

Proverbs 10

Sunday 12/28/2014

Well, that is my Christmas present, guys, right there. Good job. I love that song. I have a message that goes along with that out of Genesis where Isaac goes and gets his bride, or Eliezer. Sometime you guys ought to sing that song, I will preach the message, and we will give them a double hit here.

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want to invite you to turn to Proverbs chapter 10, and we are going to continue on today in that great chapter. We have learned a lot of great practical principles out of the book of Proverbs. As I said earlier, before we prayed and when I was talking about the prayer request, I had missed, I just found out afterwards that Chris Pascano, who played our piano, his wife had a heart attack this week, and she is doing fine. We need to pray for her; put her on your prayer list.

That is really what our church is about: helping you get through whatever you are going through. Everybody here is on different spiritual levels. I never want anybody to think that because maybe they do not know much about the Bible, and a lot of people around here do, that you do not fit in. That is not really what it is about. Our job is to take you on whatever level you are and to help you get wherever God wants you to go.

In the process of that, obviously there will be things that come into your life that you have to deal with. Some things will come into your life because of some bad choices that you made. Some things will come into your life simply because bad things just happen in the world that we live in. I have told you many, many times, many times we are not responsible for the bad things that happen to us, but we are responsible for how we respond to it and how we deal with it. So that is what we try to do.

There is no greater book in the Bible that I have ever found that when you systematically kind of go through it like we are doing, that will give you more practical principles on living life on planet Earth than the book of Proverbs. When you look at the book of Proverbs, it can be intimidating because many people read it and do not understand what it is saying. But we just take it one step at a time as we go through it. We break it down verse by verse, word by word. Mostly what we do is we want to glean out of it the principles. We want to be able to show you when we are done how the book really presents itself in all fashions and all ways.

You have seen over the last three or four weeks, as we have kind of put it all together, you have seen how we are connecting the book of Proverbs to many stories in the New Testament that illustrate the principles. That is something that you want to learn about the Bible. That is the beauty of the Old Testament and the New Testament. I understand that in a historical application or a deep doctrinal application, the Old Testament has its format for what it is for to the nation of Israel. I know that. The New Testament is all about the church and how it deals with the church and the structure of the church. I understand that.

You are going to also find that underneath all of that, when it comes down to you and me going through the daily struggles of life, the things that we have to work through, the things that we

have to deal with, that it is a great combination where you will have the New Testament principles, then you will have the Old Testament illustration of the principles that when you match them up and you put them together, they form a greater understanding of what the principle is to us. It really helps us get, that is really what we have been trying to do and will continue to try to do.

I am not interested in setting a, winning a race and how fast we get through Proverbs so we can get to the next book. My goal is to help you understand this book because personally, in my own humble opinion, I think it is the single greatest book in the Bible on understanding how to live your life on planet Earth. Last week we looked at Proverbs chapter 10, verses 18 through 22, and we have been taking small sections of it. Again, we saw some great principles for life and how to be our best for the Lord Jesus in all that we do.

Today we are going to pick it up in chapter 10 and another small section, verses 23 through 26. I will read it and then we will start to put it together.

Proverbs 10:23-26

23 It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

24 The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

25 As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

Now Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus, and we thank you for the folks that have come out today. We thank you for the good Christmas that we had and the blessings that we have in our families. Yet Lord, we even know that even while we have all the blessings, we know that there are God's people out there that are going through some tough times, and we always want to be mindful of that. We always want to be praying for those people and doing whatever we can do to lift them up and to help them. We just thank you for all that you do. We pray out of this service today that you will give us what we need, and we will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, amen.

I. The Wise And Foolish Man: Doctrinal And Practical Applications

There is a lot that we have been getting out of the book of Proverbs, and it all goes back to the main theme of Proverbs. In Proverbs, you have a main theme and you have a sub-theme. We know that the main theme of Proverbs is about two men. All the way through the Bible, we find it all the way through the book of Proverbs, you find it is about a wise man and a foolish man.

You remember that I showed you how the Bible has different applications. I want you to just get the understanding of this in Proverbs. We do not really hammer on it a lot; you will figure it out

as you continue to grow. But we know that from a doctrinal standpoint, from a prophetic standpoint, we know that this wise man and this foolish man is a picture of the nation of Israel. As Israel enters into the Great Tribulation period, which everybody knows about the Tribulation and the Antichrist and all of that, we know that the Tribulation period basically is a seven-year period. It is broken down into two sections: three and a half years each.

In the first section, the Antichrist shows up. As the Bible says, he talks about peace and safety. He brings about a false peace to the nation of Israel. I think it is 1 Thessalonians 5:3. He makes all the wars end. He brings an end to every strife in America, in the country, and in the world. He makes an alliance with all the nations. He unifies all of the nations together. All of Israel gets caught up into that and becomes part of that. For three and a half years, it is peace and safety.

But the Antichrist is very deceptive. We know from the Bible and our past studies in the Word of God that he has a plan. That plan is against everything that God is going to do. When he shows up and he brings in this peace and safety, it is to put everybody to sleep. It is to get everybody to think that God has come back. He is the Antichrist; he is anti, against the real Christ. He comes in and sets up a counterfeit system. Everybody in the world believes it. Of course, we are gone because we are raptured out. So we are taken out. So the whole world is left to believe his lie and deception. But his real purpose is to destroy the nation of Israel.

This is where Proverbs is so key. I want you to see this because I want to make an application to your life and my life here in just a moment. He begins to give them a false security, a false hope that everything is finally going to be okay for them. In the middle of the three and a half years, this is found in Revelation 12 and 13, if you want to look it up, or Matthew 24, he then begins to turn against the nation of Israel. At that point, where everything up to that point was peace and safety and was great, now he begins to tear it all down, and he actively unifies the whole world to wipe out and destroy God's people, the nation of Israel.

The book of Proverbs, doctrinally, is the wisdom and instruction and understanding that God gives the Jew. Remember now, all through the book of Proverbs in the first eight chapters, we saw it starting "my son, my son," and I told you that in a doctrinal, prophetic application, "my son" is the nation of Israel. But in a practical way, it is you and me. You want to keep that in mind. So the instructions of Proverbs from a doctrinal standpoint is God giving them the wisdom, the understanding, the discernment, all of those great words that we have talked about so far in Proverbs, that the Jew does not get trapped. That he sees through what the Antichrist is trying to do. He has the wisdom of God, the understanding of God. He has discernment, he has discretion. These are all words that we have studied in the book of Proverbs. Now he has the ability to see through this false peace and safety.

Many of the Jews who are not wise, who are foolish, will buy right into it. They will be destroyed, and they will get destroyed. The wise men will take God's instruction, and the foolish man will not, and he will be destroyed. Really, it is just that simple.

You see an illustration of this. Here is the New Testament principle. If you would turn over to Matthew chapter 25, I want to read a passage here that if you do not already have it marked in the book of Proverbs and vice versa, you will want to put it in. Matthew chapter 25 is one of the

great parallel chapters of the New Testament that go along with the book of Proverbs and the Old Testament about a wise man and a foolish man.

Matthew 25:1-8

1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

What I want you to see here is ten virgins. Five are wise, five are foolish. This represents the two types of people talked about in the book of Proverbs. This context here is during the Tribulation period.

Now I have to tell you this, a lot of people who do not understand the Bible and how the Bible lays out will use this passage to try to get you to think that you can lose your salvation. They will try to put this into the church, into Christianity, that here is a Christian who does not do what is right, so he loses his salvation. There is not even any Christianity yet in the book of Matthew; the church has not even started. This is all dealing with the nation of Israel. This passage is used to show you many times that, as I said, you can lose your salvation. But it is not; it is just the passage that shows you here you can lose your mind when you do not follow what the Bible says. The Bible is very clear that these wise men and these foolish people here is a nation of Israel back in the book of Proverbs. There is a great parallel.

I will give you another example in Matthew chapter 2. We know that around this time every year we talk about the birth of Christ, and we know the story in Matthew chapter 2, how that the wise men came to the birth of Christ. You know, it is a story that is illustrated in every nativity scene, I do not care where you go. You always have Mary and Joseph, you have a little box there with a little baby in it. You usually have a camel or a cow behind it someplace. Then you have three guys there, three wise men. They are standing there presenting their gifts. That is a standard nativity scene. You find it, you drive up and down, look at the Christmas lights on people's houses, or you get a Christmas card with it on, and all those things, I get it, I understand it. But it is much more deeper than that.

They are called wise men. The Bible says they are from the East. That would be Babylon. These wise men were men who somehow knew exactly when Christ was going to be born. They were not just out circulating around and got a notice in the newspaper or in a news flash that Christ

was going to be born. They knew exactly when he was going to be born. They are from the East. That would suggest that they had the book of Daniel. When Daniel wrote the book of Daniel in the captivity, he was in the East. I also know that from Daniel chapter 9 and other places in the book of Daniel, they could have figured out almost exactly the time that Christ was going to be born. The Old Testament tells you where he will be born. It tells you what time of year he will be born. It tells you everything you need to know almost to the day and year of when he would be born from Daniel chapter 9.

They are called wise men because they search the scriptures. When they search the scriptures in Daniel and Genesis, and the rest of the Old Testament, they found out where he was going to be born, when he was going to be born, and they came to find him at the first coming of Christ. That has always been a great source of inspiration to me to show me that these men got into the Bible and found out when Christ was coming the first time pretty close. I will tell you something else, wise men today who still believe the book and get into the Word of God can find out pretty close when he is coming at the second coming of Christ. It is a marvelous thing, but they are wise men. They are wise because they got into the Bible. They are wise because they believe the Bible.

Notice how the story unfolds. The fool in this story is Herod. Herod cannot see the star. Herod knows nothing about the star. He hears all these rumors, and he is asking them, but they are smarter than the problem. They do not give Herod the answers where he can find the Christ child. In fact, when they are ready to go back home, an angel shows up and gives them instructions, and they go home another way. That is what the Bible does. The Bible is a great book to show you, you better go home the other way. It is a great book that lays it out. It is incredible to cross-reference these Old Testament examples with the New Testament principles.

From a practical standpoint, we see that just as in the Tribulation period, where Israel goes through their time, called Daniel's 70th week, the Great Tribulation, the Tribulation period, Jacob's trouble, Jacob's time of trouble. We see all of that, and we see Israel going through that. We see that God gives them instructions as His son, that not to be deceived of the devil. So we see in our life today, in a practical standpoint, in the church, we see wise men and foolish men today. The wise man will heed what the book of Proverbs says. Just as the Jew in the Tribulation, that is a wise man, will take the instruction of God and sidestep all the traps and the snares that the Antichrist is going to lay out for him.

You and me in life today, we are up against the wiles of the devil. We are up against all of the things the devil wants to throw at us. Though we are not in the Tribulation period by any stretch of the imagination, we all live in this world, and it is the same wisdom that will get you and I through, that will get the Jew through. Where the Antichrist wants to trap them in a Tribulation, the devil wants to mess you up today. Where God gives them instructions in the Old Testament and in the Tribulation period, to sidestep and have a life that they can get past those temptations and all the things that the devil has got for them, in the New Testament, we have the same instructions. So it works that way.

You will want to remember that Israel in Exodus chapter 4 is God's son as a nation. You and I are in the New Testament, God's son as New Testament Christians. So with that in mind,

understanding the parallels, realizing that the wisdom and the instruction doctrinally are to Israel, but inspirationally to you and me. Where the Antichrist wants to mess up the nation of Israel, today the devil wants to mess up your life and my life. It is the same instructions, the same wisdom, the same discretion, the same discernment that God will give them in their day, that God wants to give you today in your day through the book of Proverbs, that you do not get caught up in those traps.

II. Sin As Sport: The Fool's Deception

Let us begin to look at these things. Here again, there are some very good principles of life here.

Proverbs 10:23

It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

Now the first part of that says, "It is as sport to a fool to do mischief." I have been in the ministry many, many, many years, over 40. I have seen every problem, every issue, everything that comes up. I have seen the devil do some amazing things. I am also a student of history. I love church history. I do not think you can study the Bible without getting an understanding of history because all the Bible is all history. I have been amazed sometimes at how the devil down through history in such an absolute incredible way has changed the course of events, has changed this or done this right under everybody else's nose, nobody ever caught it, or most everybody ever caught it. It has always amazed me.

I look back in history and I see some great pivotal points in history. I see some great change points where it began to go this way and now it is going this way. Whether you know it or not, we today are living in probably what is the final change point of all history. Where the devil now is moving and he gets it right under everybody's nose. Nobody caught it. Nobody wanted to catch it. One of the things that he has done that I have always, I do not want to use the word, admired about him, but one of the things that he has done, I have always been amazed by the way he can do it, is to get you and me to think and the world to think that what is sin in God's sight is fun in our world. It amazes me how he does that.

The Bible says, "It is as sport to a fool to do mischief." This is probably one of the most up-to-date illustrations of the world we live in today, even though it was written in 1000 BC. The Bible is always relevant. We get the idea that the Bible is an ancient book. The Bible was written thousands of years ago, so it cannot be really relevant to modern man today. No, you are wrong. The Bible is just as prevalent and relevant today as it was 4,000 years ago, 5,000 years ago, because the Bible is a book on human nature. Though times may change, society may change, nations may change, lands may change hands, human nature always stays the same. That book defines and critiques human nature.

The word "sport" in the Bible, it is an old English word. It means to have a good time, to have fun, an enjoyable time. We call football, we go to a baseball game, we watch a soccer match, we play basketball, we go to a car race, an auto race, or you play golf, or you go hunting, you go fishing. We call it a sport. Because it is something we enjoy watching or enjoy doing. It is

recreational, it is having fun, it is having a good time, and there is certainly nothing wrong with that.

The verse simply states that a fool will make any sin he does, try to bring it into a fun thing that is accepted. But accept the thing, the norm. Like this is what life really is. My sin is no longer sin. My sin now is a sport. It is fun. It is something we all do. We want to have a good time, you have to do this. Because this is fun. We have taken the word sin out and put the word fun in. Of course, you see it all the time. To the man with no understanding, it is so subtle, he cannot see it.

Every time I see a beer commercial on TV, I just laugh. I see the illustration of this. When they have beer commercials on television, it is always with young kids. It is always at a beach party. Good friends, good beer, good low and brow, all that stuff. At Christmas time, the number one commercials during the Super Bowl are Budweiser beer commercials. You have the frogs, or you have this, or you have that. It is just like you cannot watch football without Budweiser. Everything is around the world. It gears and that, try to make it like it is an accepted thing to do. People, young men and young ladies, they get caught up in that. The young kids, the parties on the beach, and the boating, and the music, and the great times, and all the things. The message that comes through all of that is that you cannot, you cannot have fun in life without drinking. That gets beat into kids from the time they can read and write and understand what is going on around them. The devil is so clever at doing it.

Every year, millions of kids get hooked on cigarettes. They do it based on what they see. It is given the messages that real men smoke. The message is that a real woman who is a sophisticated, up-to-date, modern, 21st century woman smokes. That is the whole idea that gets out there. Kids growing up in school, they see the older kids doing it. They want to be like the older kids. So they do it too. They banned putting cigarette commercials on TV anymore. I think they still have them in magazines. But I grew up in the era where they were all over the place. Every man you saw was a great hunk of a man, and he had a cigarette in his hands. You get into watching a good war movie, and they are in a foxhole. They are coming down to the end where they are going to get killed. It looks like they are going to be overwhelmed. They do not share the last Bible verse they got out of the Word of God. They share the last cigarette together. The guy gets nervous, he has to have a smoke. He almost gets killed, has to have a cigarette. It is almost like the natural reaction to everything in life is to have a smoke.

When you see it in life everywhere, I remember growing up with the Marlboro man. The Marlboro man was a cowboy on a horse with chaps. He is riding around on a horse with his lariat, whatever you call those things, on his horse. He is walking around there having a good time. 10,000 cattle out there, and he is smoking a Marlboro. The king comes across the screen. I mean, beautiful scenery out in the mountain someplace, cattle all over the place. Real man sitting on a horse, smoking a cigarette, and underneath there, "Come to where the flavor is." People say, "Man, I have to have that flavor." You are so stupid. Did you ever smell 10,000 cattle?

It is sport. We are living in the days where now we are seeing the legalization of marijuana. Once shunned and marked as a dangerous drug, now it is going to be accepted as a natural thing. I guarantee you one state after the other is going to fall to this thing in time. Now, they say you can

have so much of marijuana, and it is for recreational use. It is a sport. I caught Bill O'Reilly. I do not get to watch him very often, but I caught him this week over the Christmas deal. He had it on about four or five times. He had an investigative reporter by the name of Brian Waters who was going around the country interviewing teenagers. He went to Colorado for the great mushroom festival. He was, kid, just your age. I mean, the pot was everywhere. You talk about going to do, you know, the Muslims and the Russians and the Chinese are not going to have to ever nuke us. We are going to nuke our own brains. They are just going to walk in and take it over. He is talking about guys over there that do not have a job. I mean, they are out there, "How old do you go?" "I am high all the time." One guy was seeing colors. One guy was this, and one guy was doing that. I sat there and I thought to myself, what is wrong with people that are supposed to be in, can you not see what this is producing?

I remember back in the 30s and in the late 20s, Gene Krupa. Most people do not even know who Gene Krupa was. He was a drummer, and Gene Krupa was a fantastic drummer. He got hooked up on marijuana. They called them reeferers back then. He got addicted to marijuana, and they threw him out. When he tried to come back, all the teenagers booed him off the stage because it was such a horrendous thing to do drugs and smoke marijuana back in the 30s. Man, times have changed, have they not? The message is that if you do not do that, you see, it is fun, it is fun. A fool, he thinks it is sport to do mischief.

Reality TV shows, and do not get me started on those. *Party Down South*. *Spring Break*. The idea that living and acting like an animal is a fun thing to do and that all kids should do it. The devil has always tried, and he has been very successful, I might add, to make sin look fun. Booze into drugs and to sex and to cigarettes. After a short period of time, your flesh gets hooked, and you are a slave to it the rest of your life. It is just that simple.

Churches are filled with good people. I mean good people who could really do something for God but have the chains of their foolish decisions hanging around them and shackle them in some kind of addiction. My greatest example of that is Samson. Samson, God had a job for Samson to do. He was one of the judges of Israel. But Samson, boy, you are talking about a man who wanted to have fun. You are talking about a man who thought sport and his wickedness and his sinfulness was fun. He wound up, you know the story, he winds up being betrayed by the lovers of his life, and he winds up being shackled by the Philistines, a type of the world, to two great pillars in their temple. Before they did that, they put him to a grinding wheel, stripped him naked, and he walked around in a circle, grinding the grain in the little wheat as he walked around there. The Bible says all the Philistines made sport of him. They laughed at him, they made fun of him.

Do you know what the world will do with you? Do you know what the devil will do with you? Once you give your life to alcohol, give your life to drugs, give your life to whatever you give it to, you are a fool. Once you do that and you think this is what life is, the world is going to wind up making sport of you. I have looked at that picture so many times in the book of Judges, and I thought to myself, what an incredible thing. There is a child of God. There is the aristocracy of heaven. There is a child of God, Samson, who had a job to do for God. Now he is chained by his addiction. The world makes sport of him. That is where it goes.

In time, on a national scale, across the United States, the whole thing disintegrates. Now we are to the point where it is sport to kill people. Initiation in the gangs, you have to go out and kill somebody. When I was in a gang, kid, and I was nine years old, our gangs were totally different. All I had to do to get in was to go steal some apples off the neighbor's tree. Not today. You have to kill somebody. How about the sport where now you walk up to some old elderly man and you hit him as hard as you can and see if you can knock him out on the first punch? It is a game. It is sport. Boy, you tried out missing the first time with a guy who has got a concealed carry permit, and you are in trouble.

Proverbs 26:18-19

18 As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death,

19 So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?

You hurt somebody and say, "Oh, I was just kidding." Now that is a fool. That is a fool.

Look at the last part of Proverbs 10:23. It says, "but a man of understanding hath wisdom." See, there is the fool. Here is the contrast. Here is the man who has wisdom. This contrast is great. I love contrast in the Bible. I learn more by contrast than probably any other thing. We have all seen an example of this in our own daily lives with people we associate with. Because you see, a fool will never, he will never count the cost of his foolishness. He never will. He lives for the moment. He lives for himself. He is very selfish. He lives for the next party. He lives for the next relationship. He lives for this. He lives for that. He never stops and looks long-term or short-term at the cost of not doing what is right. He is a tough guy. He is street smart.

Here is where he gets deceived. He thinks he can beat the odds, and he is smarter than the world system. He may be smarter than the world system, but he is not up against the world system. He is up against the most razor sharp, simulating mind that got the best of every man that ever walked on planet Earth, the devil himself. You will never contend with him for five seconds. He will get you every time. He will get you every time.

But a man of understanding and wisdom, he knows he cannot beat the odds. He may even want to, but he knows he cannot. He may sit there and deliberate, "Well, I really like to do this," or "Maybe I could get away with this." But then it comes back because he has got wisdom. It is not worth the price. It is not worth what it costs. A man of understanding and wisdom, he knows he cannot beat the odds. Short-term, maybe yes, but he knows that there will be an absolute law called the law of sowing and reaping, Galatians chapter 6, verse 7. He knows that he will get caught up and out sooner or later.

He has wisdom. He sees the booze and the parties and all the things, and he looks past it. What he sees is the DWIs. He sees cirrhosis of the liver. He sees drunkenness as an addiction. He sees the DTs. He sees Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous. He is smarter than that. For he has a book that shows him the traps before he walks into it, just like Israel gets the instructions of God so they do not get deceived by the Antichrist. He understands that the legalization of marijuana is nothing more than a gateway to higher drugs and more addictions. He sees it is going to ruin his family. He sees that what he is going to do is going to get passed on

to his children. But a fool does not. A fool takes his addiction, takes his drugs, and when his kids get hooked on it or their kids get hooked on it, he is too stupid to even see where the bottom line was.

But a man who has wisdom and understanding, he will see it. He may even get caught up in it for a short time, but he will get out of it. He will get out of it. So he stays away. He takes God's instructions. He takes God's reproof. He takes all the wisdom of God and the understanding he can get before he allows his foolishness and his bad choices to have his flesh to become an addiction. He is always looking long-term. I try to tell you about that all the time, looking long-term at things in your life. Because short-term sometimes you do not see it. Short-term you only see the moment. Short-term you only see the fun or the excitement of the moment. But it is long-term that you have to look at. It is long-term, and a man with wisdom does that. He knows someday he will be held accountable for his actions as it relates to the plan of God in his life if he is saved.

He also knows that, and I will tell you this, and I am talking about addictions today, and I want to tell you right now, every Christian ought to have an addiction. You see, there are lots of things in the Bible that have two meanings. And addiction is one of them. If you are here this morning as a Christian, you should have an addiction.

1 Corinthians 16:15

I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

That is the addiction you should have. But I want to tell you, you are going to be addicted to something in life. It is either going to be the world system or it is going to be God. But you will be addicted to something. It is that simple. It is just that simple.

There are some great parallels between people who have addictions of the drugs or addictions of this or addictions of alcohol. There are some great principles. It is an incredible thing. A guy who is on drugs, it affects his eyes. Do you ever notice that? His pupils look like pie plates. So he puts sunglasses on when it is nighttime so he cannot see them. They affect your eyes. They affect the way you see. Addiction of drugs will affect your judgment. You will start making stupid choices. You will start doing dumb things. Your judgment is gone. An addiction of the wrong things will affect your attitude. Your wife will say, "This is not who he is. I can always tell when he is on drugs. I can always tell when she is on drugs because of the attitude change. The mood swings." It affects your family. Because whatever you have in your life, you will surely pass on to your children. It will affect every aspect of your life. You will be a different person once you get addicted than before you got addicted.

I just described me. I am an addict this morning. You need your pills, your meth, your heroin. Every day you fall apart. I need my book every day, or I fall apart. See, you are addicted to yours, I am addicted to mine. Amen, I have an addiction. I am juiced. When I do not get my daily fix, I get unjuiced. You do not want to be around me when I get unjuiced. I am juiced. You have your addiction, I have mine. Everybody has one.

Now I do not know about you, but my addiction, when I got addicted, it affected my eyes. I do not look at things the same way I once did. It affected how I see things. When I got addicted, just like the other guy, it affected my judgment. Now I have discernment and discretion. I do not always use it, but I have it. But now my judgment has changed. I will tell you something else, once I got addicted, my attitude changed. People say, I meet people I have not seen for years and years, you are going to say, "Man, you are not the guy I remember." You are right, I am now addicted. I am a new creature in Christ Jesus. All things are passed away, all things become new. My addiction got passed to my family. They are addicted. They better be. They are addicted. When they got married, their spouses got addicted. We have a drug house over at our place. Amen. Addictions everywhere. My addiction made me a different person. Praise the Lord for it. Amen.

You see, that is why I can understand what you are going through. When I sit down with somebody to try to help them with an addiction, I understand what you are going through, but the fundamental problem you have is you are a fool. You did not take the instructions of God, you did not take what God gave you, you did not take the wisdom and understanding, therefore you got deceived, and you thought your sin was fun and a sport. Here you are.

Where a foolish man has no accountability, nor does he take any responsibility, an addict will lie through his teeth. She will lie through her teeth. I have had them tell me that I am not on drugs, and boy, I will tell you what their eyeballs look like through garbage can lids. I have had women say, people, men tell me, I am not an alcoholic when they could not walk a straight line. I guarantee you, every cop that ever pulls over a drunk driver and gets him out of the car and he is staggering all over the place, he is saying he did not have too much to drink. You probably find one in a thousand where a guy just gets out and says, "I am drunk. I do not need to walk the line, I do not need to do a breath test, I do not want to break your meter. I have had more beer than you could put in your trunk. Put the cuffs on, take me to jail, I am a drunk bum." Never happened.

I need to say this. I hear a lot all the time about, and I deal with people all the time, "I am right with God, brother, I am getting right with God. I am right with God, I got right with God." I hear that so much, it just goes over the top of my head. We have learned to use the language of the Bible without ever committing the language of the Bible to where we are at. We use it like, we use cheap words like that and throw them around like everything else in the world, it has no value to us.

I want to tell you something. To get right with God without taking responsibility for your actions against God, you cannot get right with God. If you did something that is wrong, you cannot get right with God without taking responsibility for your actions with God. I have people all the time that get caught and go to jail and talk to them in the prison ministry, or John Doe with them in the prison ministry. They will say, "Well, I was wrong, I did this and I did that." And they will say, "I did," and then they will try to get a lawyer to get them out, whatever say "I did wrong," the lawyer gets up and say, "He did not do anything wrong." If you did it, then take responsibility for it. It is just that simple. It will go a lot farther with God if you just fess up, deal with it, take

it, than if you try to hide it and say, "I did not do it" when you did. Because there is no getting right with God without taking responsibility for your actions with God.

Now, some of your parents need to realize this because you are going to deal with your kids as they grow up, and you are that teenage group, and they are going to do something stupid, you are going to have to deal with them, and they are going to lay down the law to them, and then a week later, five weeks later, they are going to try to turn the tables back on you because of the fact that they do not want, now they want you to believe they are right with God, but they do not want any responsibility brought up to their face of what they did wrong. I am not saying you beat your kids over the head with the rest of their life over something they do, but I am saying this, there are two steps that have to take to get right with God.

1.) You have to take responsibility for your actions.

2.) You have to be accountable to somebody for your actions.

If it does not have that, somebody is just playing you like a fiddle.

III. The Fear Of The Wicked Versus The Desire Of The Righteous

Look at Proverbs 10:24.

Proverbs 10:24

The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

Now, "The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him." That is a great principle, and it is prevalent again to where we are at today. Unsaved people live in fear. God's people who are out of fellowship with God live in fear, and it is because of the X factor, the unknown. They have no hope because they are lost, or they have no, they are going for them because they are out of fellowship with God, and so they are kind of on their own. When a Christian goes with the world instead of the Word, he experiences the same fears. You see, because in time it catches up with you, and you experience the same fear that the world faces even though you are saved, either in this life through the trials and the troubles, or in the next one at the judgment seat of Christ, in both cases.

All unsaved people, and all people out of fellowship with Christ, have an inner fear, and it is because of their conscience. The Bible says in Romans chapter 2, verse 15, that when God made us, He wrote on our hearts, the tables of our hearts, the Word of God. That forms our conscience. When you continually defile that conscience, whether you are saved or you are lost, you continue to defile that conscience, the Holy Spirit of God, that is the meeting point. He takes that conscience, and He deals with you on it, and when you do not get right, and you do not do what you know to do right, then it builds into fear. When you waste your life going after the world, the flesh, and the devil, in time, 20, 30, 40 years, that fear catches up to you. It will catch up to you in a hospital room when the doctor comes back with a lung cancer diagnosis, and now you have to face that by yourself. It will come up and catch up to you in a situation where now you have

got cirrhosis of the liver, or some disease because of your sin, which you thought was fun. It will catch up with you when you face the judge because you were drunk driving, and you hit somebody and killed somebody, now you have got 10 years for manslaughter. It will catch up to you sometime, and the fear will overwhelm you. Scared to death, no place to go.

The last part of Proverbs 10:24 says, "but the desire of the righteous shall be granted."

Psalm 37:4

Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

What a great verse. God wants you to have everything that you need in life, He really does. He wants to make you complete. He wants to fulfill your life. He wants you to have all the desires that He created you to have as a human man or a woman, all the fulfillment of a rich and blessed life. It is just simply that true. But it cannot come from the world. It can only come from Him through a relationship you build with Him by delighting yourself with Him.

Last week we talked about how salvation was free, that God died on the cross, and salvation is a free gift, you get it free. But from that point on, you have to work out your own salvation. From that point on, you have to build the relationship with God. You have to do the work. You have to open up your Bible. You have to get to church. You have to let somebody teach you. Whatever level you are on today, if you are just somebody here and you say, "Bob, I do not know anything about the Bible," you are in the best place you could ever be. Because we are here to help you. We will start out with little baby steps of just teaching you the fundamental things about the Bible. If you are on another level up there, then we will get a little deeper for you. It does not matter where you are at. All that matters to us is you get that place in your life where God gives you everything that He wants for you.

I am not preaching about these things because I am trying to ruin your life and take all the fun out of your life. I am trying to preach these things to you because what you are doing and where you are heading in some cases is going to destroy everything about your life. Because it will catch up with you. God, on the other hand, wants to give you the desires of your heart, whatever that may be. Whatever your aspirations are, whatever your goals are, whatever your dreams are. God wants you to have everything you need in life to make you complete. But it cannot come from the world. Because out of His Word flows all the issues of life, and it has to come from the Word of God. Every dream you have, every hope, every desire, all the fulfillment has to come from Him, in Him, and only through Him. This is why Proverbs are so important. This is why we are taking the time to come through it. This is why I have a policy to sit down with you any time in the week, help you through. You can get a hold of me any time you need simply because these are the issues of life. These are the things that you have to get into your world, and I want to help you do that.

IV. The Transient Nature Of The Wicked And The Enduring Righteous

Look at Proverbs 10:25.

Proverbs 10:25

As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

Proverbs 10:25 says, "As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked, no more." Now, doctrinally, this will be a reference to the second coming of Christ, dealing with the nation of Israel. I am going to show you both applications here. I just want to give you this for some of you who are on maybe little higher levels here. In the Bible, there are certain words that will always mean certain things. I call them defining words. They will always define the context of the chapter. And "whirlwind" is one of them. Whirlwind, wherever you find it in the Bible, the context will always be the second coming of Christ. It is likened to a whirlwind because a whirlwind tears things up. Boy, when He comes back at the second coming, He will tear things up. You will find that in Isaiah 66:15, Jeremiah chapter 4, verse 13, Hosea talks about it in 8:7. Job makes reference to it in 38:1. Jeremiah 25:32, Amos talks about it in 1:14. It is a picture of God coming back, tearing everything up like a whirlwind.

In a Tribulation context, you know, and I am going to give you both, as I said, it is a reference to Israel's deliverance at the end of the Tribulation from the Antichrist. Everything is done now. He says the years of the wicked are shortened. That is the Antichrist, because he gets thrown into the lake of fire, verse 27. In verse 27, he says, "The fear of the Lord prolongeth days." That is Israel, they are going to live forever. He says in verse 28, "Expectation of the wicked shall perish." The devil is going to lose every chance he gets to try to destroy Israel. Verse 30 says, "The righteous shall never be removed." Once Israel is in the land, she is never going to get out of that land. Verse 30 talks about the wicked shall not inherit the earth. The meek is going to inherit the earth. Proverbs 10:25 talks about the righteous as an everlasting foundation. That is Israel. It says in Proverbs 10:28, "The hope of the righteous will be gladness." When the Lord comes back, the devil is swept off, all the Antichrist is gone, all the wicked stuff is gone. You talk about a paradise, that is what you have got. Doctrinally, all this is accomplished by the restoration of the nation of Israel when Christ comes back at the second coming, likened to a whirlwind. That is the, see, that is the doctrinal.

Now let me show you the spiritual application. In a spiritual application, it is also true of you and me, the great parallels. You know that life without Christ is going to wind up being a whirlwind for you. You have not figured that one out. You ought to spend a little time pondering that one. The day you get saved, everything changes. The day you got saved, you now have the ability to get past everything in life. I am not saying that you will not have some bad things come your way. I am not saying that there will not be some disappointment. I am not saying there will not be some things that you wanted to go one way that went another way. Not saying that. What I am saying, you now have the ability to live above all the circumstances. If you use it. If you use it.

In a spiritual sense:

- 1.) The years of the wicked are shortened.
- 2.) The fear of the Lord prolongeth days.

That is a great contrast, and it is a general truth. You ever notice how many movie stars who have everything in life, they have all the, they go to some of the greatest, grandest parties that you ever saw. They live in great mansions that cost millions of dollars. They have many, many different cars. They have servants. They have everything they want. You ever wind up how many of them wind up killing themselves when they are in their 20s and their 30s? They die because the life of the wicked is shortened. There is no value in what they do. They burn themselves out. They are looking for something, and they accelerate so quickly and so fast that it just consumes them. They are gone. They are gone. But the Bible says the fear of the Lord prolongeth days. You know why the fear of the Lord prolongeth days? Because one of the things that teaches you to be patient with life. Do not get in a hurry in life. Do not want things before they come in your own time in your life. Come to the point where you just wait on God to bring about the things in your life, knowing that He knows best. Do not get in a hurry to get to the end of your life. Get in a hurry to get what God wants you to get out of your life.

3.) The expectation of the wicked will perish.

> The devil right now wants to destroy mankind. That is his plan. He has an elaborate plan to make sin and foolishness sport. His job is to take every young kid coming out of high school, now out of grade school, and bring them in through the college scene and the world scene that they think that sin and living like that and doing all those things, it is just a fun time. That is his plan. But the Bible says that when you get saved, that expectation does not apply to you anymore. But now you have the ability to have wisdom and understanding. Now you have the ability to see the thing as it really is. Now you have the ability to put things in your life that is going to help you.

4.) The righteous shall never be removed.

> That is because the Bible says you are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. You are not going anywhere if you are saved.

5.) The wicked shall not inherit the earth.

> That is because he is going to inherit the lake of fire. The child of God, the New Jerusalem, the Christian, the nation of Israel, we are going to inherit the earth.

6.) God's righteous will be an everlasting foundation.

> The day you got saved, you laid a foundation in your life. 1 Corinthians chapter 3. Now maybe you saw me, I have not built anything on that foundation. That is okay. It is okay. Maybe you got saved at some point in life, and you just never did anything with the Bible, and you are sitting here this morning saying, "Well, I have never done anything." That is okay. I would rather have you that way than to have to unwind a lot of goofy stuff out of your world. Because you know what? If you have a foundation in your life and you have the desire to be what God wants you to be and learn the Word of God, piece of cake, man. That is the easiest way to be it. The fact that you are here this morning and you do not know anything about the Bible, I do not care as long as you want to know some things about the Bible. The rest will take care of itself.

7.) The hope of the righteous will be gladness.

> Now there is the end result. There is the hope, and my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. It is the Word of God in my life. That is my hope, my only hope. Not that I hope it works, but in the world that I live in, it is the only hope that I have got, and it will work. It is your joy, it is your fulfillment. It will put the right addiction in your life that you will go on into your families.

All that doctrinally, as I said, goes to the nation of Israel. But all that from an inspirational picture is a child of God and you and me living today who takes God's instruction and gets His wisdom. In the Bible you find the word "overcome." It is a great word. When you get saved and get God's instructions and wisdom and understanding, the Bible says that we overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. When we are in this life right now till Jesus comes, we are stuck with it. Every day you have to go to work. Every day you have to deal with problems. Every day you are going to have to make choices in your life of who you let in and who you do not. Every day you are going to be faced with temptations. Every day you are going to have to be faced with things that you are going to do, that you should not do versus the right things you should do. That is not going to go away. But right now you do have a book that will give you the wisdom and understanding to make the right choices. It will show you the long-term results and the short-term results. It will show you why making the right choice is always the right choice. It will show you how to do everything that God wants you to do, be everything He wants you to be. It comes in your own time. Nobody expects you to be a Bible theologian in a year, but you go through a process, but through a process of growth. You come to the point where you allow God to do in your life what He does the best. That is simply to get you to grow. But at the end of the day, it is simply this: you and I will overcome the world, or the world will overcome you and I. It is just that easy. There is nothing complicated about it whatsoever.

V. The Sluggard As An Irritation To God

Now look at Proverbs 10:26, and I like this one. This is fun.

Proverbs 10:26

As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

You would look at that verse and you would probably say, "Now how is he going to get anything out of that?" Oh, I will just make it up. This is one of the greatest practical principles you are ever going to find. Nothing deep to it. Just right here where you and I live.

Both vinegar and smoke are very irritating. Vinegar, if you ever drank it, makes your teeth frazzle. Smoke irritates your eyes. Yet these two are incredible things to see in the text. We talk about vinegar being an irritant. Vinegar in the Bible will always be associated with Christ on the cross. Psalm 69:21. In Matthew 27:48, when Christ was on the cross, they would not give Him water, what did they give Him? They gave Him vinegar.

Smoke in the Bible will represent two things: lost people without Christ and saved people at the judgment seat of Christ.

Revelation 14:11

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

But the Bible says in 1 Corinthians chapter 3, verses 12 through 15, that a saved person when he goes to the judgment seat of Christ and his works are burned up, it all goes up in smoke.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

It is very clear God has saved us for a purpose. God has a plan for you and for me. God has something He wants us to do. He has a mission that He wants us to accomplish. He has paid our entry fee to salvation on Calvary's cross. I understand that. All He asks back is if we are willing to help finish what He started. That is all He wants from us. Seems reasonable.

So you start dealing with people. When you and I take what God has given us freely and do nothing with it, become a sluggard, what Christ did on the cross, what He went through, all that He went through. When you and I take what God has given us freely and do nothing with it, we become that sluggard. Then the Bible says that that is an irritation to God. Just as the vinegar and the smoke irritates us. God's people who will not give back to God after all He gave them become an irritation to Him.

Now I know how pastors feel in a human sense. I have seen over the years pastors, they pour everything they have into the church. They give everything they have to their people. Many times, nobody cares. Many times the people absolutely do nothing with it. I have seen it. I have seen it where it crushes them. I have seen it where it makes them angry. I have seen it where it frustrates them. Because they are putting out all this energy knowing the truth of God and yet the people are so resistant to what they are saying and do nothing with it. I want to tell you how much more God must get irritated with us after all that He has done for us and our unwillingness to do anything back for Him. See, it puts it into a context where everybody can grasp it.

I want to tell you, I have heard every excuse there is for not serving God after you are saved. I can tell you not one will hold any value when it comes when we stand before Christ. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians chapter 3 that you laid a foundation in your life the day you got saved. We are supposed to build gold, silver, precious stones, if we are wise. The foolish man will build wood, hay, and stubble. At that day, all the works will be tried by fire, and it will go up in smoke. You see, it is about building the things in your life. That is what this church is about. That is what I am about. I get very passionate about it because it means everything to me. It is my addiction.

I notice how you get when you do not get your drugs. You get sweaty, you get scared, you shake, you move around, you get irritable. Well, when I get passionate about my addiction, I will let you have yours, you let me have mine. But at least my passion about my addiction is for you because I want you to come to the place in your life where you build the things in your life that make you an overcomer. Get you past what you are facing. I do not want anybody in life to have to suffer any more than they have to. But a lot of people do simply because they will not simply do the basic things. None of this has been hard today. None of this has been, well, I mean, I talked about some doctrinal things that you may have a hard time grasping, but 90% of it was just right on the table where you can see.

VI. Overcoming And Moving Forward

At the end of the day, you know what? We have to be an overcomer. We have a job that God has called us to do. You are going to overcome, or you are going to succumb. It is going to overcome you, or you are going to overcome it. It is just that simple. My whole job, the job of this church, the people that are here, that disciple you, that work with you, that will get into your world, they do not get paid for it. It is not like they get some kind of spiritual notch on their spiritual pistol when they get up in heaven. They do it because they understand, as I understand, that the job of any church is to help you get past what you are dealing with, struggling with, help you to be better every day of your life.

We are coming down to the end of 2014. It is unbelievable that next week is going to be the new year, 2015. How much longer can this thing go on? But boy, I will tell you what, it is incredible. But we are moving right along with that. I challenge you, no matter what level you are on, and maybe you are into some deep problems, I do not know. But I challenge you to make next year different, moving forward in your relationship with Christ. That is the greatest thing you can do.

Every time we get to New Year's, everybody starts talking about, I hear it all the time, what you are going to be, "I am going to have a, make a New Year's resolution. I am going to have a New Year's resolution." What most people need is not a New Year's resolution, they need a New Year's revolution. They need to radically change everything in their life to get where God wants them to be. But there is a process. The process is from this point on, do not look where you have come from, do not look at the struggles you have had, look to the future of where you want to go. Do not worry about where you have been. I say it all the time, I do not care where you have been, I do not care what you did, I do not care what it is. All I care about is where you want to go from here. Do not focus anymore on where you have been. Make the changes in your life, do what you have to do, but now this next year, focus on where you have to go.

Now, I am going to leave you with a simple illustration. You are all going to leave here in a little bit, you are going to get in your car, and you are going to drive home. When you get in your car and you drive home, do you ever notice about your automobile? In the automobile, you have a windshield in front of you. That windshield goes almost from 180 degrees from here to here, it is high. You can see all around you, you can see things over here, you can see things over here, you can see things in front of you. See everything clearly. But on the side of your car, you have what they call a rearview mirror. Did you ever notice how small the rearview mirror is compared to

your windshield? You know why that is? Because most of the time you are driving, you want to look at where you are going, not where you have been.

In your life this morning, you need to look where you are going and put focus on that little rearview mirror that shows you where you have been. Because this next year and every year after, it is about you building your relationship with Him, getting the wisdom, getting whatever help you need, getting whatever it takes, getting whoever has to spend time with you, getting you through whatever you are going through because you have value. If you are saved this morning, God died for you. If you are not saved this morning, He still died for you. He wants you to fulfill for Him, not only His plan, but He wants the very best for you, the very best for you. Every head bowed and every eye closed.