they can do. I think the ones who never get it and the ones who never see it, they're the ones that are always going to have some issue in their life. There will always be a reason why I'm not coming to church today. There will always be a reason why, well, I'm not going to get involved in ministry. There will always be some reason that it will trump or be bigger in their life than the suffering of God. And that's a great statement.

What in your life today trumps the suffering of God on the cross for you? That's where you're at. That's where you're at. That's exactly where you're at. And that's how it works. That's how it works. I'm telling you, these are five essentials.

And I know that I've met Christians all my life. I've been around hundreds of thousands of them. I've probably had tens of thousands since we started at church pass through my life and talk to them or be here. And some of them still are. Some of them are not. Some of them won't be in the next couple of weeks or the next couple of months. Not the way it always goes. But I understand this. And all of my travels and all my life, I've never found a whole lot of people who understood these five essentials. I haven't found a lot of them. There's just not a lot of them around. And they are the essentials. And I think that, you know, it's an incredible thing.

Now the first two wisdom books, Psalms and Job, one deals with the heart of God. The other one deals with the suffering of God. And then the three remaining wisdom books, they're unique because once you get the first two—now I know why I put them in the order I put them in—once you get the first two down and see it, then the last three really give you an introduction of what God thinks and what God, how He looks at things. Remember I told you, that's the job of every Christian. I call these my three directional books. These are the books that give me my direction in life. We talk about that the job of every Christian, and I say it again, is to get into the Bible and find out what God's opinion is and everything in life and then make that your opinion and throw away your old opinion. These are the books that show you how to do that. These are the books.

## V. The Book of Proverbs: The Soul of God

Now the first book is the book of Proverbs. And that's the one we're going to study coming up. I got to tell you, probably when you put all five of them together, and I love all five and all five have changed my life, but I got to tell you, from my standpoint with what I do every day and the people I have to deal with, Proverbs is probably my favorite Bible. If there is one in the book in the Bible, if there's one book that I wish I could get total recall that I could just think of every process, every principle and just have it totally at my fingertips, it will be Proverbs. There is so much in Proverbs that it's unbelievable. I'm really looking forward to teaching it. I know before we even start, I'll never do it justice, but that's beside the point. I'm looking forward to it.

You know, when God made us, God made us after Himself. God is a God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He's a Trinity. So when He made us, He made His body, soul, and spirit. He made us in His likeness, in His image. So that means that God has a body, God has a soul, and God has a spirit. And He does. God is a spirit. And that's when God, when it talks about God being the God of the universe, that's God the Father. God the Son is Jesus Christ, and of course the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit. These last three books line up the body, soul, and spirit. These last three books line up the body, soul, and spirit. If Psalms is the heart of God, then I guarantee you that Proverbs is the soul of the Bible. It's the soul of God. Because Proverbs contains everything, everything that God thinks about everything in life when it comes to you and me. In fact, He tells you early on in Proverbs that out of this book come the issues of life, that this book deals with every issue that man is going to have. I have never found in all the years

in ministry a single fundamental problem that a man or a woman or a husband or wife or kid had that wasn't covered in Proverbs. And there's a reason for that.

It's the book of Proverbs where wisdom is defined. The book of Proverbs talks about facts. It talks about wisdom. And it talks about understanding. It shows you through the process that facts are nothing more than the knowledge about things. It's the ability to use those facts, but understanding is the ability to see God in everything that He does. That's what I try to teach you. That's what we try to do here. When you sit down with a couple who are having problems or you're faced with a scenario that you need to deal with, that's exactly what you follow. You gather the facts. You let that fact take you through the Word of God to give you wisdom, but then you stand back and you look at it and when you put it all together and you use the principles out of the book of Proverbs and throughout the rest of the Bible, now you understand what's really happening. Remember, most cases in life, things are not what they appear. And dealing with people in life, most people pretend it's what it is and when it's really not the way that it really is. The appearance is not everything. It's the book of Proverbs that brings you to that point, my directional books.

Proverbs deals with the mind, really the mind of God, the soul. And it shows us everything that God thinks about, the issues of life as we talked about. And it's built and fashioned around two easy concepts. It's built and fashioned around a wise man and a foolish man. He defines early on what a wise man is and he defines early on what a fool is. He defines what instruction is. He defines what knowledge is. He defines what wisdom is and he defines what understanding. He gives it all to you. And then he walks through and gives you everything that you need to understand what the situation is. I don't know of a situation that you don't find yourself in in life that you won't have the ability to make the right choice. And let's face it, that's really our biggest problems in life. We talk about sin, we talk about this and all of that. And I know fundamentally that is true, but you know what the biggest problem we all face? It's making bad choices because it's the bad choices that lead to sin. Sin never gets in our life unless we make a choice that puts it in our life. You see how it works?

So the book of Proverbs tells you, it heads off, it shows you the circumstances. I don't know how many times somebody's asked me, "Should I go into business with this person? Should I do this with this person?" And I take them to Proverbs and I show them. Hey look, you know what? The Bible says you make sure before you make fast with somebody in a deal because you may be wound up holding a bag. Make sure they're going to be everything that you want it to be. Endless of all of the different principles that you find. And you know, you find a wise man. A wise man is simply the guy who reads the Word of God, believes the Word of God and puts it into his life. And he gets the blessings of God. The foolish man is someone who doesn't do what's right with the Word of God. And he lists those out. He'll show you eight or nine or ten different characteristics of each one of them. He'll give you the verses that shows you what a wise man does and what a fool does.

You know, the biggest mistake we make in life is the people we hang out with. They'll either lift us up or they'll tear us down. And yet right there in that book is everything you need. Well, I'll tell you something. If you're hanging out with a guy or a gal or whoever or a couple or whatever

and on a number fourteen list of a fool they hit nine, see you later. I mean if you're hanging out with some people and you watch their life and on a wisdom list of fourteen if they hit nine or ten, stay with them. See? How much easier can it be than that? We get into problems we get into because we simply forsake the five books, the essentials that we have to have in our Christian life. You don't even have to know all of them to the extent that I'm talking about to be able to use them. You go with what you know. You use what you have. The reason why God doesn't give most of us any more, you know why He doesn't? Because we're not using what we already have. And He's not going to keep giving it to us but we don't use it. You have to use it.

If you never walked for thirty-five years and just sat in a chair or laid in a bed for thirty-five years and you, after thirty-five years you decide you're going to get up and walk. Do you think you're going to do that? Your legs are not even going to be used to walking and you're going to have to start all over again. You're going to have to do now what you should have done when you were two years old or how old you are when you start walking and worked it from there. Same way. This is what God's people's problems are. They won't take what they already know and use it. And then they wonder why they're not going anywhere. They wonder why they're not getting anywhere in life. And they think that God's just going to give them everything and bless them with everything and then they're just going to work it out and go from there and be great. It doesn't work that way. You are responsible for what God gives you. You're responsible for developing it and God giving you more and then you work from there.

That's the way we work with people. How many times have I told you, you know, you're working with somebody. You'll get to a place where we build them around Sunday morning and Thursday night and try to put into their life. How many times have you told, I told people, you've told people, look, you need to be here on Sunday morning. Well, you know what, I'm not going to be here on Sunday morning. Well, then you know what, then we're not going to meet on Tuesday because it doesn't work. You know, just sitting down here and getting what I have doesn't work if you don't come and be part of the body and learn how to apply it. It just never functions that way in real life that it works.

And you know, Proverbs is a great book. When I tell you of the responsibility of Christians, like I said, is to find out what God thinks about everything and then make that opinion, your opinion, that's Proverbs. That's what it does. I mean, once you get past chapter 8, and I love the breakdown, we won't get into it this morning, we're going to get into it when we study it, but I'm telling you what, when you get in chapter 9 up to about chapter 30, man, I'll tell you what.

Now let me give you this before we move on to the next book here. I think this will help you.

*Historically, Solomon is writing this book to his own boy, Rehoboam, and he's writing this to him. That's why in the first eight chapters it's all "my son, my son, my son." Historically, he's actually writing this to Rehoboam, his son, because he doesn't want Rehoboam to turn out to be a fool. He wants Rehoboam to turn out to be like Solomon, wise. So he wrote this book to his son. It's an equation, probably historically, of all the wisdom that Solomon had put into a book to give into his son, so his son would be a good king. How'd that work for him? Rehoboam was a fool. Rehoboam was a mess. What Solomon forgot is it is not just, this is a great principle, but*

*Solomon forgot is it isn't just about teaching your kids and leaving them a book about Proverbs. It's about living the life along with it. When Solomon may have been great at writing it down, he was terrible at living it, and that's what got him. And that's a great lesson for your parents. You may think you bring in the church. You do their Sunday school lessons. You do their memory verses and all that stuff. Well, he wrote a book to his son of all his wisdom, but his son turned out to be a fool. You know why? Because Solomon lived by two standards. He was a great wise man and had this, but he had a thousand wives on this side, and he was making allegiance with all the people that he should not have, and it led to his downfall. And ultimately, no matter what he knew about the Bible, that's what killed Rehoboam. It's that simple.*

*> So historically, he's writing it to his son. Doctrinally now, this is God writing to his son the nation of Israel. And in the Old Testament, this was used throughout all of the times, and it's God writing to the nation of Israel. And in Exodus 4, as a nation, God calls Israel his son. So he's writing this instruction to them because he wants them to be wise and not be foolish. Well, we know how that worked, don't we? Israel didn't obey it any more than Rehoboam did. And we know that in 606 BC and 721 BC, their reign ends as the greatest nation on this planet. And they go into their captivity, all because of the fact that they chose to be a fool over to be a wise man.*

*> So there you have the historical, you have the doctrinal, Israel, now the inspirational, to me and you, because you and I, if you're saved are God's son, God's child. And what he wants is this. He wants you and I to be wise. He wants you and I to make good choices. He wants you and I to wind up being the right kind of king in the millennial reign of Christ. So he writes this book to us inspirationally, even though his doctrinally it was to the Jew and historically it was to Rehoboam, he writes it to you and me that you and I might have the benefit of God's wisdom. You want to be like God? You want to have the knowledge of God? You want to let this mind be in you, which is also in Christ Jesus? The book of Proverbs is the price of that. When you learn it, when you understand it, when you embrace those principles, when you look at them and you begin to catalog them and live by them and make your choices by them.*

I've seen people go on trips, you know, to Europe and they don't know the country. They buy one of those little travel guides, you know, and if you're in Rome or you're in Naples or you're in Sicily or you're—Sicily is not a city, it's a nation—but if you're in or even in the States, you know, for a couple of bucks you'll buy a little point of interest and it'll have a little map that tell you to get there and it'll tell you, “All right, here's where you're at, here's what you got to see, here's where you're at, here's what you got to see.” And you'll see people walking around looking at them, holding them, going from place to place to place based on what that thing, that little book tells them they need to see and what they need to go and do. That's what the Bible does, except your venture is through life, not through Disney World. Well, kind of is. Your venture is through all of the struggles and the ups and the downs of this life that you got to live. So you got a book here that's your travel guide and when you got a decision to make, don't just hastily make it. If you don't know off the top of your head what it is, you want to have it catalogued in Proverbs or somewhere where you can go and say, “That's what I need to do.” When you got a thing you got to deal with, go to it. Find your way through life, just like they find their way through an amusement park or through a city with all the points of interest. Use your way

through life and all the points of interest you have to deal with. That's what Proverbs does for you. That's what God intended it to do for you.

## VI. The Book of Ecclesiastes: The Spirit of God

Well the next one, the book of Ecclesiastes. Well if Proverbs is the soul of God, then the book of Ecclesiastes is the spirit of God. For Proverbs is the mind of God, Ecclesiastes will be the mind of the spirit. Now the greatest thing that Ecclesiastes teaches me that I've ever got out of it, there's a lot of great things then, a lot of great verses in Ecclesiastes. But I think fundamentally the greatest thing it does for me is it teaches me as a child of God that God, before this whole thing started, had a pre-course plan laid out where the Spirit of God was going to go. You realize in Genesis chapter 1 is the first time the Spirit of God shows up, I think it's in verse 4, and it says the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And you know what, the first time you find the Spirit of God in the Bible, the Bible says it moves, it's moving. And you know what, it never stops from that point on.

You know what the biggest problem with God's people is today? They don't know where the Holy Spirit of God went from there, where it went to the next hundred years, next thousand years, and they have no idea where the Spirit of God is at today. No clue. He filed a flight plan of the Spirit of God in Genesis chapter 1. Then he tells you throughout the Old Testament the way that thing is going to go, east to west, and he shows you how that Spirit of God is going to go. And then in the book of Ecclesiastes he talks about the Holy Spirit of God going by circuits. It follows a circuit. It follows a pattern. And that pattern is laid out through the Word of God when you watch where God moves and how He goes. And that's why every good move in the Bible that a man makes is going to be from east to west, and every bad move in the Bible a man makes is going to go the opposite direction. It's just that simple.

The book of Ecclesiastes shows man an unending desire to replace the Holy Spirit of God, the guidance in our life with a man-made concept. So in that book, once God lays out for us the plan of the Holy Spirit of God, He shows you not only the circuit that the Holy Spirit of God goes, but He shows you the cycle of life and He tells you the time to be born, a time to die, a time to dance, a time to rejoice, a time to gather, a time to cast down. Well, He puts all the principles in there, man. I mean, you couldn't miss it. And when you start coming through the book of Ecclesiastes you find that it's the book that when man wanted to, when man wanted to come up with a plan against the Spirit of God and exalt his own spirit, build up his own stronghold to put himself on the throne instead of God on the throne, the book of Ecclesiastes shows you how a man does it.

In that book there's 34 what we call theologies of man, the great philosophies of man, all the great things that man come up with. You know, eschatology, it talks about the stoedientology, it talks about the humanism, existentialism, pragmatism, socialism, communism, it talks about stoicism, skepticism, epicureanism, it goes through all of the ideas that man has come up with that input in our lives that simply do one thing, takes the Spirit of God out and what God is doing. And that's why it's the worldly book. It's the book that shows you that, and the key word in that book is "under the sun," not up in heaven. And it tells you that there's no new thing under

the sun. And that's a great thing because the seven new things are above the sun up there in heaven, New Jerusalem, new birth, new name, new heart, oh yeah, that's where it's at, see.

So the book of Ecclesiastes says God showing you and me what it's like on this planet and then he shows you where the Holy Spirit of God is going and what he's doing and then man's opposition to it by man coming up with all these man-made philosophies of life that man thinks is going to take the place of the Holy Spirit of God in your life. That's why when people want to get saved or God tries to deal with people in getting saved, many times it's their education that they have a problem with. Many times it's a religion they were brought up in. Many times it's something other than that they've been taught or they went to school and they think of this or they think of that. All of those things have been put in your life to take away from the one single thing that God wants to use in your life to bring you to Him, that's the Spirit of God.

From the time you were born to the time you die, God woos you like some boy who wants to take you out. He looks at you and you're the most beautiful thing he ever saw and he wastes his life running around asking you out, asking you here, asking you here and all of your life to that boy you say no, no, no, no, no, you're not for me, you're not fun, you're no party guy, you don't dance, you don't smoke, you don't chew so I'm not going out with you and you go through that whole process and all of your life the Holy Spirit of God wants to invite you to come with Him. He wants to be the most personal thing in your life and it's these things and Ecclesiastes that man has come up with that override that Spirit of God is what man tries to do.

You see it in religion. You know what, there's no church on this planet including the Baptist Church can ever get you to heaven. Not one church, no church on this planet but yet there's people out there that think joining a church is going to get them to heaven. You can't get to heaven by joining a church. My God folks, if you could get to heaven by just joining a stupid church then why did Christ come down and die? Why did He just say take out that whole thing and list the churches you needed to join? Because churches won't cut it for you. I've had people believe that they, that they, that they, you know, you do something, good works. The world is filled with people who think if you do good works that when you get to heaven there's going to be a big scale. God's going to put your good ones over here and your bad works over here and then way out and if your good works out where you're bad when you go to heaven. It doesn't work that way. The Bible says that all of our righteousness is filthy rags in the sight of God. There's nothing we can do. I heard people say well I, you know, you got to be baptized to go to heaven. Baptism will do nothing but get you wet. Hey, same thing. If baptism would save you then why don't they just rip out all those passages under crucifixion? Why did this son die in the agony of the cross? Why did he die with the suffering of the cross if all you simply had to do was get baptized? You know why people believe those things? Because they don't understand the sufferings of the cross. When you understand the book of Job and the sufferings that Christ and that cross paid for you, you realize that there's nothing you can do that will merit that salvation. That's why those things are important.

Book of Ecclesiastes is a great book. It talks about all the devices that man comes up with. You're looking in our country right now and the world in the way that it is. It's all built on the idea that you're okay, I'm okay. You know the key to everything in his life is spending more money,

making it beautiful, making it bigger, and making it better and all the problems are going to go away. Now you know what? The fallacy of that is just simply untrue. And we think in our life the same thing. If I can get this, if I can buy this, if I can have a bigger house, a nicer car, if I can get a better job, if I can have this or I can have that, if I can just add one more thing to my stack, I'll finally be happy. You need to knock the stack down. There's only one thing going to make you happy and it's the thing that made me happy and so many of you happy today. That is the day that Jesus Christ comes into your life and He come by the Spirit of God. That's the book of Ecclesiastes. It's simple. It's simple. It's the simplest thing on this planet.

## VII. The Book of Song of Solomon: The Body of Christ

Then the last book, book of Song of Solomon. Now if Proverbs was a soul and Ecclesiastes the Spirit, then that makes the book of Song of Solomon has to be the body, body, soul, and spirit, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. See Proverbs is the mind of God. Ecclesiastes is the mind of the Spirit and now the book of Song of Solomon is the mind of Christ. I think, oh I already said my favorite one was Proverbs so I can't say my favorite one was Song of Solomon. Well I can say it this way. I talk to my kids. I got three grandkids. They're all my favorites. How do you say to Matty, you're my favorite and not hurt the other two? How do you say to Kinsey, you're my favorite and not hurt the other two? How do you say to Macie, you're my favorite, youngest little grandchild. So Proverbs is my favorite book of the Bible when it comes to the mind of God. Song of Solomon is my favorite book of the Bible when it comes to the mind of Christ. Worked for me, I don't care if it works for you. I just got my hell out of it.

Anyway, Song of Solomon is my book man. I don't think and I've got a long way to go. I mean I'm not even off the runway yet. In fact, I'm sitting at the end of the runway when I got one engine out this morning. But anyway, Song of Solomon. When I saw it for what it was and every one of these books through the course of my life, again, I know you don't go out of here and don't try to do it today, but at some point in the timeframe of your life you need to do this. You need to work through every one of these books, verse by verse. Put the notes in your Bible. Get it for you. And all of these were great for me, but I think in my own personal relationship with the Lord and I'll be the first to tell you, it's a long, my life is well away from where it needs to be. I'll tell you right now, I make as many mistakes as anybody else does, but I won't tell you something. It was the book of Song of Solomon that helped me understand what I really need to be to God because it showed me what He really was to me. And when I saw that, my life changed because the book of Song of Solomon is just that simple. It's the most intimate book in the Bible. And the one that goes along with it is the book of Ephesians. Those two match up. But the book of Song of Solomon is an incredible thing.

Now here again historically, Solomon had a thousand wives, 600 wives, 400 concubines, same deal. He had a thousand wives. And yet when you lay it all out and you study it, he wasn't happy with them. And hey, this man made Hugh Hefner look like a rank amateur. This guy got them from all over the world. I mean, he got the most beautiful women. I mean, ugly women need not apply. He got the most beautiful women all over the world. And they all came and wanted to be with Solomon. And you know what? When he wrote the Song of Solomon, he's looking for one

woman that he could not find in all of that thousand. He's looking for her. And I've often thought that that's probably the way it is with God.

Now he finds this woman. She's obviously a black woman from the chapter one. Probably could be very, the Queen of Sheba, though there's no real evidence on it, but they seemed like they were getting along pretty good there for a while in the Bible. So maybe. Because I know Africa got a revival back there because some of Ethiopian eunuch got the message all the way back there in Acts chapter seven. So there's some connection back there. But I looked at that. He found this woman. He describes her a little bit in chapter one. And then he writes the Song of Solomon to her. And I've often looked at that and thought to myself, if everything in that Bible means what it says and says what it means that it all was connected, then that is a great principle because he had a thousand wives, but only one was virtuous. That probably means that out of a thousand Christians today, God only finds one who's going to do what God wants him to do. That's an astounding thing. Now I can't speak for you. I wouldn't presume to speak for you. Wouldn't think of speaking for you, but I'll speak for myself. I'm going to be one of those top. I'm going to be that one and that thousand. If you can claim that, you claim it. But boy, before you claim it, you better see what it takes. Better see what it takes.

And that's what the book's about. The book's broken down in two fashions. It's broken down in the fact that half the book tells me how God thinks of me, what he looks at me. And it gives me this. Boy, you talk about putting it all in perspective. And I say it changed my whole thinking on my relationship with God a number of years ago when I saw this because we get caught up in things. We get caught up because we go to a football game and a guy makes a touchdown or kicks a field goal and he does this. Or sometimes they'll sit down and cross themselves. Or sometimes they'll get up and they'll hit a thing up and they're running and they're pointing up. And like God pointing down. When I got the Song of Solomon down, I'm going to tell you today, I don't know a lot of things about the Bible and I don't know a lot of things about God. But I'm going to tell you one thing I got down for sure. There's only one thing that's constantly in Christ's mind, 24-7, every day, every moment of the day. He's only thinking about one thing. He doesn't get sidetracked with Super Bowls, hockey games, NASCAR, skiing, the Olympics. He doesn't even care about world events. The world events, if you know your Bible, are already on a preset course to get Israel back when they needed to be. He ain't touching it. He doesn't need to do anything. It's already running. Jesus Christ sits up there all day long and does one thing, all day long, all night long, all the time. He's got one thought on His mind and it's you and it's me. That's what Song of Solomon tells me. It tells me that all He thinks about is me.

We get ideas that God is, Christ is looking around. He's all interested in all this other stuff going on. He's not. You know what He wants? He wants His bride. He wants His bride. That's all He thinks about. God may be directing the things down here and doing this. Christ is sitting there in the right hand of God and all He's thinking about is you. He's thinking about what you're doing today. He's looking at the problems you're struggling through in life. He's like being separated from somebody when they're in the army overseas or a school or their way and you love that person so desperately and you want to be with them and you can't be with them the way you want to be with them and you're longing to be with them and you think about them and the little

notes that you get or the little things that you get, the little conversations you have mean so much to you. That's where He's at except the problem is this. Most of His brides don't want to really have much conversation with Him. One out of a thousand. One out of a thousand. One out of a thousand that was found virtuous.

And boy, I'll tell you what, when I read those first chapters in there that talked about when God looks at me and over there in chapter two it talks about Him looking down from heaven through the lattice, kept a glimpse of you. Can you imagine God loving you, you, you, not me, you so much that He puts a silly little thing like that in the Bible, a peeping Tom Christ wanting to get a glimpse of His bride, just wanting one little glimpse to satisfy till we can be together for all of eternity. When I understood that, how He looked at me, what He thought about me, how that all day long all He does is think about me. I got to tell you, it broke my heart. And I haven't even gotten to the second part yet what tells me what I'm supposed to be thinking about Him. But it broke my heart that when I understood that that's all He does is think about me all day long and I stop and think about all the things I think about that don't even include Him. No, I know He's God and we're not. I know you got to think about your job tomorrow, you got to think about your kids this afternoon, you got to think about getting home in the snow, you got to think about what you're going to cook. I understand all that. He doesn't have those problems. But boy, I'll tell you what, it ought to put a priority in our lives that all that we think about the majority of our day and everything that we do, we ought to get to the place in our lives that if we're going through the worst time in our lives and we're struggling with something, there's such an agreement, it's unbelievable that we still are thinking about Him. You ought to get to the place when you're driving down the road by yourself and somebody cuts you off instead of flipping him off out the window or cussing him out, you got to look over to the empty seat and say, "Now what do you think about that? That guy's obviously not saved. I don't know his name, you know his name. Save him or kill him." Thank you, Lord. You got to talk to him all the time. You ought to have a constant presence. It's called God consciousness because He's thinking about you and then you get into the second part of the book.

I'm glad He wrote that book in there because for me, I can't speak for you, for me now it leaves no uncertain terms. There's no question in my mind what I'm to think about Him. And there's no question in my mind today of how He thinks about me. That one book solved, would solve for you too, the major issues you have in your life. You know why? Most of us run around wondering, "I wonder what God thinks about that. Wonder how He looks at that. I don't want to make Him mad. I don't want to make Him this. I don't want to do that. I wonder what He's doing. I don't want to do this because I don't know what He's thinking about." That book tells you what He's thinking about. You don't have to run around in a little fog of what's going on. It'll tell you everything when He looks at you. It'll cover every issue that you ever get into you in your life. It'll give you everything you've ever wanted to know and wondered that when God brings you into His thought process what He thinks. And then it turns around to the rest of that book and shows you what you ought to be thinking about Him. It shows you what your thought pattern ought to be.

All those things in there are collective. They're really neat because it puts the woman, it says she's got hair like a sheep of goats, teeth like the goats from Gilead and cheeks like pomegranate. One time a guy did a composite of that was the ugliest thing you ever saw in your life. But it shows you that all of those things mean something in the Bible. It shows you that when God looks at you and me, He sees us. If you don't get nothing else, get what I'm going to tell you right now. The reason why He describes it from the goats of humming up from the water or the rams from the cembation or from Gilead and the flocks well watered and it talks about this and that and pomegranate for cheeks and a nose like whatever it was in there and all those things. The only reason He goes through that, that great descriptive is because when God sees you in me, listen to me now, He sees us through that book. He doesn't see us the way we really are because we're His. When He describes us, He doesn't describe us as Bob Alexander, idiot, stupid, this, that, dumb, whatever. When He looks at me and He looks at you, He describes me as perfectly as He could through that book. And when you look at Him, you describe Him the same way. Eyes as the eyes of a dove, hands dripping with gold, feet and legs like marble, He never changes. It's all right there.

## VIII. Conclusion: Time and the Wisdom Books

Those five books are the essentials. I'm not saying tomorrow, I'm not saying this year because the way you learn the Bible is spending time with the Bible. If you just do what's right on a natural basis and stay working for God, stay connected, let us help you, you'll get there. It'll come just as natural as the sun coming up in the morning, even though you probably won't be able to see it. Because the thing that works for you and for me is just time with the Bible and it'll come in time.

Many of you, the first time I met you, I liked you. You're like me. We were acquaintances. As time went on, we really got to know each other. Then we got to love each other. Now we're best friends. Now we're in the ministry together. The process of time has put us together that in essence as a church with many of you, we're all one. You have my heart, you have my goal, you understand what I'm trying to do. God put it in your heart. You want to help me do it? We're one. Well, just like we can do it through the process of time, you do it in time with the process through the book. And that book becomes your old friend. Those five wisdom books, they become your old friends. You don't look over your shoulder wondering what to do. You look to the true and tested friend that you've always had that always tells you the right thing to do. See? It comes in time. Can't get in a hurry with it. Can't make it happen before it's time, but you got to stay in the process. You stay in the process, you'll get there. Get out of the process, you won't. Stay in the process, you'll become a wise man. Get out of the process, you'll become a fool. It's really simple. Those are the five wisdom books. They will change your whole perspective of everything because they're everything that God has given us that we need to know. My relationship with Christ and everything I have is wrapped up in those five books. It shows me every aspect of God in every detail that I could ever hope to have. And then all the rest of the Bible, everything in it will go back to those five books as everything in your life will. We had boundary, I closed.