

Proverbs 10:18-22

Sunday 12/21/2014

We are learning the book of Proverbs on Sunday morning, and we have been coming through it pretty much verse by verse. There is so much here, and we have been trying to lay out all the principles from a practical standpoint. A lot of it goes along with what many of you are learning and helping me in ministry with people. It is always an asset. Almost all of you, to some degree, are involved with people at some level. This is a real help to you to be able to put some of the practical applications to the very work that you are doing.

Last week, we talked about laying up knowledge. We discussed how to define that and what it means. We also talked about a person who will not do that and how they just keep going from one issue to another—people who simply will not learn from their mistakes. I have said it many, many times: I never fault a person for making mistakes, no matter on what level they are, because we all make mistakes and we all do stupid things in life. But what I look for is a person that learns from their mistakes and grows through them, instead of just trying to go around them. That is really the key. So, we talked about how a person who will not lay up knowledge just keeps going from one issue to another, from one situation to another.

The second thing we looked at was the concept of a strong city. A picture in the Bible is the walls that they had around the cities. For us in our church here, it represents that the strength of our church is only found in the Bible doctrine that we surround ourselves with. We basically build our own wall of protection based on the principles and always staying with the Bible and staying within the confines of the Scripture. That was a great concept.

The third thing that we looked at is we saw a man who was destroyed by his own poverty. In the case that we were looking at, his spiritual poverty. We saw how a man who chooses bad choices actually winds up in poverty spiritually by his own choosing and therefore suffers the consequences of that.

The fourth thing that we looked at, we saw the great principle that a righteous labor for the Lord tendeth to life. That was probably one of the greatest concepts that we talked about last week. There is a great example where you hear me talk about long term and short term. When you have a labor of righteousness, you do something for the Lord. Most times we think of it in a short term. We think of it as, "I am going to do this for this person. I am going to invite this person to New Year's Eve." That person comes to New Year's Eve, they say, "Wow, I like this group of people." So they come to church and then they get saved, and pretty soon, boom, they are here. That is the short term, and we have all seen that.

But a labor of righteousness is also a long-term concept. Many times, we forget that or we do not see that. Many of you, bless your hearts, you are still young enough that you have not lived long enough to see someone come to pass. About a month ago, it was the first of November, I went up to Monmouth, Illinois, to preach up there, kind of a revival at Greg McClintock's church. I took the guys up with me, the old "pastor's boys," and we all had a great time up there. This is a classic example of what I am talking about because many of you probably wondered how in the world I ever got connected with Monmouth, Illinois.

It was over 25 years ago. I got a letter from some people who had gotten some of my tapes. This was long before they had websites. They had gotten some of my tapes, and they were in a church up there that was really a dead church, and it really needed a revival. They wrote me a letter asking me if I would come up there and preach a revival. Well, I did not know anybody up there from Monmouth, Illinois, from anybody on the backside of the moon. The pastor originally called me, and I told him I had a lot going on right then, and I did not know that that was a good investment for me to go. So, initially, I told the guy that I could not come. I had some other things that I legitimately had to do.

About three days later, I got a letter from a lady up there, and she just really got a hold of my heart about what their church really needed. I got so convicted about it that I called the pastor back up and I said, "I will come. I am going to go ahead and come. I changed my mind. I will come if you still want me." Well, I went up there. We probably had one of the greatest revivals that I have ever had in my life. It was right in the middle of a snowstorm that just decimated the town and all of that area of Illinois. But it did not stop the people from coming out. We packed that place out every night. It was a great, great, great revival and a great thing that God did up there.

My point is this: when I went up there this last time in Monmouth in November, so many people came that were part of that original deal. Now, I have got to tell you this: the church itself that I went to is still as dead as a doornail. That never did anything with anything that I did. It is still an old American Baptist church. That pastor is probably dead. Some other dingbats are in there now that do not know any more about the Bible than the other guy did. It stayed right where it was at. But out of that series of meetings over the last 25, 26 years, four churches got started out of that church, out of that revival meeting. There are four young men that were called to pastor, and one young man that is a missionary. There is the long term of it, you see. There is the long term that nothing happened immediately. Nothing happened at that particular set of meetings that turned that church around or really turned anybody around overnight. But through the process of God using it and people that God continued to put in my path and began to get into the material and began to grow, it all came down. That shows you that a righteous labor for the Lord tendeth to life. It can be in a short term or it can be in a long term.

I. The Power of the Tongue

Now today we will get into Proverbs 10:19-22. We see this passage dealing with what comes out of our mouths. Today, we are going to focus on this passage that deals with our tongue. Again, we see the context of a wise man and how he speaks, and a fool and what comes out of his mouth. Basically, today we are going to talk about the power of the tongue.

He says in Proverbs 10:18-22:

Proverbs 10:18

He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.

Proverbs 10:19

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Proverbs 10:20

The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.

Proverbs 10:21

The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Now, Father, help us today as we come to Your Word. Lord, these are good people today, and they have come here to get something out of the Word of God. I do not know of a better practical book anywhere in all the Bible than the book of Proverbs. Help these people get what they need today. Help me to always be there for them. Help me to always be there to give them what they need, when they need it, to always make them the priority of this church, that they can always have whatever they need to have, that they might be everything to You and have that righteous ministry and that righteous life of serving You. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, amen.

Here again, we are going to see the contrast as we enter into Proverbs now, of a positive and a negative, sometimes a negative and a positive. But you are going to begin to see the connection here between what is in our heart and what will automatically come out of our mouth.

Along with this text today, I want to show you the New Testament counterpart. We are going to start doing this in Proverbs so you can make the correlation between the two as they come up. I want to show you the New Testament passage that goes right along with Proverbs chapter 10 and where we are at today. It is very important for us to see this one too so we can get a context of Proverbs 10:18-22 by our New Testament passage. So, I want you now to turn over to the book of James, and I want you to come to James chapter 3. We are going to read it.

James 3:1-13

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

II. Understanding the Tongue's Power from James

Now that is a great verse, and it goes right along with where we are at today. I want to break this passage in James down first, real quickly, so that we can better understand when we get into it. I am going to do this, and you may want to put this in your Bible by James, because it will help you if you are ever going to teach on it or whatever. But this is a great passage, which really opens up Proverbs chapter 10.

The first thing I want to draw your attention to is in James 3:3-4. It talks about the bridle of a horse, which is also known as a bit, and a ship's rudder, which is also known as a helm. What it says in James 3:3-4 is that a horse is a huge animal; it can weigh six, seven hundred pounds. A bit is no longer than about three or four, five inches long. You put it into the space between the horse's teeth. When you have reins on it, that big horse is guided by which way you pull on the reins, because it pulls into his teeth and gets his attention and gets the direction. An aircraft carrier can be five football fields long, but it is turned and it moves in directions by something that is one-eighth or one-tenth of a fragment of the size of the whole ship, which we know is a rudder. What it is saying here basically is this: that the tongue is just like that. Just like the bit in a horse will direct that horse which way it goes, and the rudder or a helm of a ship will direct that ship in what direction it goes, your tongue, which is a little member inside your big mouth, will always push the right direction whichever way it wants you to go. That is a very key thing to understand.

The next thing is in James 3:5-6. Now we see the destructive power of what we say. It is like in James 3:5-6, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity." It is like a fire that kindles. Of course, a fire will burn and destroy everything that is around it by what you say or

what you do. We are going to get into all this here in a little bit. I am just kind of laying the context.

James 3:7 talks about how a man can tame a lion, he can tame a bear, he can tame all kinds of wild animals. But when you get into James 3:8, only God can tame the tongue. The Bible talks about in Romans chapter 5 that our throat is an open sepulchre. The Bible talks about in Romans 3:13 that the tongue is of deceit and the poison of asps that goes under our lips. It shows us the destructive power of what we say and what comes out of our mouth, which is guided by our tongue.

In James 3:9-10, it says:

James 3:9

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

James 3:10

Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Now, those are great two verses. You know what it says? You see this all the time: God's people who bless God out of one side of their mouth and will rip you up out of the other side of their mouth. You see it all the time. These things are probably the most prevalent things you are going to deal with when you get into Christianity, so you need to understand it.

James 3:11-12. He comes on down through here and he says, "Note the fountain." We covered that fountain back in Proverbs 10:11, the well of life, the water of life. How that out of the belly, out of his belly come living waters, and what comes out of our mouth needs to be the things of the Word of God. What he is saying here is that you do not find a fountain that will give you bitter water and sweet water at the same time. You do not find a fig tree that will give you olives at the same time. You do not find a vine tree that will give you figs. You do not get salt water and fresh water out of the same ocean. Simply what he is saying is this: as Christians, people should expect something from us, and that is what they should get. They should get out of us what Christians are supposed to put out. When it does not, it becomes a confusing thing, and it becomes a problem, and then of course it leads to other areas that you can know where it goes from there.

III. Masked Hatred and Slander

Now, with that introduction out of James, we are going to be in a better position now to get the most out of our passage. So let us go back to Proverbs 10 and just pick it up in verse 18.

Proverbs 10:18

He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.

Now there are two things here I want us to see, and it is very important to see. The Bible says in Proverbs 29:5 that a man that flattereth his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet. Now that is not always true, but it can be true in many cases because there are people out there in life, and there are all too many of them, who will mask their hatred for you by lying lips. They will tell you one thing, but only to hide their true feelings. We have all had people in our life that were nice to our face, but would stab you in the back.

In most cases, it is always a case of envy—somebody that is jealous of you or something that you have. They are nice to your face, but really resent you because, as I said, you may have something they want. They may envy what you have and where you live or the job that you have or the car you drive in a worldly sense. I have seen it in Christianity where they do it with people who maybe know the Bible pretty well or are involved in ministry and they are not. You see it all the time. Many times it is because they want to be like you, and they cannot be like you because they are not willing to do what you did to get to be like you. So they envy you and are jealous of you and wind up hating you. Your success, as they perceive it, shows them their failure.

Now, you see this, and I do not take this the wrong way because I am going to spread it out here all across the way, but you see this a lot with women on other, with other women. It is very common. There are some women who, if they go to a party and another woman has the same dress on that they have, they will leave. Well, I do not know what that is. I mean, if you all showed up dressed like me, I would think you were a smart dresser. That is how I would look at it, you see. But women do not look at it that way. Somebody gets the same dress that they got on at the same party or they go to church or something like that, they will probably leave the church, never come back again. But that is just the way it is. You will find that many times, if a woman is very pretty and she is very popular, and another woman maybe, and could be just as pretty, but in her mind she thinks she is not, then she starts feeling that, and she starts resenting that, and she says, "Why do not people tell me I am beautiful? Why do not people, I am not popular with people?" They will get jealous of that. In time, they are nice to your face, and they will smile and they will say all kinds of stuff, but they will tear you down behind your back. It is always stupid stuff, but that is what it is.

Most of you have kids that are coming into the teenage years. I will tell you something you have got to watch. Because we already know the Bible says there are people that will tell us one thing out of one side of their mouth and something else out, and your kids will do that. Your kids will come to church and they will remember all their Bible verses, they will do everything they want to do, and that will lull you into thinking that, "Boy, I have got the most perfect kid in the world." Let me tell you something, parents, there are no perfect kids in the world. You will catch them being nice here, but when they get back in school or in their Sunday school class or with their little girlfriends, and they do not like it, they do not like this, they can be caught into that just like anybody else. So you have to watch those things.

I have seen this concept mostly among preachers. Pastors can be like a bunch of little schoolgirls. They can be like a bunch of little sixth graders. I have not been to what they call a fellowship meeting for probably 40 years. I will never care about ever going to one again. We used to be part, years and years and years ago, the church that I was associated with was part of the Baptist

Bible Fellowship in Springfield, Missouri. Every year, they have what they call fellowship week at graduation in May. All the preachers who send their kids go down there, and it is a big fellowship week, and all the pastors go down and they preach. They have guys preaching down there every night, the guys who were the forefront of the fellowship at that particular time. Everybody sits down there, everybody sees their old friends, everybody goes out to eat, everybody goes to the place, places packed up. It is nothing more than a gossip session. It is nothing more than catching up on the latest dirt on this guy's church. Everybody, the guys up there preaching, every pastor down there is ticked off because he thinks he should be up there preaching. It is nothing but a big game.

I only went down, when I did go down, is because the church I was with paid my way, and I went to a movie. I did not even go to those places. I went out to eat, and that is where I saw Rocky 1. That fight in there was much better than the fight going on at the Baptist Bible Fellowship, I want to tell you. But I have seen it all my life. All this comes from an insecurity with pastors. They are not secure with who they are. They are not secure with other pastors, with other churches. I have seen preachers resent other preachers and other churches because they had a very successful ministry, and the guy, the pastor, could not get anything going or keep it going. So to elevate themselves and make themselves feel like they are really special, they go around all the time tearing down somebody else.

I will never forget, a number of years ago, before most of you were born, they were having the presidency of Baptist Bible Fellowship. One guy who was right up the street from Blue Ridge here, used to be the Blue Ridge Baptist Temple, his name was Parker Daly. Parker Daly was a great preacher. I liked Parker Daly. He was a no-nonsense guy. He was talking about old school. He was so old school, he still wore knickers. I mean, this guy was old school of old school. He could preach the paint off the wall, man. He was a great preacher. He wanted to run for the fellowship. So what you do when you run for president of the fellowship is you call all your buddies because they vote you in. So he calls all of his friends that were supposedly his friends and asking them to vote for him. All of them were saying, "We are going to vote for you, Parker. We are going to this. Yeah, you are the guy for the job." At the same time, they all were talking about him behind his back, did not want him, had somebody else they were going to put in, but they played that game. That is the way it works. That is the way it works. That is why there is no politics in this church. There never has been, there never will be. What you see is what you get. I could care less who has got what. I am happy for him. If you have a McDonald's in yours, I do envy that, because Big Macs are really the way to go. But other than that, that is where my envy stops. I do not really care. You do not have a gym. We do not have a gym. We do not have one. That is fine. We can run the stairs if you want. We have a long hallway back there you can trot down there. We have one, you just cannot see it. Those things do not bother me. What we have, honestly, what we have, if you have it, that is great. But if you do not have it, we have your beat. You know what we have? We have the book, brother. That is all we need. I do not need a gym. You get in this book, it will give you all the exercise you need. That is how I look at it.

Now the second thing he says here, the last part of that verse, "he that uttereth a slander is a fool." Here we have a person who makes no attempt to mask their ungodly ways. The first guy,

he masked it. He said, "Oh, I love you, brother," and then he nails you. But these kind of people, this fool, they make no pretense about the fact of their ungodly ways. These kind of people operate 24,000 times a day in their destructive work. You will remember that we covered this in Proverbs 6:16, the seven things that God hated, or the six things that God hated, and the seventh was an abomination, which was the sowing discord among the brethren. That is the favorite sin of God's power. This will be deliberately and maliciously lying or misconstruing the facts and the truth about somebody or something. This goes on in every office that you work in. If you work at GM, you will find it there. Some of you work at Ford, you know it is there. It is everywhere you go. It is in churches too. Everywhere you go, you are going to find it. It is just the way that it is.

These kind of people will always hang out together. I have seen whole churches where the women ran the church, and it was like, oh, you talk about a cesspool. It was like a commode that long over needed time to be flushed. I mean, it was absolutely incredible. It was all right there. No matter what happened, everybody ganged together and all had their say in it. People like these in the Bible, in Proverbs, are called talebearers. Proverbs has much to say about them. There are thousands of jokes about them. They only knew the jokes that preachers among preachers. I have heard them all over the years. I remember one time a pastor, two pastors were talking years ago, and they had a woman who was in a church that was a gossip above all gossipers. She was the mother of all gossipers. One pastor would tell another pastor that he was sitting on a platform, and a visiting preacher was preaching, and the associate pastor was sitting next to him. This lady came down in the invitation, and she looked up and she said to the pastor, "Pastor, I know I have got a problem with gossip, and I am going to lay out tonight, I am laying my tongue on the altar of God." So she looked over and says, "I think we are going to need a bigger altar." They go on and on and on. I mean, it is incredible. It is incredible. We call them vacuum cleaner Christians. They suck up every piece of dirt everywhere that there is, except they put it back out again. These kind of people, I mean, the Bible is filled with talking about them.

Proverbs 11:13

A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

You see, somebody spiritual will pray about it. They will realize that they have an obligation if they hear something that that is a brother or a sister or a lost person. Instead of spreading it around and making it worse, you pray about it, you conceal the matter.

Proverbs 18:8

The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

I always liked that verse because I do not know if you know it or not, but in combat, the worst wound you get is a belly wound. The worst wound you can get in life is slander. It is like going up to the Empire State Building, taking 10,000 goose feathers, throwing them up in the air, and then trying to get them all back. That is what slander, that is what gossip does. It is why it is a terrible wound.

Proverbs 20:19

He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

Now there is a great verse that says, if you want to do what is right, you stay away from them. Do not meddle with them, do not get in with them. Do not listen to what they say.

Proverbs 26:20-22

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross. He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him.

Now there is a great verse that talks about the fact that these people are like dead wood. When there is no wood, there is no fire. Mark it in your Bible. That goes back to 1 Corinthians 3:12, at the judgment seat of Christ, where a person who is not fruitful and does not do what is right, they build on the foundation wood, hay, and stubble. That wood here is adding onto the fire of keeping the thing going.

Proverbs 26:24 says, "A talebearer will dissemble with the lips." Disassemble you and your character, slander through deceit. The Bible says that a contentious man can do a strife. Now there is a great verse here that says that every preacher ought to have when he preaches. It is in Proverbs 26:20, it says, "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out." Your preaching, you know what it ought to be designed to do? Clear out the dead wood. Because when there is no net and there is no dead wood, you have nothing to burn. When there is nothing to burn, the strife ceases. Now it is a great verse if you ever pastor or you ever preach. Your preaching ought to be designed, you do not beat on it all the time, but it ought to be designed in its interior that it gets rid of the dead wood. Because dead wood starts to burn and causes contention that you have problems. Proverbs is such a practical book.

IV. The Wisdom of Refraining Lips

Look at Proverbs 10:19.

Proverbs 10:19

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Now here is the teaching, and this is a great practical teaching. A man that is a fool will never know when to shut up. Now ladies, I do not want anybody elbowing their husband during this. He will not know when to hold his tongue. Ecclesiastes 5:3 says, "A fool's voice is known by the multitude of words." You just keep talking. You have all met people, I have got several in mind right now, fortunately nobody in our church, but we have all got people in our life and that we have all met that they are an expert on everything. Somebody starts to talk about something and

they jump right in. Nobody asks them. They are an expert. "Well, I have done this, I can do this, well, I have done that. I work for the CIA, I work for the FBI, I work for this, I work for the Army, I work for this, I did this, I did that."

I had a guy one time here that thought he was a great cook. No matter what you would say about food, he could cook better. Now I am going to tell you something. I have got four or five guys in this church that I would put any woman and your cooking up against any type, and I love you ladies, but I have got some cookers. But he was not one of them. But anytime you talk about food, I remember one time we always cook the ribs at Memorial Day, and I always have guys come out and help me. I was dreading it, dreading it. I had to do it because I needed help. But I got up there and I said, "If you would like to come help me," oh, he caught me before I got back. His specialty was ribs. He was going to show me how the right way to do it. He had not been to one of our, he had not tasted one of my ribs, he had not been to any of our barbecues, and yet he had the expertise that he made the best ribs and was under the assumption that they were better than mine. Now they might be better than yours, but when you say they are better than mine, we are going to fight it out. I was sweating it. I did not want them to leave the church over ribs, but I did not want them to come cook either. Because I knew what was going to happen. He is not going to get a spatula right between the teeth. My guys know what we are doing. We have done it for so many years, we have got it down to a science. I do not need some expert telling us how to cook ribs. You have had my ribs, are they good ribs? Yeah. I did not ask you that again, I am offended at this point. I hope you all get cold when you are stocking for Christmas.

This guy was such an egotist. He told me that he was in the army, which he probably was, and he was in basic training. In basic training, they came down and pulled him out of basic to go cook for the president of the United States. Nice, nice, nice. The army could never get anything right like that. You be the best cook in the army, you know where you wind up? You wind up being a clerk. You be the best typer and clerk in the army, you wind up being a cook. But the idea that they are going to come down in basic and rip this guy out and take him for the president that cooked for him. I tasted his cooking one time. I wish he would cook for Obama. Have you all met people like that? Good, good. I mean, you want to talk guns. They know everything there is about guns. You want to talk fishing. They already knew there was no about fishing. You talk about hunting. They already knew there was no about hunting. Drives me nuts. You run into women the same way. You run into women that, you know, somebody says, "I do not know how many times somebody has been up and said, 'I need,' and boy, somebody was damn good." "I have done that, I have done that, I have done that a lot. I know how to do that. I have done it all the time. I have done it a thousand times. Everybody does it." We do not know when to shut up.

1 Timothy 5:11-13

But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;

Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.

And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

You see, once you see what the problem is, because people who are like this never do anything at all in the ministry. You know why? Because they are idle. They are always invested in the wrong things.

Now I will tell you something else. I picked on the guys for a minute and picked on the gals, but I will tell you, there is no more guilty of this than preachers. Preachers have a tendency to keep talking when there is nothing left to say. They will go on and they will go on and they will go on and they will go on. I have been in some sermons when a guy went for 45 minutes or an hour, and I hope he knew what he was talking about because I sure did not. Had no clue. I went one time to a guy who did a funeral, and the guy is doing a funeral, and he was chewing gum all the way through his sermon on the funeral. Now I am a gum chewer. I think gum chewing is great, but not when you are doing a funeral. I mean, you get stuck in it, Keith, and you try to, and it, in a funeral anyhow, any time. But you know, you are making a serious point and somebody has died, and you are trying to give comfort, and all they can see is the gum squishing out of the side of your mouth. It is stupid, but that is the way people are. They just do dumb things. The more you keep talking, the more you reveal who you really are and what you do not know because you just keep talking foolishly.

Proverbs 18:13

He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

That is speaking to an issue before you have all the facts. We are famous for that. Let me tell you something. That one will get you killed, brother, because there are two sides to every story. You just take the side you want to take because you do not like the person that the story is being told about. You are no better than a person that is telling it.

Now look at the second part of Proverbs 10:19: "but he that refraineth his lips is wise."

Proverbs 13:23

A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

Proverbs 21:23

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 29:11

A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Like a guy said, "Why do not you teach him all the Bible?" You know, that will take you about 10 minutes. Then what are you going to do with the rest of the time?

You see this all the time in the movies. Remember Kung Fu, the guy that was the Kung Fu guy? When the martial arts were really big, and it is all Oriental guys, and Oriental guys are supposed to really be smart. You ever notice they never said anything? They did not get into conversation. They just stood there like this while everybody else talked. Only time they did anything when they kicked your nose through the back of your head. But they never talked. The only thing you

ever heard was "little grasshopper." That is all you got out of the guy. Because symbolically, that is what wisdom is. Wisdom is not talking all the time. Could you imagine a Kung Fu guy, and he does not need to talk. He can wow everything he needs to do. He does not need to say anything. He does not need to talk. His actions will speak louder than his words. But a fool, he just goes on and on. Could you imagine a Kung Fu guy? Nobody would think he could do anything. It is that silence thing, man, you watch out for.

Ecclesiastes 9:16-18

Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.

Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

There it is. The art of learning to speak through silence. Wisdom is better than weapons of war. But one sinner destroyeth much good. Now, you ought to not be able to always talk it, but when you do speak, and there is time to speak, then you need to say something. You need to have substance to it. You certainly need to know what you are talking about. Let the biblical principles form your speech.

2 Timothy 1:13 talks about us having sound words. Titus 2:8 talks about those sound words forming sound speech. That comes from 1 Timothy 1:10, you and I having sound doctrine. In Proverbs 3:21 says that that will produce a sound wisdom. That is how you speak. The last part of that verse says, "one sinner destroyeth much good." It only takes one Christian with a wicked gossiping, slandering tongue to destroy much of the work that God gets done. But what a great principle in Proverbs 9:18 there in the first part where it says, "wisdom is better than weapons of war." Because wisdom will tell you what battles to avoid. Wisdom will tell you when to speak and when not to speak. Wisdom will tell you when to shut up.

There have been times that I have been preaching and I had things where I wanted to say more, and just as sure as I am standing there, God said, "That is it, shut off, you are done." You listen to that, and you are done. There have been times that I had something I wanted to say and was not going to say it, and God spoke to me just like I am standing here speaking to you where He said, "Nope, put it all out, give them everything I told you to give them. Now is the time to do it." But you have got to listen to what the Holy Spirit of God is doing. What a great principle that is. Wisdom is better than weapons of war. Learn how to use the weapon of wisdom. Learn how to pick your battles of what you get into. You do not just wade into every fight out there because it is a right fight. You have got to be able to understand there is discretion you have to use. I call it being smarter than the problem. That just comes with wisdom, and that comes with age and time, if you stay in the Bible.

V. The Tongue of the Just and the Heart of the Wicked

Now look at Proverbs 10:20.

Proverbs 10:20

The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.

It says the tongue of the just is choice silver. Now this is a great principle of what a Christian should be and what he should talk about and what should come out of our mouths because silver in the Bible will always be connected to two things in the Bible, if you want to use the Bible to define them.

The first one will be redemption. You will find it in Zechariah 11:13. You will find that in Exodus 21:32. Then of course the famous passage in Matthew 27:3 where Christ Himself was sold for 30 pieces of silver. So what comes out of a Christian's mouth? What should he talk about? We have got to talk about what God has done for him. The redemption that God has put into his life. His death on the cross. His personalization of his own redemption. Telling people about God's plan of redemption. To be redeemed in the Bible means that God buys something back. God gave man salvation. Man through his own bad choices lost that salvation. So you know what God did? God redeemed him. You know what that means? God redeemed what was fallen. He bought back what was lost, you and me. That is a great story.

The greatest book in the Bible that illustrates that, the book of Ruth. Ruth is a picture of you and me. She is a Moabitess. She is an enemy of God's people. But she wants to become part of it so she becomes a proselyte. Then she meets a man named Boaz, and Boaz is a type of Christ. But you see she has got some problems that he cannot marry her because of her connection and what has to be done under the law. So he has to redeem her. So he is called a kinsman redeemer. Now when he redeemed her, he married her. You know what I needed in my life before I got saved? I needed a kinsman redeemer. I needed somebody to redeem what was fallen in me. My Boaz did. Tremendous principle. That is what you ought to talk about. Telling people God's plan of redemption.

1 Peter 1:18-19

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as with silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Colossians 1:14

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Those are the things that we need to talk about.

Now the second aspect of silver is at the judgment seat of Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:12. The Bible says that when you got saved, you lay a foundation in your life. On that foundation, there are three things that you should build. Those three things are the greatest example of a complete Christian life there could be.

The first thing you build upon that foundation is gold. Gold in the Bible is always representative of Christ's deity. So the first thing you do after you get saved is you build a relationship with

God. You find out everything you can about Him. You do that here through discipleship, Thursday night Bible study, Sunday morning, one on one with me or somebody that you are working with, discipleship two, whatever level you want to go up through. The first thing you do is you learn about Christ.

The second thing you build on that foundation in the order given in 1 Corinthians 3 is silver. The next thing you learn after you learn about Christ is you learn what He did for you. That is your redemption. You learn the price that was paid on Calvary's cross. Believe me, it cost a lot more than 30 pieces of silver. You learn what He did for you. You learn tremendously what impact it had on the world, but He died for you.

Then the third thing that you put on that foundation is precious stone. Malachi 3 and other places in the Bible, that is people. I have always looked at it, that is an incredible analogy down there. Because gold, deity; silver, redemption; precious stones, people. Here is how it works. When you get saved, if you go through a proper growth process in your life and nothing short changes you and you do not get off track, here is the way it should work. Now I am not saying something else will not come in. Along the line, you may trade this for drugs. You may trade this for a relationship with an unsaved person. You may trade this for a job with lots of money or whatever the case may be. But here is how it should work. When you get saved and you lay the foundation, the first thing on that foundation is gold. When you learn about who God is and you learn everything that you can about God, you cannot help. In the process of learning about God, you learn what God did for you. You cannot separate the two. It is gold, silver, precious stones. When you learn what God has done, who God is, you cannot help but learn what He has done for you. When you learn about the gold, who He was, the silver, what He did for you, you cannot help telling somebody else about it. There are your precious stones. That is the process. That is the process. It is an incredible concept.

All right, last part of Proverbs 10:20: "The tongue of the just is as choice silver: but the heart of the wicked is little worth." Worth little in our language, the way we talk about it. Never was there a truer statement. A person who is caught up in gossip and slander and backbiting and a talebearer, they will be absolutely worthless to the work of Christ and to the ministry, and I have never seen it fail. It goes back to 1 Timothy 5:13, the verse I just gave you, and it is because they are idle. They will not do anything for God. They talk about everything else, keep throwing dead wood on the fire, and it just keeps everything going.

VI. Building People and Ministry

Now, there is a reason for that, and I want to get a little philosophical with you here for a few minutes, and this will help some of you, maybe understand what we do here, what the ministry is and how it all works. In a ministry, and the ministry is real simple, and I have to bring everything down to a simple level for myself, and it seems to work for most of you. In the ministry, the ministry is nothing more but simply building things. That is all it is. You build people, and in turn, people build a church, and a church builds a ministry. But along with that, when it comes to building people, you develop things in people all the time. You develop skills, you develop abilities, you develop people's spiritual gifts, you develop God's work and God's plan in their

life, and that is really what, in a simplest form, a church is supposed to be, because all of you have abilities, all of you have gifts, all of you have skills.

Let us not pretend for a moment that I ever think that all of you are going to be preachers someday. I do not think that at all. I think very few of you will ever get to that point. I think that you all will be able to preach. I think that you will all be great communicators. I think that you all will come to the point where you could disciple somebody, and you could work with people, you could help them through their problems. In other words, there are a lot of things that you can do. You have got to be careful when, and preaching is so important in a church, but you have got to keep it all balanced. You do not want people to think that they are a failure, they have not met the spiritual goals, they do not be able to get up behind a pulpit and preach. Some of you never will, but that does not mean that you are not invaluable. My job, the job of any church, the job of any pastor, is to recognize what you do have, and help you develop that. There are so many things that need to be done in a ministry that it takes so many different people that have nothing to do with standing behind a pulpit and being able to preach. It has to do with being able to make yourself available.

My job, the job of any church, is to develop those skills, but a pastor has to see them first. He has to recognize them in you, and that only comes because you have a relationship together. You can see what your abilities are, you can see what your aspects are. I was over at Steve's thing the other night, and there is a girl there that he got, he hired that works the counter, and she is one of the funnest people to be around, just a young girl, and she is always bubbly and always talking and everything. When I met her, I thought to myself, and Steve and I talked about it this morning, we said the exact same thing. We had not talked since I seen her. I said to myself, "You know what? If that girl ever got saved, she would be the best Christian you could ever see, because she has got everything in her." She is unsaved and nothing gets her down. She is unsaved and she is always happy. Well, I know some of God's people that are saved have the aristocracy of heaven, and the Word of God in their lap, and they are on the way to heaven, and they are the most miserable people you ever saw in your life. Amen. But you see those things in somebody. When I see them, I always relate them back to what that person could do, if they just got into the Word of God. When I see you as saved people, and I see God begin to tweak those little things in your life that you do not even see, I see you do something that you do not even think about what you are doing, but I see it. My job is to develop those things, because the job of the ministry in its simplest form for a pastor is to build things, build things.

You know what? There are two kinds of people in every church. Those that will help me build people, and those who will help me help destroy people. There are only two. There are those who want to help the pastor build what he is to build, and then there are those who want to undo what he is trying to do. The great example of this in the Bible is back in 2 Samuel 15, and I call this the Absalom Syndrome. We are going to get into this in the people ministry here in a couple months. Absalom was David's son. You see, every one of these principles come into play. He was David's son, and yet all the while, David was on the throne trying to build the nation of Israel and be the king of Israel. Absalom, his own son now, going behind his back, secretly and covertly, trying to tear down what David was doing. It is incredible. He would stand down there at the

gate, and when the people were coming in to go see David or go to do what they are doing, he would meet them first. He would ask them what their business was, and they would tell him. Then he would start to say, "Well, the king does not care about your problems. Oh, if I were only king, I could really help you." He covertly began to take apart what David was trying to do. In reality, he was jealous of David. He was jealous of what God had given to David and what God was doing with David and what He was not doing with Absalom. He hated David for it.

Lester Roloff, who is with the Lord many, many years ago. His favorite message I ever heard him preach was on Absalom, and the title of his sermon was, "And the Mule Walked On." Because Absalom in his demise is riding a mule when he is riding through the thing here, trying to get away, and he has beautiful hair, and he gets caught in an oak branch, and he strangles himself, and the mule kept going. His point of the thing was, the pastors, they, you know what, it does not matter. It does not matter if there is Absalom. If you keep doing what is right, the mule walked on. Not one Absalom ever stopped the work of God. Tremendous message. But I want to tell you something. The Absalom did not die out in 950 BC. By that passage, if you look at my Bible, and you better not, I have got 15 names written by that verse. Just to remind me that they are still around.

VII. Feeding the Flock and Pastoral Abilities

I look at Proverbs 10:21.

Proverbs 10:21

The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

Now here is an Old Testament example in Proverbs of the New Testament principle found in 1 Peter 5:1-4, and dealing with feeding God's people. He says this:

1 Peter 5:1

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

1 Peter 5:2

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

1 Peter 5:3

Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Now there is a crown associated with this one. We know there are five crowns in the Bible. You can get the judgment seat of Christ. Now there is Proverbs 10:21 and a New Testament practical application of feeding the people of God.

In the Bible, in the New Testament, in the church, you have what is called elders. Now elders can be a man or a woman. An elder is not an office. The two offices in a New Testament local church are deacon and pastor, and we know that no women are permitted to be part of that. But an elder is not an office. An elder is a spiritual position or level in the church that either a man and a woman can get to. The Bible says very clearly that it is a level of spiritual maturity that a Christian gets to that they begin now to take part of the load off the pastor. The Bible says in 1 Peter 5:2, they become an overseer. In other words, they take oversight. In other words, they take part of a ministry and they begin to do that because they recognize what the pastor is trying to do. They recognize what the goal of the church is. They have grown up and they are learning and they are maturing. Now they want to take part of that to get the job done, and that is exactly how it works.

I will be very honest, my goal is to build as many of you into that spiritual level as I can. It does not come just because you have been in a church for 20, 30 years. It is a progression of growing spiritually. That you on a daily basis, you know, you work and you teach people. You teach them the Word of God and you feed them on all levels. In John 21, when He was talking to Peter down in verse 16, He said to Peter, "Peter, feed my lambs." Those are baby Christians. Then He says in the next verse, "feed my sheep." Those are older Christians. Whatever level God's people are on, it is our job to feed them. A pastor who understands that realizes that there is no way that he can do that in building a church.

Now I told him I wanted to get philosophical here for a moment. We are in this, let me develop this for you just a little bit. You have heard me say it many, many times in everything that we do as Christians, there is a model in the church. It seems that people want to forget the models when it does not suit them, but in my mind, a model is a model, and I always try to follow them. But there is a model for building a church in the New Testament. In other words, there is a way to build a church. Simplistically in its easiest form, the basic fundamental way to build a church for a pastor is by example. Most pastors never see this. A pastor has to set the example on all levels. You have to lead from the front. You do not lead from the back. You never ask your people to do something that you are not willing to do yourself. You are always in the forefront and you are willing to do it. A good combat commander will be the first boots on the ground and the last boots off. You do not lead from the rear, you have got to lead from the front. You can never lead people without being there where they can see what you are doing. You cannot lead without being there and totally involved. That is just the way it works. But people cannot get that.

When you do that in time, you become aware of the good people that God has given you. You then invest whatever time it takes. Some of you have heard me say to you when you have come over and we have talked, "Whatever it takes, whatever time it takes, I will make whatever investment in you that it needs to be made because I understand and believe that you have what it takes and I want to help get you there." As you reproduce yourself when you put yourself in them, they pick up the load, and in time, instead of you feeding the flock one person, you have

150 people doing it. It keeps moving up the levels. That is the way it works. That frees the pastor up to do the work of a pastor, and that is to invest in more people and then to turn them over to the elders to bring them along and help them bring them through. Because the Bible says the lips of the righteous feed many. It is your job as well as my job to get to the position that you feed many on whatever level that is. Now that is how you do it. Any other way is a waste of your time, and you do not have to worry about God because He will not be part of it.

A foolish man, "fools die for the want of wisdom." A foolish man, in this case, we are talking about pastors, will die never seeing that in his ministry. He will never learn the process of building a New Testament church because he will never really help build one. He will go to Bible college someplace where he will never teach you how to build a church. You are being taught the ministry by people who have never been in the ministry. His inability to train from within. Build leaders, build elders, build them up. He will see it in somebody's ministry. He wants it, but he can never get there and will not change about what he is doing and what it takes to really get where he wants to get. In most cases, he is unteachable. He hates reproof, he hates instructions, he hates corrections, he will not take it, he will not follow it. He says, "I can do this my way, I do not need the Bible, I am not going to follow the pattern, I am not going to do it the New Testament biblical way, I am going to go out and do it on my own." We saw this in Proverbs 10:17 last week: "He that is in the way of life keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth." There is a right way to do everything in the Bible.

Absalom is a great example of that. Oh, Absalom was going in and saying, "Oh, you are my father, you are my dad, I love you, happy birthday, oh yeah, you are great, you are my dad, I am your son," but all the time he was trying to do behind his back to take his kingdom. There is always a right way to do things and there is always a wrong way to do things. But if you want to build a church and have a ministry, you have to build people. Those people have to get on board and you bring them up to those spiritual levels where it is just not one guy teaching other people. Other people are taking the same levels and doing something with it.

VIII. The Blessings of the Lord

Look at Proverbs 10:22.

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Now this is one of the simplest yet greatest principles I think in all the Word of God that a Christian can ever have. It really is. If you see this and understand this, whenever you do, you can bet you have got wisdom and understanding. It is real simple, and it is a fitting closure for our passage today on the tongue and its power, good or bad.

When we are doing right and you have the blessings of God in your life, our lives, then I know you know that you are rich beyond compare. Those are the true riches the Bible talks about. Nothing in this world can compare with it. No new car, no new house, no new job, no great salary increase will ever outdo the blessings of God in your life. It is just how simple. In

Obama's distorted form of government, he wants to take what the rich have labored for and worked for and give it to people who have not ever worked. He calls it sharing the wealth. That is his plan. He wants to take from those who have worked hard, who have got a lot and deserve it because they work for it, and then take that and give it to the people who will not do anything. But you know what, in a spiritual sense, that is exactly what we as Christians are supposed to do. Because the unsaved world does not have anything, and if you are saved this morning, you should have it all. You talk about a biblical spiritual format of sharing the wealth, that is exactly what it should be.

That is what April did with Jessica. That is why she is coming over tomorrow night. She saw something in her life. She had a need in her, lost her husband 10 days ago. Cannot even imagine that. She was struggling all by herself, a little two-year-old daughter, and she needed something, and you know what? Somebody decided to share the wealth. Tomorrow night she comes over, she is not even going to get the wealth shared, she is going to get the whole bank. She is going to think she landed in Fort Knox. You see, what God gives us when you give it to others, when we become a blessing to other people, then we make them rich. We share the wealth in a spiritual sense. Giving what you have to those who do not have anything. That is a lot what we are going to do in a physical sense at Restart today. People who are down and out do not have anything. Kids that, when your kids are opening up 28,000 Christmas presents and having everything that they want. Some kids will just have one or two, and they will have to take a generic thing, whatever it is. But they will be happy with it because they got something. They will probably in many cases be happier with theirs than some of your kids will be happy with yours because 20 minutes after they are open they cannot even find it anymore. It is all lost in the wrapping paper.

Nehemiah 8:10 says, "Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet." That is what we do here. We eat the fat of the Word of God. We drink the sweet of the Word of God. "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet. And then it says, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared." There are people out there today that have nothing prepared in their life from God. You and I have the riches and the blessings. If we are right with God, we have all the riches and the blessings, and we are rich and wealthy when it comes to a spiritual sense. And yet we want to hoard it like some billionaire wants to hoard his money. When in actuality, the blessings of God to the world is just simply taking what God has given you and giving it to somebody else. Edifying them, lifting them up, feeding them on all levels, whatever it may be.

You know, over the years, I have seen in pastoring and ministering eight fundamental abilities or skills or whatever you want to call it, truths that a pastor has to have if he is ever going to reach people. When the Bible says, "feed my lambs, feed my sheep," there is a vast difference between feeding lambs and feeding sheep. They do not eat the same stuff. They do not think on the same level. Older Christians, younger Christians, have two different diets they have got to have. But over the years, I have looked at this and I have thought to myself, "You know what, this is such a true thing." I wrote it down in my Bible, nine fundamental truths or abilities that a man has to have if he wants to build a church, or he wants to pastor, or he wants to be in ministry.

The first thing a pastor has to be able to do, he has to be able to relate to his people. You cannot minister to your people living in your ivory office someplace. You cannot minister to people

when they have got to go through three or four people to even get a chance to talk to you. They have got a secretary, they have got to go through, and he has got to do this. At the end of the day, you have got to get put into some second string of pastor over here or some hireling staff member because the pastor cannot see it. Let me tell you something. Everybody in this church has my cell phone number. You can call me anytime, 24/7, whatever your need is. You know why? Because a pastor has to be able to relate to his people. You cannot be distant from your people. You have got to be one with them. They have got to know that you are part of their world and they are part of yours. You have got to be able to relate to them.

The second thing, a pastor has to be able to regenerate. He has to be a soul winner. He has to be able to win people to Christ and set the example for winning people to Christ because that is what a job of a church is to do. When we share the blessings of God with somebody, many times those people are unsaved, and they want those. They know the only way they can get it by keeping on coming is by getting saved. So it is a thing that they trust Christ over.

The third thing, he has to be able to educate. A pastor has to be able to teach his people. He has to be able to sit down and lay out and put to them exactly in a clear, simple form what they need to do. They need to give instructions. If God's people, if they have any one need, it is clear direction. It is clear instructions. They have to be told exactly what God expects of them, and you cannot always do that by screaming at them. You have to be able to sit down and teach them, one on one, in small groups. You have to be able to come into a Sunday morning or a Thursday night, and you have to be able to know when to turn it off between preaching and teaching. You have to know how to be able to mix it together to give the teaching and then you want to emphasize it. You dump a little bit of preaching in and then you pull it out and then you bake it with some more teaching for a while. That is what you have got to be able to do.

The fourth thing, a pastor has to be able to duplicate. He has to be able to reproduce himself in somebody else. Your job as a leader in this church is to do the same, these same things, these same nine things.

- You have to have the ability to relate.
- You have to have the ability to regenerate.
- You have to have the ability to educate.
- You have to have the ability to duplicate.

Building yourself into the life of somebody else.

The fifth thing, a pastor has to know how to elevate. He has to know how to lift people up to get them where they need to be. You know what most people just want? Most people just want to feel that they are special. To me, everybody is special. Because I see the qualities, I do not care if you just walked in day one and you have got some quality that maybe I do not see, but God sees, and that makes you special. The fact that you want to do something for God, you may not know how to do it, you may not know what to do, but the very fact that you want to do it makes you special. Everybody is special. Everybody has potential for God. You may not realize it, you may never even bring it into your life, but the bottom line is, in that aspect, you need to be elevated.

You need to get help, whatever you need. You need to get brought up to whatever levels you want to get through.

The sixth thing, a preacher needs to motivate. Now that is preaching. A preacher has to be a blend between teaching and preaching. A good preacher knows how to mix and master too, that you do not know what he is doing when he is doing it. It is the ability to be able to motivate you, to drive you, to get you where you need to be, and to keep you on point and give you the right information and get them moving in the right direction.

The seventh thing, a pastor needs to be able to accelerate. It took me 35 years to get a handle on a Bible, and I still do not know it, but you do not have 35 years. You know what my job is, and we do it all the time around here, my job is to take what it took me in 35 years to do and get it to you in five or six, seven, eight years. You have got to know how to do that. You have got to know how to take what took me 30 years to figure out and get it to you so you can grasp it in a lot less time. You know why? Because my job is to get you accelerated in learning. It is not about all what I know and how much I know. It is about all that I know and how much I know, and the main goal in me is how do I formulate that down so you can get it in a lot less time than it took me to get it. We do not have to read all the boring guys that I had to read. So he has to, a minister guy, somebody that is in ministry, a pastor, has to learn to relate.

- He has to regenerate.
- He has to educate.
- He has to duplicate.
- He has to elevate.
- He has to motivate.
- He has to accelerate.

Then he has to placate. That is patience. You have to put up with a lot of goofy things that people do that will drive you nuts. The reason you put up with it is because you knew that the first time you got saved, you must have drove God nuts. If God could stick with me, I can stick with you. You put up with people and the things they do because you see the value in them. You see that everybody makes mistakes and everybody has down time and everybody has problems, and you do not throw anybody out the window because of the fact they just make common everyday mistakes or they struggle with something. We all struggle with stuff. If God threw all of us out, if God treated us like we treat most of other God's people, we would all be in trouble. But you have got to learn how to placate. You have got to learn how to put up with it. You have got to learn how to see it for what it is. You have got to look beyond the stupid things that they do and see the core value that God sees.

Then the last thing a pastor has to learn to do is delegate. Get you doing something, give you responsibility, get you to the place where you are a part of what I am doing, taking the load off the ministry, getting you to be able to be as good at dealing with people as I am, getting you to be able to take the Word of God and solve their problems, getting you to the place that it frees me up to deal with more people in this area, that I can get more people into your area, that the whole

thing just keeps going. It is not one guy doing it. It is not a one-man show. It is 150, 100, 200 people, 225, 250 people doing the ministry together. That is how it works.

Now look at the last part of Proverbs 10:22: "and he addeth no sorrow to it." As God's people, we are to help people, not hurt people. We protect them from the things that will hurt them. We do not subject them to it.

Proverbs 12:18

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

You will either help somebody build up people, or you will go against the pastor and try to tear down what the pastor is trying to build directly or indirectly. You can use your tongue to cut something up or somebody up and rip them apart like a sword and hack them to death, or you can be the spiritual health to them to help them grow and feed them with choice silver that comes out of your mouth. Your choice. In any case, what we really are with God in our hearts will manifest itself on how we treat people and what comes out of our mouth.

This time of the year, it is all about giving and gifts. I love it. Size 17 and a half, 33 length. It is all about gifts. This afternoon, I am excited about it. Appreciate everybody did. I hope you all come down, we will have a great time helping those kids, seeing the joy in their face. After that, it is all about us. Your family, my family, sitting down, enjoying Christmas, having a good time, getting through the holidays, and then getting back to work and doing all we are doing. You are going downtown, red kettles, pop a couple coins in, presents under the trees, Christmas shopping for your loved ones. Man, it is a zoo out there. I mean, you go to the mall, people are packed all over the place. Yesterday was supposed to be the most busy shopping day in the history of the world. It probably was. I think it is all good.

But without question, the greatest gift that we can ever give, and ever give someone, is the gift that God has given us, the blessings that we have. So many times we are so focused on giving people salvation, which is a good thing. We forget that sometimes people just need the blessings that we have. We share the wealth, the true riches of His wisdom that really make us rich and endow us with God's wisdom and understanding, sharing the wealth, giving others what God has given to you spiritually. That is really what it is all about.

So, as we come through these things in Proverbs, I hope you find yourself. Because I look out here and there are young men and young ladies, and many of you are well on your way. But I have plans for all of you. You may not have the same plans I have, but my plans will always be to help you be everything God wants you to be. You may have different plans, never fulfill that plan, but in my mind, I see what you could do if you really put yourself to it. That is the key, taking what God has given us and giving it to others. Well, we will hold up there. I will call you up here in a few minutes for Restart people out on the T.