

## I. The Depth and Potential of Proverbs

Last week, we saw a tremendous study on the potential of the Book of Proverbs. I wanted to show you how the Book of Proverbs is not only one of the greatest practical books in the Bible, maybe the greatest practical book in the Bible, but there is also much depth to it as far as all the aspects of what God is doing down through history and certainly in the future. We saw how this book really reveals so much to us about what is going on around us, and as I said, back through history and yet even into the future.

For those of you that are maybe visiting today or have been gone for a while, we have been in the study of the Book of Proverbs. One of the things that we have been focusing on and trying to do is to give everybody a great understanding of how this book really works. I have talked about how the first seven chapters really are an introduction to the book. It is like a preparatory section. It begins to talk about the things that really make a difference in the book, show you the things to look for, the things that you will want to grasp, the things that you want to get in your life before you even start to study the book.

This will be our last message today in that preparatory section. Next week, we will tackle chapter 8 and we will begin officially the proverbs because that is where they start. I showed you how every chapter basically starts out with "my son" and then gives instructions to us as God's son about what we are to learn and what we are to put in our lives to glean from Proverbs, but also historically from the nation of Israel as God's son. Obviously, in the context, Solomon was talking to his own son and giving him the advice that he had.

## II. Perception, Discernment, and Discretion

We have seen a lot of different things about Proverbs, and last week I really showed our people the depth of the things in the Bible. We talked about the absolute importance of three crucial words in our life in our Christian walk.

1. Perception: Perception is our ability to see something as it really is. Not many people have perception today. They see things and they see it as it appears. Perception is the ability to see any circumstance or situation and see it as it really is, not as it appears.
2. Discernment: The second key word that we have talked about all through here is the word of discernment. The word discernment basically carries with it our ability to see the same situation, not only see it for what it is, but then see what God is doing in it. Many of you begin that basic format. I have had several phone calls this week from people who were at work. Sean called me yesterday and some of the others called me this week, and you were at work and somebody came in and God gave you the opportunity to talk to them. In one particular case, they were going to someplace else and the wife said, "Let us try here first." When they went there, God orchestrated the events for that person to be able to talk to them and invite them to church and talk to them about the Bible. Very few Christians can see that

opportunity when it unfolds itself around them. That is discernment. That is the ability to see that God has orchestrated this situation and put me in the middle of it because He has something He wants me to do.

3. Discretion: The third key word is the word discretion. That is the ability to look at something, see whether God is in it or not, and then make the choice in your life: "Do I want to be a part of this or not?" That is what discretion brings to the party. It gives you the ability to look at any circumstance or situation and then evaluate it on how it is going to impact you in your walk with God. Some things you want in your life; some things you will not want to allow in your life.

### III. The Strange Woman and the Evil Man

After last week, we had incredible insight into this strange woman that we have been talking about. All through Proverbs, three or four times now, we have found this woman who is painted up as a harlot. We now have identified her; it has been a developing story. We have seen her connection to the second character in the Book of Proverbs, the evil man, and we have in past weeks laid that all out. We saw how that it relates to us in our living today.

We know now that the woman itself in Proverbs, this harlot that the Bible talks about, is a picture of the false religions of the world. We know that it centers around the concept of Babylon mystery religion, the mother of harlots in Revelation 17 and 18. We also understand from our past studies that the evil man is a picture of the world system. What Proverbs begins to show us is that there is a marriage made down through history between the false religions of the world and the false political systems of the world. They forged together under the devil's usage to be able to deceive hundreds of thousands of millions of people in exactly what they do.

### IV. The Nighttime and the Church Age

We also saw the great nighttime, did we not? I showed you how that in the Bible, when you find the word "nighttime" or a story about the nighttime, it is going to be a picture of the Church Age. I ran you back to four or five different passages that showed you that; we spent a lot of time with that. We talked about the four watches that I left up here. I went through those last week and showed you how that they cover the expanse of the Church Age. It is a picture of the night of the Church Age, nighttime. In Mark 13, we went there and I showed you that it represents the two thousand years or so of church history, and then Christ coming in the fourth watch in the morning. I gave you all the verses that supported that and showed you that.

Then we came through Mark 6:45-48, which I think is our perspective. It showed the apostles going out into the storm. God sending them out and them toiling and rowing in the storm in the middle of the night. I showed you how that is such a perfect picture of where you and I are at today. The Lord had departed from them; He is in a mountain praying for them, a picture of Christ interceding for us as we are down here at the right hand of God the Father. We talked about that our job is not to focus on the storm or the wind of this world because it is always going to be contrary to us. We talked about that our job today in this church and Christians all

around this world who take God and the Bible seriously is to simply row the boat. We have got a job to do. We have got things we have got to get done. That is the function of the church.

## V. The Unsearchable Riches of God

I did that last week because I wanted to show you the depth of the Book of Proverbs. Yet the whole Bible basically is the same way. In Ephesians 3:8, the Word of God is called the Unsearchable Riches. It is an eternal book written by an eternal God. It is eternal in the sense that there is no end to it. Every book, every chapter will yield the great truths and depths of the Bible itself. It is unbelievable.

Look over to Ephesians 3 if you would. I want to give you a verse that goes along with this. I think it is one of the greatest passages in all the Bible that is written directly to me and you of the church about what God wants for us to have. He says in Ephesians 3, and you probably already know that the Book of Ephesians was written by Paul to the church to define the church. That is the whole theme of the Book of Ephesians.

*Ephesians 3:16-19*

*That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

*May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

*And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

I do not know if you can grasp this verse and all that it deals with, but it talks about the fact that in our physical world that we live in, it is three-dimensional. Everything we see in life has three parts to it. It will have a length, it will have a width, and it will have a height. Life with God for a Christian, we talk about the supernatural life with God. The thing that makes a Christian, or the thing that should make a Christian's life different than an unsaved person in the world, is that a Christian and an unsaved person both live in a three-dimensional world. The thing that makes the Christian's life supernatural is the fourth dimension, which is God in our lives. That fourth dimension is what He talks about here.

My goal for you in this church is to fill in the blanks of the missing element in our lives. I have one goal for you in all that I do with the Bible. I have one overall goal for this church that I do with the Bible, and that is to get you, as the Bible says, that you might be filled with the fullness of God. I am not talking about the Holy Spirit of God when you got saved. I am talking about your ability to use those three concepts: perception, discernment, and discretion, to understand the depth of God and the Word of God that you had. Last week in Proverbs, when we went into there and took all that out, that was just a glimpse of what the whole Bible does for you.

Unfortunately, most Christians are not only not fourth-dimension Christians, most Christians today are not even three-dimensional Christians. Most Christians today are one-dimensional. All they see is themselves. All they see is what they want. They do not see the world around them that is lost and dying and going to hell. They do not ever get to the fourth dimension that shows you the great unsearchable riches of God. All of their life it is all transfixed about them. They want to be the center of the world. They are the center of everything in their life, and their life is simply as a child of God, and it is a terrible state to be in, one-dimensional. It is all about them.

Yet the Bible says in Ephesians 3:18 that we should be able to comprehend with all the saints what He says is the breadth of God.

*The Breadth of God: The breadth of God would be the width of God, and that would deal with the mercy of God. That is what it is a picture of. When you want to study the breadth of God, you are going to see the mercy of God, how much mercy God has. I used to ask my kids when they were growing up, "How much do you love your dad?" And they used to go, "This much," showing you that is the width. Even at that, and I know that they loved me and I knew that they were showing me the best way they could, even that has limits to it, does it not? But with God, His arms are outstretched from eternity to eternity, and there is no end to the mercy of God, and that is the picture that He is talking about here. I will be honest, most of God's people do not even understand the mercy of God.*

*The Length of God: Then the second thing He says is the length of God. That is the longevity of God. That is the ability to understand the plan of God. That is the ability to see God down through history and what He has been doing, and you cannot separate the God of the Bible from history. They are one and the same because God has a plan, and most Christians today do not even get that down.*

*The Height of God: Then the third thing He says is the height of God, and that is the trust factor. That is the ability for you and me as a Christian to be able to trust God. There is an old song that we used to sing when I was growing up, nobody sings it anymore, but it is a song that goes, "He is so wide you cannot get around Him, so low you cannot get under Him, so high you cannot get over Him, you must come in at the door." That is a picture of God all-encompassing everything in our faith. The reason why you and I do not have to worry about the problems in our lives is because if you are really God's child and He is in your heart, He has the ability to look over the obstacles you cannot see. He has the ability to look past the problems you are struggling with right now. That is what He does, but most of God's people cannot even get to that.*

Most of God's people today, and I feel sorry about this, and it is a true statement, most of God's people who ought to have the victorious Christian life, they are some of the most miserable people you have ever saw in your life. They are depressed, they are down in the dumps. I call it Prozac Christianity. It is a thing where they are always depressed or always down in the dumps. There is no victory in their life, and the reason why they are is because they go through their Christian life in a one-dimensional format. At best, some of them go through it in a third-

dimensional format, but that is not what God wants. God wants us to have the experience of the fullness of God.

*The Depth of God: The fourth one is the depth of God. That is your fourth dimension to the Word of God. That is God's mind revealed to you through the Word of God. That is God taking you places in the Bible that you never thought you would go. Last week is a great example of that. Last week, we showed you in Proverbs, when you read that, we went places that many of you probably said, "I never would have thought of that in a million years." That is the depth of the mind of God. That is the beauty of the Bible.*

I might add, a lot of God's people have a tough time getting motivated to read the Bible or study the Bible. I understand it. I get it exactly. It does not mean you are a bad person. It does not mean you are a wicked person. In a lot of cases, it just simply means that nobody ever showed you where the gold really was. I mean, if you are digging in a field and you are hunting for gold and all you are finding is pop bottle tops and empty beer cans, your excitement runs out after a while. I will show you where the main vein is, brother. I will show you where you dig into it. You are going to get the truth of that fourth dimension.

## VI. The Seduction of the Strange Woman (Proverbs 7)

Let us pick it up where we stopped last week and let us read our text again. We are in Proverbs 7, and I am going to read the whole thing, but we are going to pick it up today in verse 10.

*Proverbs 7:6-27*

*For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,*

*And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,*

*Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,*

*In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night.*

*And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.*

*(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:*

*Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)*

*So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,*

*I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.*

*Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.*

*I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.*

*I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.*

*Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.*

*For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:*

*He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at a day appointed.*

*With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.*

*He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the stocks;*

*Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.*

*Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.*

*Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.*

*For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.*

*Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.*

Now, Father, help us today to glean from this all the practical things that You would have us to see. There is so much here that we need to see. Lord, help us to grasp it and apply it to our own hearts and our own lives. Lord, we just thank You and praise You for all that in Jesus' name. Amen.

The number one thing God wants with you is an intimate relationship spiritually. That is all He wants. That is the number one thing that He died for. The Bible says He loved the church and gave Himself for it. If you are saved this morning, you are part of the church. He wants to have a relationship with you through fellowship, through the Word of God. Yet at the same time, the world system out there wants to take that from you. The world system wants to take the love that you would have for God and give it to something else or somebody else. The world system wants to take everything that God died for and put right in your lap to have that relationship and make it of none effect, nullify it as the word says. I want to show you how this works today.

Look at verse 10. We are going to work down through this almost verse by verse, and it will not take us long at all because it is kind of a short chapter here that it kind of takes care of itself. I want you to see some things today.

Proverbs 7:10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

Every young man, every young man should hear what I am about to say, and the women too. The Bible says that this woman as a harlot, we know that to be the harlot of Revelation 17, Rome, the Roman Empire. We understand that. Yet as we come down through here, we see that she has the dress of a harlot. We see that from other places we have looked at that she has painted up and made to look like a harlot. She has the look of a harlot, she has the speech of a harlot, and she has the ways of a harlot. But here, the Holy Spirit of God gives us a great piece of a puzzle of life that every young man should keep behind his mind that he does not get caught up and lose what God has for them. Because the woman in question here dresses this way to get the attention of this young man.

Notice the Bible says she is subtle of heart. That means she has a motive. She has a plan. Here is the principle, and it is a great principle: Many women in the world today who are not in any way, stretched with imagination, harlots, will dress to look like a harlot to get a young man who is void of understanding to get his attention drawn to her. That is the way the system works. Now you see it all the time in the world, and unfortunately too many times in Christianity. There is no modesty today. The world sets our standard of dress, not as the Bible says in 1 Peter 3:4, the hidden man in our heart.

Now, I am all for looking nice. I am. I really am. I have nothing against style. If you are a visitor here today, I am not one of these radical guys who keep snakes down inside here that we play with when you leave and is against women wearing slacks or makeup or anything. I am with old Bob Jones Sr.: If the bar door needs paint, paint that sucker. I am with you. I have no problem with that. I understand style. I get style. I am not against style. I think you all look lovely here today, ladies, and you guys need a little work, but the ladies here are beautiful. I pride myself not only on knowing the Bible and preaching the Bible and having the greatest church in the world, but I have the most beautiful women in the world. There was one ugly woman in our church. Well, there was until this morning. We have a visitor here. No, I am just kidding. We got the greatest. I am trying to make a point. I am not against any of this. I am telling you a principle here.

The women in the world today will try to get a man void of understanding, and she will dress like a harlot or like the world to get his attention. We need to dress not to draw attention to ourselves. This is for the guys too. We do not dress to draw attention to ourselves. We dress to draw attention to the Lord. It is just that simple. I am all for looking up, but the Bible says in John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease." The Bible says that inside all of us is the hidden man of our heart. When you dress to please Him, whatever you have on will be absolutely appropriate. Do you know that? That is the concept. We should never dress to show off ourselves. There have been many a woman and a guy too who looked like a million dollars on the outside but were absolutely bankrupt and destitute as far as character on the inside.

*Proverbs 11:22*

*As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.*

Now that is a rough verse, but it simply says this: You can dress up a pig, put gold earrings on and jewelry on it and all the glitters of the world, but at the end of the day, all you got is a gold-studded pig. See, that is the principle. Now some of you may not have liked that. You know what? It is called an Exacto cutter. You have to have one. You can just cut those portions out of the Bible. I did not write it. Do not get mad at me. I am just telling you what He said.

Proverbs 7:11(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

I do not know if you have this reference or not, but if you do not, put Proverbs 21:19. This is the contentious woman that is found in that passage. She is a brawling woman. She is loud-mouthed. I mean, she is noisy. She is argumentative. She is a loud-mouth. She talks like a sailor. I mean,

there are so many jokes around about this kind of lady it would be useless to tell them because everybody has heard them.

The Bible says she is stubborn. Now that is a good word study in your Bible if you want to take a word study. 1 Samuel 15:23 says that stubbornness is likened to iniquity and idolatry. In short, this woman will reject any kind of authority in her life. She does not want to submit to it. She will not allow it, and she gets loud and argumentative. She has her own way of doing things, and when it comes to God, the church, or ministry, it has to be on her terms. She will do whatever she has got to do, say whatever she has got to say, flash her big eyebrows and smile and say all the pretty things to get whatever she wants. That is the woman here.

Look at verse 11: "Her feet abide not in her house." She is a busybody. She is always in everybody else's business. She is not a good mother because she is never at home. From the context, she is never at home because she is always on the hunt for the next victim, a man, any man. She is looking for any guy she can find. I think this is very important for you guys to understand because when you look at this through her seductive ways, she gets the young man, who I must keep making the emphasis, he is void of understanding.

Proverbs 7:15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.

She gets this stupid idiot guy to think he is the one she has been looking for all her life. It would have been any guy coming down the road. Guys, we are so stupid sometimes. You know that? I cracked on the ladies a little bit, and I am going to crack on the guys for quite a while. This is what you got here. I mean, it is a thing where, oh man, it is a thing where it is like a story I heard one time where this guy goes into the bar and he is standing over there over the bar, and there are three gorgeous chicks about back where Gary is sitting back there. It did not look like Gary, but they are back there. He is standing over there. He is being Joe Cool. You know how we all used to be? Some still are. He is over there, Joe Cool, man. He has a drink in his hand, and he is swaying with the music and got the gold chain around his neck. They are over there looking at him and laughing and talking to each other. So he kind of gives a little smile back. He thinks they are all zeroed in on him. He says, "Oh man, I could take my pick of these three tonight. I am just going to be over here and be cool because I am cool." He is over here, and they are giggling and laughing, and he is sucking it all in, and he is thinking this is really great. He is thinking, man, out there, and one of his buddies comes up and says, "I do not want to let you know, but your fly is down." They did not see anything about him. They were laughing at how stupid he was. That is the way guys operate sometimes. You get so intoxicated with everything around you. This woman appeals to the male conceit, and he falls for it. He is void of understanding. Absolutely, completely void of understanding. She says, "I have been waiting for you all my life, and here you are." And he says, "Oh boy."

Proverbs 7:12-13 Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner. So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,

Like last week, I gave you this picture. Here is the picture: It is a woman roaming the streets at night. We know that night is the Church Age and the whole collective thing here. It is this evil

woman, false religion. But here is the practical: roaming the streets at night, hanging out on the corner looking for this guy. She is obviously a pro at it. In this case, doctrinally, she has been doing it for 6,000 years. But note the doctrinal contents last week. She "lieth in wait at every corner." Now that is impossible. She can only be one corner at a time. But in the doctrinal concept, we talked about it last week in Revelation 17:5, she is called the mother of harlots. She is on every street corner because through her came all the other harlots that are out there, and she is on every street corner through them. The practical application is there is a harlot on every street corner, and pretty much in America, there is a false church on every street corner. That is how it works. Put that note in your Bible and see if it does not catch fire.

Look at verse 13: "So she caught him, kissed him." That was an impudent face set unto him. Now, impudent means shameless, a lack of modesty, indecent. She speaks with an impudent face. In the 20th, 21st century, this is called body language. That is the contemporary word for the world we live in today. People say, "Well, he is my soulmate. She is my soulmate." The only soulmate you could ever have is the Lord Jesus Christ. You get the wrong soulmate, and you will find out very quickly that that soul did not meet up very well.

You see, when you dress the part, when you look the part, when you talk the part, you get the part. It will become the part. We as God's people will either communicate a message to the world for the things of God by what we do with our body, or we will communicate a message to the world with what we do with our body. It is only going to go one way or the other. It is just that simple.

Proverbs 7:14-16 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.

Now, verse 14, this is how it is religious. I like what it says here if you know your Bible a little bit. It says, "I have peace offerings with me." If you know your Bible, if you do not have this reference, I put right down there Leviticus 7:16-18 because back in Leviticus, it is a passage talking about eating the leftover sacrificial meat. This woman, who is a religion, appeals to the two basic desires of man's human nature: love and food. If you know your Bible, as in 1 Corinthians 10:6-8, a man can lust after both of them. I do not know if you know it or not, but love and food are the two greatest objects a man can be offered: self-propagation and self-preservation. In history, look at the Roman orgies that went on with the food and all of the things that took place in Babylon down through history. If you cannot get a history book, go rent Animal House with John Belushi; you will get the whole story.

That concept is so strong in man. That concept of those two desires is so strong in man. Watch this: That when the Holy Spirit of God wants to appeal to an unsaved man, when God wants to appeal to the Holy Spirit of God to an unsaved man's soul, He will use the exact same two things, only in a righteous, holy way. He will appeal to the same two desires that are the basic desires that man has. He will appeal to a love relationship with Jesus Christ through salvation above none other, and He will appeal to his appetite by making a wedding supper of the Lamb where you can eat all you want. That is how He does it.

Now look at verse 16. Three things here. It says, "I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry and carved works with fine linen of Egypt." Now this woman is a complete forgery, a complete fake, and a complete counterfeit. She says, "I deck my bed with tapestry." I do not know what you have in your Bible, but put down Proverbs 31:22 because the real tapestries of the real virtuous woman are found in that passage. This woman has counterfeit tapestry. When you go over to the one in Proverbs 31, which is the real deal, the virtuous woman, it is purple and linen, royalty colors, because she is part of the King's family. This woman takes the tapestry and makes it fake.

Then she said, "carved works." That will be the idols of all the gods that this woman wants to bring into your world. Then she says the third thing, "with fine linen of Egypt." Now that is very interesting because Egypt in the Bible is a type of the world. When they come out of Egypt, the last thing Jacob and Joseph said, "Do not leave my bones in Egypt. Get me out of here." Egypt is the type of the world in the Bible. So this woman is telling this guy, void of understanding, that she comes to him with fine linen of Egypt.

Now look over Revelation 19:7-8.

*Revelation 19:7-8*

*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

*And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

That wife is me and you, by the way, if you have not figured it out. Then you know what this woman does? This woman gives a false sense of righteousness. This is what you see today in Christianity in the world. I told you many, many times, I have not met a good old-fashioned sinner in 20 years. There are no sinners anymore. We live in a world in Christianity where we think that God does not have any holy standards anymore. That God does not have a holy side to Him. We think we can go to church and do what we want to do in our terms and do what the world does and still claim to be a child of God. We think we can do all the things the world does, go all the things, talk like them, do everything they do, and still in our minds we think that we are still God's child and God is pleased with us. The problem is you have been hanging out with the wrong woman, and you got you some false white linen. You got you some stuff that is not real.

Now that brings up another tremendous study in the Bible. God has standards of holiness, whether you and I like it or not, but we live in a world that we have lost that concept because this woman has come in and she has counterfeited everything that God has, and the men and the women who are void of understanding got sucked into it. Now they are at the place in their life where they go to church on Sunday. Hey, I know churches right now today that have gambling ministries. I know churches right now today that condone drinking. I know churches right now today that condone all kinds of stuff. You know what? It is none of my business. I do not care, but I might ask the question, "How in the world do you deal with an alcoholic when your church

condones alcoholics? How do you deal with a guy who has got a gambling addiction when your church has a gambling ministry?" What this woman has done is brought in the concept of false righteousness. She is a counterfeit.

I do not know if you know it or not, but the devil always counterfeits the Lord in everything. I mean, in John 8:12, the Bible says God is light. In 2 Corinthians 11:14, the devil is called light. In Revelation 19:16, God is called King. Job 41, the devil is called king. In Revelation 21, God has got a bride who is a city. In Revelation 17, the devil has got a bride who is a city. Christ is called a prince in Isaiah 9:6. The devil is called a prince in John 14:30. God is called God in John 20:28. The devil is called the god of this world, 2 Corinthians 4:4. I mean, Christ is a lion, Revelation 5:5. 1 Peter 5:8 says the devil going about is a roaring lion. He counterfeits Him in everything. They both have a church. They both have a Bible. And they both go to church every Sunday morning. That is what you are up against. You say, "Well, how do you deal with that?" You get understanding. You get discernment. You get perception. You get discretion.

Proverbs 7:17-18 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

The smell of perfume in the Bible will always be associated with our relationship with Christ. There is something about the Christian and something about his righteousness that all through the Book of Song of Solomon it is equated back and forth. In Song of Solomon 2:1-2, you find the smell of lilies, the smell of roses, and the smell of apples. In Song of Solomon 2:13, you find the tender grapes that give a good smell, talking about the church. Song of Solomon 4 talks about our fellowship with God, and it is likened to a garden with fragrant smells of the fruit all mixed together. In Song of Solomon 5, it talks about the smell of myrrh and spices. It is probably the original reason why Christ, when He started out His relationship with Adam and Eve, was in a garden that had to be one of the most beautifully smelling places on the planet. Those smells that God finds in the Bible are always a reference to our relationship with Him.

2 Corinthians 2:15, I am sure it is the key to it. It talks about that every time you and I preach about Christ's death on the cross, His sacrifice. In the Old Testament, that was another thing. When they offered up those sacrifices, they burned it on a fire, and they burnt that sacrifice. The Bible says the thing that appeased God's wrath toward those people was not the fact that they just killed something innocent, but when that smell came up in the nostrils of God of that innocent flesh burning, His anger was appeased, and He forgave them. The Bible says that when you preach about Christ, who was the ultimate sacrifice, wherever you preach about Him, you talk about Him, when you witness about Him, the Bible says it is a sweet savour in the nostrils of God. This woman counterfeits that. She is like any harlot you have ever seen on television or any harlot you have ever seen on the street corner. She is painted up, and she is also perfumed up. She puts forth a, produces a fake smell of a counterfeit man-made relationship.

Now, ladies, I say again, I am not going to preach on perfume. I am not. Do not take this out of context. I am showing you what perfume is all about. I am glad you use it. Very glad you use it. Do not take this in any wrong way. I am with you 100 percent. But get my point. Do not take it personal, but get my point. I do not care what you use. I do not care. It all smells lovely. I am just

making my point here. I am trying to get you to see something. This is why women of the world always try to perfume, to smell good on the outside, to cover the stench on the inside.

Let me ask you a question. Would any woman here want your daughter to turn out to be a Paris Hilton? I am getting a no on that. How about Britney Spears? You sure? Kind of a catchy name, Britney Spears. How about Jennifer Lopez? I got a whole list of them here. I got on the internet. I finally figured out how to do that. All these women got perfume named after them. You know why they will make millions and millions and millions of dollars? I am going to tell you why. When you buy Jennifer Lopez's perfume and you smell like her, in your mind you think you are going to look like her. Need a lot more help than that, baby. Let me tell you. Buy her perfume and then get over to Sid's body shop and let him get his chisel out and go to work a little bit. I am just talking to you now. I Googled in. I did not even know what Google was. I thought it was what you said to a little baby and he is in the crib, and I just, I Googled it in. The name of women's perfume. You would not believe it. It is always named after some kind of sexual encounter or at least some kind of suggestiveness. Obsession. "Hi, I am obsessed with you." "Oh, I am obsessed with that perfume." "Oh, you should be. It is obsession." Wicked desire. My passion. Of course, you can buy all of this at Victoria's Secrets. Magnetism. Encounter. Midnight passion. Boundless love. Euphoria. Whatever that means. Rendezvous. Where Rocky would say, "Rendezvous." My favorite is Holstein. I think that is how it is pronounced. I do not know. But every one of them are suggestive. Why could not they just say for women, "Get Sweat Buster," "Underarm Boar Cleaner," "Come with a brass brush"? Everything you find about this perfume because the women of the world, the women of the world want to try to fake the smell that only comes by the beauty that comes from a young lady or a young man in a personal, honorable, loving relationship with the Lord. You cannot beat that. I do not think you should not put perfume on. I am not saying that at all. I am just saying the real, the real savour of any woman or any man is the savour that you have with the sweet savour of Christ. That is what I am saying.

Look at verse 18: "Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves." Now, solace means comfort. This harlot wants to go on with this love relationship all night. We know that is the Church Age, doctrinally. We saw it last week. Then it ends when the man of the house comes home in the morning, fourth watch, 6 a.m. We saw it last week. You see, the world will give us a false solace, a false comfort. It deceives us, and we buy it because we are void of understanding. We will leave the protection of the Word of God. We will leave the protection of what God has given us to protect us. Just like any teenager who fights against mom and dad when he is 17 and 18, he thinks he knows more about life than they ever did. And they have lived it through some tough times. By the time he is 20 or 21 or 22, he will figure out he did not know anything.

Proverbs 7:19-20 For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at a day appointed.

Now, the reference here, doctrinally, without a doubt, we know from last week will be the Second Coming of Christ. Last week, I showed you in Mark 13:32-37, and it is pretty much standard throughout the Bible where the Bible says, "For the Son of Man is a man taking a far journey." That is a picture of Christ during the Church Age going back up to heaven. We saw it.

That long journey, as we saw last week, is that it runs 2,400 years from 606 B.C. up to the Church Age of the Rapture, during which time the harlot works her best.

Look at verse 20: "He had taken a bag of money with him." That will be the true riches to Israel. That will be the kingdom of heaven, which God took with Him when He left back there on His trip in 606 B.C. Read Psalms 78, the whole chapter. That is why I gave it to you. "And he will come home at a day appointed." When you find out in the Bible, see Proverbs 31:8, Jeremiah 46:17, Daniel 8:19, Daniel 11:27, Daniel 11:29, Daniel 11:35, always Second Coming, always the Second Coming.

Proverbs 7:21-23 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

Her much fair speech. History is full of men who became captive to a woman by the way she dressed, the way she looked, the way she smelled, and the things she says to him. A man void of understanding. He has no perception, no discernment, and no discretion. He gets so intoxicated with her, he just throws God and all he knows, which is not much, right out the window. In history, I think of Cleopatra and Mark Antony. Mark Antony was a great Roman guy who was brought to his knees by Cleopatra, who was the queen of Egypt.

If you are going to get into the Bible, I think of Samson. We have talked about him a lot in the last couple of weeks. Here is Samson that was a deliverer of Israel, a judge. God had a job for him, and he fell to his knees to this woman Delilah. I think in Matthew 14:3-6, Herod. Herod, you know when you study that passage, Herod liked John the Baptist. The Bible says that he liked what he said. He believed a lot what he said. But it was John the Baptist who did not care if he liked him or not, who preached the Word of God to him, and he made a reference to the fact that there was an adulterous relationship going on with his brother's wife. The brother's wife did not like it. She had a hot daughter who was a belly dancer. She went in before Herod and did her belly dance all over the place. Herod, he was just captivated by her belly dancing. He was captivated by what she did and how she displayed herself. After she was done, he says, "You know what? That was the greatest belly dance I ever saw. I am going to give you anything you want except my kingdom because of the way you belly dance." You know what she said by her mama? "Give me the head of John the Baptist." That is how John the Baptist got killed. He got killed because some guy was captivated by some belly dancer and his wife and did not have the courage to stand up. He took the preacher that he liked to listen to, who he probably somewhat believed and knew he was the truth, and had him killed because that woman got the advantage on him. History is filled with them, man.

Verse 22 says, "as the ox to the slaughter, goeth after her straightway as an ox to the slaughter." I think a slaughterhouse is a really good illustration here. Dumb animals void of understanding. I visited a slaughterhouse one time. I always wanted to see it. Never will go back again. One of the most, I just could not do it anymore. I mean, I watched cattle just coming off the trucks by the load, going up that ramp, falling on the other cattle. The one thing I got out of it, they walked

through up there, and here they had electric things that just shot them right in the head, and they dumped them in and then skinned them all off. I just watched them go up there one after the other to the end of the death. I came away emotionally moved because I like animals, and I said, "I ain't ever doing that again." In fact, it was a long time before I ate another hamburger, probably at least 20, 30 minutes. But anyway, I mean, a hamburger is so impersonal, you know? But the thing I came away with that, and I said, "Boy, if that is not life on planet earth, people going to hell, just following the crowd, people walking down the ramp out of the truck, just following a guy in front of them." And a guy is being killed and put in hell. And he just all go one after the other. That is what I saw in that thing. That is a great illustration here. That is a great illustration because that is what the world does. People just follow the crowd. They follow the world. They do not have the courage to stand apart from everybody else. A slaughterhouse is a great example. In this case, the young man meets his death.

Now look at verse 22: "or as a fool to the correction of the stocks." Now, the stocks that he is talking about here would be like you see in the early times in America, made up in England, where the guy did something stupid or did something wrong, and they put him on public display. He would sit down, put his hands through it and his head through it. He would stand there, and they would put a sign under, "This guy stole," or "This guy did this," or "This guy or this woman did this." And he would be in stocks right in the city square. This is where our people would come and make fun of them. They would laugh at him, and he would be the ridicule and the shame of the town. This is where we get the expression, "He will be a laughing stock." That is where it comes from. That is where it comes from. What he is saying here is this: If this woman does not get you killed, she certainly will get you made a fool of for all the world to laugh at, where all the world sees you, and you become a laughing stock. She will make a fool out of you. She will use you. She will tell you what you want to hear. She will try to get from you what she wants, and then she will leave you in the end, and she will dump you in the end. I am talking about false religion, but you can make the application for yourself.

Look at verse 23: "till a dart strike through his liver." You know, I always thought that was a weird thing. I always thought that that was the dumbest thing to say, "strike through the liver." I always thought it was just an old English phrase, you know, or something that I did not know anything about. It was years later when I got into the Bible that I saw how comprehensive the Bible is. It is an absolutely right thing when he says "strike through the liver" because loose living, the worldly living, a life of drugs and alcohol will always ruin your liver. That is exactly where it goes. I mean, when you drag alcohol and you are an alcoholic for forty years, you know what you get? Cirrhosis of the liver. You take drugs, either meth or you take prescription drugs, and you start taking them pills twenty or thirty at a time, and you start building up to that thing, and you think it is fine. You know what it does? It destroys your liver. Your liver is what purifies what you put into your body, and when you do not put toxic things in it that are poison, your liver cannot handle it, and after twenty, thirty years of doing that, your liver goes, man. Your liver goes, and I will tell you something else. That fool in the stocks of a correction, not only does she make a fool out of you, she makes you a prisoner of your sin. You cannot get out of it. You cannot get out of it.

You can tell, I mean, you can see it. You can see it in people's faces. You can see in the struggles of their life. All the things that go on, and after, you know, after years and years and years and years, it absolutely, you cannot get rid of it. You cannot break it. You cannot get out from under it. You subjected yourself to something now. You have allowed this woman and the ways of the world into your life for so long that you are shackled by your ankles, and you cannot break the chain. The Bible says in the Book of Ecclesiastes, "a threefold cord is not easily broken." You can take a little piece of sewing thread, and you can snap it apart. You can take it and wrap it around your fingers and break it apart. You take that same little piece of thread and wrap it around your finger a hundred times, and you will die trying to get out from under it. One sin leads to another sin, and it builds up into your life that pretty soon it consumes you. It takes you over. You can sit there all you want. I have had people say to me, "Well, I am not doing drugs. I am not doing this. I am not that. I do not do that." And I say to them, I said, "You know what? You are probably right. You were probably born with pupils as big as pipe cleaners so the love of Jesus could flow through to the world more often." You become a captive to it.

Proverbs 7:24-27 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

I will just say it right now. It will either be you will listen to the words of God's mouth, or you are going to listen to the words of her mouth. There is no middle ground, and you are not going to listen to half His words and half her words. It says, "attend now to the words of my mouth." You and I will listen to one person or the other. We will either listen to the words of God, or we will listen to the words of this lady of the evening. "Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths." See that thing? The ways of her paths. You stay with her long enough, and you are on the path that she follows. You are on her path. You are going her way, and you are not coming back to the other way. You have put yourself in a bind in the stocks. You now have made yourself a prisoner, and you will not do what you need to do, and it just keeps getting worse and worse and worse, and you try everything you know how to do except the one thing you should do, and that is fall on your face before God and come clean with Him.

It says, "her house she has cast down many wounded." She shoots her wounded. She does not help you. She is not the kind of woman who, when she makes you ill and makes you sick by her sin, feels comfort for you. Her whole goal is to make you sick, to make you more vulnerable so she can get you more drugs, get you more alcohol, make you hooked on what you are taking so you can get more. She does not care if you are wounded. She wants to kill you because "her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death."

Now this young man, void of understanding, if you are counting them now, has had four good pitches thrown at him by this woman. 1.) Pitch number one was, "My old man is not at home. Come on over." (Proverbs 7:19) 2.) Second pitch was, "The journey he went on is a long one." (Proverbs 7:19) 3.) Third pitch, "It is a business trip, so he will not be home early." (Proverbs 7:20) 4.) He is certain to be gone, fourth pitch, "until a certain day, so we will not be interrupted." (Proverbs 7:20)

Now all that is absolutely true, but here is what she did not tell him. Here is what she left out. Here is what they always leave out. Here is what she neglects to tell this young man who cannot figure it out for himself because he is void of understanding.1.) She did not tell him that you are going to be slaughtered like an ox. (Proverbs 7:22)2.) She did not tell him you are going to become a prisoner to your sin: drugs, drinking, addicted to sin in your life. (Proverbs 7:22)3.) The third thing is she did not tell him you are going to get a disease that will kill him probably early in life. (Proverbs 7:23)4.) The fourth thing is she did not tell him that she has messed up many a man before him. (Proverbs 7:26)5.) The fifth thing she did not tell him, "Son, there are some men out there who are now dead because of me." (Proverbs 7:26)6.) The sixth thing she did not tell him, "Her house is on the way to hell." (Proverbs 7:27)7.) The seventh thing, "It is going to be going down to the chambers of death." (Proverbs 7:27)

Now, "chambers of death" during the Dark Ages, and the Dark Ages is when this woman ruled. The Dark Ages, I showed you last week on our charts, from there to there, around 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D. on your chart. That is called the Dark Ages. It is also called the Middle Ages. It is also called the Medieval Ages. It was the middle of the evil. During that time, somebody came up with the idea, with a concept of what we know in history as the iron maiden. The iron maiden was a woman's body made out of iron that was hollowed out, that had hinges on it that closed and opened, and they put a man inside. On the front side of it that closed was her face. But when you opened it up, on the inside were steel spikes that came out where your eyes are, came out where your heart is, and came out on all your vital parts of your body. What they did was that they put somebody in there, and they tied him in there, and then they slowly cranked that door shut of the iron maiden. As it went shut, the closer it got, those spikes went into his eyes, went into his heart, went into his throat, went in every part of his body and killed him. Then they opened up the door, there was a trap door there, the body fell down, and was the next victim. That is where the iron maiden concept came from. It came from this woman who is in the medieval times who destroyed men because she was so beautiful in all of her seductions. That is exactly where this iron maiden concept came from.

## VII. John the Apostle: A Type of the Faithful Christian

Now I want to leave you with chapter 7 with a story in the Bible. It is a character study in my mind of no equal in my humble opinion. It is about a man named John the Apostle. I do not know if you know it or not, but in every way, when you study him as a character study, we talked about this. Cleon asked a great question Thursday night about how do you determine types in the Bible, and I showed you how to do that in a rudimentary way. It is a thing where this is an incredible, incredible, incredible picture of what your life and my life should be. It is a perfect picture of what God, I think, expects of us and what we ought to try to attain to.

I do not know if you have ever studied or not. Ever look at the 12 apostles. The 12 apostles represent for us Christianity. Ever look at it, you had 12, one was a phony, Judas. That tells me that not everybody that says they are a Christian is a Christian. Then you had 11 left. Out of the 11 that were left, when it really hit the fan and things came back down, when they were coming to get Christ, all 10 of the 11 hit the road, were gone. There is only one man who went the

distance. You know who he was? He was John. John never forsook Him. John stayed with Him when all the others left Him. John was faithful unto the end when all the others left Him.

Now I do not know what your goal ought to be. I cannot speak for you. I really would not presume to speak for you, but I will speak for myself. I have one goal in life because I know what is going to come to America, and I know what is going to happen in our areas around us, and it is coming very quickly. I am going to tell you this, I only have one goal that I want to be. I want to be that faithful one that goes to the end. I cannot speak for you. I would not presume to speak for you. I am speaking for myself. I want to go to the end and be faithful. I do not want to quit along the way. I do not want to deceive Him. I do not want to take everything He has given me and then when He needs me the most, like on the cross, they all left Him. I do not want to be like Peter standing around the fire with a little girl coming up and saying, "Are not you with him?" And he said, "No, I am not with him." And she says, "Surely you must be with him. I saw you with him." "No, I am not with him." Third time she comes up, and he says, "I know you are with him." You know what he did? When he could not convince her that he was not with Christ, he did the only thing that we all do to convince everybody around us that we are not with Christ. The Bible says he let out a string of four-letter cuss words. "No, blankety blank. I am not with that blankety blank guy." And the minute she heard that, she says, "No, he could not be with him." I have always thought in my mind, what if that little gal wanted to get saved? What if that little gal came to him because she really wanted to hear about God and what God had done? I wonder how many times in your life and my life God brings somebody to us, but because we are too busy pretending we are like with the world, because we are embarrassed to go the distance with Him. You get my message, and I am not even preaching yet. I am telling you John went all the way. John went all the way.

I told you this Thursday night in John 19:25. When He is hanging on the cross, John down there is standing next to His mother. Now in the Bible, we know that John is a type of the church, but we also know that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a type of the nation of Israel. In the middle of this crucifixion in John 19 and that verse, when He is being crucified, He looks down and He says to John and He said to His mother, He says, "Son, behold thy mother; mother, behold thy son." He gave His mother to John. Now that is very symbolic if you know Romans 11 and Romans 9 because he is a type of the church, he is a type of the nation of Israel, and right there He just documented that He has given the nation of Israel to the watch care of the church. Romans 9, Romans 11, if you are paying attention with your Bible. Incredible.

You know in John 13:23, John is the only disciple that Jesus says He loves? Now I know He loved them all. I know He loved them all, but in the Bible, everything is in there for a reason. John is the only apostle that Jesus said He loved. Somebody says one time, "Are you telling me that Jesus had a special love for John?" And I said, "No, I am telling you that John had a special love for Jesus." That is the deal. God would like to love all of us like He loved John. The problem is not God loving you and me like John. The problem is you and me loving God like John did. That is the problem.

That is the Last Supper, John 13:18-27. Jesus says to them, they are all sitting at the table now, and Jesus says to them, "One of you is going to betray Me." The Bible records for us that each

one of them, each one of them goes around the table and looks at the Lord and says, "Lord, is it I? Lord, is it I? Lord, am I going to be the one to betray You? Lord, is it I?" In John 13:18-27, when it comes to John, John says, "Lord, who is it?" He might not have known who it was, but he knew who it was not going to be. It was not going to be him. Every other one had inside them that fear that they would betray Him, not John. John went the distance. John looks at Him, he says, "Who is it? I will kick him out of here. Who is it?" He is special. He is special.

John is the only man in history in John 13:23 who leans his head on the breast of Jesus and actually hears the heartbeat of God. We talk about hearing God's heart and the heartbeat of God all the time. The only other person that can hear the heartbeat of God is you and me in the New Testament through the Word of God, which is God's heart. Read Psalms 2:6 because that is God's heartbeat, and we can listen to it just like John did.

It was John who was chosen to write the five books of the New Testament. I have told you before, there are five wisdom books in the Old Testament. There are also five wisdom books in the New Testament, and John writes all five of them.1.) He writes the Gospel of John, which is the most intimate book that lays out Christ's deity.2.) He lays out 1 John, which is my book that tells me about how to have my relationship and fellowship through the Word of God.3.) He writes then 2 John and 3 John, two more books, and they show my relationship to Israel because Israel is laid out in those two books.4.) Then the fifth book, he writes the Book of Revelation, which shows the whole picture of what God is doing, which is what every child of God sitting under the sound of my voice, if you have been saved five years or less, ought to know today.

You and I should be just like John the Apostle, our greatest example in the Bible. Now we know that there is a woman who is a harlot, who is a prostitute, who wants to stop you and me and take from us the very relationship that we want to have with God. She wants to destroy us. She wants to destroy your family. She wants to destroy your relationship with God. Boy, you never beat the book. She wants to take everything from you. She wants to take your love from God. She wants to destroy you, and in every city in America and around the world, when this harlot, a real harlot, wants to have an encounter with any man to destroy his life, she calls him her John.

Let me just say something to you folks, if you are saved under the sound of my voice this morning, you are either going to be God's John or you are going to be her John. But it is only going to be one or the other. You cannot have it both ways. Tremendous, tremendous picture. You will either be Christ's John of the New Testament on His bosom, hearing His heart beat, faithful to the end, or you will be her John, drunk with the wine of her fornication, destroyed by her seduction, a slave and a prisoner to your sin, and you get to choose which it is.

Next week, we will officially start the Book of Proverbs. This has been our preparatory. We have got everything down now. We have got all we need to be able to crack this book and to see it where it goes and how it lays out. We have had seven chapters of work getting us ready. Now we have everything defined. We are ready to get into that book next week and start with the Proverbs. I am going to pray here, and we will be dismissed. God bless you today, and deacons, quickly, as soon as we are done, move back to the high school classroom, and we will get our meeting over very quickly.

Let us pray. Father, thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We do love You. Thank You for today. Thank You for the folks that have come out. Thank You for the truth of Your Word and Your blessings upon us. Lord, what a book You have given us. What a masterful design behind the Word of God, which so clearly lays out and gives us everything that we need. Everything that we need to be everything to be. Help us to be the John of the Bible. Help us to be faithful to You and to the end. Help us to love You, Lord, more than anything else in our lives. Help us, Lord, to take care of all the things that You have given us to do. Help us to be found faithful, never to leave, never to run, never to leave You, and Lord Father, when You need us the most, and it certainly was a day when the Word of God needs to be proclaimed more. It is today. Help us to be found faithful, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.