

Proverbs 7:1-4

Sunday 6/15/2014

Remember the preacher. Thank God for the preaching. Now, today we are going to come to the last chapter in the book of Proverbs as far as the introduction of the book. These first seven chapters are what you would call preparatory in nature or content. Preparatory chapters in anything will prepare you or instruct you as to what you are supposed to do to get what is in the book itself. That is really what the first seven chapters do. I pointed it out all the way through how that you see the term in the first seven chapters, "my son," over and over and over again. We have been instructed under that concept to do the following things. These things make up the goals, or should be our goals as Christians, what we all really want to achieve from the book of Proverbs. I told you when we started this that you want to set some goals. You want to learn what Proverbs will do for you, and then you want to try to accomplish that in your life. The first seven chapters really do that.

In Proverbs 1:2, we were told that the primary goal of the book is:

Proverbs 1:2

To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

In Proverbs 1:3, we also were told that the book will help us:

Proverbs 1:3

To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

I told you that equity in the Bible is balanced.

Then in Proverbs 1:4, it said that the book of Proverbs would:

Proverbs 1:4

To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

In chapter 2, we learned about the six things that if you put them into your life and you do them, the Bible says that you will find the knowledge of God. And you remember I told you that it was not just the knowledge about God, but it is the exact same knowledge that God has that you can have.

In Proverbs 3:13-14, we saw the Bible says:

Proverbs 3:13

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Proverbs 3:14

For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

And we talked about the true riches and how God wanted to take those and how they would impact our lives.

In Proverbs 4:2, he said:

Proverbs 4:2

For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

You probably remember back that I took a couple of weeks on this one and we talked about what doctrine is and why it is important to have good doctrine.

In Proverbs 5:1-2, it says:

Proverbs 5:1

My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:

Proverbs 5:2

That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

And we talked about when we got to that chapter, we talked quite a bit about discretion and discernment and how absolutely vital they are in our lives.

Proverbs 6:1 says:

Proverbs 6:1

My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,

How important we saw that that was. How that before you agree with something with somebody or co-sign for somebody or get into some kind of agreement or relationship with somebody that may cost you some money, you better make sure that they are your friend.

Then we moved into probably one of the most practical things that we could ever see, and that was the six things that God hates and how that the seventh one forms what the Bible calls an abomination. We saw it from a practical aspect and then I brought you back the week after and I showed you how it deals in a doctrinal, prophetic way. All of this stuff now that we know in Proverbs, everything that we have looked at as we have come through these preparatory chapters here, everything in Proverbs we now know leads us to the point where it keeps us from the strange woman and the evil man. And we now know who those are. We have defined them and we are not quite through defining them yet, but we have a very good understanding that the strange woman represents false religion and the evil man represents the world system that is all around us. And the Bible says that the book of Proverbs, when God is talking to us as His children, that it gives us the discretion and the discernment to know what is of God in our lives and what is not. And we have talked about how that these things will entice you, they will seduce you in a spiritual way and pull you away from God and His Word.

Now today in our next chapter, Proverbs 7, we are going to find the last admonition to us as a son. I do not know if you have been counting them or not, but this is the fourteenth time that He has addressed us as "my son." And this with great principles that we ought to try to keep and get us through the issues of life to keep us from being deceived. We also now see how that all this material has been built around, as I said, the two main threats that we face: the evil man and the strange woman. And last week you will remember we took that passage and really developed this concept of yet again how that we see this concept is laid out of the deception under the guise of God having a wife, the nation of Israel, and the evil man and the strange woman pulling her aside and pulling her away from God and under the concept of spiritual adultery and spiritual fornication. And last week we saw the wrath of God being poured out on them. We talked about the day of God's vengeance. Vengeance against this evil man and this strange woman who subdued Israel, who seduced Israel, who brought her and took her away from God and then got her into Baal worship. Thursday night somebody asked the question and we saw this woman in great detail in Revelation 7 and Revelation 18.

Now let us look at this last admonition to us as God's son. And then probably next week or the week after we are going to get one last look at this woman, but we are going to see it from another angle now. Today let us begin reading here in Proverbs 7:1-4. Here is what it says:

Proverbs 7:1

My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Proverbs 7:2

Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Proverbs 7:3

Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

Proverbs 7:4

Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

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 book of Proverbs and we pray Father that as we open it up and we begin to study it today that you will give us the great principles. Fourteen times Lord we have seen where you have given us personal instruction as your son. Help us Lord to take it to heart. Help us Lord to believe it and to apply it. We will thank you now and praise you in Jesus name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

I. Keeping God's Words

Now I want to begin here to break this down as we have the others and I want to show you some great principles that I think are involved here. Proverbs 7:1 says, "My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee." Now the first thing he says here is "keep my words."

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

That is one of my favorite verses in the Bible and when I come back here to Proverbs it says, "My son, keep my words." Have you ever noticed how many times you find that in the Bible where God makes a reference to His words? In all the times that I have read the Bible, and I have been through it a few times, in all the times I have read the Bible I have never found one place where I was told to keep the original autographs. I was never told one place that I was to keep the ideas of God or the teachings of God or the concept of God. Not one time was I ever told that as a child of God I am to keep the fundamentals of God or the message of God. Every time you find it, the Bible says that you and I are to keep the words of God.

John 14:23 says, "If a man love me, he will keep my words." John 15:7 says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you." We live in a day and age where we get this idea that our Bible that we have here is some lame rendition off of some mystical, magical text some place that nobody has ever read and nobody has ever held the original manuscripts and that kind of thinking is right out of the devil's playbook of Genesis 3. And you and I, and I want to say this this morning, you and I can have a copy of the very words of God. And the day that you and I cannot is the day that you and I are really in trouble. It is just that simple.

And I do not think for a moment that I do not understand the issues or the argument. I certainly do. I was hammering this stuff out while most of you were in your jammies on Saturday morning watching Saturday morning cartoons and not on your fudge sickle. I understand what the issues are. I understand where the argument is. I have been down this road many, many, many times. My Bible says in Jeremiah 23, probably one of the greatest passages in the Bible on this in verse 20, it says:

Jeremiah 23:20

The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

Now that will be the second coming of Christ until He has executed, till He has performed the thoughts of His heart. That will be the Bible. That will be the completed Bible. He is saying that God will not execute judgment until He gives you a completed Word of God. The thoughts of His heart is the Bible. But look at this. "In the latter days," there is the church age, you and me. "In the latter days, he shall consider it perfectly." In the latter days, you have in your hand this morning, if you have a King James 1611 Authorized Version, you have the complete, absolute, perfect Word of God. You have the thoughts of His heart and in the latter days before God brings His judgment, you and I can consider it perfectly. That is one of the greatest passages anywhere in the Bible, but I am not done yet.

Look at Jeremiah 23:29. It says:

Jeremiah 23:29

Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.

See, God has given you a perfect book because you cannot have a profitable life as a Christian without the words of God, but the devil has prophets out there, preachers out there, churches out there that want to steal it from you, where you should be able to consider the thoughts of God's heart perfectly in the latter days, there is somebody that wants to steal God's words from you. And the idea that you cannot have a perfect Bible, a translation, so to speak, of the words of God, because, and I have known it, I have been around it all my life, "Well, you lose things when you translate from one language to another." And that is the big stick today. "Well, your Bible in the Old Testament is written in Hebrew and your Bible in the New Testament is written in Greek. So when you translate something, when you translate something from that, you are going to lose some things so you do not get exactly the exact translation. So what you need is some Greek and Hebrew scholar to tell you what the Bible says instead of the Holy Spirit of God telling you what it says." That is where it breaks down from, exactly where it breaks down from.

Now I know that you lose some things in a translation. They call them idioms in the translating world. But you also obviously gain some things. Let me show you something a Greek and a Hebrew scholar never thought about. When you go back to the book of Exodus, when Moses goes before Pharaoh and they are contesting back and forth about letting the people go, let me ask you a question. Did they speak in Egyptian or did they speak in Hebrew? Well, they spoke in Egyptian. Pharaoh did not recognize the God of Israel. He hated the Israelites. I am sure that the Hebrew language was not their first choice. They spoke in Egyptian. Moses, on the other hand, was raised in Egypt. He knew the Egyptian language. And when Pharaoh and Moses had their confrontation over letting God's people go, I guarantee you they spoke in Egyptian. But in your Bible it is recorded in Hebrew. You know what? You did not get exactly what they said.

I will tell you something else when Joseph is on the throne there as Pharaoh's second-in-command and the brothers come in and he is trying to hide himself from who they are. He is not speaking with them in Hebrew. He is speaking with them in Egyptian. And it is going through a translator. You know what? It is recorded in Hebrew. You know what? You did not get exactly what they said. I mean, it is ridiculous the argument they take. We talk about the fact that the original manuscripts, which ones are you talking about? In the book of Jeremiah, you have the original set of the Old Testament Jeremiah in Hebrew. And in Jeremiah 36:23, a scholar by the name of Dr. Jehudi took a pen knife out, cut out the portion that he did not like and started throwing him in the fire. It tells you that. By the time he got done of throwing in the fire what he did not like, there was not anything left of it. So there goes the original out the window. Then you find that there was a second set of Jeremiah's originals. And you will find in Jeremiah 51:61, they got thrown in the river. You have a copy of it in your Bible. That means there had to be a third copy. And the Bible tells you that they did not match. None of them matched. None of them

said exactly the same thing. You did not get exactly what they said. But do you know what you do have? You have exactly what God wanted you to have. Now that is where you have to go with it.

The first rule in Bible study, rule number one in Bible study, is never emphasize anything more than God does or never de-emphasize anything more than God does. All this talk about the original manuscript, the original manuscript, you have to have the original manuscript, the Greek and the Hebrew. Let me tell you something. You have what God wanted you to have exactly, perfectly, without any error. God cares absolutely nothing about the original manuscript. You say, "On what basis do you say that?" Because nobody has them today. The only records that they have of the Word of God in Greek or Hebrew, it starts around 400 AD for the New Testament. Nobody has them.

I will give you four ways you know that the words of God you have in your hand today are superior to the original autograph. Now I know when I say that, 99.9999% of the preachers do not believe that in this country. None of the Bible scholars do. My answer to that is this: Thursday night at 7 o'clock, come on in and we will talk about it. Because the bottom line is I will give you four ways the words of God that you have in your hand are superior to the original autograph.

1. You have it in your hand and you read it. You cannot read the originals. You could not read them if you had them in your hand.
2. Two hundred billion people at least have been saved by this one. Nobody ever got saved by the original autographs.
3. The Bible means book. You have a collection of 66 books that mean Bible. That is what the word means. There was never a time in history on this planet, Mars, Venus, Mercury or any combination of planets in the Milky Way galaxy wherever the original manuscripts were ever, ever, ever together in one book. That does not even exist as a Bible.
4. The originals are not profitable for doctrine. Only the scriptures are according to 1 Timothy 3:16.

1 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

You are not going to suggest to me that the original manuscripts were scripture, are you, before they were not? Listen, you have here in your hands in a King James 1611 Authorized Version the very words of God. And in the latter days of the church age, you and I can consider the thoughts of God's heart and consider it perfectly. Inspiration, inspiration, inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. What good is it that God inspired something a long time ago if I cannot get my hands on it today? I do not care what God did 2,000 years ago. I do not care what He did 4,000 years ago in inspiring something. I need it today. I need it tomorrow and I need it for my family.

II. Laying Up Commandments and Living Spiritually

When he says the second thing, he says, "lay up my commandments with thee." Lay up, store up, hide it in your heart. Last week I told you about the holy things of God, the dedicated things. How that the Kings of Israel had special things that they kept in the house of God that God was special to God. They were dedicated to Him. They were holy to Him. And I showed you how that is a picture of that in your life and my life as Christians. There needs to be some things that are holy things in our lives. Things that we do not allow the world to have. Things that we do not share with the world. And I know that in a normal Christian life we have to go with the world and we have to have an involvement to a certain degree. I understand all of that. But the things that was Israel's demise will be the same thing that will be your and my demise is when we take those holy things and dedicated things and take them out of the treasury house of our heart and we display them and give them to the world system.

I understand that Christian life is a hard balance. I do. The balance of what we allow and how much we let the world have of us that only belongs to God, that are dedicated to Him. And most of God's people have no clue what those things even are. I know that in the world that we live in you have to have associations. You have to have things that people you work with, the job that you do. We cannot live in a little Christian bubble. We cannot just be around all of Christians all the time. Our job is to evangelize the world and by doing that we have to go out and be in the world to some degree. But we have to decide how much we are going to allow the world to have, how much of our lives we are going to let them have.

Look at Proverbs 7:2: "Keep thy commandments and live, and my law as the apple of thine eye." "Keep my commandments and live." In the Old Testament that would be physical life, would it not? That would be physical life. How many times I have seen that happen in the Old Testament where God came down and killed them by the hundred? Exodus 32 comes to my mind where Moses is up on a mountain getting the Ten Commandments, he comes down and the golden calf is being made and everybody is having a great time and everybody is going to just go nuts on it and he comes down, he is out, he throws those things down, they get busted, they get broke and then God comes down in Exodus 32:28 and the Bible says God kills 3,000 of them. There is a place where God kills people physically in the Old Testament because they did not keep His commandments.

Now God's people today get killed spiritually. They get killed spiritually. Do not you think for a moment that a child of God who is saved and on his way to heaven cannot wind up a spiritual suicide? Do not ever think for a moment that a child of God who is saved and on the way to heaven cannot die spiritually. You may go to heaven for the rest of your life because you are eternally saved. I am talking about dying in your personal relationship with Christ of doing what God has called you to do. I am talking about you walking out the door from God and embracing the world, embracing all the world has, embracing the booze, embracing the drugs, embracing the world system. Yeah, you are still a child of God but spiritually as far as God is using you, you are dead.

In my 40 plus years of preaching I have seen many casualties. I have seen many tragedies. I have seen many marriages break up. I have seen lots of suicide, more than I would like to have seen. I have seen many Christian parents completely lose their kids. I have seen Christians who at one

time loved God, loved church and now will not even talk to Him anymore, will not even go to the house of God. This happens all the time in New Testament Christianity and where in the Old Testament they died physically. In the New Testament Christians die spiritually. You die spiritually inside. You have no personal walk with God anymore. Oh, you are God's child. You are still on your way to heaven but inside you are dead as far as the things of God. This happens all the time in New Testament Christianity and every time I have seen a spiritual death, every time in all of my years in dealing with people and dealing with problems and dealing with the heartaches and dealing with the tragedies and the broken marriages and the busted up families and all the personal issues that come along with it. In every single case there has never been an exception where I have not seen a spiritual death that was not a self-inflicted wound.

People who quit serving God, quit the ministry, quit going to church, they are always going to blame it on something else or somebody else. See it all the time. "Well I am not going to minister today because I am mad at you. I am mad about this. I am mad about that." Deep down inside let me give you some peace of mind. It has nothing to do with you. It has to do with inside of them they know they are not right with God. They know they have not been doing the right thing but they do not have the courage to deal with it so they blame it on somebody else. It is just that simple.

III. God's Word as the Apple of Your Eye

Now I am going to tell you something. I loved your song. Thank God for the preaching. Listen, nothing and I mean nothing. Nobody, not anybody, no matter what they have done to you, what they have said about you, what they have said to you, no matter what extent circumstances in your life should ever affect you that way to the point that you give up and quit. I have had people say, "Well I do not go to church. I have had a bad experience in church one time and I just do not go anymore." I always ask them, "I had a bad experience at a restaurant one time. I never eat out anymore either." It becomes so lame in our excuses. "I had a bad experience at work so I do not ever work again." I mean you cannot allow what somebody else says about you or the circumstances or anything keep you from being what God wants you to be. Somebody said one time, "Well I do not go to church because there are too many hypocrites in the church." Well there is one less if you do not go.

Now do you want to know how never to quit? Do you want to know how to get to that point in your life where you never quit? You never give up. You never throw in the towel. You never walk away. No matter who does what to you or who lets you down or who hurts you or hurts your feelings or who says something about you or in maybe some cases who holds you accountable when you do not want to be accountable. Right here in the text. You know how do you keep from ever quitting when who or what tries to entice you to quit? Tries to seduce you spiritually to quit? Well look at the last part of Proverbs 7:2. Keep God and His book as the apple of your eye. That is how. Keep God and His Word as your main focus. All you need is Him and that book.

I mean if anybody had a right to give up and quit, dump the ant farm as we preached a couple of weeks ago based on how people treat Him and what they say about Him, how they get mad at Him, how they hate Him, how they blame Him. If anybody has a right to quit it is God. "Well I

am mad at God. Why blame God for this? Why did God let this happen?" I mean come on, you think you have some issues this morning? Because people do not like you or they talk about you. How about 20 million times a day at least your name is used as a cuss word. How about 20 million times a day at least your son's name is used as a cuss word and it is. How about all of the filthy jokes and all of the movies that they make about you as God who drag your holiness down and display it like human beings. I think in a stupid movie that came out years ago with George Burns and it is probably a good last name because that is probably what he is doing right now. "Oh God" that a cigar smoking dirty old man unregenerate could come down in a movie, pretend to be God. How about Jim Carrey when Bruce Almighty displaying God as somebody who has the power to blow up a woman's dress so you can look up underneath of it. How do you think God thinks about those kind of things? And you know what is even worse? I know many of God's people that went to watch those kind of godless stuff and laughed at it, thought it was funny when it was your God they were making fun of.

Thank God for the preaching. How about His own people in the nation of Israel? 4,000 years of Him only doing good to them, bringing them out of the bondage of Egypt, giving them everything they needed, giving a land to them and shedding them as His people above every nation on this planet and they crucified Him. How about those New Testament sons of God? The sacrifice you made for them, all you do for them, how to help them, provide for them when they did not have nothing. You gave them a job, you gave them a home, you gave them this, you gave them that, you brought them through all the things that you did. Their life was a mess, their life was a travesty and yet you turned it around and you put them on the right path and they will sell you out so fast you will only want your head to swim. They will sell you out for a ball game, they will sell you out for late night, Saturday night, they will sell you out for a pack of cigarettes, they will sell you out for drugs, they will sell you right for a six pack of booze. They will find a gal or a guy that they should never have any relationship with and God, they will drop you like a bad habit. If anybody has a right to walk away and throw in the towel, it is Him, it is Him, it is Him.

And you know why God just did not throw in the towel? And I will be honest with you, there are times in the Bible from my standpoint, it looks like He got pretty close. I will look at Genesis 6 at the flood of Noah, there had to be six or seven, eight billion people on this planet. He killed them all but eight. That is getting close. Do you know why God just did not throw in the towel like so many of God's people do? Like so many of us do. Do you know why? Because His Son and His Word is the apple of His eye. That is why. This is the apple of God's eye. Apples in the Bible are a picture of the Word of God. Look at Song of Solomon 8:5 or Lamentations 2:18 or Proverbs 17:8, Zechariah 2:8, Proverbs 25:11, Song of Solomon 7:8 and Song of Solomon 2:3. It is all through the Bible. You know an apple a day keeps the strange woman and evil man away. That is the concept.

You see, God focuses on what is right. God focuses on what is holy. The apple of God's eye is what is precious to Him. What is true? What is pure? God never gets sidetracked with things that do not matter. This my dear friend is the essence of getting the book of Proverbs. This is the absolute importance of getting the discretion and the discernment and the wisdom and the

understanding that Proverbs gives us and from Proverbs 2 that we get the knowledge of God, not the knowledge about God, the very same knowledge God has. Otherwise, you will quit. My life has been filled with God's people who I look at and I have seen how God, where God brought them from, what God did for them, the cesspool He brought them out of, how He turned their life around, how He... at the drop of a hat, they will dump God, they will dump their family, they will dump everything that they have got going and go right back to that dog going back to his vomit. Excuse me for being so gross. The fact is my dear friend, when your eye is focused on Christ and as the number one thing in your life, the apple, the word, the Lord Jesus Christ, there will be nothing that will get you to quit. There will be nothing that will take that place. No job, no career, no boy, no girl, no guy, no woman, no enticement of this world whatsoever will ever compare or run in the race for a second with what should be the apple of your eye.

Our problem today is we are focused on the wrong things. We go along good with God for a while, but then when it gets comfortable, we start getting in this and doing all this and we start to coast. That is the most dangerous place that you and I could ever get. I could ensure in a heartbeat that you would never walk away from God again if I could just do it. I would just trade places with you for about three or four months that should be in my place with the people who hate you, with the people who come after you, with the people who will be at your heels like every ravenous, rabid dog you ever saw in your life. It forces you to stay focused. It forces you to keep in your life the things because the best way you can ever, ever, ever stay true to God is have somebody hunting you down. You get soft, it gets easy. God comes down, fixes your marriage. God comes down and takes your addiction away. God comes down and gives you this, gives you a good job, starts taking care of things in your life. You start to get into the Bible, start to do something, start feeling pretty good about yourself. Nothing wrong with none of that. But then it happens. You start coasting. And one by one those old things begin to creep back into your life. And you know what? You are so obvious you can see it.

I talked to a gal yesterday that I had not seen in church for three or four weeks. Maybe you cannot, maybe it is just because I have been in this business too long. I can spot an out of fellowship Christian five miles away. I can just look at what the countenance that they would had and what they got today. I talked to this gal yesterday, I gave her a hug and said, "Man I have not seen you for a couple, about a month now." She says, "Yeah," she says that this has happened and this has happened. "But that is all done now." And she came over, and said goodbye and everything. And I said, "Great, I am glad. I will see you in the morning." Never said a word. You know, when I say to you, "I will see you in the morning" and you do not say amen, I know there is a problem someplace. Well that may be a small thing to you, but you cannot tell me you are not going to be there tomorrow, so you just say nothing. If you were going to be here, you just said, "I will be there. I will be there." Nothing says more than a, nothing is louder. Nothing is more ear shattering or deafening than silence. "Well I will see you in the morning." And I came around the other way. One more time I said, "Man, I will see you tomorrow." I am telling him. Our problem today, we get focused on the wrong things. We focus on our career. We will focus on ourselves. We will allow somebody who used to be in our life that should not be back in our life anymore sneak back in because you get lonely. I understand loneliness. I understand how single people can get lonely. Do you know what is worse than being single and being lonely? It

is being married to the wrong person and living in a hell on earth for the rest of your life. Of course that does not happen anymore, the rest of your life part, I mean. We are focused on what people think and what people do say to us. Not what Christ is doing with us.

You know why? That is why Christ just did not do anything with you. And I will tell you the next thing. First thing you see when somebody is out of ministry, "Boy, well this was really important. I am not going today." Not like we are not stupid and we do not know that there is something wrong. "Well I am not going today." "Well you did not come last time. You do not do what you used to do anymore." But you see we are dumb. We are stupid. You are Mr. Smart Guy. You are Ms. Smarty Pants. You think you have it all figured out. You think we are just dumb and stupid over here. If any man loved God the same is known of him. And if any man does not love God the same is known of him.

Now in Song of Solomon 2:1-3, you will find a great illustration of this. He says:

Song of Solomon 2:1

I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

Song of Solomon 2:2

As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

Song of Solomon 2:3

As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

Now right there that is a picture of what our true fellowship should be. Sitting down with Christ under the apple tree, under the shade and the comfort of the wings of Almighty God and enjoying the fruit. And what it is brother, when it is nothing will ever you trade that for. Not a thing. Nothing will ever make you lose it. During World War II the Andrews sisters had a song. You know what that song was? "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree with Anybody Else but Me."

You have been sitting under the apple tree with somebody else other than Him. And there is your problem. There is the problem of everything that we get into. You threw your fellowship with Him out the door. Revelation 3:10. For what? For who? And you wonder why you have issues. You wonder why you are struggling today. You wonder why you are having problems in your marriage, or you are having problems here, or you are having problems there. You wonder why you have lost that end that you once had with God. You wonder why you have got to now pretend that everything is okay. When everybody around you knows that it is not. Your problem is simply in the simplest form, easy to understand, does not have to go to the Greek and Hebrew, and we do not need the original manuscripts, and we do not need to be a Bible theologian to figure it out. You have been sitting under the apple tree with somebody else.

IV. Work for God and Love for God

Now look at Proverbs 7:3: "Bind them upon thy fingers, and write them upon the tables of thine heart." "Bind them upon thy fingers." Now that will be in the context. This will be like the little leather pouches you remembered that the priest had on their fingers and their hands and put them on their foreheads that contain scripture. That was their answer to your three by five cards that you use today. They put them on their foreheads. You put them on your refrigerator or your dashboard of your car. You would not look too cool walking around with a three by five card pasted on the front of your forehead. But he said, "Bind them upon thy fingers, and write them on the tables of thine heart." And of course the fingers always represents what you find in Deuteronomy 6:8-9, and Deuteronomy 11:18. They wore those on the backs of their hands, on their fingers, those little leather boxes, and they wore them on their forehead.

Proverbs 7:3 says, "Write them on the tables of your heart." The table, your heart, is where you lay out your Bible. We have tables across the back for those of you who maybe want to get a little more involved and put your Bible out flat and get some things done. You have to have a table to do that. And you can fool around with the Bible all you want, but if you really want to get the Bible down, you have got to sit at a table, open it up, and lay that thing out. That table is a picture of your heart. You want to get something done with the Bible, you better put it on the tables of your heart. It is just that simple.

The Word of God is central in your life and my life in two areas.

5. Fingers. Fingers in the Bible will always be a reference to your work for God. Psalm 8:3 says, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained." Psalm 144:1 says, "Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight." Deuteronomy 9:10 says that the Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God.
6. Your heart. The heart will always be what you think about God, your attitude, your love for Him, the holy things, the dedicated things.

And simply when you look at this verse in light of these two things, it is simply this: What you do for God with your fingers will be in direct proportion to your love for God in your heart. It is just that simple.

V. Wisdom and Understanding as Family

Proverbs 7:4 says, "Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman." Now the Bible says that wisdom and understanding should be like a sister to us and a kinswoman. That is an aunt. And this is one of the greatest, I think, practical principles that you will ever get out of the book of Proverbs, especially if you are a young mom and dad parent or somebody that is trying to train up your children and raise up your family and teach them right. And here is what he is saying, and it is real simple. If you do not have this by this verse, you need to put this here. He says, "Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman." In a practical approach, it is simply this. You better make wisdom and understanding part of your family. You better make wisdom and understanding as a young couple raising children part of your family.

I have watched a lot of parents make some really bad choices with their children. See it all the time. Not just by not teaching them the Bible and doing right in that case, but by the message that they send to their children, but what they allow them to associate with. And you know me, I am not saying for a second that everything that your child does has to certainly revolve around church. That would not be practical. I know that is not, I am not saying that. I am not saying they cannot ever be involved in outside activities other than church. I think anybody who says that would be very misguided in trying to put that principle across, but brother, I am going to tell you something. There needs to be a smart balance in that concept. And I realize that probably what I am about to say is none of my business, so I will just say it and then it will be none of my business. You know, for some reason, it is never in any of my business until you lose your kid and you want me to fix it for you. Then it becomes my business. If you just listen to me now and make it part of your business, maybe we could not have the other business, which is monkey business, and then there will be any business we have to do.

We all have to be aware in America of the potential risk of terrorism in this country. We live in perilous times. As you and I go to sleep tonight or we go down to turn around and restart or tonight some of you enjoy your family and John preaches down at the mission and AJ gives his testimony and you go home tonight and we have fun and laugh and talk. As you lay your head to sleep tonight, we do not like to think about it, but there are people in this world who lay wide awake tonight planning on killing you. And in every American they can. I do not think anybody understands, and I think it is because we do not want to in America, but I do not think anybody really understands the trouble we are in in this country. I mean, we have got border agents down on the Mexican border babysitting 3,500 babies while a drug cartel are putting the illegal criminals and drugs across the border, but we are watching babies. We spent 4,000 young men's lives giving up in Iraq when we took out Saddam Hussein and all of that mess. And now it is going to go right back and it is going to be worse than it was before we ever went in. All it would have taken would have been a phone call to me from anybody in Washington and I could have told them where this thing would have wound up because the Bible makes it very clear the people you are dealing with.

But you see, we are past that. This country, right now as we speak, there are people all across this world who hate everything that we stand for. If they would come in here right now and could get away with it, and pretty soon they probably will. They would rape every woman before they would murder her. They would behead every man that is in here. They would sadistically, brutally kill all your children. They would kill everybody because we are the infidels and they are on a holy war of jihad and they are going to wipe out at length. Look at 9-11. Look at the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. You can go right down through history of all the things that have happened. They are willing to trade their life for yours. You realize how hard it is to stop somebody when he is willing to die to take your life? It is almost impossible. They will wrap themselves with plastic explosives. Go to a great crowd of people like a Chiefs game or a hockey game. Probably not a Royals game, but you will probably be safe there. But they wrap themselves in explosives. So one person is willing to trade his life to kill everybody that he can within a radius. And they just do not think about it from 2 o'clock to 3. It is a 24-7 visual.

But I am telling you, I am telling you, if the President would have called me, if the National Security Advisors would have called me, here is what I would have told them. I would have said, "Fellas, I should respect you and I want to help you, but let me just tell you something. Let me give you a little bit of history. No nation on the face of this planet has ever survived more than 200 years after they dumped the King James 1611 Authorized Version." England did not, Germany did not, France did not, nobody did. There was a time when Czechoslovakia was almost 100% born again people. They do not even know where the Bible is today. And gentlemen, our country is 126 years into dumping that book because we dumped it officially in 1888 in Sarasota, Florida with the Southern Baptist Convention, dumped the King James Bible and brought in it. No nation on this planet has survived after they dropped the Word of God more than 200 years. And we are 126 years into that. And you are wondering why things are falling apart. You are wondering why, "Well, they call the kids." You know how many times week after week now that kids take guns to school and kill their teachers and kill other students? And why is everybody scratching their head and saying, "What is the deal?" You take the Bible out, they will bring the guns in. What is so hard to get with that? This is where we are at. And if you enjoy your day today and you enjoy your week next week, you need to understand there are people out there that if they could smuggle a dirty bomb or a nuclear device in Kansas City, they live for one thing and that is to kill as many of us as they can.

I look at the Homeland Security and the FBI and the CIA and the special ops community and even our local law enforcement. I have nothing but praise and respect for those guys. Those guys are laying on the line every day of their life to keep all of us safe. And you have heard it said many, many times in terrorism, we have got to get it right every time. A terrorist only has to be right one in a thousand, one in two thousand, a thousand people die. We have to get it right every time. We cannot afford to make one mistake. We cannot overlook one container. We cannot, we have got to look at every suitcase. We have got to look at a person who said, just a normal person and then we just cannot let that person pass through. And I know people that, you know, they used to say, "Well, you know, they are patting down women" and then the terrorists saw that so they started strapping bombs on women. When my uncle was in Vietnam, the Koreans used to put grenades in babies' diapers and have the little babies walk over to the GIs for candy and kill three or four GIs. Every cargo ship, we take every threat seriously, a hundred percent seriously. They are our enemy and only have to be right one time out of a thousand and hundreds, if not thousands of people will die. I cannot even think of a more impossible situation. The trillions of dollars that we spend wearing out our men and our women who so bravely investigate these things and all they do is sit back and wait. All they do is know how they get us ragged and we miss one thing, just one thing, one out of 10,000. And that is all they need.

Parents, you better listen to me. Just as there are terrorists who want to destroy you and me in this country, there is an evil man and a strange woman who wants at every corner to abduct your children from you. If you are out in a park, you are out there with your kids and they are playing around, you never walk across the street and see somebody. You never take your eyes off of them. You are always watching where they are at. You are always knowing what they are doing. You do not turn your back for five minutes because that is all it takes for somebody to snatch them up and be gone. And in a spiritual sense, in everything we do, in every place you go, you

have to know that the world system wants to divide your family. It wants to destroy your child. And it is so subtle. It is absolutely so subtle. Things out there in the world, and I am not saying you do not, but when I grew up, and I never, and I am not saying, I am just telling you, you have to be aware of how it is in everything. I remember growing up and watching Saturday morning cartoons, and it was not until years later that it hit me when I got into the Bible, how subtle that is. I used to watch Porky Pig, Donald Duck, Heckle and Jekyll, Wile E. Coyote. They used to be my favorites. And then one day I realized that every one of those animals were an unclean animal out of Leviticus 11. No, I am not saying you should not watch those. I am saying it is everywhere. Your kids do not mess so much with that today. Now they have the He-Men. Now they have the Captain America, Captain this and Captain that and the He-Men. Those are the guys that are Genesis 6. I am not saying they should not have them. I am not saying you go home and have a He-Man Genesis 6 bonfire. I am not suggesting that at all. I am telling you it is in everything. It is in everything they do. They are faced with it all the time. Every place they go and it is so subtle.

I told you about the Mormons last week and Planet Kolob and the black people being there and all the heresy and all the goofy stuff that they teach. And yet I did not get into it last week, but everybody saw the movie Battlestar Galactica and everybody saw the series Battlestar Galactica. And nobody would even know that Glen Larson, who is the guy who wrote all of that, he is a Mormon. And when he wrote Battlestar Galactica about a distant planet with life on it that was good and a distant planet with evil, he based it on Mormon doctrine. It is everywhere. It will start with the innocent things that look 100% okay because they are when they are kept in balance. Mel used to say, "There is nothing wrong with playing golf. There is nothing wrong with fishing. There is nothing wrong with bowling. There is nothing wrong with this except when you do it on Sunday morning." He is there everywhere and everything. And just like our federal government with faith, with territory, I will tell you something parents, you have got to get it right every time. You have got to get it right every time instead of helping with the abduction.

I have seen parents, and there is nothing wrong with this. Do not misunderstand. I have seen parents encourage their kids in sports over the years. And I have seen them get those kids so involved. I have seen them get those kids where they wanted to get a college scholarship or they wanted this or they wanted an honor on it. Many times it was the father just vicariously experiencing what he wanted to do because he wanted to be that. And I have seen them push them. I have seen them get them so involved. And I have seen them when the games are on Sunday, months at a time or Thursday night, and they just completely lose their priority system. And they instill in that child at eight and nine and ten and eleven that there are things that are more important than the house of God. And at nineteen and twenty when they do not want to go to church anymore, you will actually scratch your head and wonder what happened. You were an accomplice in the abduction of your child. You drove the getaway car. Because it is wholesome. Because it is family orientated. Because it is this. You think it is okay. And I am not saying it is not okay. I am saying you have to know that at every turn and every corner there is somebody out there that wants to take your child and send them to hell. And you have to work sending the right priorities, the right values, the core values, setting up the biblical priorities. Being wisdom and understanding part of your family. The decision that they make at nineteen and twenty will

be totally dependent on a level of commitment they sought you at eight and nine. Your excuses about not going to church will become their excuses. Your lackadaisical attitude will become their lackadaisical attitude. Your indifference to the things of God will become their indifference to the things of God. Your value system will be transferred right into their little lives. When you are too tired to go to church because you have been doing your thing all week, they will come at time when they see that they will be too tired to come to church. When you put the priorities in your life and you show them this is more important than being God's house on Sunday morning, you will rule that day someday, I am telling you. If it continues on to the, and just keeps going and going and going.

And as parents and as Christians, we live in a time period where almost everything we do we have to get it right. And yet I know we cannot. There is no way we can. But I am telling you folks, I am telling you, just as there are people out there that want to destroy this country and destroy you, there is an evil man and a strange woman that wants you, it wants to bust up your marriage, it wants to tear apart your family, and the kids are always the one that suffer in those things and they want to rip it apart and they want to claim those kids and they want to take that marriage and they want to divide it and they want to conquer it. This is what Proverbs does for us. This is what the issues of life are all about.

Proverbs 7:5 says that all of this, "that they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words." She looked so good. It looked so innocent. It looked so good. It looks like, "Wow, wow, we get to have a family time. We get to have this, we get to have that." But it is more than that. It is the priorities that we set, that we give to those kids, that they come away saying, "Well, mom and dad do not think church is important." If you do not think the devil will not use that and use that against you down the line someplace, you are a fool. You are a fool. The reason now that in Proverbs 1-7, 14 times, he addresses us specifically as "my son," giving us the preparatory material, the insights of how to get to the place in our lives to get it right 100% of the time. It is a much harder thing to do in America with terrorism because nobody believes the Bible anymore. We are supposed to believe the Bible. The Bible is supposed to be the number one book in our lives. We are supposed to be focused on those things. But it is so easy to get off task. It is so easy to blame God or get mad at God or get this or get that and lose your focus when this old book does not become the apple of your eye and you do not spend that time under the apple tree with Him.

The wisdom books in the Bible are simply that. The books that give us God's wisdom to live above the circumstances of life, to be able to sidestep everything that is coming your way, not only in your personal life, but in your family with your children. You hear me say it all the time, "smarter than the problem." And it is not a matter that you are smarter than the problem or not smarter than the problem. The matter is you get your own attitude out of whack and then it does not matter anymore. And that is where the devil gets into details. The greatest thing the devil can ever do, I deal with it all the time in dealing with people, his standard tactic. He did it all the way back. He got it out of playbook of Joshua with God's plan when he took the land. But the greatest thing the devil ever did, the guy we are dead all down through history. He did it with Israel. He did it with the church. He did it with everybody. And he does it with family. He does it with

individuals. Divide and conquer. Once he divides your family, he can conquer your family. Once he divides you from your walk with God, he will conquer you. Once he divides you from the principles of the Word of God with your family, he will conquer your kids. It is just that simple. This is how churches go to pieces. This is why they fall apart. This is why they get divided.

You never notice that we do not have any political issues around here. Everybody gets their little squabbles every once in a while. There are no big church fights here because church fights cannot exist here. Somebody gets the idea that they do not like this or do not like it. They do not stay here. The preaching is too hot. Thank God for preachers. Next week, we are going to finish out this chapter, I think, as the final look at this strange woman. And I am going to show you from another angle now, where last time we saw that she was a wife being taken away from God as God's wife. In Proverbs 7, now we see the reversal. Now she is God's son who gets seduced by a harlot. And boy, the principles between the two pictures, some great stuff. And this chapter, Proverbs 7 here, as Israel is God's son being taken by the women of the world, woman of the world, is a great picture spiritually of the world pulling us away from God. So we will hold up there. We have a word of prayer.