

I. Introduction to Proverbs and the Importance of Exactness

We were holding a revival up in Monmouth, Illinois, a little church up there, and I tell you what, it was one of the most incredible times that I have seen in a long time. It is a little church in a little town that runs about 200-225 people. They normally run about 40 people on a good day, and we probably had 100 people every night come out. It was a great service. I took the music group up with me, and they really ministered to the people, which made my job preaching a lot easier. It was just a great time. We had a ton of decisions up there last Sunday morning. So, I thank you for your prayers for that, and we will look to see what God continues to do up there.

Today, we are going to be back in Proverbs chapter 10, and we are going to continue to move down through this chapter. I know I was out last week, being in Monmouth, and then I was sick the week before that, so I have been two Sundays out. But if you will remember, we have been moving down through Proverbs chapter 10, and we have been listening again and laying out more great principles of the Word of God. We have learned now from Proverbs in our study that principles in the Bible are really the building blocks of the Christian life. It is what you build on the foundation of your life, the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what really makes a Christian a strong Christian. You can always tell a Christian and their strength by what they believe about the Word of God in the Bible, not about their own personal opinion, but what they can go to in the Scriptures. That is the key.

You have a lot of people that have a lot of opinions about a lot of things in life, a lot of things in the world, and a lot of things in general about God. But when you pin them down in the Bible, that is the key. If you have noticed, I have been trying to set a pattern. Sometimes my patterns are obvious; sometimes my patterns are not so obvious. But if you have noted what we have been doing in Proverbs in our study, it is what we should be doing really through the whole Bible. We are not just reading Proverbs and making some basic observations or laying out some general truth. What we are doing is what the Bible calls in John 5:39, that we are searching the Scriptures. That is a key concept to understand when it comes to the Bible: searching out each verse, examining every key word and phrase, shedding a context, and most important, defining key words in the Bible.

Everything I do in the Bible, I try to give you a representation of something in the Bible that we ought to be doing or you ought to be doing to learn the Bible. Then, taking the material and building the material into a workable format of Bible truth to live our lives by. That is really what we have been doing as we have been coming through the Scriptures. That is really what you do with the Bible. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15 that you study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman, but you do that by searching out the Scriptures.

When I was taught the Bible, I was pretty fortunate. I was taught the Bible, and when I was taught how to lay out the Bible, a heavy emphasis was put on being exact with the Bible. There

was no room for error as far as what you knew and what you said about the Bible. I had that drilled into me in everything, and I try to pass that off and on to you in all we do with the Bible. I realize that in the day and age that we live in, most people do not want that level of the Bible. You hear it all the time; I hear it all the time. You deal with it all the time where people like the Bible, but they do not want to get into a committed level of the Scriptures where you really have to understand what the Word of God says. I cannot go there in my own understanding of the Scriptures.

When I was taught the Bible, I got the whole concept, and to me, it is everything. I laid out my Bible verse by verse because as I was a young Christian growing up, I knew that I knew what the book was, and I knew I was going to have to learn it. I knew that I could not just have a passing relationship with it; I was going to have to commit myself to it because fundamentally, I understood what it was. It was everything that I needed in the issues of life. So, I realized that I had to search those Scriptures and lay it out verse by verse and put that book together. It took me 15 years to do that, and I am talking 15 years of three or four hours a day. There were times on the weekend when I would have a lot of free time that I would go six, seven, eight hours a day with it. But I understood and realized that you had to be diligent with the Scriptures. If you are going to be exact with the Bible, then you have to do that.

Then I understood and began to realize how important church history was connected to the Bible. So, I probably spent another 10 years going through every aspect of that and dialing it all back and tying it in too. In other words, what I am saying is I was drilled into my mind as a young man to be exact with the Scriptures. I do not know any other way to do it. I do not want to know any other way to do it because I believe that that is so important. So, as we go through the book of Proverbs, not only do you want to see the practical applications of the issues of life, but we also want to focus on the exactness of the Scriptures: how to search them out, how to get and squeeze every drop out of everything in the Bible.

You will notice that one of the things I do all the time, if I just took a class and did it, we would never get anything else done. So, I made up my mind that in every Bible study we have, and every Sunday morning we have, and even the one-on-one time we have together, I always take the time when we run across it to give you a defining verse in the Bible. I think that everything that we believe, every concept, every doctrine that we have, has to have a defining verse behind it. It is so important to understand that so that you can fall back on the Scriptures. As we walk through the Scriptures together, that is what I try to do. I try to make note of those defining passages and show you the exactness of it all and how important that it is.

II. Proverbs 10:8-9 and Prayer

Today, we are going to be in Proverbs chapter 10, and we are going to simply look at two small verses here, but there is plenty in these two verses to keep us busy. It will be chapter 10, verses 8 and 9. Here is what he says:

Proverbs 10:8-9

The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

Father, we thank and praise You for the Lord Jesus, and we do love You today. We thank You, Father, for the truth that You have given us and the Word of God that You have provided for us. Thank You, Father, for the good people in this church and for our attitude toward the Word of God, that we believe it is the true Word of God, and we approach it that way. Help us, Lord, to always be exact with the Scriptures, to not get caught up in the fallacy of what somebody thinks or what somebody believes, but let our source bedrock for everything that we do and teach be the absolute perfect Word of God. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

III. The Wise in Heart Receive Commandments

These two verses are probably two of the greatest practical verses in the whole chapter here. You remember that we have talked about this all the way through, that the book of Proverbs is about the issues of life. Proverbs 10:8 says, "The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall."

"The wise in heart shall receive commandments." Most Christians today think that the commandments, when you read them in the Bible, are always talking about the Ten Commandments that were given to man in the Old Testament through Moses. That is not true. I mean, it is true that Moses got the Ten Commandments, and those Ten Commandments formed the basis for the law that the nation of Israel followed. But in the New Testament church, they were also given some commandments, and those commandments are just as vital as the ones that were given to the nation of Israel.

You will remember in 1 Corinthians chapter 14 that Paul is dealing with the church of Corinth and how they are really messed up on spiritual gifts. They are really all whacked out on tongues and healing and all of the things that the Charismatic Movement gets messed up on today. Paul systematically goes down through that chapter and deals with every aspect and gives a biblical, exact definition of every one of those concepts as he is laying them out. When he gets down to the last part of that chapter, in 1 Corinthians 14:37, he says to them, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." There were some commandments about those things that he gave them.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:2, it talks about, "For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus." There were some commandments that God gave them. 1 John 2:7-8 talks about the old commandment and the new commandment that were given by Christ. 1 John 5:2 says, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." He is talking to New Testament Christians. So, there are commandments for the Old Testament, but there are also commandments for the New Testament. When you search the Scriptures instead of just reading them, you find out what they are. You will find out what the old ones were to the nation of Israel, and then you will find out what the new ones are that are given to the church.

It says in Proverbs 10:8, "the wise in heart will receive commandments." Notice it says "wise in heart." Notice it is the heart, not the head. You are going to find in dealing with people, you have people that have a head knowledge and they have a heart knowledge. Heart knowledge is always where God starts in your relationship with you. Head knowledge will always take you away from God. Heart knowledge will always bring you to God. It is just that simple. You have a head knowledge about God; it is what you think about God. But what determines your thinking about God the right way is your heart knowledge toward God, and that is what you feel about God as far as loving Him and understanding what He has done for you. The two go hand in hand. But a head knowledge without the right heart knowledge will lead you into all kinds of trouble.

The wisdom of God starts in a man's heart, not the head. It starts with loving God with all your heart, with all your mind, and all your soul. That is where it begins. It is part of defining the right attitude of heart that we have. It is more than just being right with God; it is getting the things with God exactly in your life. The key to learning the Bible, and I have told people this all my life, I remember years ago I had a young man, and he reminded me, some of you young men remind me of him, and he was a good kid. He turned out to be a really good kid. He came to me one time when he had just started coming to church, and he was into all the Bible and wanted to learn the Bible, and he really had a desire to learn it. He was very sincere in his question. He came to me and he says, "Bob," he says, "I am not asking for any fast track or anything, but I am asking for some keys here. What do I have to do to really learn the Bible?" He says, "I guess you have to really study it, don't you?" I said, "Well, studying the Bible is very important, but I have to tell you, studying the Bible is not the key to learning the Bible."

He said, "Well, yeah," he says, "I guess you really just have to do what you talk about all the time and rightly divide the word of truth, and you build that." He heard me talk about that framework of the Bible. He says, "I guess that is where I started." I said, "You know what, that is all good, and those are things you have to do, but that in itself, again, is not the key to learning the Bible." He says, "Well, what is the key to learning the Bible? If the key to learning the Bible is not studying it and laboring it and dividing it up the way the Bible says, what is the key?" I told him, "The key to learning the Bible is not studying it; the key to learning the Bible is loving it. When you love it with all your heart and all your mind and all your soul, you are going to learn it."

Some of you here, and I know many of you are young Christians, and I do not put you in this category, but across Christianity today, you will find a lot of Christians have been a Christian for a long time that do not know that. In fact, some of you young Christians know more about the Bible than they do. Do you know why that is? It is not because you are smarter than them. It is not because you necessarily spend more time in the Bible than them. The fundamental difference is the fact that you love it and they do not. I did not say they did not respect it. I did not say they do not think it is the Word of God. They do not have that love in their heart for the book that they love it with all of their heart, with all of their mind, and all of their soul. That is what it takes.

IV. The Tabernacle: A Picture of Exactness and Ministry

The greatest example of this is the Old Testament tabernacle that is found between Exodus chapter 25 and Exodus chapter 28. The Old Testament tabernacle is, without a doubt, one of the most incredibly detailed things that were ever put in the Bible. The reason why there is so much detail to it, and the greatest book I ever read on it was Arthur W. Pink's *Gleanings in Exodus* and Clarence Larkin's *Dispensational Truth*, but even they could not unearth it all. The reason why there is so much material about it and so much exactness about it, I mean, he talks about the knobs that are cut into little flowers, and he talks about every little dimension of it, and he talks about every little aspect of it. The reason why he is so exact with that is because that tabernacle represents so many things. You could spend the rest of your life and never unearth all of what the tabernacle deals with; it would be that subject in itself.

The tabernacle is a picture of the universe. The tabernacle is a picture of Israel's central theme of worship. It has so many different aspects. But one of the aspects of the Old Testament tabernacle is a picture of you and me right now. The outside of it was badger skin. It is a lot like you and me being human on the outside. But what was godly about the tabernacle? Was it the skins on the outside? No, it was the things that were on the inside. It is just like you and me. The thing about you and me that makes us godly is not what is on the outside, our flesh. The thing that makes us special and makes us holy to God and have a relationship with God is what you have on the inside, like the tabernacle.

You will find that there are three sections to the tabernacle. You will find that in your life and my life, there are three parts to you: a body, soul, and spirit. They all match up. You really want to understand the aspect of really taking the Word of God and being exact with it and understanding the aspect of when it says, "the wise in heart will receive commandments." You want to search out the Scriptures on that concept and find out how to do it. I know that I could have just blown by that. I could have said, "The wise in heart will receive commandments," made a few little flowery remarks, and moved on. But there is more to it than that if you are exact.

You will find that that tabernacle has an outer court where, in that outer court, you will find the brazen altar in Exodus 27. It also talks about in Exodus 30, in that outer court, the laver of water. Then you went into the inner court. That will be a picture of your body. Then you went into the inner court. That is where your spirit is; that is inside you. You will find there that over on this side in Exodus 25, there was a table of what they called showbread. Over on this side, there was what the Bible calls in Exodus 25 and 27, the seven-pronged golden candlestick. Then, up a little bit farther, right before you got to the veil, you will find the altar of incense, as found in Exodus 30. All those things are a picture of what is on the inside of you after what happened on the outside of you when you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior.

You will find that the priest went into that tabernacle to do the work. You will find it had everything around it, but that tabernacle had no floor in it. It was just a dirt floor. But when that priest went in and he came back out, and he went in there to minister, it is a picture of where you and I really do the ministry. We do the ministry with the three things that are listed inside that inner tabernacle.

1. You have the showbread. That is a type of the Word of God. We minister the Word of God to people. That showbread had to be baked fresh every morning. They could not just do what we do when we go to Hy-Vee and they have leftover bread and they give it to us. It had to be fresh every morning. It was laid out in cakes of 12. The way it was laid out is instructive. Here is the table: you had 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and then you had 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. It laid out 6 and 6, 12, because in the Old Testament, it represented each one of the tribes of the nation of Israel. But that showbread is a picture of the Bible in your life, in my life, that is inside you. So, it is laid out 6 and 6 because when God gave you your showbread, the Word of God, there are 66 books in it. Notice it is "showbread." Showbread in the Old English, showbread. You show people the bread that God gave you. It is on the inside.
2. On this side over here, you had a seven-pronged candlestick. That is the Holy Spirit of God. The only light that was in that tabernacle was the light from that seven-pronged candlestick. That is a picture of your heart. That is a picture of the inside of you and me today. The only light that really is any real light inside of you is the light that comes from the Holy Spirit of God inside you.
3. Then you had the incense altar. That is a picture of your prayer life.

Those three things in there are a picture of what your attitude of heart with God in ministry really is. It is a picture of the three central things that you have to have working together to really minister. One, you have to have the Word of God. Two, you have to have the Holy Spirit of God. And three, you have to have your prayer life where it needs to be.

Now, that priest, when he went in that second compartment from the first compartment, that is where he ministered. When you look at it, he had to do the work inside that second area there, which is a picture of the work that you are doing inside you when you minister for God. You find out that the golden candlesticks were over on this side, and the bread was over on this side. The priest, when he went in there to work, he had to do his work behind the candlestick or behind the bread. He could never get in front of it because once he got in front of it, he blocked the light, and he could not see what he was doing. When you and I do real ministry, we have to get behind the Lord, not in front of the Lord. You have to let the Holy Spirit of God be in front of you, not you being in front of Him.

So, they ministered that way. He goes in there and he goes back out to the brazen altar, which is a picture of Jesus Christ dying for you on the cross. That is where the sacrificial lamb was slain. There is a laver of water there. Remember I told you, it did not have a floor in it. It did not have a floor in it. He had to stay clean. So, every time he came out before he went back in, he had to walk over to that laver of water that had little spigots on it, and he washed his feet. He washed his feet because that old tabernacle had a dirt floor, and in his walk inside that thing, he got his feet dirty. So, every time he went in to minister, he had to wash his feet before he went back in to do the service of God. Do you know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of you and I ministering in this world, but we will pick up some dirt on our feet, our walk with God. So, you know what you do? You have to wash your feet and wash your walk every time you go in to minister.

Now, that is exactness with the Scriptures. You have the body that is the outside where the brazen altar was and where Christ was crucified and the laver in the water where you keep yourself clean. Then you have that intersection, the second section, which is a picture of your spirit where you really minister, your attitude of heart where you really minister. Then you have the third section. The third section is the Holy of Holies. That is your soul. If you know anything about the Old Testament, you know that that third section, the Holy of Holies, was sealed off from the other two. If you know anything about the Bible, you know the day you got saved, your soul got sealed unto the day of redemption, and that ark of the covenant that was behind that veil, sealed off from the other two, is a picture of Christ in you, the hope of glory, and He is sealed in you today.

That thing is such an incredible picture. When we want to get exact with the Scriptures, when we want to really get exact with the Bible, we do not want to talk about flowery things; we do not want to make general observations. We want to be exact. We want to search the Scriptures. When the Bible talks about the fact that the wise in heart will receive commandments, it is talking about your heart knowledge. It is based on your attitude of heart that goes back with those pieces. Over there in the Bible, in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, it talks about the fact that these things are the furnishings that we have inside us. It says that the man of God is "thoroughly furnished."

Now, all your new Bibles, every one of them, and I get a lot of flak because I point out differences in the Bibles. I will take the flak anytime, anyplace, anywhere, because I am going to give you a good example of why I do it, and you should thank me for it. The Bible says that a man is "thoroughly furnished unto all good works" by the Word of God. Do you know what every new Bible on the market says? It says "finished," and it takes out the word "thoroughly." The word "thoroughly" means from the inside out. The furnishings are the furnishings that are in that tabernacle that represent, when you change those words, you destroy the greatest picture in the Bible of your relationship with God in your attitude of heart. That is why I am exact with the Scriptures. I am exact with the Scriptures, and I make no apology for it. I am exact with what the Bible says. I am not going to lose those things. Now, you may choose to lose them on your own; that is your deal. You will not lose them because I did not tell you about them; that is my deal.

I will tell you something else. You have the seven golden candlesticks, a picture of the Holy Spirit of God. You have the brazen altar where the fire is burning to do the sacrifice. Then you have the altar of incense, which is a picture of your prayer life. When they had to light those fires on the altar of incense and the candlestick, they had to go to the brazen altar to get the fire off that brazen altar to light those candles and to keep that incense burning. Do you know why? I will tell you why. You will be over there in Leviticus chapter 10 that God killed some sons of Aaron because they used strange fire.

Now here it comes, folks. Here it comes. You want exact, you want to understand your relationship with God in an exact way. You want to search the Scriptures. Okay, here it is. That fire that lit the Holy Spirit of God and that fire that lit that prayer life altar of incense had to come off the fire from the brazen altar. When Aaron's boys brought it from someplace else, there was strange fire. God killed them. Do you know why? Because it is a picture of you coming to do God's service, coming to do God's work, and the fire that you have in you does not go back to

what Jesus Christ did for you on Calvary's cross, that brazen altar. I am going to tell you something, like it or not, I am going to tell you something. You want exact? Here is exact. You can serve God all you want. You can do everything you want. You can win a hundred million souls to Christ. You can do everything you want to do in any church, any place, and think you are doing a great job. But I want to tell you something: if the motivation of what you are doing does not go back to the cross of Calvary and your fire starts with that brazen altar's fire, you are wasting your time. You are wasting your time.

When the Bible talks about the fact that the wise in heart will receive commandments, and it is talking about a heart knowledge instead of a head knowledge, I just gave you the biblical definition of what attitude of heart, where it comes from. I showed you that tabernacle, body, soul, and spirit. In the Bible, it will always be about man's heart.

Proverbs 3:1

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 4:4

He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words, keep my commandments, and live.

Proverbs 15:28

The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.

In other words, you do the right thing with your heart in the book, and God will give you the word out of your mouth that you need to say. It is just that simple.

Proverbs 16:23

The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

Brother, if you have anything going good with God, I will tell you something: it starts in your heart, not in your head. It starts with everything in your heart going back to the day that He died on Calvary's cross on that brazen altar, and He paid your price. The Bible says in Romans 10:9-10:

Romans 10:9-10

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

V. The Prating Fool Shall Fall

Now look at the last part of Proverbs 10:8: "but a prating fool shall fall." Let us get exact about this for a minute here. The word "prating" simply means you talk a lot and never say anything. No wisdom to it. No meat to it. A good example of this is found in Job 38:2, where God asks the question, "Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" Somebody is saying something, but not really saying anything.

It talks about in 2 Peter 2:18 that people get out there and they seduce people. "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lust of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error." That is somebody who is talking but not saying anything of any substance or any value. This is modern-day science. This is modern-day philosophy. This is modern-day preachers and modern-day religions. We hear a lot of fancy words that do not mean anything.

I hear people all the time get up and talk about sharing spiritual values. "We are going to reconstruct some family values." "We are all going to be taught about our sexual orientation." "We all want to be intolerant of alternative lifestyles." "We need to be effective channels." "We need to be the challenge of status searching." "We need to learn to live with ourselves." Oh God, what a thought. I heard a guy on the radio today talking about what we need is "friend therapy." That is the world. The biggest example of this is politics. They say all kinds of stuff and mean nothing. "You can keep your doctor if you want." How did it work for you? Scientific double talk, circular reasoning, flowing rhetoric. "God is love." "The spark of God in every man." "God's everybody's father." And just keep talking when there is nothing left to say. The world is full of it in more ways than one, if you got my point.

Now the Bible says he will fall. A prating fool shall fall, and he falls because it is the Word of God that holds us up. It is the Word of God that keeps you and me from falling, and a fool does not have that. He has nothing to hold on to.

Psalms 119:117

Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

It is the Word of God. In death, He holds me up.

Psalms 139:1-10

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.

Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

It will hold you up. It is true in death. It is true in life. I am told in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

When you go to Worlds of Fun, you ride that 6,000-foot roller coaster they have out there, the Mamba or whatever it is called, the Ambushing Zingers or whatever it is. I have been on that sucker a couple of times. That is my story, man. I do not need to be on it anymore. Everybody wants to have the world's highest roller coaster. I will give you a little advice. You ride that sucker. It seems real nice out of the gate when you click, click, click, click going up that hill. But boy, you get to the top, man, you look down, and boy, you have a butt out. You have about a 4G drop as you move into that thing, and right in front of you, my advice to you is a steel bar. You hang on to that bar. When you start going down, it helps if you push down on it because then you are pushing the blood back up inside you, and you push on it, and then when you start zinging back and forth, throwing it left and right, then you hang on to it. Some of you idiots are up there putting your hands up, and you go down there; you are out of your mind. You are a crazy fool. Not me, boy, I am hanging on to that bar for dear life.

I am telling you, and I want to tell you something else in life. Life is an absolute roller coaster. I mean, it is going to drop you to the bottom, and your stomach is going to fall out. It is going to take you up, and you are going to be serenely thinking, "Wow, what a nice view!" And then the whole bottom is going to drop out, and you are going to go down and plunge down on that thing just like life, and then it is going to knock you left. It is going to knock you right, and the bottom line is this: in life, just like a roller coaster, you need something to hold on to, and an unsaved man does not have that. An unsaved man in this world has absolutely nothing to hold on to, so what? He falls. He falls.

VI. The Sure Things of God

Look at Proverbs 10:9: "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known." Now, this is a great principle. "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely." It did not say "walk with surely"; it said "walketh surely." Again, this is what we have as Christians that an unsaved man can never have, and that is simply to be sure of things in his life. I do not know if you can appreciate that. I think most of God's people, probably in the sickening Christianity we live in, never even think about this. They are too busy wanting to get all they can get and want what they want and doing all they want to do, but they do not even think about the

fact that the things that you and I have that the world does not have, that we are absolutely sure of. I mean, do you know how much the world would pay for that if you could sell it?

That is why these preachers get on the TV and get these crowds of 35,000 people and lie through their teeth to them about, "If you have this disease and you have that, you just hang on and you keep in there, and God will make it okay." And, "If you have this addiction, don't give up, and God will just take it away someday." They make millions and millions and millions of dollars off of selling hope to people when it is a false hope. The truth of the whole matter is the bottom line is right in front of them in a Bible, but they are blinded to it.

I am going to take just a second here, and I am going to, you are all Christians, I suspect, probably this morning. Let me be exact with you, and I want to show you eight things that if you are saved this morning, you can be absolutely sure of. You can write these down, brother. This will make another great study like the one we have, "The Seven Things That Change the Day You Got Saved." This is a great one. This could be Discipleship Three or Four. Incredible study. The eight things that God gave you the day you got saved that you can be absolutely sure of that the world cannot be sure of.

Now, the first thing I have here that the world does not have that I am sure of is found in Isaiah 28:16.

4. A Sure Foundation Isaiah 28:16

Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Do you know the first thing you got when you got saved? You got a sure foundation. You got a foundation that is sure that the rest of your life you now can build on because you have a sure foundation, and it is not money, it is not riches, it is not possessions, it is not all the things that the world thinks are it wants to build on. It is the foundation that you laid. 1 Corinthians chapter 3 says that "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The day you got saved, you laid a sure foundation in your life, and you ought to be building on that today if you are saved.

When I look at you, I do not look at you as people, I mean, I do, but I do not look at you like most pastors look at their people. I know the Bible says that when you got saved, God laid a foundation in your life, and I know you are God's temple, and I know that you have to build that temple. God gave them a temple back there in the Old Testament. After the captivity, when they go back in Ezra and Nehemiah, everybody was excited to build the temple, and they started building the temple, but after 14 years, they quit building it. They got complacent. They started taking the things that God gave them to build God's temple and started building their own homes. That is when God gave them the prophet Haggai. Haggai is one of the minor prophets in your Bible, and he comes on the scene, and he cleans their clock about why you have stopped building God's temple when God gave you a mandate to build that temple.

When I look across this room or I look at Christians all across wherever I see them, I do not see them just as people; I see them as building programs. I see them as people that if you are truly saved, you laid a foundation in your life with a mandate to build, and all of you here that are

truly saved are nothing more than a building program in various stages of completion. Some of you just got saved; you just laid a foundation. Some of you got the walls up. Some of you are framing in the windows. Some of you got the roof on, and you are putting up the fixtures in there, and you are moving right along. And some of you started to put the blocks on the foundation, you got halfway up, and then you quit. That is how it works. Now, excuse me, but that is exact. That is exact.

You know the story in Matthew 7:24-27. One man built his house upon a rock; the other man built his house upon the sand. When the winds came and the storms came and the wind howled and the great floods came, the one who built his house on the sand got destroyed, and the one that built his house on the rock persevered. When you build your body and your life on the rock of God, a sure foundation, I do not care what this world throws at you, you will make it through. You will make it through. You will make it through.

5. Sure Mercies

Then, because of my sure foundation in Christ Jesus, I have what Isaiah 55:3 says: Isaiah 55:3

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. Do you know what that is? The sure mercies of David in the Old Testament are a picture of your eternal security in the New Testament. David committed two great sins: adultery and murder, for which under the law, there was no sacrifice that he could bring. The only thing that could happen was David had to die for not one but for both of them, but he would have died if he had just done one or the other. That is all there is; there is no sacrifice for it. God came down because of David's relationship with Him in that book. God came down and created a dispensation in the Old Testament of a New Testament dispensation and gave him the sure mercies that David would not die.

Do you know what that is a picture of? That is a picture today you got saved. You and I deserve to be in hell this morning if you have not figured that out yet. You and I deserve to be screaming our lungs out in a lake of fire. All the things that we did before we got saved, all the things that we got part of, and all the things that we did to work God and against God, and all those things. God had every right, a holy God had every right, to put me in hell and to put you in hell. But do you know what He did? He not only saved me, but then He gave me the sure mercies of God. He gave me my salvation, my eternal security, that God would never take what He gave me back. I got a sure foundation, and I got the sure mercies of David. Oh man, a Charismatic could never get that in 10 million years because he does not have a Bible; he just twitches a lot. For you and for me as a sinner, there was nothing we could do. No works could cut it; nothing our good life could not do it. All the money we would get, we could go to church till the cows come home. We were sentenced to a fiery eternal damnation in hell, but the One who made a sure foundation also made a sure mercy. We got it today if you are saved.

6. A Sure Home

Now the third one. Then because of my relationship with Christ and all that God has given me, I can have and be sure of my home and my children. Look at Isaiah 32:17-

18. Isaiah 32:17-18

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places; You see, once you get the sure foundation, once you get these things in your understanding about the sure mercies of David, do you know the next thing God gives you? He gives your family a sure dwelling, the absolute guarantee that your home will stay the course of this old world. I am telling you, keeping the heritage of God alive from one generation to the next. Do you know what the key is? The key is in verse 17: the work of righteousness. Families ministering together, kids seeing mom and dad, dad sitting down at the table opening up the Bible, leading the way, showing an example for his children and for his wife and for his kids, and everybody following the lead, and families ministering together and doing the work of righteousness.

People say this all the time to me, and I understand it. They say, "You know, I do not know if I would bring children into the world today as bad as it is and as terrible as it is. I do not know if I would do that." And I understand where you are coming from; I get it. But now you get it. The wickedness today is no different than the wickedness of the Dark Ages. You think it is tough today? How about if you even owned the Bible you have in your lap, it was a capital offense, and they would take your kids from you and feed them to the pigs, put your eyes out with hot branding irons, cut your fingers off, cut your tongue out, put your head in a cage full of rats and poisonous snakes? You do not have to look forward to that. We think, "Oh, I do not know if I want to raise my kids in this." Oh, it was okay for them to raise them when their kids were caught over screaming for their mom and their daddy when they were thrown into a live vat of wild, hungry pigs who ripped them apart and ate them while they are crying for mommy and daddy, and all that mommy and daddy has to do is just deny Jesus Christ and accept the Pope, and those little kids would be saved, and they did not. You have problems, do you? I will tell you what, my friend, the wickedness today is no different than the wickedness all down through history. The promises of that book for your family are as true today in our time as it was in their time. The problem is not the times are more wicked; the times that God's people are more wicked, that is the problem. The key is the work of righteousness in our times. If there is absolutely any reason for a couple not to have children, this is my own personal opinion, you can take it or leave it, but if there is any reason that is legitimate for a couple today not bringing children into the world, it is because you are going to be a lousy parent, lose your kids to the world, let them die and go to hell. That is my own personal opinion, publicly expressed. He says, "I will give you sure dwellings." Did He mean what He said, or is He just saying it? He said, "I will give you sure dwellings if you do the work of righteousness as a family." You say, "Well, we did not turn out that way." You better look and find out where the problem was then because it is not in the verse.

7. A Sure Calling

Fourth thing. So, I get all that down, and I go to work for God, the work of righteousness, and then I hear from the preacher, and I read, and I hear from everybody else that God has a plan for my life. What an awesome deal! What an awesome responsibility!

What an offered privilege that God, the Creator of the universe, is interested in me, a mortal microbe idiot, to want to do something with me and yet to tell me and let me know for sure what He wants me to do. I tell people all the time, I am kidding you, all my life I have been young Christians all the time, "Well, I just do not know what God wants me to do." "Well, I feel sorry for you." "Well, I just do not know what God wants. I am so confused what God. I am finding on my search for God. I am looking for this, and I am looking for that." Do you know what? I will tell you something: you do not have to search for God; you will find Him. You just have to be open when He finds you. My Bible says in 2 Peter 1:10:2 Peter 1:10

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. He says, "make your calling and election sure." See, your calling is a sure thing with God. Now, my election is my salvation, not in the sense of predestination or Calvinism, but in the sense of Ephesians chapter 1 and 1 Thessalonians 1:4. I am elected to be, I am elected after I am saved, not before I am saved, not to be saved, but after I am saved. But my calling is what God has called me to do after I am saved. Two things keep you from falling in the passage: one, make your election sure, make sure you are saved; and two, make sure your calling sure. You better be about the work of righteousness, getting saved, and then doing something with it. I am telling you, so many of God's people worry and wonder, "What does God want me to do?" Young Christians all the time, good guys, good kids, good people, "I do not know what God wants." They worry about it. Hey, the Bible says your calling is a sure thing, but you have got to be diligent in all you do with Him.

What God wants you and me to do, number one, is He wants you and me to be more like Him every day of our life, and yet be diligent about it. Quit worrying about what God wants you to do and start being diligent and worrying about what God wants you to be, and you will never fall because you will be doing exactly what God called you to do. Let Him reproduce Himself in you first, and then allow Him to reproduce you in other people. If you do not have that going for you, you are not sure of anything.

8. The Sure Judgment for the Unsaved