

## I. Introduction to Proverbs and the Father's Instructions

If you have your Bibles, I want to invite you to turn to the Book of Proverbs. Last week, you will remember we officially started the Book of Proverbs after we had our introduction. We began the first of what I have told you are three sections to the Book of Proverbs. You will remember I told you that section one is chapter one through chapter seven, and it is built around the phrase, "my son."

I also told you that in the first seven chapters, there are fifteen admonitions that are laid out to us as God's son in an inspirational application. This is the personal instruction of God to us and His sons that we should, as I told you a couple of weeks ago, make you ten times better. I have referenced you back to Daniel and showed you how that when Daniel and his friends got into the Word of God and did what God wanted them to do, and then were put to the test against all of the wise men, the magicians, and all of the astrologers, and all the wise men of Babylon, that God's boys were ten times better. I showed you how that is exactly what happens in your life and in your world when you get into the Word of God and you get it all put together.

Then I showed you how we are going to use the paragraph marks. You are going to see that in the Book of Proverbs, anyhow, the paragraph marks are absolutely key. For the most part, we will work through that paragraph section by paragraph section, and that will help you.

I gave you the instructions of a father in the law of my mother. I told you how that I do not know of two greater concepts in all of the Bible for you young families, and to show you the structure of what a Christian family should be. I explained its application to us in a practical way.

- The father leads the family. He sets down the instructions and how the family will operate. In a family, the instructions of a father are everything. It will make or break the family. We talked about the problem today on epidemic proportions of the failure of the family, the failure of how the family has been fractured today.

A father leads. A strong biblical father will lead his family through the tough times that all families go through. There will never be a family that does not go through adversity in their time. There will never be a family that does not have to struggle with things and go through things. A father, his job is he leads them through the tough times.

A good biblical father will be the anchor that holds the values in place. Because as we go through time, values change. You can see it around us in everything we do. A biblical father who leads, he is the anchor. He holds the values of those principles in place. He is the rock for the family to look to and lean on when they go through their tough times. He is the compass that sets the course for the family, the moral compass, the spiritual compass, the compass by which when the world tries to blow his family off course, he holds the line because his compass is pointed in the right direction. He is the light. He is the light that leads his family through the uncertainty of darkness, which unfolds in every family.

He is the strength for the family when the family is weak. I told you last week that there is no greater responsibility or privilege in all the world than to be a father.

## II. Spiritual Fatherhood and Growth

We see that in a spiritual application in our own church. I have told you before many, many times how that in your life and my life as Christians, there are seven basic stages of spiritual growth that a person goes through. When you get saved, the Bible says that you are a babe in Christ, and babies need a lot of care. They need a lot of help. But as babies grow, they go through stages of growth. As a Christian grows from a spiritual baby just being born again, he or she will go through spiritual growth in the same way.

I showed you how that the Bible talks about babies. Then it talks about little children. Then it talks about children. Then it talks about young men. All these are pictures in the Bible of what everybody should go through in your spiritual growth level, bringing you from the adolescence of being a new creature in Christ Jesus, a baby Christian, up to the point where you begin to grow through the process.

The fifth one is the one that I have talked about many, many times, and we have laid it out before, and that is the spiritual growth level of a father. You will actually go through that level. The next one after that will be elders. Elders in the church have a very specific function and a job in helping the pastor. The last one will be the aged. That will be somebody that not necessarily is 100 years old physically, but maybe in their 60s or 70s or 80s, and through the experience of life and the growth through the Word of God, have really become valuable.

I want to go back to the fathers for a moment. Number five, that is where you really become valuable to this church. That is where you really become an asset to what we are doing here. Because when you get to that point, it illustrates what I am trying to talk to you about in your own family. You see, when you are single, you can do whatever you want to do pretty much. Even after you are married, even though you are married, you can pretty much still do what you want to do. Many times you do it as a couple. But when that baby comes, your world changes. Everything about what you used to have the freedom to do, you cannot do anymore. Now your whole world has turned around. Now that baby takes precedent. Now you have responsibility to it. You have accountability to it. Now you are not footloose and fancy-free just to go do whatever you want to do because everything goes back to your responsibility as a parent.

Take that in a spiritual application now. When you grow spiritually in this church or any church, you should come to the point where you become a spiritual father to people. Just as a physical father, your life changes when you enter into that place where you become a spiritual father to somebody, or mother if you are a lady, but it talks about the father aspect, your world changes. Again, now in a spiritual sense within the structure of the church, you do not have the freedom just to go do whatever you want to do. Now if you are discipling somebody, or you are in charge of a prayer group, or you are winning somebody to Christ, or you are working with somebody, or we have given you somebody to work with, they become a responsibility and accountability for you. You cannot just say, "Well, you know what? I want to go to the mall tonight, so I am not

going to disciple you." You just cannot simply say, "Well, I want to go do this, so I am not going to be available for you." Now your responsibility goes back to the ministry. You see it for what it is. You realize as a father, you have definite responsibilities of leadership that you have got to fulfill in dealing with people.

In both senses, in a physical family sense, fathers are vital. What will make this church the church that it really needs to be will be you growing to the place where you come to that point where you become a father. You pick up the reins. You pick up responsibility. You start working with somebody. You start helping this, getting involved with it. You simply do not just sit on the sidelines anymore. Now you are responsible for other things that go along around you.

We also saw the law of the mother, did we? How that the mother takes the instructions of the father and enforces the law in the family. She holds the line of accountability, working together and training of the family.

Then we saw the great lesson in Proverbs 1:9, the ornament of grace to thy head and the chains about thy neck. I showed you how that it is going back to your family in the judgment seat of Christ. It is going back to everything that your life that is responsible as you are responsible for your family and have to face the judgment seat of Christ. It also dealt in an inspirational way about your own rewards and inheritance that you will or will not get at the judgment seat of Christ. For you as young couples, for all of us really, but for you young couples, but especially for those of you who are starting out, you just now got family or your kids are still young, still pliable, still workable. In the Bible, it does not get any better than that. Taking those two principles alone and molding your life into those as a husband and wife team together, it will make you or break you when it comes to your family.

### III. The Enticement of Sinners

Today, we are going to look at our second set of verses that are marked out by the paragraph marks, and we are going to stay with that as we develop yet another great concept out of this book. That is basically what we are going to do all through Proverbs. We are going to lay out the verses and then we are going to take the concepts. We are going to develop them and take all the material as we develop it in, and we can apply it however we need to.

Today I want to begin reading in Proverbs 1:10 at the paragraph mark, and we will come up to Proverbs 1:19 at the end of this section. Then if we would go on next week, we will see that the paragraph mark in Proverbs 1:20.

*Proverbs 1:10-19*

*My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.*

*If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:*

*Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:*

*We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:*

*Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:*

*My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:*

*For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.*

*Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.*

*And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.*

*So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.*

Now Father, we thank you and praise you today for the Lord Jesus, and we do love you so much. We thank you, Father, for the fact that we have the privilege to open up this book today and for these good people that are here. Holy Spirit of God, we ask you to take this time that we have set aside to get into your Word. Lord, I know that as a man, even as a pastor, as a preacher, as a Christian, I do not have anything that can help these people. It has to be the union of your Spirit in my heart as we convey the Word of God to them. Lord, I pray that you will do that today. Help us to look into this verse deeply and see all the things that we need to put in our lives and encourage us with it, admonish us with it, edify us with it, and give us all that we need, and we will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now I want to draw your attention first of all to Proverbs 1:10 because here again, "my son." This is the second time in this chapter that we have seen the second admonition to us as a son. We want to pay particular attention to them when we find that. Here one more time, look what he says. I cannot impress upon you, because it is the theme coming through this book, or one of the sub-themes over and over and over again. I cannot impress upon you how important it is to look at and evaluate and understand the company which you keep. Because look again in Proverbs 1:10, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Again, it is about hanging out with the wrong crowd. It is about hanging out with people who want to entice you. We are going to talk about that today.

#### IV. Understanding "Sinner" in the Old and New Testaments

I need to explain something to you here first, and I think that not only will it help you here, but it will help you throughout the Bible the rest of your life if you remember it and put it into your Bible to help develop this passage today, but it is a great key to the Bible. In the Bible, there are certain words that will define things differently from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Normally we would think that if a word meant one thing here, it would mean something here. That may be true in life, but in the Bible, it is not true. You are going to find there are certain words in the Bible that define something differently from the Old Testament than it does from the New Testament. The failure to see it will lead you off track, and that is why I try to point them out to you on Thursday night or whenever we talk about it when they come up, and I try to show you.

In the Bible, there are certain words that will define things differently from the Old Testament to the New Testament. The reason for that is the Old Testament is dealing with men under the law. So he looks at them differently. So he will talk to them differently. In the New Testament, they are not under the law anymore. They are under grace. So you have two different, completely different situations where God is dealing with a man one way and then he is dealing with a man the other way. Another reason is that in the Old Testament, we know this, that it is before the cross. When Christ died on the cross, he changed everything on planet earth. Everything was changed: the way God views man, the way God deals with man, and the way that man deals with God. So we see that not only is it different from that aspect, but because of that, there will be certain words in the Bible that will define itself or mean something in the New Testament, but it will not mean the same thing in the Old Testament.

Another great example of that is in the Old Testament when a man died, he had to go to Abraham's bosom. He could not go to heaven. There are some legitimate reasons for that which most of you already know. But once Christ came down and died and paid the sin debt, the Bible says that he led captivity. From that point on, everybody that died went to heaven in that sense. So you begin to see that there are some things that are different.

Let me show you what I mean. We have talked about this before. Take the word "soul." The word "soul" means something differently in the Old Testament than it does in the New Testament. In the New Testament, when we talk about the word "soul," we are talking about in your life in the fact that when God made you, he made you a body, soul, and spirit. When you got saved in the New Testament, we know that the Bible says that you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. We know that Colossians chapter 2 says that a spiritual operation took place that set apart your flesh from your soul. So when you look at the soul in the New Testament aspect, we think of it as the soulish body, the spiritual body that nobody can see. We do not ever equate it in the New Testament with your physical body unless you are an unsaved man, because when you got saved, that is what really happened when you got saved. God took your body and your soul, which was stuck together, and he separated them out. That makes you a new creature in Christ Jesus. Then he sealed you with the Holy Spirit of God.

In the Old Testament, you have men who have their bodies and their souls are stuck together all through the Old Testament. My point is this: when you look at the word "soul" in the Bible in the New Testament, it will mean one thing, it will mean a New Testament Christian, but in the Old Testament, the word "soul" is used interchangeably for the word "body" because it is stuck together. You will never find that in the New Testament. Every time you find in one of Paul's writings where he talks about the soul, he is talking about the spiritual body that is inside you that is eternal. In the Old Testament, he is talking about your physical body because the two are still stuck together.

A good example of this would be Ezekiel 18:20 where it says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." See, the soul that sinneth, it shall die. Well, how can that be? How can your soul die? Your soul is eternal. Your soul cannot die. When you die, your body dies, your soul goes to heaven or hell, it is eternal. But there is a place where it says that the soul that sinneth, it shall die, because

he is talking about your body, because in the Old Testament, the word "soul" is used differently than it is in the New Testament.

Now I will give you that example to show you what I want to show you today, and that is the word "sinner." The word "sinner" is the same exact way. It means something totally different in the Old Testament than the way we find it in the New Testament when Paul writes. You have to understand these to understand what he is saying here. When the Bible uses the word "sinner" in the New Testament, it is always talking about an unsaved man. Now I know, I know, we talk about the fact that I am saved but I am still a sinner. I understand what you are saying, but biblically and technically, that is not true. But I understand what you are saying. I say it too. If I am dealing with somebody and he is having a tough time understanding what sin is, and they may have a, coming out of a bad background, and they would say, "Well, you know what? I do not want to get saved because, you know, I just, you know, I am too big a sinner." Well, I am going to explain to him that in one sense, I am saved but I am still a sinner. That is a practical way to get your point across. Theologically, if we got right down to the theological aspect of it, that is not true.

When you got saved, the Bible says God separated your soul from your flesh. He seals your soul with the Holy Spirit of God, and that soul can never sin. 1 John 3:9 says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." Nobody understands that doctrine today, and that is why in all the new Bibles and all the churches, other churches you would go to, because they cannot handle that verse, they have got to take the word "commit" out and put in the word "practice" because they cannot conceive of you and I not committing sin because we know that we sin every day. But what they do not understand is my soul does not sin. You know what sins about me every day? Well, I got it down to every other day now. But you know what sins about me? My flesh. So you want to remember that when you talk about the word "sinner," when you got saved, a new birth took place. A separation of your flesh, your body, from your soul, and now as 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, this is what we mean when we say you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." So now you are no longer in God's sight a sinner. God does not look at you as a sinner after you are saved anymore. God now looks at you as his son. See, sinner, son, and servant. Remember we have talked about it many, many times.

Now follow me here. In the Old Testament, there is no new birth. In the Old Testament, there is no separation from your body and your soul. In the Old Testament, there was no Holy Spirit of God like there was in the New Testament. There is no new birth, there is no born again, there is no Holy Spirit of God taking up residency in you as 1 Corinthians 6:19 says. None of that happens. In the Old Testament, just like their body and their soul are still connected, and that is why you find in the Old Testament the word "sinner" is used differently than it is in the New Testament. In the New Testament, it is strictly used for unsaved people. But in the Old Testament, it is used for anybody. It is used for anybody who has bad character. It is used for anybody who does evil. It deals with anybody, and it is used exclusively for anybody who has a reputation of hurting people or doing wicked things. Because there is no salvation in the Old Testament like you and I have. He is dealing with Israel. There is no born again. There is no new birth. So the word "sinner" means something completely different, and that is important because

when we come through Proverbs in just a minute and we look at some sinners here who want to entice you, it is not just dealing with unsaved people. It is dealing with anybody in your life. Anybody in your life.

## V. The Enticement of the World and False Religions

I have learned this in life, and you know this is true: a saved person, somebody going to heaven, can do everything an unsaved person can do except die and go to hell. How he can do this is because Christians, some of them will simply, as the Bible says, get saved, get separated, and then you know as well as I do, there is a battle of the flesh versus the spirit, and the Bible talks about it in the book of Galatians. The Bible talks about in Galatians 5:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 6:9. It talks about us as Christians walking after the flesh instead of walking after the spirit. You give me a Christian who truly gets saved, I do not care who he is, you or she is here, you give me a Christian who truly gets saved, and they stop following God and walking with God and get enticed by the world, and they will go back to doing exactly what they did before they got saved. You know why? Not because they lost their salvation, but because they decided to walk back after the flesh than follow the spirit. The great comparison there, and we certainly do not have time to go into it today, but the greatest comparison you will ever see that explains that is that comparison between Galatians chapter 5 and 1 Corinthians chapter 6. But you need to keep all these things in mind when we look at what we are about to look at.

Now look at Proverbs 1:10. He says, "My son, if sinners entice thee," now we know who the sinners are, anybody in your world, it can be a saved person who walks after the flesh and not after the spirit, who maybe is not a sinner in the sense of the way God looks at them, but are in the fact that they are walking after the flesh. The first thing I want you to see is this: the enticement of sinners in your life, saved and lost. Wicked people in general.

The definition to entice somebody will be always to lure them away. To entice somebody will always be to lure them from something good to something bad. The greatest way I can illustrate that is when you go fishing. We have so many fishermen in here that I am surprised we do not have more people saved because you are supposed to be fishers of men. But anyway, we have some great fishermen in here that know where the fish are. I was never a good fisherman. My dad was a great fisherman. I could never be patient. My best way to fish is with a hand grenade. I think that would be a great way to do it. But anyway, you know when you go fishing, you have a fishing lure, and it will be shiny or sparkly or wiggly, and it will go through different things in the water, and you throw it out there, and what you do is to entice a fish. A fish is just kind of checking it out, watching it go by. He is hungry. He sees this flirty, flatly thing going through there, spinning up and down and getting out bubbles. He sees this thing. It looks like something he wants to eat, and you lure him to it. You bring him in. That is exactly a great illustration of what sinners do. They try to show you something sparkly and shiny, and it looks like it is a real good deal. It looks like, "Man, this is what I really wanted. This is what I have been talking about. This is what I really need." It looks shiny. It looks all the way things that a fish looks at. It says, "Man, this is exactly what I want." But in both cases, the same thing happens. You get

caught in a trap if sinners entice thee. The word is never used in a good connotation in the Bible, or fishing for that matter, but it is never used in a good connotation in the Bible.

James 1:14 says, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." To entice somebody is to simply allure them or lure them away from something good to do something evil. An act or a practice of enticing to evil, to exploit somebody.

Another great example of this is we all hear of the stories how men on the internet get on the internet and they will try to get young girls or try to get young boys to meet them someplace. That is a great example of enticement. Parents who do not watch their kids on the computer, the kids get on there. Some guy who is a predator, he preys on that stuff. He lures those kids in. He talks to them. He knows exactly what to say. He talks to them. He finds out from them that they are not happy with this or they are lonely here or they do not have that. Then he entices them. That is how it works. That is how it always works in life.

When somebody tries to entice you to join them, it will always be in the lowest common form of denominator understanding it, their support system. You need to understand it. This is very important. This is enticement 101. They have people who try to entice you to do things with them. They need you for one thing. If they are already a sinner and they are already in the world and they are already an out of fellowship Christian, misery loves company. They want to draw you in with them because if they are under conviction, if they are saved, that drawing you in supports them that they are really not that bad because look who is with me. See how it works? That is exactly how it works. That is exactly what they do. They have no credibility of their own. They have nothing going with God. They have nothing going with the Bible. So they entice you to come in, be with them, and they get the gratification that they are credible when you stand by their side and do things with them. You see it in religion all the time if you are smart enough to look for it. I think it is absolutely vital that you understand how this thing works. The reason why religions and people entice you to come to be with them is so you will quit what you are doing, go to be with them. When you are dumb enough to do that, you give them the support and the credibility that they are looking for. By joining them, by enticement, you lend credibility to them.

Have you ever wondered why a Jehovah Witness operates the way he does? Have you ever understood why a Mormon operates the way that they do? If you would ever stop and lay it out and study it out and get it into perspective, you will find out that there are seven what we call American cults. This is not a bashing of anybody's religion or beliefs or whatever. I am just telling you the facts of life here. You are going to find that within the American history from the beginning of America to where we are at today, you are going to find that God has moved across America. What we know in church history, we call it the seven great awakenings.

What is that? The seven great awakenings started when this country had first begun to become a country. When we find the Declaration of Independence, when the country was first formed, this country was formed under principles of God and the Word of God. But very quickly, as always happens in history, very quickly, right behind America becoming a nation, the influx from Europe of Unitarianism came in and destroyed what the founding fathers or what many people were believing. You know what God did? God raised up two great men, George Whitfield and

Jonathan Edwards, and they preached in Boston and preached in the Commons and preached up there in the New England states. You know what God did with them? When America started to slide into apostasy, God raised up two men and brought about the first great awakening. The great awakening is a renewal of spirituality in this country, going back to God.

You will find it all down through America's history. There were six more times when God had to bring about a revival in this country. You will find it six more times where apostasy begins to creep in. I told you this way, way back many, many times that all history is nothing more than God moving in a direction to do something and the devil moving in a direction to stop it. That is what you have here. God built this country on a great principle of the Word of God. Most of the founding fathers, if they were not Christians, they certainly believed the Bible was the Word of God. I would say that they believed more about the Bible than most preachers do today, and they were lost, many of them. But what the devil did is he tried at every turn to try to do that. So what the devil did, every time God opened up a great outpouring of his spirit, then the devil brought in a false religious cult to offset it.

When you look at Jehovah Witnesses, when you look at Mormons, Seventh-day Adventists, Church of Christ, Unity, the Charismatic Movement, Christian Scientists, you are going to find that these are what we call the American cults. These have no roots anywhere other than in America. These religions are very shallow. For anybody who views the whole context of religion and what God is doing in the Bible, in the span of what God is doing, you find these seven American cults all come up in the 1800s. They have no history to them. They do not go back through the Bible. The Jehovah Witnesses started in 1850. The Mormons started in 1820. The Seventh-day Adventists started in 1830. 1850 with the Church of Christ. 1889 was Unity and the Charismatic Movement in 1900 and the Christian Science in 1840. None of them go back to the 1700s. None of them go back to the 1600s. None of them go back, in fact, when you lay it out, and this is just a fact. This is not some Baptist bashing these groups. This is just a fact. You can go to a public library. You do not even have to get any Christian books. You can go to the Kansas City Public Library and find out what I am telling you is true. They have no history. There is a 1900-year gap from where Christianity started to where these guys show up. So what happened for 1900 years? You could not find anybody in 1500, 1600, 900 that believed anything these guys believed. Where were they? What happened? You mean that God was silent and everybody on planet earth from the time of Christ to 1800 just died and went to hell without the truth? No, not at all. When you understand history, you understand the movement of God, and you understand what God is doing. You see that these cults crop up to out-encounter the seven great awakenings that God is pouring out and bringing about.

These groups, and this is my point, have absolutely no credibility. Every one of them was not in existence before 1820. The only people that they get are the ones that are so absolutely inept when they come to the Bible in history. As a church and a religion, they have no credibility. So what they do 24/7, why they go out in such droves to bring people in, is because they have no history. They have no credibility. When they bring people in, it gives them that false sense of credibility. "Well, look at us. We must be a real church. Look at all the people here." That is what happened. That is exactly what takes place.

Let me just say this to you on a lighter note here. If you are going to go to hell, and I do not recommend it, but if you have your heart set on it, let me just give you a little bit of advice. Do not go to hell as an American cult person. If you are going to go, I do not want you to go, and I will do any of my power to help you keep you from going, but if you are just hell-bent on it, that is a good word. If you have just got to get there, do not go there as a Jehovah Witness or a Mormon. Going to hell will be hard enough. Going to hell will be shameful enough. Going to hell and denying Christ without a doubt will be the most ridiculous, hardest, shameful thing you ever do. Do not add to it the embarrassment of going as a Jehovah Witness or a Mormon. I am telling you. If you want to go to hell in classic style, become a Baptist. They have some history to them. If you want to hell in class, become a Catholic. They have a lot of history to them. If you really want to go to hell, go as a Presbyterian. They have a lot of history back to 1500. Go as a Lutheran, back to 1550. Go as an Episcopalian, all the way back to 1500. Those are, go to hell in a Cadillac. Now, if you want the flagship of going to hell, go as a Buddhist, a Taoist, or one of those Eastern. They have been around for centuries before Christianity. So, if you are just bent on going to hell, go in a Cadillac. Going to hell as an American cult is like going to hell in a 1963 Volkswagen bus with the engine blown up in it. There is no credibility. There is absolutely nothing that sustains them.

Do you know why those groups work 24/7 in every major country on this earth? Do you know why they hit every door in this city two or three times a year to entice you to become like them? Do you know why they tell you that they are the only true church and all mainstream religion is wrong? Do you know why they tell you that if you are a Baptist, how wrong you are, or if you are in mainline Christianity, how wrong it is? It is simple. Cult 101. They have no credibility, so they have to work 24/7 to prove that they do, and they entice you to become one of them so they can have that feeling, "We are real, we are real, we are real," when they know they are not. It is just that simple.

Religions entice you all the time. They do not follow the Bible. If they did, they could not be what they are. The Jehovah Witnesses, when they first started in the middle of the 1800s, they used the King James Bible, but they were getting their tails kicked by Baptists so long, by about 1950, they had to rewrite and come up with their own Bible that did away with everything the King James Bible said and put in their Bible what they wanted to believe. That is nice, is not it? Mormons did the same thing. They could not stay with the King James Bible, so they had to come up with another book. They had to find Moroni out there with them golden plates and come up with another book because they cannot stay with the Bible. I want to tell you something. No matter what we are, how screwed up we can get at times, we are going to believe one book all the way to the end. That is all there is to it. There is nothing we are going to add to it or take away from it. If it does not stand on its own and throw it out, then it will stand on its own, I guarantee you.

You cannot build a church by just enticing people away from other churches just because the people are weak. That is why you cannot build a strong church with those kind of people. You build a church by building people, not stealing them from somebody else. That is why we never put a sign up up front. We were here and they had a place for six years before I ever put a sign up

because I knew that the moment I did, all I would find out is I would get people that were mad at a pastor down here driving by here, saw our sign, going to come this Sunday so they can get mad at me. That is all it is. I do not need that. I come to the conclusion that the Bible says, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." I still believe that principle. I believe that my job is standing in the pulpit and exalting the Lord Jesus Christ, uplifting Christ. It changes your life and then you be my signs. There are some of you that you cannot explain how you got here other than somebody else brought me. We have a sign out there now, but you would have to look hard to see it. It looks like a Coca-Cola sign. But some of you, almost everybody here got here because of one reason, not because you saw the sign, not because you heard somebody say, "You want to know the Bible, I will tell you where you need to go." Then you came, you sampled it, and you either said, "That is not for me," or "Where has this place been all my life?" That is how you got here. That is how you are supposed to get here. You do not get here by building a church by stealing people. We do not entice you to come. I am the first one to tell you, if you can find somebody else, some other pastor to teach the Bible, give you what you need better than me, you need to be there. I would. I am going to say something I am not going to say.

## VI. The World's Enticement and Its Consequences

Now look at Proverbs 1:11. "If they say, Come with us," brother, the world does this 24/7 in everything you see in life. In this country, the absolute chaos of people and young people, kids, murdering other people, just for fun, because I am bored or some initiation of some gang, but they have been enticed by their own lust, the failure of the family, the failure of their parents, that world system, as I talked about in Daniel chapter one, has made sure that every generation of kids in the last 50 years have grown up and gotten the slot that they need and the filth of Babylon. Like I told you in Daniel chapter one, lured them many times with the parents' help put into the world system. Then they get swallowed up.

"If they say, Come with us," the enticement of leaving a moral society for one that is a nightmare. We are enticed by the world of sinners and everything around us today, especially for your kids. We watch the Disney channel and we let our kids watch the Disney channel because we think that that is okay. We had a little girl on there a while back called Hannah Montana. Everybody just loved her. She is not so great now, is she? That is the enticement of it. That is exactly what happens. It is in everything that you see. There is no safe place for your kid today outside that book.

I go back when I was a kid growing up. It is so subtle. You never really see it till the damage is done. They draw your kids in. They entice your kids. You think, "Oh, I will handle it." No, you will not. You will not. When we were growing up, my little kids were growing up, they were limited to what they could watch on Saturday morning comics. You say, "Well, why is that? Well, what was off? What could hurt?" You know what? It is the principle of the thing. You had Mickey Mouse. You have Daffy Duck. You have Wile E. Coyote. You have Heckle and Jeckle. You have Bugs Bunny. You have the Road Runner. You have Porky Pig. Somebody says, "Well, what could be wrong with that other than they are all unclean animals out of Leviticus 11, not a thing." You see what the world does? Even in the beginning, when it really does not mean

anything, it begins that foundation of uncleanness. Why is not there a clean animal in that? Why is every one of those animals in Leviticus 11 unclean? And they bring it to your children. When they got past that, then all your kids want to be He-Men. And they bring the He-Men in. Genesis chapter 6, setting them up for the sons of renown and the sons of God.

Everything we do, everything around us, everything that happens, the absolute tragedy today of the enticement, the senseless enticement of people, and especially our children, the killing of little school children, the senseless shooting of the jogger from Australia by three kids, 14, 15, and 16, because they were bored, they killed somebody. The beatings on the school bus of three boys almost beating a boy to death, the drive-by shootings of innocent bystanders just because you want to get in a gang. The killing of women and their little children, the beating to death of a World War II vet who survived the horrors of the beach landing of Okinawa, who survived being wounded, and then gets beat up by a couple of teenage thugs and murdered. How does a society get to that point? How does a country get to that place where the value of life is nothing? It is real easy. It is real easy. It is because of enticement. It is because of a culture of video games, of violence that replaces the parents and the kids' life that instead of a mom and dad sitting out and spending time, they give them some video game that all day long they watch on the screen and they play with a thing and all they do is kill people with it. It is the music and the glorification of the hip-hop rap and all of the stuff and all of the killing and the murder and glorifying of that kind of lifestyle. That is how.

"If sinners entice thee," and brother they will, they will. Every person who, every young kid who ever started to smoke got enticed by somebody else doing it. Many cases unfortunately by their own parents. But you see it 24/7, and you read it in magazines and wherever you go about smoking being a cool thing to do. In the 60s it was, "Call for Philip Morris," and it was about cigarettes. In the 70s it wanted to attract the women, and Twiggy was in back then. She was a real skinny girl, and so they come up with Virginia Slims. You are enticed that that is what real people do. You are enticed that that is what real men do. You are enticed that that is what real women who are in the know do. You see it in the movies, two soldiers in a foxhole about ready to die going through great things. Instead of praying to God and asking Him out, they share the last cigarette together. In every ordeal you see after you go through it, and whoa, instead of getting on your knees and thank God, it is, "Oh, I have got to have a cigarette." You saw it in the TV series Mad Men how it was all at every time everybody had a cigarette in their hand. You come up in my day, and it was the Marlboro Man. You know you are a real man if you are the Marlboro Man. When I was in the military, that is all soldiers wanted to smoke was Marlboro. You know why? Because of the Marlboro Man. Every time you saw it on TV in every ad, the Marlboro Man was the real man. He was on a horse out there in the wide open skies of Montana, Wyoming someplace, and you can see him on the horse smoking his Marlboro in a cattle drive, and he is out there in the great sky, and he is a real man, he has got his chaps on, he has got his cowboy boots, got a big old hat on, riding a horse with 10,000 cattle in a cattle drive smoking a Marlboro, and the pitch line, the enticement is, "Come to where the flavor is," and stupid people bought that by the millions. "Come to where the flavor is." Have you ever smelled 10,000 cattle? If sinners are enticed, and they will, they do not show you the cancer wards, they do not show you the lung cancer, they do not show you the throat cancer, they do not show you the results of

that little round can of Skoal in your back pocket you think to make your rear end look so tough, and you, and when you are when you get jaw cancer and it eats your jaws out. I think the greatest ad they have ever put on is that one with that lady in the morning having to put on her wig, put in her throat piece, put on all that stuff, and she said, "Now I am ready to go out," destroyed by smoking. "If sinners entice thee," you bet they will. Listen, my friend, the only people God ever intended to have smoke in their lungs were people in hell. That is right.

You see it with booze and alcohol. It is always being promoted as the cool thing to do. When your kid gets in high school, the thing is to go out and drink beer with everybody. For you older folks that it is legal, you know, they entice you every way they can. They will not let you get home from work to be with your family. No, no, no. They have got to have, before the real slop starts, they have got to have happy hour to entice you. You see it on TV and everything you do. Captain Morgan, the jolly pirate who runs through the adventures of life and escapes all these things, then he winds up on a ship with a bunch of wenches and a bunch of guys, and they are all drinking Captain Morgan rum. "Whoa, I want to be like that." "You are caught about this Budge for you." "Grab the gusto." "You only go around once in life." Yeah, you do. How about the old geezer that is on there with the two hot chicks on his arm, and he looks up there and he says, "Stay thirsty, my friend." Well, my friend, in hell you probably will. Beer night at the ball games, the big blimp flying around said Budweiser. "If sinners entice thee," they will, every chance they can. Always portrayed around young couples having a beer party, drinking beer, grabbing the gusto off in a nightclub someplace, having a little fun time, having their beer. You see it all at the ball game, at the tailgate party. I mean, you walk back, and I mean, there are beer bottles and beer cans everywhere. Yeah, I have seen it on pictures on Facebook where people have get on there and they think it is smart and cute when they where they they get together in a birthday party and they are all holding up their beer. I have even seen parents say, "Isn't that cute?"

"If sinners entice thee," they do not show you the total addiction of the broken marriages, the families through alcoholism. They do not show you the 10,000 innocent people killed every year by drunk drivers. They do not show you the cirrhosis of the liver or the diabetes. They do not show you the broken lives of the addicts of alcohol and drug culture, men and women who had a future with God, men and women who could do something great, but through the enticement of the world, through the lust of their own self of this world, they and their failed parents. Let me tell you something, the wisest man that ever lived said something, and boy, he was right on the money. He said, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." We are talking about the war on drugs. "Well, we are going to have a war on drugs. We have got a war on drugs. We have got a war on drugs." So then we lose the war on drugs, and the states are now legalizing the drugs.

Look at Proverbs 1:11. "If they say, Come with us," and they will, they will. It is America today. Here is what you and I are up against. Here is what your children are up against. Here is the enticement of your children when you allow them to be any part of this world in any way, and brother, this is America.

Look at Proverbs 1:11. "If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our house with spoil: Cast

in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse." That is what they want with you. They want you to be one of them. They are losers. They live on a dead end street. Their lives are a mess. Their marriage is a mess. Their kids are in a mess, and they have no credibility of anything in life, and to make them feel good about themselves, they want to entice you to come be with them, and God's people are so stupid, they just do it like cattle going to the slaughter.

Look at Proverbs 1:11. "Wait for blood." There is the merciless killing as you read about every week. There are the merciless killings that go on in schools and goes on in movie theaters and goes on in Columbine and Sandy Hook. There is the merciless killing. There is no safe place on this planet today other than in Christ Jesus.

Look at Proverbs 1:11 again. "Let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause." There is the murdering, the maiming of the innocent without cause. There is the Sandy Hook. There is the Columbine. There is the Boston Marathon bomber. There is the World Trade Center in 9/11. There is the army base where they were killed. There are the movie theaters where they get killed.

Proverbs 1:12 says, "Let us swallow them up alive as the grave." You see that thing? "Swallow them up alive as the grave." You are alive, but you are just as good as dead. Let me tell you something, as a Christian, when the world swallows you up as far as your spirituality is concerned, you are just as good as dead. As an unsaved man, when the world swallows you up, you are already dead in trespasses and sins. You just sealed your fate. It is just that simple. The whole, he says, "Let us swallow up alive as the grave." Yes, the whole family gets swallowed up. The whole generation gets swallowed up. Gets swallowed up. "Those that go down to the pit." 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." He wants to devour you. He wants to devour your family. He wants to swallow your family. He wants to swallow your family up while you stand by and justify what they do. I do not understand it. "Let us swallow them up alive as the grave." The enticement of the world and sinners will make you as good as dead, and in hell, it will destroy every good thing in your life.

Look at Proverbs 1:13. Here they come. Sinners entice. "If they say, Come with us," here is the end result. You want that lifestyle? You want to mock at that stuff and think it is okay for you to do it and your kid to do it and the people you hang out with to do it? You want to justify and get mad because you know somebody preaches against it? You want to get to that point? Well, here is your end, and here it is, pal, here it is, here is for you. "We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our house with spoil." Simply this: the enticement of the world and the enticement of the sinner, it will get into your life, it will get into your world, and it will destroy in time every precious thing you have. It will destroy your kids. It will destroy your wife. It will destroy your husband. It will destroy your family. It will destroy your job. It will destroy your career. It will destroy your ministry. It will destroy your relationship with God. It will take every precious thing you have and swallow it up, and what it leaves is the empty shells of people. We see it swallowed up the families, the marriages, the churches, the Bible out of your life, and a relationship with God out of your life, and all you are left is an empty shell. Your life is ruined. Your children are ruined. Your marriage is ruined. Your career is worthless. You are a dead end street. All you may

go through every day, all the antics that pretend, you may paint that smile on like the woman has to paint her eyebrows on. You may put all of those things out there that it is okay, but you know as well as I do, your kids have been swallowed up, and you are a dead end street. All the things of this world that will swallow you up, but mainly your family.

## VII. The Wisdom of Discretion and Avoiding the Trap

Now look at Proverbs 1:19. Here is the third "my son" in Proverbs 1:15. You want to mark these, they all mean something. Now here is the great wisdom of Solomon at work. This is what I am trying to tell you about the Bible, so I try to tell you how you get the principles down and you use the principles. This is what I am talking about being smarter than the problem.

He says, "My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof."

"My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path." Psalms 1:1 says, "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." Psalms 1:2 says, "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." That is the key: walking with the Lord, meditating in the Word of God. "Refrain thy foot from their path." You betcha. Get on the old path. Jeremiah 6:16. Get on a good path. Get on the right path. That is where we are all about.

Look at Proverbs 1:16. It says, "For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood." In other words, there is nothing good, not one thing about them. "For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood." They are like the people back in Genesis 6:5 when God looked down and was going to destroy the world. He looked at man, and you know what he said? He said, "Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." And he destroyed it. Yet you are told over there in the New Testament, "As it was in the days of Noe," in Matthew 24:37, "so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." What you are seeing today is exactly what you are seeing today.

Here is the greatest principle, and brother, you better get it. This is why a life without God is a dead end street. You can say whatever you want to say. You can do whatever you want to do. You can justify whatever you want. But when you wind up in the gutter, when you wind up losing everything you have got, when you wind up losing everything because of your own lust and you are allowing yourself to be enticed into it. Now the greatest principle he says here, and this is why, like I said, a life without God is a dead end street. This is why he said, you follow this lifestyle and being enticed and your own lust, and you are, as they say in prison, you are a dead man walking. That term made into a movie, and we heard about it all the time, but in a true sense, it is used for convicted men who are going to be executed. They take them on that last walk, that last walk to be executed, and the jailer or the executioner or whoever, they escort him down there. A guy goes out in front of him, and he has got other guys in death row on both sides,

and you can hear a long hall, they call it the last mile. They made a movie about it called The Green Mile. They walk down that thing there, and they hold him on both hands, and the priest or preacher goes with him, and a guy out in front walked down cries out, "Dead man walking, dead man walking." That is a picture of so many of God's people, I cannot even tell you. You are walking, you are alive, but 20 minutes from now you are going to be dead. When that clock hits 12 midnight, you are dead. You are dead. Dead man walking.

So he says, "My son, depart from them, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path." He says, "Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird." Now I want you to mark that, "surely in vain." I am going to show you something here. I am going to show you the wisdom of Solomon, and that if you ever get ten times smarter than the problem, you will see these things. This is what makes, this is what makes a Christian smarter than a problem. "Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird."

I told you before that there are several absolute keywords in the Bible that help you always define whatever context you are in. Hear me talk about it all the time on Thursday night, many times on Monday morning or Sunday morning. Now you look at that word "net." Anytime you have got a rainy afternoon when you have got nothing to do, you get your concordance and you go through your Bible and get you a little yellow China markers, and every time you see the word "net" or find it, you mark it in yellow. Proverbs 1:17 says it is in vain. Proverbs 1:18 says, "And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives." Note that: "their own blood," "their own life."

Now let me explain this doctrinally, and the doctrinal application really brings out the practical application. Every time you find the word "net" in the Bible, 99% of the time, every time you find the word "net" in the Bible, it is going to be a reference to the Antichrist setting up a trap for the nation of Israel in the tribulation period. Every time, maybe 99.9% of the time. There may be some place where it is just used as a net, but I cannot think of one off the top of my head. But 99.9% of the time when you find the word "net" in your Bible, that is why I tell you to mark it, it is going to tell you the context of the tribulation. In a tribulation period, the Antichrist sets a trap for the nation of Israel. Some places it is likened to Israel likened to a bird where he sets a, he sets a net. Sometimes it is called a snare. That is another word you want to mark. Most of the time it is called a net. What happens is the Antichrist puts his elaborate plan together and lays a net to snare the nation of Israel. You know, you put a net down, you put a net up here, the bird walks in, picks up the thing, the net falls down, and he is trapped. That is the picture, except the difference is that when the Antichrist lays his net down to trap the nation of Israel, he gets taken in his own trap. That sets up a great principle. That sets up a great principle.

Psalms 9:15 says, "The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken." That is Psalms 9:15, that is talking about it. Psalms 35:7-8 says, "For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul. Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall." See, the picture is as you dig a pit, you put a net over it, put leaves on it, and you go walking down and you fall into the pit, and they trap you. That is what the Antichrist is going to do. These verses tell you that the same pit and the same net

that the Antichrist put for Israel, he falls in his own net. He says, "For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit." Psalms 35:7. "Which without cause they have digged for my soul."

Psalms 57:6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves.

See that thing? Now doctrinally, that is a picture of the Antichrist digging a pit, putting a net across it, camouflaging it, trying to catch the nation of Israel. That is the example. Now along with that, you are going to want Job 18:8, Job 19:6, Lamentations 1:13, Hosea 5:1, and Habakkuk 1:15-16, many other places in the Bible.

Doctrinally, in the Old Testament again, every time you find the word "net," it is going to deal with the context of the tribulation of the Antichrist setting them up. But now the doctrinal principle of this net and the Antichrist setting the trap and destroying Israel sets for you and for me the great inspirational principle: the sinner who tries to entice you, if you are smarter than the problem, the sinner who tries to take you, in other words, he gets caught in his own trap. You see, you live your life like you are getting ahead of God, do not you? You live your life and thumb your nose at God and think you are really making it big, do not you? You live your life, do your own thing, and think you do not need church, God, or anybody in it, do not you? Sure we do. That is exactly what we do. That thinking is you setting up your own net for yourself because at the end, the lifestyle that you have without God, the lifestyle that you live and endorse yourself in that without God and the Word of God is going to be this trap that is going to take you in life. The life of a wicked and treacherous, the life of hunting, hurting people, the life of taking advantage of them, a life of walking in darkness, running to evil, shedding blood, a life of slander and deceit and dishonesty, a life of swallowing people up for your own gain. At some point in their life, they will get taken in their own pit. At some point, they will play the game just once too often, and they will get trapped in their own game. I think the term is, "You live by the sword, you die by the sword." They will get caught in their own net. They will get caught in their own trap.

This goes back to what we studied in the ten concepts of wisdom a couple of weeks ago when the young man talked about the young man getting instruction and getting wisdom, the ability to see the end of something before it happens. We talked about him having justice and judgment and equity, and then in Proverbs 1:4, it says for him to have discretion. I told you what discretion was. Discretion is the ability to not get involved in something. Discretion is the ability to not let you be enticed in something. Discretion is when they say, "Come join us, come do this, let us go do this together." The young man has discretion. He may want to do it. He may be tempted to do it. He may think, "Boy, I sure would like to do it," but he has discretion. He has wisdom, and he knows that it is a dead end street, and he knows whatever he gets into at that point, he is smart enough because he has got discretion to know the end result is going to be a disaster. Would you go to work tomorrow morning if you knew for sure when you walked in the door they were going to kill you? You would call off sick several days. Would you go do something if you absolutely knew that it was going to be, it was going to be your demise, it was going to kill you? I mean, would you? Is there anybody here that would say, "Yeah, I still go to work. I could be, I could be, I could beat it." You are crazy. But that is exactly what we do.

The man who has discretion, who knows the principles and knows the Bible, he sees when sinners try to entice him. He understands what the world and sinners are all about. He realizes that a lifestyle without God with these things and the enticement in him is a dead end street, and he is smart enough to know that he is not going to get in it because it is going to end someplace that he does not want to be part of. Do not find me like that today. It is the ability to stay away from certain people. It is the ability to stay away from their enticement. It is the ability to be smarter to keep your children away from any form of it because it winds up their lives are on a dead end street, and that is where you will wind up. Therein will be the destruction of the family, destruction of their sons, the destruction of their daughters, and in time their own lives. They live their lives for themselves, and the young man, the son with God's wisdom, has the ability to look beyond the calling of the sinner. "Come join us, do it this way. Oh, you have not tried it. You are not a real man. Do you do it this way? You are not really a man. Do you try it like this? Come be with us. Oh, if sinners entice me, come on, go over, let us go." You are smarter than that. He sees and understands that the enticement to take him away from the things that God has given him will only bring him to the same end. He is definitely in every sense of the word smarter than the problem.

Get into that place in your life simply comes by you choosing that you are going to put the book and the principles of God in your life. Not say you are not going to make mistakes. I am not going to say you are not going to have problems. I am going to say you are going to wind up at the end ten times smarter. You are going to see it for what it is. That is the whole book of Proverbs. That is what he is trying to get across to his son. That is what he is trying to do. He is trying to get him to see that, "Look, kid, you need to realize that when you become the king of Israel, there is going to be all kinds of situations out here, they are going to entice you, and I am telling you right now, when you become a child of God and you start to do something for God to get your millennial inheritance, to get your reward, the devil is going to throw every enticement as he can. You need to be stronger and smarter than what comes your way. The only way you do it is with the Book of Proverbs. You do not have the physical strength to do it. You do not have the physical capacity to be smarter. You have got to get the supernatural Word of God in your life and let those principles dictate your life. The ability to separate the phony from the real, the ability to see it, stay away from it because you have the ability and the wisdom to know and understand that it is a dead end street, and you playing with it, you getting into it, you becoming a part of it is just going to make you miserable. You will have one bad marriage after the other. You will have one bad event after the other. You will have one bad problem after the other. You will lose your kids. You will lose everything about it. You look back in your life at 40 and 50, and you will say, "You know what? That is the biggest mess I have ever saw in my life. Now one of my kids is going to church. I do not go to church. My life is miserable. I am not happy. I have been married four or five times." Gee, what could be wrong? "If sinners entice thee, consent thou not." That will end the second section. Let us have a word of prayer. I will call you up here in about 10 minutes. We will get our...