

Proverbs 10:5

Sunday 10/19/2014

We started Proverbs chapter 10 last week, and we basically laid the groundwork not only for some great things in your own life, but for what we are going to talk about today. We learned some great principles for ourselves, and we are going to build on that today as we move into the next verse here. I want to draw your attention particularly to verse 5. What we gave you last week toward the end, we will build into this today, and you will see how it all goes together.

Let us have a word of prayer and then we will get into our verse here. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We commit this time to You. We give it to You, Lord, to quiet our hearts, to open up our hearts and our minds, to give us everything that we need. We love You very much, and we thank You for all You do for us. We ask for now Your blessings upon this time and all that we endeavor to do for Thee. In Jesus' name for us, we ask it, amen.

Proverbs 10:5

He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

We now understand a little better the first four verses. We talked about last week the back and forth, how Proverbs from this point on kind of changes in its delivery. You have one verse that will have a positive aspect and then a negative, separated by a colon. Sometimes it is negative, then a colon and a positive, but there are two aspects to these now as we start to come through it.

As I said, we understand a little better from last week what makes a father glad and God in a spiritual sense. That is a son who, as far as a Christian is concerned, gets a real job as far as understanding what God saved him to do, to go to work, to get the job done that God has called him to do. A son that has self-motivation. We talked about a slack hand or a slacker last week and how they get nothing done, never finish anything. Of course, that is exactly what the Bible is talking about here.

I do not know if you know it or not, but the Bible says that Jesus Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith. That is a great concept in the Bible. He not only was the Author of it, He was the Finisher of it. Yet, to me, most people read that and they just think about the fact that it is kind of like, "Well, He was the Author of it and He finished it, I am glad." But that is a great precedent for all of us because, you know what, when we become a Christian, we start to work for God. We start something that God has put into our life. Just as He was the Author of salvation and the Finisher of my faith, we ought to finish what we start for Him as a child of God. When we start to endeavor to do something for God, we need to finish it. Most of God's people do not do that.

Today, I want to put this whole message into a practical application for you. We will talk about some of the things of how it lays out doctrine or gets some good information. But overall, I want this to be for you and for me as we look at ourselves as God's child and gathering and doing what God wants us to do.

I. Seasons in Life

I want to talk today about seasons in your life. The Bible verse here talks about gathering in summer. Summer is one of the four seasons that we have in our life, in our world, as the earth goes around the sun and we go through the different times of year. I want to talk to you today not only about that, but how it lays out in our life and how it relates to us in the Bible.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Now we know from the book of Ecclesiastes, when he is talking about "under heaven," he is talking about things on the earth. He is basically saying that to everything there is a season. Your life and my life, everything around us. There is a time appointed for us. The Bible says it is appointed unto men to die and after this the judgment. There was a time appointed for everything in your life and my life once you become a Christian.

In the Bible, one of the greatest studies that you will ever take or undertake anyhow is the study of the times and the seasons in the Bible. It is one of the most important studies in the Word of God. When you go to the book of Ecclesiastes, Ecclesiastes says there is a time and a season for everything in our life. Then when you get into Ecclesiastes chapter 3, you have 28 aspects that form the cycle of life. 28 things: a time to this, a time for that, a time for that. 28 of them. Most people read that and never go any farther in the book of Ecclesiastes than saying, "Well, that is really nice." But there are 28 things there because this is the cycle of life. The moon, which revolves around this earth, which goes around itself and its revolutions in both cases, is 28 days. It is showing you that the cycle of life is based on these 28 things. It is an incredible study to get into. No way can we even scratch the surface this morning, but we will make a few mention of things and maybe it will whet your appetite.

As I said, the seasons in the Bible are a tremendous study. We know there are four of them: springtime, summer, fall, and then there is winter.

Genesis 1:14

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

Three things that the sun and the moon and the lights that God put up there are for. The first one is for signs, the Bible says. We know that will be for the nation of Israel. You can find those things in the book of Revelation, also in the book of Joshua. Then it says that it is for seasons. That will be for the church age. That will be for your life and my life. Then the Bible says, "and for days and for years." That will be in a general sense of counting time from a calendar, the months of the year.

Paul told the church in 1 Thessalonians 5:1, he said, "So when you want to learn about the second coming of Christ in the Bible, if you are a Bible student out there and you say, 'I really want to learn and understand about the second coming of Christ as far as it relates to the church

and where I am at with it and what I should know about it,' then you want to study the times and the seasons and you want to get those down." The times will be found in Matthew chapter 24, if you want to get a little into it. The times will be found in Matthew chapter 24. The seasons will be laid out all the way through the Old Testament, but in particular, Zechariah chapter 14, you will find it. You will find that the time of Christ's coming will be that season will be September or October, Feast of Tabernacles. You will find that the time of the rapture in Song of Solomon chapter 2, that time of the season will be sometime in the springtime of the year, May and June. That is why traditionally you always have a June bride. Everybody wants to get married in May or June. Well, that is great. We get all kinds of wedding invitations, but there is a wedding coming sometime in May and June. It is going to be the wedding of all weddings. That is when the Lord comes back for you and me. But you have got to get into the season to get that.

II. God Changes Times and Seasons

Remember back in Acts chapter 1, verses 6 and 7, the Jews came to the Lord Jesus Christ, the apostles did.

Acts 1:6-7

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

They asked Him, "Are you going to restore right now the kingdom to Israel?" He remembered that He did not answer them. He did not answer them. The reason why He did not answer them is because I am going to show you why. Turn over to Daniel chapter 2. I am going to show you why He did not answer them. But then I am going to show you why He did not answer them in Acts chapter 1. But when He wrote 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 to the church, then He told us. He would not give them any information when they asked, but He told you and me, the church, some time later that we ought to know the times and the seasons and not be ignorant. I will show you why that is.

Daniel 2:19-21

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

The Bible says that God changes the times and the seasons. That is what we have here. You remember a little while back on Thursday night I brought you through the seven pillars and then the different dispensations in the Bible. We spent a lot of time with Acts chapter 1 through Acts

chapter 7, did you? I hopefully explained it to you that you understand what is going on in that intermediate period there. Here is where we know that the nation of Israel gets three chances to get the Lord. The first one was John the Baptist, they killed him. The second one was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, they killed Him. But God gives them one more chance, and that chance is found in Acts chapter 1 through 7 and finalizes with the preaching of Stephen. So they have not made their decision yet final in Acts chapter 1. So when the apostles come to Him and say, "Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel right now?" He says, "It is not for you to know the times and the seasons." But when He wrote to the church in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 1, He tells us that we as the church should know the times and the seasons.

You know what happened? The Jews rejected Him that third time, they killed Stephen in Acts chapter 7. So you know what God did? He changed the times and the seasons and He turned that thing around and took it back to the church and started the church and postponed the kingdom to Israel for another 2,000 years. He changed the times and the seasons. That is a pretty good piece of understanding prophecy. That will answer a lot of questions for you in that time period. I will tell you this, and I am not going to get into it this morning, but there is a good chance that He changed them again down around the last part of the 1800s, around 1890 with the Zionist movement.

The Bible says in Daniel chapter 2 verse 21 that He removeth kings and He sets up in kingdoms and then He sets up kings and kingdoms. You cannot separate the Bible from history. You cannot separate God from history. When you try to do that, then you just wind up with a secular Gentile history that does not have any rhyme or reason to it. You put God in history and you can begin to see what is going on. Those Jews came to Him and said, "Are you going to tell us when you are coming back?" And He says, "It is not for you to know the times and the seasons." He did not tell them. They made their final rejection. He changed the times and the seasons, and now we are going to the church age. We are not going to give Israel the kingdom now. They are going to get postponed till the church age is over. So when He wrote it to the church, He said, "You and the church should know, should not be ignorant of the times and the seasons." So we know now that that period moves on and we see the church age develop, but God is not finished with the nation of Israel.

So sometime along the way here, God enacted what He did and said in Daniel chapter 2, He removeth kings and kingdoms and sets up kings and kingdoms. Around 1890, you have the beginning of what has been known as a Zionist movement, a movement to bring Israel back into the focus of things. During that time, Europe was completely locked in by what we would call European monarchies. Those are government monarchies, kings that have been handed down through families for hundreds of years, and they had a gridlock on everything in Europe. But the Bible says that He removeth kings and sets up kings. So World War I came along. When World War I came along, at the end of World War I, all the European dynasties were dissolved. All of them. Russia's dynasty was gone. The Ottoman Turks were gone. German dynasty was gone. And the Austro-Hungarian dynasty was gone. All those empires are gone. There is only one empire left at the end of World War I, and that is England. Guess what England gets control of? Jerusalem. You know what God did? He took down those kings, set up new kings. You know

what happened after World War II in 1948? The nation of Israel becomes a nation. See how that thing works? God changes the times and the seasons. God in His own will, He knows what He wants to do. He gave Israel a chance. Israel rejected that chance, and so God says, "You know what? I am going to change the times and the seasons." Then when He got closer to the end of the 1800s into the 20th century, which is going to move into the 21st century, which is going to usher in the second coming of Christ anytime now, He had to get Israel back in the land. So He just does what Daniel chapter 2 says He does. He removes kings, sets up kings. Israel is a nation in 1948. Hitler thought he was going to take the world. Mussolini thought he was going to take the world. Tojo thought he was going to take the world. They all got removed. At the end of the day, at the end of the story, when Israel becomes a nation, everything is right where God wants it to be.

III. The Four Seasons as a Life Illustration

In a practical sense, for you and for me, what we have here in these four seasons are a perfect illustration of your life and my life on planet earth.

Romans 1:19-20

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

It simply means that everything that God made will show you and me something about life, about God, about heaven, about hell, about our struggles in life and everything that we go through. It is a tremendous passage. Probably one of the key passages in the Bible for seeing the typology in the Bible and how it relates to you.

You know this, our year is divided into four seasons. Each one of them has a certain starting time according to the moon going around the sun. There are different ways that you, there is sidereal time, there is lunar time, there is solar time, there are a bunch of different ways to measure this. They do not all exactly match. But when you come through there and you lay it out and you see it, you find that there are four basic seasons. Each one has a certain starting time of the year that starts the time and the seasons.

The first one we understand and know is springtime. Of course, it is called, in a technical term, the spring equinox. Equinox is a Latin word that means equal. The spring equinox is a time, it is around March 20th, it varies with the calendar sometimes. But it is equinox, equal. It is the time that day and night are equal on the same day in the springtime. It is called the spring equinox. As I said, it is the time when day and night are equal. In the Bible, this spring equinox, when you get into the Song of Solomon, it will give you a lot of information about the rapture of the church. Pope Gregory, around 400 AD, he fooled with the calendar, we call it the Gregorian calendar today. He fooled with the calendar and what he did is shift some things around so he could bring

Easter, Ashtar, the pagan holiday and officially make it Christmas for the Roman Catholics which spread through everybody else. So you have springtime which is the spring equinox.

Then you have summertime, and that is called the summer solstice, solar from the sun. It is around June 21st, and it has got the solar solstice, the sun, because it is the time that the sun is at the highest angle and it is the longest day of our day. It is the longest day of the year. The earth at this particular point in time is farthest from the sun that it ever gets. The old idea is, you know, that it gets winter because the sun is farther away from the earth so therefore we do not have the heat. In the summertime the earth is closer to the sun so therefore we get more heat so it is warmer. That is not the way it works. It has nothing to do with how far, how short or how the distance. It has to do with the angle. The angle is what makes difference between summer and winter which really makes the difference between the seasons as the angle changes. The summer solstice runs around June 21st. In the pagan holidays this is the beginning of their festival and all of their rituals. The theme of this festival throughout it from the early spring or late spring into this was with the sexual concept of rebirth of everything. The earth was dead through winter, now it is regaining its life and through Baal worship and the pagan holidays. This is their concept of the rebirth. You and I understand that we get born again by the Word of God, by the Spirit of God, but they are tree huggers, you see. They believe in everything out there around the world has to do with God and God is in everything. God is in the bugs and God is this, God is in the trees. They are the people who go crazy on, you know, protecting this tree and protecting the bugs and protecting all the things that spend 50 billion dollars of your tax money so turtles can go underneath a little bridge instead they do not have to go across the road and get ran over. All those things, you know. That is where they are at. Those people going back through history were the ones who worshipped the sun, they worshipped the moon. The sun was the male deity, the moon was the female deity and the moon chased the sun around the thing and when it got together for an eclipse, well there are children in here, I cannot tell you what was supposed to happen at that particular point in time. But you get the picture. The whole thing was built around the sexual context and the infertility. Of course Easter, Ashtar, was the god of fertility. So it all kind of goes around from spring into summer and all the festivals were dealing with a new birth, the earth being rejuvenated, coming back to life and that was the phony new birth that is, you know, counterfeit of the one in the Bible.

Well then you have fall and this will be the fall equinox and this will be September 23rd around there. It varies from time to time on the calendar and again this is the second time, the second day of the year that day and night are equal, hence the word equinox equal. I do not know what you know about this but this is one of the greatest keys in the Bible to a lot of things. I do not have time to get into it today but the Bible in the Bible of this time period of the fall of the equinox will be the time of the original creation in Genesis chapter 1. I do not know if you know it but the earth and the sun or the sun is the center of our solar system, the earth revolves around the sun but it is not a perfect circle. In fact when you put the math to it and lay it all out it is four days off. The reason it is four days off is because I have never figured this out. But they can figure it back and they figured it back in the four days that it is off is September 20, 21, 22, and 23rd. That is the four days that it is off. They can figure the math but they do not ever put the Bible to it. They do not understand that September 20th was the beginning of the creation of

everything in Genesis chapter 1. The Jews knew it. The Jews had it down in a chronology in a great way. Usher in his chronology runs it right back to the same time period. Everybody knew it but them. But what happened is God makes the earth first and then four days later he makes the sun. So the earth is here and moving through space and the sun is put on the fourth day. So it is four days off and those four days are September 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. When you put it to the Bible that will be the day to the original creation. That will be the birthday of Jesus Christ and that is also the times of the Feast of Tabernacles which will be the time of the Second Coming of Christ. It is a very important key in the Bible. Till Exodus chapter 12 when God brought them out of Egypt the Jews always took the Feast of Tabernacles to begin their year. You know why they did that? Because they took it from that beginning because they knew that was the beginning of all time. They understood it. They got it. They figured it out.

Well then you have winter. And this will be the winter solstice. Sun again. This is around December 21st. This will be the sun is in its lowest angle and it does not get very high. This is the shortest day of the year. Again, as I said, it has to do with the sun. Solstice, solar. In history, in pagan history you will find that as I said it deals with the sun. They knew that the sun was the closest to the earth at this particular point in time. The sun was the sun god Baal. So they felt that because the Baal was closer to the earth that it was with a great time of celebration and it must be Baal's birthday. This time period runs December 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, ends on the 25th. We know it as Christ's birthday. That is because Constantine in 325 brought the pagan holidays in and brought Christmas in with it. Then Pope Gregory made it official and brought it in and so it becomes Jesus Christ's birthday. In history the Bible was never Jesus Christ's birthday. In pagan theology it was the sun God's birthday. Jesus was born in September. I gave you the time as we talked about it before. If you go back to Jeremiah chapter 10 verses 1 through 6 you will actually find Christmas being displayed in Baal worship. Christmas tree, presents, the whole nine yards. "Now deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa la la la la." It is all right there Jeremiah chapter 10. They bring that in when it comes in. So those four seasons represent something to the earth for us that we need to know about in that sense.

Most of you have heard about the farmer's almanac. The farmer's almanac was very popular, not very popular today with most of your crowd. But the old crowd knows about the farmer's almanac. It was very accurate and it was basically based originally on the four seasons and the equinoxes and the solstices and the Bible and all that stuff. It was very accurate in predicting weather and how it was going to go. But as I said, we have iPods now so we do not mess with that anymore.

IV. The Springtime of Life

Now you have heard me say it many times. We are going to move into the practical side here now and we are going to go to work. You have heard me say many times that God has a job that He wants you to do. If you are saved here this morning, male or female, it does not matter how old you are, if you are saved here this morning God has a plan for you. He has something that He wants you to accomplish with your life, a mission for you to fulfill. Our life in the Bible is

broken down just like in history. Your life, my life is broken down in the Bible in the four seasons. I want to talk about that this morning.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

John 6:28

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

But you have got a season that has to be in there, you see. You have to recognize these four seasons.

Psalms 1:1-4

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

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

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

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

You have a season to your fruit bearing. You do not have to be much of a rocket scientist to figure out that you cannot go out in February and get apples off an apple tree. You cannot go out in the middle of winter and you do not plow your fields and sow your seed and do not go out to harvest in January and February. It is a great thing that God puts everything in your life to get you to this season. What He wants you to do is to understand that is why He made these things. Romans chapter 1 verse 19, He wants you to see the seasons and how the earth goes through a springtime and it goes through a summertime and it gets into a fall time and then everything dies in the wintertime. Every year we go through and see an example of exactly where our life is going. Because there will be a springtime in your life, there will be a summertime in your life, and there will be a fall time in your life, and there will be a wintertime in your life. Our text today says the son needs to gather in the summertime. He is to gather in the summertime. A wise son will gather in the summer of his life, a fool will not. These are some incredible things as we come down through here.

Last week we saw a son who brought shame to his father. That father is God, doctrinally, we talked about that, by being a slacker of a slack hand and sleeping while he should be working the work of his father. Last week we looked at a great word called the word diligence. I told you how important that word was.

John 9:4

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Luke 2:49

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

If there is anything, the quality that Jesus had, it was the fact that He was diligent about the mission that God had given Him. When we really truly get saved, and I am not suggesting that you are not, but when we really truly get saved and we really understand what God has called for us to do, we understand that there is an urgency in what our mission is. The urgency lies in the fact that we only have a short season to get it done. I understand, you know, most of our churches, young guys and young gals, you are in your twenties and your thirties, in your late teens or your early teens or your mid teens, and you have got your whole life ahead of you as you think. But you will quickly see how fast that thing passes.

We saw a son, as I said, who brought shame to his father and a wise son will gather in the summer. You remember when we started the book of Proverbs, I gave you the nine aspects found in Proverbs that define a wise man. I gave them to you:

1. A wise man will hear and increase in learning in Proverbs 1:5.
2. A wise man inherits glory in Proverbs 3:35.
3. A wise man receives commandments in Proverbs 10:8.
4. A wise man wins souls, Proverbs 11:30.
5. Harkens to counsel in Proverbs 12:15.
6. A wise man fears and departs from evil, Proverbs 14:16.
7. A wise man dispenses knowledge, Proverbs 15:7.
8. A wise man seeks knowledge, Proverbs 18:15.
9. A wise man guards his tongue, Proverbs 29:16.

These are the qualities of a wise son, one that brings honor to his father and makes him glad.

Fundamentally, our job as Christians may have many aspects to it. When I talk about God having a plan for you and a plan for me, He certainly does. In many ways, your plan will not be my plan. My plan is doing what I do in a fundamental way. God has a plan for you. Many of you, your plan is to hook up with me and help me do what God has called me to do as a co-laborer. I get that. But really, fundamentally, in all we do in our jobs as a child of God to keep doing what God wants us to do, the fundamental function of every one of us. I talked about this last week. The fundamental function for every one of us, no matter what else we do, bottom line in your life and my life, is simply to reproduce ourselves and keep Christianity moving forward. Reproducing in others what God has given to you and me.

You know, back in Genesis chapter 1, verse 29, when God made the trees and the herbs, the Bible says when He created them, He made them so that the seeds were in themselves. You plant an apple tree, if you wait long enough, you will have five or six apple trees. You plant an orange tree or a pear tree, you wait long enough, you will have all kinds of pear trees. The seed is within its own fruit, and it reproduces itself naturally. That is the same model for what God did, because when you got saved, God gave you the precious seed of the Word of God inside you. You have

the seed of God's Word inside you this morning if you are saved, and that seed should naturally reproduce itself in other people. We saw a son who brought shame to his father because he did not do that. When we get saved, we have the good seed, the Word of God in us, that we should naturally reproduce what God has given us in others.

Now, I want to walk you through these four seasons of our life today. I want to talk about them in a practical way. I want to show you how these things will match up to your life cycle, and we are all going to go through it. It just will not all go through it wisely. This is one of the most incredible eye-opening studies in the Bible that a child of God will ever take as far as understanding their own life.

First of all, I want to talk to you about the springtime in your life. The best scenario for salvation – I am going to give you the best scenario here for salvation – the best scenario for a person in salvation is:

10. Be born at an early age. Of course, you know that has to happen. You are a baby.
11. You grow up in the nurturing of the Lord with godly parents, two to eight.
12. You get saved when you are around nine, ten, or eleven.
13. You get consecrated to the Lord when you are about twelve to fifteen.
14. Then you give Him the rest of your life to do what He has called you to do.

Now, that is the best scenario for a person to get saved in. I know that most of you did not come that way. I did not come that way. But by now, you have been saved any length of time. You know that that is obviously the best way to do it. Even though I did not, my children did, and their grandchildren did, because fundamentally that is the best absolute way to do it. They are better off for doing it that way. They are better off because sin never leaves a man any better than it finds him. Your best option is to get saved while you are yet tender, come to the point where you get through that process everything that you need. You know, it will be a thing where this is what the best way to go. As I said, most of us did not come through that, but thank God for the grace of God that God has saved anyhow. But if it cannot for you, it can with your family. It should stop with you or start with you. You should now take the position and make sure that your children, their children, and the next twenty generations of your family do it right to give these kids every chance they can.

You as a parent have the ability to make the difference. You really do. I was reading in the book of Ruth this week and I thought to myself as I was reading through that, there is Ruth who, when you study that book, you know, she was the great, great grandmother of David, King David. When you study that book, you see that she had all kinds of choices in life. She was a Moabite. She was not even connected in the line of Christ. She was a Moabite. She had all kinds of choices that she could have stayed in Moab or she could have went. In her life, you see something inside her and she makes all the right choices. Yet when it comes down to the end of the book, she marries Boaz and Boaz has Jesse and Obed and down the line and from them comes David. I thought to myself as I read that, boy, there is a great example how one person doing right can bring about the greatest king that Israel ever had. One woman who decided she was going to put an end to Moab and all of the false gods, when her sister went back, when her

sister wanted to go back to Moab and go back to that, she said, "I am not doing that." She looked at Naomi and she said, "I am going with you. Your God is going to become my God. Your people are going to become my people." She left Moab with everything behind and went with her and then she found Boaz in the field. Remember the day you found Boaz in the field, the world? Remember the day you were working out there, gleaning in that field out there and he came up and he looked at you and he saw something in you and me and he said, he took you under his protection. One woman who decided she was not going to go back to the world could make all the difference in the world and give Israel the greatest king they ever had. I am telling you, one mother, one father, one mom and dad who decides they are not going back to Moab can make all the difference in the world in generations to come. Incredible thing. Incredible thing.

There has to come a time in your life where you say, "I am done with it." There has to come a time in your life when you simply say, "You know what? I am going to give God everything that is left in my life and He is going to have it from this point on. I may have screwed up down here. I may have not did it right here, but from this point on I am in the right church. I got the right Bible. I got the right people around me. There is no reason why my next 20 generations, it stops with me. Never again will it go back to the world because I am going to train my children, not only train my children, I am going to train my children to train their children, to train their children, to train their children." Down it goes. It all works. You as a parent can make and will make the difference one way or the other. You either turn out a fool or you will turn out a wise man.

Why do you think I push so hard for your children? I understand that I am not just building a church here. If that is all my scope is, and that is where most pastors, that is where their scope is. It is right now what I am trying to build here that everybody can look at it and say, "Wow, look what he did, look at his dad." You know what? I know I have got to build a church. That is what God has called me to do, but that is a very small part of my vision. I know that not only do I have to build a church, but brother, I better build the next generation of this church. That is where it is at. Why do you think I push so hard for your children? Give them the best we have. When we go to camp, I tell Joe, I tell Zach, "I do not care what it costs. Do whatever you have got to do to make it the best it is." If we do not give them the best shot we can. I understand that all I can do and all this church can do will fail if the parents are not the fundamental ones who make it work. I understand that. I am not the one who is going to be able to raise your kids. I am only the one in this system that can support you in doing what you are doing.

You come that next week, you watch these kids we have got. You watch two of those kids get up there and give their testimony and then one of them preach the Word of God next Sunday afternoon. You are going to go through the whole program. You watch them get up there and see the quality, how these kids do these things. Right now, we have got to teach them not only responsibility, we have got to teach them how to preach, how to teach, give them the ability to interact with people, stand in front of a crowd and lay out the Word of God, talk about their testimonies, preach a sermon to them. That is what it is all about. We are not just about building people here on Sunday. Yeah, we are, but the bottom line is it goes beyond that. It is the next generation.

Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, he wrote three of the five wisdom books. In Ecclesiastes chapter 12 verse 1, he knew it. He knew exactly what I am talking about.

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

I want you to know that this is church with your family. We are here to equip not only you, but equip your children. But I want you to definitely understand this also. We may be here and do everything we can as much as we can to equip them, but the world out there, the devil wants to unequip them. There are places in this country right now in Texas where they are talking about the fact that they do not want your kids going to school. They do not want to recognize boys and girls anymore. Now what is with that? For five, 6,000 years of human history, there have been girls and boys. Suddenly now in this perverse godless generation that wants to make everybody the same. We want to take your kids and tell them they are not boys, they are not girls or that male, they are not female. They want to set them up for this transgender garbage or whatever this world wants to be an amalgamated mess that your kids are okay with it. Most of God's people's parents do not even understand what is going on. It is going to get a lot worse. This church stands along with your parents in equipping your children, equipping you. But I am telling you, we have the job to equip you, we have the means to equip you, but the devil is out there to unequip you. And the person is coming on. That same place, Texas must be something wrong with Texas. Last week I heard that there is a town in Texas that they are trying to make, the city fathers are trying to make every preacher in that city turn his sermon notes in before he preaches on Sunday so they can approve what he says. Now I am telling you, where in the world did we ever hear that? Where does that come from? Now I guarantee you that that will be a firestorm. If that ever happens in Kansas City, I will send my, I will say, "Well what, here is my sermon. I am doing, I am doing hand signals this Sunday and here is the one for you." Nobody on this planet has a right to tell any preacher what he can preach. Brother, when you are in a country that does do that, you better do something with the country. I am telling you, it is a mess out there and your kids are right in the middle of it, right in the middle of it because the devil knows greater than I could ever lay it out today. The devil understands that the future of this church, the future of your family, your grandchildren, your great grandchildren, all the way down the line depends on you equipping them and reproducing yourself in your children first.

The Royals are doing good, are not they? I told you Thursday night I was going to tell you why the Royals won that last game on the way to the World Series. I put my sermon together on Monday and Tuesday. I get up early Monday morning, work through it, get an idea what I want to do, and then I come back and I put it all down and get it all worked out. I am usually good to go by Wednesday and then I just fine tune it throughout the week. If I see something here or hear something, I will put it in there to make it work. I was thinking of this. I was watching the Royals. I do not watch the game because I am bad luck if I watch they will lose, so I just got to flip back and forth and check it out. But I told them as I was coming up there, I thought this is a great illustration because I know where I am at right now, what we are talking about right now. I said, "You know what? I got in my notes here. The Royals are an incredible ball team this year

and obviously, I mean, a real inspiration to everybody. They are the underdogs. They have always been for 29 years. They are not called America's favorite team for everybody likes the underdog. Everybody likes to see them come from nothing and make it to this point." And then in their own minds thinking, "Maybe there is hope for me." I get that. That is a good thing. I, but I had the illustration. I said, "Lord, if I, if I, if I, this illustration is a great illustration, but if they do not go to the World Series, I cannot use this illustration." Oh, you are laughing. I am absolutely telling you the truth. I sat there scratching my head. I am saying this is a great illustration, but Lord, I will not be able to use it. If they do not go to the World Series, I do not care if they win or not. I just need to get there to use this illustration. If they do not get there, then I am, you know, I do not, this thing will, this thing will be wasted and it is a great illustration. The Lord said, "I will handle that." Yeah. Yeah. I do not know. Now they are a great team and they are doing good. Next week we go to the World Series.

I will tell you something. If they would happen to win the World Series, I want you to know something. They did not win the World Series in October. They won the World Series in spring training. They won, they did not win it in October. It looks like they did, but it was in spring training when they fine tuned the fundamentals and worked hard and got the, got the mindset that no matter what happens, we are going to make this our year. So they did not win it in October. If they win it, they won it in spring season. My illustration is simply this. Your kid will not stand in the October of his life without you building in the spring season of his life, some fundamental things. See how that works? Could not have used that if they would not have won. Your child will only stand in the latter years of their life. It will be based on what you and I, but you do in the spring time of their life. They are spring training, fine tuning the fundamental. Oh, I, I came this morning and I got to tell you, I know I had Bob, I told him, I said, "I want you to get the groups together and work with these, the young kids in the high school class particularly, but it will be great for everybody else and show them who I walked in today, show them how to put a lesson together, a message together, devotion together," you know, because a lot of people in your prayer groups, adults, they want to do it, but they do not know how to do it. So give them a little help and yet we got all the kids and I walked in there and sat back there and they had this group over here today. I watched those young kids. I watched those little young kids in that group. Boy, they were taking their notes and they were listening and they were doing all those things. Listen, mom and dad, you have got something right now in the springtime of their life that you can do something with if you are willing to, if you understand.

V. The Summertime of Life

Well, then there is a summertime of life. Now you are in your late teens, your early 20s, and actually this season can last 30 years or so up to your 50, 60 years old, and now you are ready or you should be for the work that God has saved you for. It is going to be an ongoing process, but you are coming into the prime time of your life, your season of fruit bearing. Now you come into the most productive time of your life from all the Bible standpoint, your fruit bearing season, and I will tell you this, the devil knows that better than any of us understand it today. So now you will sow the seed. Now you will plant the Word of God in people's lives. Now you will water over people with your tears, and now you will see that the fields are truly white on the harvest.

By now you are coming through this process because you had good parents, you had good things at church and everybody was there to help you, and now you are in your 20s or you are moving into your 30s. Now you have developed knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. You come up through it, and because you had good solid parents and you had good solid Bible teaching, you, as Paul said, flee youthful lusts. You are at the strongest and best physical shape spiritually, or you should be at this particular time that you will ever be in, and you give it all you have got. You develop yourself. You develop your skills. You let God put people in your life that will make you better and train you. You stay away from the negative people in life. You stay from the ones that want to take away the equipment that God has given you. You allow people to hold you accountable. You are given responsibility, basic responsibility at first, and you learn from your mistakes.

Now is when you take on the greatest task in this time period of summer. Now is when you take on the greatest task ever given a man or a woman, that is a family. Your own church. Your own church to train and to replace yourself with and to make sure that they keep your legacy alive with God down through the coming generations. Now, also God will give you your own Titus, Philemon, and Timothys, like He did Paul, like He has me. Men and women outside your family that you begin to work and build to replace yourself with. I am going to tell you the whole concept of that summer and the whole concept of your Christian life and its final analysis is for you to replace yourself. Replace yourself. I said last week, there are people they are saved for 30, 40 years and they are saved for 30, 40 years. They look back in their life and there is not one person they took the time to invest anything in to replace themselves. They just die and go off scene and nobody after 20, 30 years, nobody even knows who they were anymore. It is sad, but it is true.

In most young people's lives, and in generally speaking, summertime is a time of fun, vacation, doing nothing, off from school. Not so for the wise child of God. This is his greatest moment. This is this time where he brings everything to focus in his life. This is time as the old song says he is sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness, sowing in the noontime and the dewy of sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows, fearing neither cloud nor winter chilling breeze, knowing that we shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves. See, it is the time that you do the work.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Growing up into a mature Christian. Now I understand doctrinally what that verse is talking about, but in a practical way, I will tell you exactly what it is talking about. It is talking about you getting to the point in your life as a Christian to the point of no return. You are never going back to the world again. From this point on, it is going to be forward. From this point on, it is going to be everything for your family. You are going to put everything in a biblical context. You

are going to understand and realize that this is not about, just like it is not about me building a church, it is not about you raising a family. The bottom line is about the legacy of reproducing what you are in your children as I need to reproduce the Word of God into people's lives. It is looking at the next generation down the line. It is not being so tunnel visioned that all you see is what you have got, but I understand so many of God's people have got themselves so messed up and so screwed up with all the problems in life, all the issues in life. They have made so many bad choices. They will not turn around from it, and they will never get to the point where their kids can get anywhere simply because their life is so cluttered with all of the garbage and all of the damage and all the collateral damage that has taken place in their life. They cannot ever get there. The devil has undone whatever God has tried to do in our lives, growing up into a mature Christian.

Verse 12 says, "For now we see through a glass darkly." See, that is when you are a young Christian. You look into the book. The Bible is called a mirror. The Bible is called a perfect law of liberty that a man looks into and sees what man or a man he is in the book of James. The Bible says here, "We look into a glass darkly." That is where you are at when you are a young Christian. Some of you young men right now that I spend time with and some of you young ladies that are coming and or spending time with me are on Thursday night when you come to the Bible study, and the questions you ask are great questions. But it is obviously that in a lot of areas you are young, you are still looking through that glass darkly. That comes in a process of time. I used to look through it. I used to hear Mel get up and lay out the Bible and hear guys preach about the Bible. I would go home scratching my head saying I looked at the same passage and I never saw any of that. You know why? I would look into a glass darkly. But then, face to face, it is like you go in and looking into a mirror. When you look into a mirror, you see exactly who you are. When you look into the mirror, the Word of God, as you grow and get maturity, the greatest thing you get from that when you look into the mirror, the Word of God, is you get to see exactly who you are. Exactly who you are. You get to see exactly who you are in Christ. You get to see exactly who you are in the world, your struggles. Yeah, that is why the Bible says a lot of people when they get into that thing. That is why, honestly, that is why a lot of people will not go to a real Bible believing church for very long. Nobody grabs them and forces them, but the Holy Spirit of God is twisting their head to look into that mirror. They do not like what they see. It is like the old thing, "Mirror, mirror on the wall," you know. "Oh man, you are the ugliest of them all," as I said back, you know. We do not like that. We like the fellowship. We like running around. We like having friends. But when it comes down to the pinnacle of what a church is, opening up that book and looking into the Word of God. You look into the Word of God for one reason. It is not to look at the person next to you. It is to look at yourself. Some people do not want to do that. But if you can do that, you will grow to the place where you will come where right now you may look through the glass darkly, but there will come a time face to face when you look into that book and you see exactly who you are in Christ and you see exactly who you are in reality.

Listen, my job, the job of this church is to get you to that point. You may have got saved late in life. The best scenario will not maybe be your scenario. God pulled you and me and many of you out of the sewer at 30, 40 years old. Thank God for it. But I will tell you what I will do. We

cannot go back and undo what we did. We cannot go back and fix the stupid things we did. But I will show you what we can do. I will take you and I will show you in Ephesians 5:16 how that when you get to that point, you can redeem the time. One of the greatest studies over there in Matthew chapter 20 is about the 12 hour day. The 12 hour day, it goes down there and it actually breaks down the church age at almost 200 year increments and shows you the workers going in through different periods of church history. The last workers go in around 1860, 1870, as far as God is looking at it on His timetable. They come down through there and when it was done, you know, they get to the Lord and the Lord starts putting out rewards and He gives the guy at the end the same amount as He gave the guy at the beginning. The guy at the beginning says, "What is that all about? We really suffered. This guy did not do anything. How come you are giving it the same?" The great moral of that story is simply this, and it is something I never forgot. It is not about what time you went to work. It is about when you went to work, were you on the job? That is the question. It is not about where you go to work. Were you on the job at the moment God saved you?

I preached one time years ago and we had a great revival down in Alabama some place. It was Huntsville. I was preaching down there, laying the thing out and going to town and about the end of the night, you know, the Lord just come down and busted the church up bad. I mean, everybody was getting right with God, getting saved. It was a great time. I had another gentleman, he was probably in his 70s, came up tears streaming down his face, put his arms around me and he said, "You know what? This has been the greatest week of my life." I said, "Well, sir, I appreciate that. I appreciate the fact that you wish you would have heard this 40 years ago in your life. But let me ask you a question. What are you going to do with it now that you have heard it?" It is never too late to start. It is not about when did you go to work? It is not about when you figured it out. It is about when you did figure it out, were you on the job? That is the question. That is what He wants. That is what He wants. Were you on the job? Of course, that is a great, great, great concept.

VI. The Fall of Life

Well, now we move into the fall of our lives. This will be 60 or 70 years of old age. Now at this season, you will begin to slow down in some things, especially in your, if you went hard during the summer season for that 30 and 40 years, it has a tendency to wear you out. It will take it out of you. I mean, it is just simply physically, you cannot do the things at this same level that you once did.

Proverbs 20:29

The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the grey head.

You see, a young man still may have the strength to do it all, but he does not have the wisdom to do it all. The old man has got the wisdom to do it all, but he does not have the strength to do it all. So now you understand how that thing works. Now here is where you begin to see in the ministry and your family also, but here is where you begin to see all of the years of preaching the truth and working and wielding people where it begins to pay off. Now those younger Christians,

now the sons and daughters in your family, you are younger Christians in this church, you are in your 20s and your 30s and your 40s, you are in the peak of your summertime. Now you pick up the load and now you begin to carry what other people used to carry. They cannot carry anymore and they become invaluable and the whole concept becomes a team concept.

From a ministry standpoint, it is very clear when you look at it, take Moses. He had his Joshua. Joshua had his Caleb. David had his Jonathan and his mighty men of valor and Paul had Titus, Philemon and Timothy. I have many of you. See, you cannot go on forever. You cannot natural process of going through the cycle of the history of kind of springtime and summer when you get into the fall. You have to be smarter than a problem and understand that you have to reproduce yourself. It is not just winning people to Christ. That takes no effort and in this watered down spiritual world that we live in, everybody thinks that is the mark of real true spirituality. No, it is not.

John 15:16

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

There is the work. There is no work in winning somebody to Christ. The real work starts after they get saved. The hours you have got to spend with them, the time you have got to invest with them, the problems you have got to go through with them. All these preachers that get up and say, "All right, raise your hand during the invitation. You are saved now. You are great. I made a decision in life. Go figure it out for yourself." You have got to be taken out and shot. If that person truly got saved, that is when they need you the most. That is when they get to have a shoulder to cry on somebody to tell their problems to their struggles to. Just getting saved is not going to fix all your problems. God never intended it to, but it does give you the wherewithal to get your problems fixed, but it has to be fixed through the Word of God and the local New Testament church and people who are committed to reproducing yourself, taking somebody and putting in them what God has put in you. That is the key. Building leaders, men and women who share all the burden of this church.

I will give you a great example of this. A great example of this is our own athletic ministry, whether it be softball or volleyball. It is one of the most incredible ministries that we have here in reaching people. There is not a season a year goes by that we do not get a whole bunch of people saved and get into the church and grow. Years ago, I started the athletic ministry in that concept when I came from Canton in 1976. I have done it from 1976 on. I did it for 30 years all by myself. I just, you know, it was a concept that I understood. I built in it, but I was smart enough, dumb enough, I was smart enough to realize that someday I could not do it anymore. Today, I cannot put the energy in it like I used to, but I do not have to. You know, I cannot, I have a hard time even running the bases anymore with my back. I pitch and it will be someday I will not be able to do that. But you see, I will have to sit on the sidelines, you know, and watch everybody else play. And, and you know, and that I do not like that, but I will be okay with that, you know, because I will take comfort in the fact that Danny and the guys that are out there that

have grown up in this ministry, who understand it and the leaders who get the concept, they can make it keep on going. There are 125 guys and gals out there who understands the value of it, who understands what to do that has been reproduced in you. Now you do not need me anymore. I am going to go out and start a shuffleboard ministry. Give me some of them gym shoes with the Velcro straps that go over the side, man. Where I am going. You will see me being a Walmart greeter out there, you know, checking your receipt as you go out. I know a lot of those guys just kind of say, "I will not." I will have your hands on the wall, frisking you down, make sure you did not steal something out of Walmart.

From day one in this church, 11 years ago, that has been the single underlying goal in everything I have done. I have never obviously said it very much. No need to say it. As long as I understand it, no matter what I have done, how I have done it or why I have done it, the way I have done it and the things that I do that sometimes the people do not understand, I see things from another angle and I know what I am doing. The bottom line is my whole goal has been underlined to build young men and young ladies, couples to lead and take over this work someday. Hey, I will stay with it as long as I can. God gives me strength. I mean, I will go with it. I can stand up and preach. Y'all scream and get it out. As long as my mind gets, I do not get, you know, Alzheimer's and wind up in a Southern Baptist church some place, go to the wrong place. That might be good for them. Oh, so you never know. But I realize that all the things go on. You have got to replace yourself in your family. You have to replace yourself. I am talking to you young couples now. Do not make the mistake that so many parents have made that their kids do not want nothing to do with church. Do not want nothing to do with ministry with their parents. Do not make that tragic mistake. You realize that you have a church here. You have men and women here who want to help you. You have a pastor who understands where you are at. Our whole goal is for you to reproduce yourself and your family. But my goal is to reproduce myself in this church. Nothing will burn a man out faster and give him a heart attack quicker than a life of investing all you are and all you have with people. But that is what you need to do because it does not matter. Summer only lasts for a short time and you have got to get it done. You have to gather in summer because there is winter coming when nobody is going to gather.

VII. The Winter Season and Legacy

Lastly, the winter season. Final chapter of our lives. The end of the mission. The final mile of the way, as the song says. We get to that point and we are all going to get there. You guys, young kids hear me now. I know you are young and have your whole life ahead of you but it will go by so quickly.

James 4:14

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

When you get to this point and look back in your life, my advice to you is to look for just one thing. Judge your success or your failure in life as a child of God by just one thing because that is how God does it. Forget the cars you have had. Forget all the fun times, the vacations, the trophy

deer, the fish and all the things of all the success and prestige and all the money you made. Those things in context, there is nothing wrong with them. Do not misunderstand me. But you better stop and count the men and women that you have reproduced yourself with. Start with your own family. Then all the others that God has brought across your path. Men and women that saw your heart and your burden and wanted what you have. People in this church and its ministry you invested your life in that now are taking the place and in ministry and doing the job.

Proverbs 17:6

Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

That is a great verse. That children's children there, that is your grandchildren and your great grandchildren. The Bible says children's children are the crown of old men. But in a practical spiritual sense, it is also the people that God puts in your life, the Timothys, the Philemons, the Tituses, the young men, the young ladies that so many of you labor with. I know it gets to be a burden sometimes. I know people can drive you up the wall. I know you start with people and they go for a while and then they bail out and you put your life in it. I watch those things. I see those things. I see your tears. I see your pain. I see your agony. Good for you. I do not want God to take it away. Those are the kind of things you go through. Those are the reality of the ministry. I have learned, you know, I have learned I will go through three or four absolute total idiots that you did not invest your life with and do everything with and they do nothing with it and they do absolutely nothing and they are a waste of time. Then God will give you that one person and it will make all the other ones worth it. You have got to do that. That is part of the process. Hey, nobody mad at me wishes that God would just put a big shaker up the top of those steps and wake up all the worthless people and send them over to First Baptist in Raytown. Nobody. But it does not work that way. This is the shaker and the filtering process. But fortunately, I did not say unfortunately, fortunately you have got to get in the book, find out what they really want. Now you look at it as a bad thing. Do not you realize how much valuable experience you gain in dealing with loser people? I want everybody to do what is right. Nobody does more than me. While the finance committee already told me if I get 500 people here, they are going to buy me one of them microphones that comes around to your mouth here, man. I want one of them suckers. Folds over your ear. Nobody sees it. Comes around a little clear thing there, a little mic right there. Oh, vous joie. I would like everybody to make it, but now you are not going to. But do not discount that you learn from everything in life, do not you? Do you just learn from the good things in life? Well, if we just learn from the good things in life, the happy things, the merry things, the things that work out, we would not be worth anything. You know why God gave you tear ducts in your eyes? So He could squeeze your heart sometime and bring that thing and make it keep it tender. That is why He does.

I am telling you, children are the crown of old men. And the glory of children are their fathers. In a spiritual sense, the generations that you and I ensured in your family and this church after we are long gone would keep on going. I told you from day one in this church, that there are only two things worth investing your life in. One of them is the Word of God and the other one is the souls of men, because those are the only two things going to last for all of eternity. I am going to tell you something. I have seen it happen. You do not do what I am telling you to do. You just

blow it off. I have seen families that were Christian families where the mom and dad did not do what is right and they lost their kids. Mom and dad was completely out of control and could not do anything about it. It is a terrible tragedy. But mom and dad did not do what they needed to do. Those kids got bad, got terrible. Mom and dad have a delusion that it will all work itself out someday. You are out of your mind. Devil is not going to let that happen. You know what I have seen? Three or four generations later, those kids are all, everybody is an agnostic. They do not even know who God was. Devil will see to it. He will see to it. He will see to it. He will see to it.

Look at Psalm chapter 90. Now kids, I know you think you have got all the head of life ahead of you. I know you do. You are 20, 30, 40. Man, Medicare and Medicaid is a far thing from your mind right now. You do not watch the world news or you do not care what is going on because you are worried about what is in your own little world. I get it. We all were there. We all were there.

Psalms 90:9-12

For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

It says to teach us to number our days. The cycle of life goes through four seasons, but it goes so quickly. He says, "Number your days." You see, you think you have the rest of your life? The Bible says, "Number your days." Put a pencil to it. Years ago I did that very thing. I got looking at this thing and that verse has always been a favorite of mine. The Bible says three score and ten. That is 70 years. In the Bible that is the average life of man. So we will work with that. That looks like a long time. If somebody told you when you were 10 years old that you were going to die when you were 70, you would say, "Wow, that is great with me boy. I have got a whole time ahead of me." A lot of Christians look at it that way when it comes to serving God, but I want to show you something. I want to, I want you to count your days here. I want you to number your days and then apply your hearts unto wisdom. Let us say that we all live 70. Let us say that I know it is true of my life and it is probably true in a general average. Let us say you get saved when you are 20. Now you have 50 years left to serve God. Sounds like a lot. You realize when you put a pencil to it, you rather you sleep 15 years of your life. Now you have got 35 years left. You realize in a cycle of life of 70 years, you will eat six years of that. Now you are down to 29 years left. When you count your vacations, your time out of fellowship, our ball games, soccer matches, volleyball, baseball, and all the other things we do, at the end of that tally, we probably only have 10 to 15, maybe 20 at the stretch. Out of 70 years to work for God. That is all we have got. Sounds like we have a lot to you. Count your days. Sounds like you have a lot to you. Number them. Now you see that is understanding. That is seeing it from God's standpoint. That is realizing that God has a purpose for you and for me. We think we have our whole life, but you do not. End of the day, on a general sense, we have got 15, maybe 20 years to give God our best

shot. "For all our days are passed away in thy wrath. We spend our years as a tale that is told. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Boy, if there is anything out of this thing of these four seasons, it needs to be that concept. I give you on top of that, the Bible says boast not thyself of tomorrow. I know it is not what a day may bring forth, but I am talking about if you live a life of 70, time you get saved, the time you figure in all the distractions and the things that are natural things. We do not have a lot of time left. Oh, if I could get God's people, to see and understand that, there would be a revival across Christianity for people who are really truly saved. You get your mind off yourself and what you want to do. You would realize that this life, it really does not matter what you want to do because your life is going to start in the next one. Right now you need to be about your Father's business.

Then the last thing he says here, and I will close with this. "He that gathereth in the summer is a wise son, but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causes shame." We want to look at the phrase there "causes shame." Not only to his father down here, God, but also causes shame to himself up there. For that shame is very clearly defined in the Word of God as the shame of the judgment seat of Christ.

Revelation 3:17-18

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

"The shame of thy nakedness do not appear." Cross-referenced that with 1 Corinthians 3:1-19, and 2 Corinthians 5:1-11.

Revelation 16:15

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Paul said to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15:

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

You see, we need to be about God's business. We need to understand that God saved us for a reason and saved us for a purpose. Underlining fundamental is that is you need to reproduce yourself in somebody else. This is why I push you to disciple somebody, to get involved in the people ministry, go down to Turnaround or whatever, anything that will track your attention and get your focus off of yourself and on somebody else. See, some of you think you have got problems. I know you do. I am not saying that some of you do not have some legitimate problems, but most of us do not. You know what is good about going down to Turnaround, going

around a Restart, going out on the street with these guys? You get to see some people who really have some problems. You do not have any problems. Your worst day, you still have a nice home, you have a nice room, you have food, you have this, you have people that love you. They have nothing.

Who was telling me the story about going to Osawatomie to the state hospital to do your deal? It was Georgie. Osawatomie State Hospital has been down in Osawatomie since the Civil War. Before it became a state hospital, it is also a medium security prison there. It was where they took all the insane people. They did not know what to do with insane people back then. It was a terrible place. It was a place where they chained them up, they had tunnels down there, dungeons where they put them down there. It was a terrible place. I worked down around there for a number of years and there was always an eerie thing going on there. It would be a great place for a bunch of high school kids to be massacred, I thought, you know, in a horror movie. It does not take much for teenage kids because they make the dumbest mistakes anyhow, you know. "Where are we going to run to? Well, I do not know. Let us run to the graveyard." You know, that is a good, that is a safe place to go.

Anyway, I was driving down there and I was working one time, locating some stuff and I come around this little deal off this old bridge. I walked into this thing, I did not know what it was, I was looking for the power transformer, tell you the truth. Walked into this little plot field there about the size of this room, maybe a little smaller. There on the ground was, I counted them, 450 little plaques, little round circles in the ground with just a number on it. Those were the people that died there, that they just buried them in that little plot. No name, no relatives, no next of kin, no date when they died. All it was was a body in the ground with a little round plot with a number from 100 to 300 or 400 or something. I sat there, tears running down my face and that was the saddest place on planet earth for me. At that moment in time, that was the saddest place to die and have nobody on this planet. Care about you, think about you, and they printed that grave, probably that ground for 100, 150 years and there is nobody on this planet who even remembers who they are.

My point is this folks, do not ever get to the point in your life where you do not leave a legacy of what God has done for you. Make sure that when you pass off this life, somebody not only knows who you are, but knows what God did in your life and then through what He did in your life, did something in their life. Never get bound, never get closed.

Now Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus, we love You. Thank You for these good people today and thank You for all that You do with them and I thank You for their kindness, their goodness and for how they do take people. This church would not be where it is at with the strong core base we have, certainly is not because of me. It is because of men and women in this church who have seen my vision and seen my burden and fell in love with the book that I fell in love with and then linked arms with me to do greater things than I could ever have done. Father, I love them for that and I thank You for giving them to me. Lord, I know that we will never build a church of thousands and I do not want to. I want to build a church of soldiers, men and women who when we leave, we leave our legacy that they will know who we were and what we believed. Help us today Father to number our days, to count our days and

apply our hearts unto wisdom. Help us to realize that in life we only have those four seasons. We need to work in the summertime of our lives because there is coming a winter when no man works. Help us, help us to grasp that, to understand that and then to give our lives and our families and everything we have to the Lord. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen. God bless you.