

# Proverbs 10

Sunday 12/7/2014

I told you about the twelve constellations of the Zodiac. There are eighty-eight constellations in total, but twelve of them form the parentheses, so to speak, around the Earth. It is a picture of God's panoramic view of God's glory which takes place 24/7.

Then I took you back to Genesis 1 and Psalms 148 and showed you the Bible's definition of the word heaven.

## I. Review of Proverbs 10:12-14

Last week, we saw out of Proverbs 10:12-14. I gave you six fundamental principles that are built around the contrast of negative and positive, and built around the contrast between a wise man and a foolish man.

We saw the mouth of a righteous man tendeth to life; the mouth of a wicked man tendeth to violence. Then the second set of principles was, hatred stirreth up strifes, but love covereth all sins. And then the third set was, lips of understanding, but a rod for the back of a fool, God's chastisement.

We saw and took some time with each one of them. You really saw how the book of Proverbs gives you so much information. We could probably spend a Sunday alone on each one of these, but we do not want to get bogged down to that degree. I want to keep it moving, but I want to make sure you get everything.

Today, I want to look again at another set of principles found in Proverbs 10:14-16. We will not get past Proverbs 10:14 today, but we will work on this section for the next couple of weeks. I am going to tell you right out of the chute, this is going to be a fun message today. It is going to be a little different than you normally have. You are going to be a silent participant in this. It will be good for you, a little different than we normally do.

Let us read it down here in Proverbs 10:14-16. It says this:

*Proverbs 10:14*

*Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.*

*Proverbs 10:15*

*The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.*

*Proverbs 10:16*

*The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.*

Father, help us today as we come to this passage and begin to look at some things here. Lord, in one verse in particular, I want to focus today to try to help these young men and these young ladies, these moms and dads, these men and women who in their hearts have committed to learn

the Bible and to get the Bible down. Help us in all that we do, Father, to give You the honor and glory today in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, Amen.

## II. Laying Up Knowledge

We are not going to get out of Proverbs 10:14 today, but Proverbs 10:14 says:

*Proverbs 10:14*

*Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.*

I want to talk today about laying up knowledge. I want to define the concept for you. When you leave here today, I do not want this just to be another term that you heard. I want it to stick with you. I want you to remember it. I want you to go out of here today understanding what exactly that means, because it is so easy today to say, "Oh yeah, lay up knowledge. Yeah, I got it." No, no. I want you to go out of here with a Bible definition of what it takes and what it means for you and I to lay up knowledge, to store it up, to warehouse it.

I want to define that concept, and I want to do it by giving you a real practical lesson from my own life. What I learned so long ago has served me so well in everything that I have had to try to accomplish in my life by learning this thing. I want to talk about the concept and giving you the understanding of laying up knowledge.

We have a lot of young men and a lot of young ladies, and a lot of moms and dads, and middle-aged, and even in later years in life, that want to learn the Bible. You are never too old to begin to learn the Bible. There is never a time in your life where God says, "Look, you are too old, you cannot get this." Because the Bible is not connected with your intelligence. It is not connected on your ability to remember anything. It is connected on your heart that you want to love God and you want to learn things from Him. So wherever you are at in life, you can apply what I am about to talk to you about today.

## III. Building Your Biblical Library

Let me start by this: Let me talk to you about building your library of Bible truth based on biblical principles. If you were a lawyer and I was a lawyer today, we would have either ourselves or we would have access to a law library. In a law library, there would be thousands of law books. It would be endless, the books that you could have in a law library, thousands of them. Each one of them on different case laws. Each one of them dealing with different statutes or different codes or different legal references and briefs.

If you had a particular case you were on and you were getting ready for trial, you would get maybe twenty or thirty books out of the various shelves of the library that dealt with that particular case. You would want to make sure that when you went to trial, the judge did not throw it out because you did not do your homework and you tried to bring something up or tried to make a case that Missouri law or federal law had already sustained something that you better know. So you would get your books out and you would start to go over the subjects of your case

to put it all out. You would build your case on a legal system that the state of Missouri has set down. That is how, along with the evidence and testimonies, a lawyer builds his case and gets ready to go to trial.

We all talk about abortion, and we know abortion is wrong, and we know that America has struggled with the issue on abortion. It has been to the Supreme Court, it has been to every court in the country at some time or the other. When they bring it into court, they always go back to something that you probably have heard, a case called Roe versus Wade. It goes back to 1973. That was the Supreme Court decision on abortion for this country. So every time somebody wants to try to get rid of abortion or get around it, when they go to trial, they always bring out the Supreme Court case on it and they use that as the standard. You see it all the time.

We have kicked prayer out of schools. It is now illegal to pray in school and to have public prayer in school. That goes back to 1962 in the case study of Engel versus Vitale, a case that is set in Supreme Court. So when a lawyer wants to deal with these things, he has to go back and find the case law, what either the Supreme Court of Missouri or the United States has shut down, that this is the precedent, and that is what he has got to work with.

For you and me as Christians, we do the exact same thing as far as building a biblical Christian library. You see our bookstore back there, and even a greater example would be our website. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate Nancy and Rose. They sit here on Thursday night and they detail out every question. So when they put it on the website, you can actually, without listening to everything, find the subjects of what you want. That is a tremendous thing that they do.

Think of that in that bookstore like your law library, only in a biblical sense. Think of all that material that is on that website and all those books that are back there. In time, as you learn your Bible and you learn the principles, that all gets inside your mind. That forms your basis for your biblical library. That is exactly what happens when you put that in there. You come up and you have an issue you have got to deal with with somebody, or you have something in your own life, or you are working with somebody and they lay out some extravagant problem that they have got. That is what you do, just like the lawyer did. You have got a case, this person has got a problem. So you go to your law library, it is up in here, and while they are telling you what their issues are, you are pulling out the principles that you are going to use. Then when they are done, just as a lawyer presents the evidence to the jury, you present the case law of the Bible principle to that person, show them how to fix it. That is all it is. But it comes from laying up knowledge. That is how it starts.

Last week, I talked about digging wells and lining that well inside with brick or stone that keeps the water in so it does not seep into the dirt and evaporate. Those bricks I told you last week, when you put that well into a spiritual concept, are a picture of the Bible doctrines that you learn. The principle that is in your Bible mind library, that you line your well with, that holds the water, the word of God in, because it is all connected together in time. Because of the substance that supports the well, that is all that you believe, you really get an understanding of how to use the Bible. What have you done? You have laid up knowledge.

In time, like our lawyer, these doctrines will form the deep well of knowledge and wisdom and understanding by which in any given situation, just like the lawyer goes to trial, you will go through your spiritual library, getting the principles that you need to build your case. This is what the Bible called last week, the lips of understanding, being able to speak to something with authority. Being able to look at a situation and not give them your homespun philosophy, not giving them what your grandma said you need to do, going to an absolute standard of truth that gives them the case law from God on their particular issue. That is what I am talking about.

Now you do that by laying up knowledge. You do that by 2 Timothy 2:15, "study to show thyself approved." I said last week in Proverbs 15:28, "the heart of the righteous studieth to answer."

#### IV. The Christian as a Student

When it comes to the Bible, you will always be a student of the Word of God. There are no experts when it comes to the Bible. I want you to thoroughly understand that. This idea that there are Bible scholars out there who really know the Bible, that there are Bible scholars out there who are experts on the Word of God, they are only experts in their own mind. That is a puffed up, fleshy concept to make them think like they are better than you are.

I want to tell you something. I do not believe there are any experts in anything in life, but I know there are no experts when it comes to the Bible. All we are, all are students on different levels. That is all we are. The quicker you learn that, the better off you are going to be. In fact, the more you think you know about the Bible, you only demonstrate how less you really know about the Word of God. Because if you are really smart and you really know what the Word of God says to a degree on a level you are at, then you know how much you do not know.

We see it in our own society of learning. You go to elementary school, you go to middle school, then you go to high school, and then you go to college. In all systems, you start out as a freshman, then you go to a sophomore, and then you go to a senior, and then you graduate. Then you get, if you go all the way through, a number of years of education. But you know as well as I do, you are not done learning yet. In fact, you are just beginning to learn. You went to school, you learned all this stuff, and so many people think, "Wow, I am done with school now." No, now your school really starts. Because now you are in a position to take what you have learned and look at life, deal with life, go through with life, and continue to add to what you have learned and learn what you know from every experience in life. That is where you should be doing. That is where you are at.

That works the exact same way with Christianity. You get disciplined. You go through discipleship too. You come here on Thursday night. You come over and one-on-one, or you come to church on Sunday morning. You are in the people ministry. You get the specialized things we do in the Bible. It does not stop there. It only starts there. Now you have the wherewithal to view everything in life because you are building the library, the biblical principles. You are laying up knowledge.

Our lawyer, going back to our earlier statement, he has to go to law school. A doctor, he goes to medical school. A nurse goes to nursing school. There they all learn by other experienced

lawyers, doctors, nurses, all that they need to know to practice law, medicine, or their nursing skills. In a worldly sense, in his vocation, they lay up knowledge about being a lawyer, being a doctor, or being a nurse. As a student of the Word of God, you and I will be in school for the rest of our lives, laying up knowledge. Just as a lawyer practices law, he continues to educate himself. Nurses continue to be upgraded and learn because it is their life, it is what they do. It is their career, as do doctors. Well, if you are saved this morning and you take the Word of God seriously, then you are a career Christian. You need to be updated. You need to continue to grow. You cannot ever get to the place in your life where you say, "Okay, I do not have to grow anymore." When you do, you are in trouble.

## V. The Local Church as God's School

Now, school, or schools, are a great study in the Bible. I do not know if you know this, but the first Bible college is found in the Bible in the book of Acts. We all know that believe the Bible about the rule of law first mentioned. The first time you find something in the Bible pretty much sets the standard for what it is going to be. The first Bible college found in the Bible is in Acts 19:9. It is not a good deal. It is not a good school. In fact, it is a school that was set up and it is teaching against the very teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ that He gave to Paul. The Bible says that Paul goes in there and he goes at it with them for a period of time. Then he says, "I am done with you."

Let me, and I think that is important sometimes that I give you my position on things for the record. My position does not have to be your position. Obviously, I am not stating that. I have never told you that you have to believe what I believe any more than I need to believe what you believe. I believe the Bible. When you believe the Bible and everything in it, then we are on the same page. But I understand that people have different opinions and I never try to force my opinion on somebody else. But I do have my opinions. My opinions are based for the most part on the principles in the Word of God.

My position on Bible colleges is simple. I have been accused all my life of being against Bible colleges. I am not really against Bible colleges. I am just really pro-local church. I believe that the local church is God's program to teach you the Word of God, never a Bible college. You say, "Why do you say that?" Because the first Bible college found in the Bible, the only Bible college found in the Bible, was teaching against the Word of God. Maybe that does not mean nothing to you. It means something to me because the Bible is the format that I go by.

My position about higher education when it comes to Christianity, now look, let me clarify it. If you are going to be a doctor, go get all the education you can. Go whatever schools you go to, maybe it takes thirty years to be a doctor, I do not know. Do it all, do it all. Because if I come to you, I do not want... I went to a doctor one time and had to have a very delicate operation that was really delicate. To me, it was scary. He was a friend of mine and I really liked him and I wanted to give him my business. So I went to him and I had a particular delicate operation I needed to be taken care of. He looked at me after he checked me out and he said, "You know what, I have never done that before but here it is in the book. If you hold the book, I can get it

done." Now that is not what I am looking for. In this particular operation, I would not be holding that book steady. I guarantee you.

Get all the education you can. Learn everything you can. Be the best doctor you can be. If you are going to be a nurse, do the same thing. If you are going to be a lawyer, learn everything you can about law. Be the best lawyer you can be. We all make jokes about lawyers till we need one. Be the best one you can be. But I want to also tell you, when it comes to the Bible, that is where it stops. Because all you need in the Bible is the Holy Spirit of God and a New Testament local church that believes the Bible and a pastor who teaches the Bible. That is all you need. You do not need any higher education. You do not need any degrees to go along with it.

I am telling you, my position on things like that is, again, it is Bible, it is Paul's position. In Philippians 3:8, he went through all his spiritual academic credentials. He talked about being a Pharisee of Pharisees. He was trained by the best in the Old Testament law. He knew everything about the religion of the nation of Israel. He had higher education all of his life. But when it came to the revelation that God gave him, you know what he said in Philippians 3?

*Philippians 3:8*

*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

He says, "all that higher education I count as dung." You know what it means. That was Paul's position, my position. It is as simple as that.

Mark this down: There is not one Bible college, not one university, not one seminary on earth that believes that you can have a copy of the inherent, perfect, preserved Word of God. There is not one Bible college or seminary under the authority of any New Testament local church anywhere on this planet. They operate completely independent of God's New Testament program, which is the New Testament local church. Whatever your idea about that is, fine. But I am telling you what the Bible says because I want you to understand that laying up knowledge has nothing to do with going to Bible college. It has nothing to do with getting a degree. I got my degree in Bible many, many years ago. Most guys go to school and take twenty years to get their degree. I got mine when I was nine. I got my BA, I got born again. That is the only one I have needed.

When you go to high school and you are ready to head to college, they give you what they call a guidance counselor. I think they are very important. They help you plan your curriculum around your classes from what you have done in high school and what you want to achieve in your goals. I think that is a very good thing. But believe it or not, most kids going off to college from high school, they were not really many times what they want to take in their courses because they know they need to go to college, they want to go to college, but they are not really sure what they want to do in life. I know a lot of college courses, you can blend in and move and change around and get where you want to go. So a guidance counselor helps them decide so they do not get the wrong classes and waste a lot of time and waste a lot of money.

When it comes to laying up knowledge and getting God's wisdom and God's understanding and going to God's school, in a spiritual sense, the pastor is your guidance counselor. That is part of his job. I make sure you get the right classes. I make sure that you do not waste your time and you get all that you need to fulfill what God has called you to do as a career Christian.

The church is God's school. It is just that simple. You will never, if you get into the right church, with the right teaching, with the right Bible, with the right people in charge, you will never have to step outside that church to learn anything more about the Bible. You will get everything you want and you will come so far ahead of the system out there that is outside God's system that you will not believe it. It is just that simple.

But you know what? Churches are just like public schools. They are, they are all the same. Some of you are A plus students. Some of you are B plus students. Some of you are C students. Some of you are D students. And some of you, bless your hearts, you are going to flunk out. See it all the time. Nothing personal. But you know when you went to school, you had people that graduated with a straight average of A's. That was not me. A straight average of B's, that was not me either. Straight average of C's, I was not even close to that one. And you find some who have a tough time and actually flunk out.

We just went a couple of weeks ago to our grandkids meet the grandparents, parents, conference teachers. I really enjoyed it. But I used to dread them when I had to go as a kid. Because I never got good reports. I mean, I will tell you what, it would be a lot easier in this day and age because I do not even know if they do report cards anymore. I do not know what they just send a big X home when your paper is saying you are dead or something. A teacher, when you got an F, it was in red. My dad did not see real well and I could get my glasses off my mom and they could not really see it if it was all in black ink. But when you put an F in red, everybody sees it. I used to get so nervous going to school before I get that report card. I will never forget, I used to go to a parent, teacher, common-night, sit there, and I heard it over and over and over again. "He is a smart kid, but he just does not apply himself. He daydreams." Well, sure, I was daydreaming about winning the world to Christ. What were you doing, lady? God was deep inside me, like little Samuel, just building up a fire. Everybody else was doing their math. I am looking at Ethiopia and Japan and places like, no, she is right. I would look out, she said he looks out the window all the time. What is there a lot going on out there, man? I mean, hey, I was observing nature. But she was right. I never really applied myself to anything till, first I went in the army, and I applied myself to that. Then a little bit later on, I went into God's army, and I applied myself to that.

## VI. Seven Classes in God's School

Now what I am going to do is I am going to give you the seven classes that had to be in every church. Seven classes in God's school. They had to be in every church in this country. They had to be in every church in this city. Seven Bible classes that a church should teach all the time. My goal for you is to show you how to lay up knowledge as a wise man, Proverbs 10:14. That is my goal.

I said we were going to have some fun with this because I want you to grade yourself on this test. This is no curve, this is a straight line test. You do not have to share, you do not have to write, I would not write it down because people are sitting close to you. Just keep it in your little pitter patter heart and keep it to yourself. Do not cheat off of somebody else.

Here is the grading scale:

- If you get all seven of these, give yourself an A plus.
- If you get five or six of them, give yourself a B minus.
- If you get three or four of them, give yourself a C.
- If you only get two of them, give yourself a D.
- If you do not get any or just one, give yourself an F.

Rose, you have some of them red magic markers back there. I want you to walk up and down the aisle here in a little bit and pass some of them out. It is a little test today. We are going to have fun. Do not take it serious, but do not have a heart attack over it.

I need to say this, and I always say this. If you are here today and you have been saved five years or less, you can take the test, but do not beat yourself up over it. A lot of you are just really getting into it. Five or six years from now, you will max this test. So if you do not have it all down right now, it is okay. It is okay.

- Math Class
- Biology Class
- History Class
- Civics Class
- English Class
- Music Class
- Science Class

## VII. Classes Not in God's Curriculum

You will notice that there are three classes missing that I did not add to this because they are not in God's curriculum.

1. First of all, there is no recess. There is no time off from serving God. No summer break, no spring break. You are learning 24/7, the rest of your life in everything and about everything.
2. The next class that is never included, there is no home economics class because the word of God has already been prepared for you. You do not have to fix it. Back in Exodus 16 when he brought the manna down to the people with a picture of the word of God, you know that Bible says he brought the manna right to where the people were. All they had to do was open a tent door and scoop it up, take it in and eat it. One of the great things about the Bible is you

do not have to prepare it doing anything. God brought that book right to where you are at, put it right in your lap, all you have got to do is eat it.

3. Then of course the last class that they do not have in God's school, no drama class. Amen. No drama. No fantasy productions going on here. Only real time situations and real life scenarios. No drama queens, no kings of drama.

## VIII. Conclusion and Application

You know the last part of Proverbs 10:14 says, "but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction." There are some people that just always have got to have some impending disaster that they have got to tell everybody about. They are always living in the next uneventful scenario with their life. They never get outside, they never learn how to deal with it. They always are just painting the picture, "Woe is me." But never willing to fix it, they just thrive on it.

Now, you can grade yourself. If you got all seven, give yourself an A plus. If you got, do not let anybody see your score now. If you got five or six, give yourself a B minus. If you got three or four, give yourself a C. If you got two, you got a D. And if you got one or none of them, you got an F. So in your own heart and your own mind, I say again, if you have been saved five years or less, you can take the test, enjoy it, but do not take it a result too seriously. You are just getting on time.

But man, I am telling you something. If you have been saved ten, twelve, twenty, thirty years, you do not know these things. Man, you have been playing hooky somewhere. I mean, you have been going to a bad school. You want to lay up wisdom? You want to do what the Bible says? Then that is how you do it. You build a library of biblical truth that you keep inside that in every scenario that you look at, whether it be in history, whether it be in music, whether it be in dealing with people, body, soul, and spirit, second coming, rapture, drinking problems, satanic strongholds, depression, you name it. You go to your library and you pull out the principles that you need, not to give your own opinion, but to lay out what the Word of God says. When you build that library in your life that you can talk biblically and intelligently about every issue in life, you have laid up knowledge. You see, it is not just your knowledge you are laying up, it is God's knowledge. When you get God's mind, the Word of God, you get God's knowledge, then you have got it.

I heard a variation of this message 46 years ago. I heard a variation of this 46 years ago, and I was where some of you are at right now. Brother, when I heard it, it impacted my life, impacted my world, and I went to school. I made up my mind that I was going to, and I still wanted to do fun things. I did not become a monk and live in a monastery. I wanted to have fun and I wanted to enjoy life, but I realized that my chief goal in life was to lay up wisdom. I knew I had to go to school. I happened to be in a church where they had a school and they were teaching the same stuff that I am teaching you, and boy, I just got everything I could get. I spent time going through it, learning it, and when I got to a point where I could self-teach myself, I started getting a hold of every book I could read. I started to get everything out of the Bible for everybody, and I started to weigh that thing out and put that thing down. I went through history, I went through English, I went through music, I went through it all. I went through at least five, six hundred

books on church history before I came to the conclusion of where I am at and why I believe what I believe. I am not some old yee-haw geezer up here that just wants to give my own impression. Brother, I have been there. I read Philip Schaff's seven volumes several times. I read Carnes' History of Christianity twenty times. I read Ernest's book, The Handbook of Christianity thirty times. I know where they are at, I know where they are at.

If you want to go to school in your life and you are here this morning and you say, "You know what, this is what I am going to do," I can have you with the right people to get your school started before 12:30, and it is 12:24 right now. But it is up to you. Just like I had to decide for myself, you will have to decide for yourself. But if you are ever going to lay up knowledge, these are the classes that you need. Then you get these classes and you are using the rest of your life. All right, we are going to have a word of prayer in a minute here and I will call you back, but you folks, Jamie, you will be back there at the deal.