

Proverbs 6

Sunday 6/8/2014

Though I am never wrong, there are times when I am given to confusion. I wondered why you were snickering at me when I said, "Taka Airlines." There were two airlines down there. It was Sasha Airlines that was "Stay at home and stay alive." Taka Airlines was "Take a chance airlines." There it goes. Now, now, now, now don't you feel bad about making fun of me? Nope. Who said no? Did you say no? It sounded like your no. Like many, many times when I asked you, "Did you do this?" or your wife said, "Were you there?" and you said, "Nope." It sounded like your no.

I. Introduction and Review of Proverbs 6

We are back to Proverbs 6 today, and we are going to pick it up where we left off. The book of Proverbs is one of the most practical books of all the Bible. We know that. We have talked about that many, many times as we have come through the first six chapters. Yet at the same time, it is probably one of the deepest books in the Bible as far as a prophetic application. A lot of this has much to do with the nation of Israel and their relationship with God, and we have talked about that. In teaching it to you, I try to keep a good balance between the practical and the doctrinal.

We started out at Proverbs 6, and I talked about the six things that God hates, and then the Bible says, "yea, the seventh is an abomination." That is a great study to see how these are not the character qualities that we want to be associated with in our lives. That was a great practical concept: keeping them out of our lives and building Christian values and character qualities of God in our lives through the principles found in the Bible, in the book of Proverbs in particular.

Do you remember I came back the next week and I showed you how those same seven things represented in a prophetic way—we call it a doctrinal way, a specific teaching—how the devil attacked the nation of Israel down through man's history from the beginning of the Bible all the way up to where we are today? Last week, we talked again in a very practical way about keeping the Word of God in your heart and around your neck. We talked about your heart being a representation of your attitude toward God and your neck representing your will toward God. The Word of God is light in a dark world and a lamp unto our journey. I showed you all kinds of different things about that. I showed you how the Bible is a Christian survival book, giving you all the different aspects that we have to survive with. I showed you how the Bible was five different lights when it says it is a lamp unto my feet, to light your way through life.

By now, going back and forth, you should have a pretty good understanding that primarily this book, as it is aimed, is aimed at the nation of Israel. I tell you all the time that everything in the Bible is for us one way or the other, but not everything in the Bible is written directly to us. We have talked about this over and over again as we have come through this, that there are some great parallels between the nation of Israel and the Church. The nation of Israel, we know, was God's counterpart in the Old Testament. The Church today is God's counterpart in the New Testament. Even though much of this in Proverbs and much of this throughout the Bible is written specifically for Israel, you cannot fail to see the parallels between the two.

I am God's son. The Bible says by a new birth I was made and put into God's family, made in His image, and now I am God's child. I am God's son. So are you. Yet the Bible says in a national sense, in Exodus 4, Israel is God's son.

When you look at how God used Israel in the Old Testament to get His message to the world, and then how God uses the Church in the New Testament to get the message to the world, you begin to see how the great parallels will all come. No matter what He says to Israel, there will be a practical application that we can apply to us. This is what I have been trying to convey as we have come through the book of Proverbs.

Up to this point, all this material we have seen has been given to Israel to keep them from being deceived. Yet its practical sense has been given to us to keep us from being deceived. The "my son" concept, as we talked about, these Old Testament wisdom books were highly regarded by the Jews. The Jews broke their Old Testament down into three sections, and part of that section was the wisdom books. They were very highly regarded, much as we do today when we talk about the book of Proverbs.

This material was given to Israel to keep them from being deceived and destroyed by the man of sin, which we know as the devil, through the seven things that we talked about early on in this chapter a couple of weeks ago. We also know that Israel never obeyed God in anything that God told them to do, in spite of the warnings of God, in spite of what He said here in the book of Proverbs.

II. The Three Applications of Proverbs

I told you, if you remember, that the book of Proverbs basically has three applications.

1. First of all, when Solomon is writing it, he is writing it to his own son, Rehoboam. He is giving his own son instructions because he knows that someday Rehoboam is going to take over the throne. So he gives these things to Rehoboam out of the vast wisdom that Solomon has. Well, Rehoboam did not do a thing with it. In fact, Rehoboam turned out to be one of the most disappointing people probably in all the Bible. He splits the kingdom along with Jeroboam and all the other "Boam" boys, and they messed the whole thing up. So historically, we know it goes to him.
2. But in a prophetic sense, in a doctrinal sense, that "my son" goes to Israel because in an Old Testament sense, Israel is God's son.
3. In a practical way, you and I are God's son. So you can see how the book of Proverbs really flows down through here, and we can get a lot of great things out of it.

It is in this passage today that we see the avenging of Israel by God. We know that just as Rehoboam did not obey God, and just like many times we do not obey God when He gives us the issues of life, Israel did not do it either. They went a-whoring after other gods. They forsook the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God that brought them out of Egypt, the God that formulated them through Genesis. They were drawn in and enticed by the false religions of Israel's day, which anybody who knows a little bit about the Bible knows is Baal worship.

Baal worship was the worship of the sun god. Baal worship was rampant in the Old Testament. There are many different variations of it, but it basically revolved around the sun as being the center of everything and worshipping the sun. Egyptians did it with Ra, their sun god. The Babylonians did it with Baal, their sun god. Another group did it with Astaroth, the female deity that goes along with it. It was a thing where you had the sun as the male figure, the woman as the female figure, and then the religion was based on those concepts.

In this passage today, once we begin to put it into the context of dealing with Israel, we see God avenging Israel. We also see His anger and His wrath that we see displayed in the Second Coming of Christ and the Tribulation Period, as He comes back because of what the evil man and the strange woman have done to the nation of Israel.

III. Reading of Proverbs 6:20-35

Let me begin to read this, and I am going to start with last week's text and I am going to add this week's text to it so you can see now how this applies. Last week I gave it to you, I showed you how this was right down your line, and there were many things in there. If you are here today as a New Testament Christian and you got that down, there are many things there now that you learn for your own walk with God. Now let me show you today the doctrinal side of it.

Proverbs 6:20-23

My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

Now that is what we read last week, and we basically made comment on that. Now we are going to add that to what we are going to look at today and see how this thing kind of works out for us here. Verse 24, all of this in 20, 21, 22, 23, now we are going to see what it was about and what it was for.

Proverbs 6:24-35

To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

Now Father, help us today as we look at this and try to put this in the context of what it is really talking about here, and yet not to ignore the practical applications. Help us to kind of come back and forth here and make this passage clear. We have many people in this church, Lord, who are serious Bible students. They have invested their life in learning the Bible, so this will be very good for them. Then there are others who are just beginning that process, and this on their level will be very good for them. So help us to get what we need out of this. Help me to lay it out, Father, that is understandable and in easy format. Father, by Your Spirit today, we pray You will guide and bless us, and we thank You now for all You do. In Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it. Amen.

IV. The Evil Man and The Strange Woman Defined

Even though the practical approach of this fits right into modern-day America, you can see this without any help at all, how this is in a practical way what it deals with. The doctrinal application in the context is aimed straight at the nation of Israel and their going after all the other gods, in particular, Baal worship.

All this centers around, if you notice what we have read, the evil man and the strange woman, both whom we have met before in our study in Proverbs 2 and other places, and we are only going to get more involved with them as we move into the next chapter.

We now know, for those of you who maybe have not been along with us in our study, the evil man is basically the devil personified. The evil man here represents the world system. The evil man here will be the man of sin in particular. The evil man has by design created every philosophy of life, every "ology," theology, every false teaching, everything that the world puts out there that you and I would fall into that would pull us away from God. It is just that simple.

I do not care every nation, every government, no matter how it starts, even if it starts with God, the evil man is going to try to take that nation away from God. We do not have to look any farther than our own country, the United States of America, to see that. Our founding fathers, many of them were saved, born-again men. The ones that even were not, that maybe were deists, were men who honored God and believed God, and they certainly knew how important God was.

When they first formed and wrote the Declaration of Independence and they brought the first draft for them to look at, the founding fathers recognized that the writers who were putting it together had only made one reference to God in reference to the United States. They rejected it. They sent it back and they told them, "We can never forget what God has done for this country." When it came back in its final form, it had a reference of four times that it referenced God. They added in there because the founding fathers knew how absolute and important it was to never forget what God had done for this country, and yet look where we are today. It shows you the only way we got from where our founding fathers were to where the United States is today is because of the evil man.

The evil man and his teachings and his philosophy and his theology and all theologies, psychology, philosophy, all the things that the world comes up with, they exist for one reason: to take you away from God and to replace it with something that is man-made, and it is man-made by the evil man.

We then have the strange woman. The strange woman, we have defined her before, will be the organization of false religion. It will be the false religion of the world today. But in particular, in our teaching here as it deals with the nation of Israel, it will be Baal worship. It was Baal worship in connection with the evil man and the strange woman that brought about the fall of the nation of Israel.

You will remember when I defined that for you, we went back to 1 Kings 17, 18, and 19, and I showed you the model of this in the Bible was Ahab and Jezebel. Ahab was the king of Israel, the wickedest king Israel ever had, no question about it. But he had a wife, and his wife was named Jezebel. Jezebel is not a good name to name your daughter. You will find that there are two names that are pretty much absent from the baby name list. One of them will be Jezebel and the other one will be Judas. In all my years, I have never met a guy named Judas. In all my years, I have never met a woman who I said, "Hi, my name is Bob." "Hi, my name is Jezebel." I never met that. For some reason, those two names are taken off the baby name list, and it is because of what they represent.

I showed you how Ahab, as the king of Israel, represented the evil man. In the Old Testament, there are 18 men that if you would go through Genesis and work your way through, you will find 18 men who foreshadow the coming man of sin, the Antichrist. He said, "Why are there 18?" Because $6+6+6$ equals 18. There are 18 men who foreshadow the coming man of sin, the evil man. Ahab is one of them.

Jezebel, on the other hand, represents the false religious systems of the world. You are going to find in our story back there in 1 Kings 17, 18, and 19, though Ahab is the king, Jezebel is the religious prophetess. She has 400 prophets of Baal, and she stands in contest with Elijah, who is God's man. You have in that story, if you want to take the time to glean it all out and look at it, or on Thursday night ask the question, I can walk you through those chapters and give you a whole boatload of information. You are going to find that those two people in a context historically picture what the Bible is talking about in Proverbs. Ahab was the wicked king, led Israel after his wife's religion, Baal worship. And Jezebel was the queen of heaven, so to speak. You are going

to find when the Bible talks about in Proverbs the evil man and the strange woman, we are talking about two systems: one is a worldly system, the other one is a religious system.

V. God's Character: Jealousy, Vengeance, Judgment

Our text today shows us three things about God in relationship to Israel. It is also true of our relationship together. You are going to have to allow me to kind of bounce back and forth between the two. I will try not to be confusing about it, but I want you to see and get the most out of this.

4. God is a jealous God. That is something that you need to know. God is a jealous God. I will come back in a little bit and I will reiterate that. I am not sure what "reiterate" means, but I heard it on, Joel Osteen used it this morning, and it sounded pretty professional.
5. God is a vengeful God to them that hurt His people.
6. God is a God who will exact judgment on sin.

Those three things are very important for you to understand, but it is what this text is talking about in that doctrinal sense dealing with Israel, but yet also to you and me in a practical sense.

In the Old Testament, Israel completely lost sight of these three things, totally and completely. It leads to their downfall. In the parallels, I must also tell you that, and I am sure most of you are aware of this, in the New Testament, Christianity, we have lost sight of those three areas. For the most part, Christianity as we know it from the Bible standpoint has pretty much fallen on its face.

By the time we get into history with Israel, 606 BC, Israel was just an empty shell of what its former glory was. "Ichabod," the glory of God has departed, was said to be written across the threshold of the tabernacle. She had violated everything that God had given her. She had gone after all the other gods, and by 606 BC, she is broken and busted. In fact, the Bible says that she has a form of godliness. She always was religious, but it was after the religion of the strange woman. She had a form of godliness, but denied the power thereof.

I find that same thing, I confess to you today, and as a pastor of 40-plus years, I am embarrassed to even say it, but I find that same exact thing with churches today. They have a form of godliness. Yes, they have a Sunday morning service. Yes, they have a choir. Yes, they do this, they do that. But they deny the power thereof, and the power thereof is simply the Word of God that God has given us and the principles that are found in it to help us get through the things of life.

Before I get into this, let me just review a couple of things here that will help us get this passage down. As I said, I am going to kind of come from the, I am going to emphasize the doctrinal, but I am going to move back and forth, because I want you to see this as it is and get the whole concept. In a practical way, it is pretty much self-explanatory. It is dealing with the sin of adultery and its consequences. But when you look at it from a doctrinal standpoint, there is so much more here that you will want to begin to see.

VI. Spiritual Adultery and Its Biblical Examples

You will remember, I told you a while back, I think it was in our study on Thursday night on the seven pillars, that there are two main components that God uses in His dealing with man. In the Old Testament, I showed you how God had formulated, called out, established the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel was God's people in the Old Testament by which He was going to reach the world. Anybody who found God in the Old Testament had to come through the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel was God's helpmeet. Remember Adam and Eve? I showed you how they did not call it a mate. All the animals had mates when God created them all. But when it came to Adam and Eve, it was not a helpmate, it was a helpmeet, M-E-E-T. That is because God had a plan for Adam, and Eve was to be the helpmeet, to help Adam meet that plan. In the Old Testament, Israel is God's helpmeet, to help meet God's plan of what He wanted to accomplish.

In the New Testament, the second component God uses is the Church, you and me, the body of Christ. Just as in the Old Testament, nobody could get to God without coming through Israel, in the New Testament, nobody can get to God without going through the body of Christ, the Church. Where the Old Testament, Israel, was God's helpmeet, the Church today is God's helpmeet in the New Testament. That is so vital for us to see and understand.

I explained that God looks at Israel, based on that, you will remember. I told you how God reckons the nation of Israel like a man reckons his wife. You will find it in Jeremiah 3:1-14. You will find it in Isaiah 54:1, Isaiah 62:4. You will find it in many places where God actually says, "Israel is My wife."

The thing you want to remember now, and we have covered all this before, but this is a review to get where we are going: God's Old Testament counterpart, His helpmeet, was the nation of Israel, and God looks at her as His wife. The New Testament counterpart, the helpmeet, is the Church, and we all know from Song of Solomon 5 that Christ looks at the Church as His bride. Point being, God has a wife in the Old Testament, Israel. Christ has a bride in the New Testament, the Church. Remember those concepts, it is very important.

The Bible says in Exodus 20, Moses was given the Ten Commandments. Of course, we know those Ten Commandments, again, were given to Israel. Why people today try to base their relationship with God or their salvation on keeping the Ten Commandments today, I have no idea. First of all, the Ten Commandments were never given for anybody to keep. The Ten Commandments were given to show everybody how far we fell short of what God expected. They were never given to keep. But God gave that as the basis of the law for the nation of Israel. Number seven was, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

In the Bible, and this is what I want you to understand today, in the Bible there are two kinds of adultery. To fully understand what I am about to say, you have to get where I am going here.

7. There is the physical adultery in a practical sense that is done in the flesh, a man and a woman. The great study of that in the Old Testament would be David.
8. Then the second kind of adultery, and this is where Proverbs 6 is focusing doctrinally, even though practically it is dealing with the flesh on flesh, there is spiritual adultery. That is

leaving God for another God or another religion. Of course, your case study for that will be Saul.

In the passage of Proverbs 6, God is talking about Israel committing spiritual adultery, not the physical. He is talking about spiritual adultery against Him by going after the other gods.

Have your Bible here. Look at Ezekiel 16. If you do not want to turn to it, just listen to me. It is okay. I do not want some of you turning your pages to wake the person up next to you.

Ezekiel 16:30-33

How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman;

In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire;

But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!

They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom.

Now look at Hosea 1 here, or just listen to it.

Hosea 1:1-2

The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.

You see both of those passages, that is not a literal physical adultery. That is a spiritual adultery that the nation of Israel, and this is what I want you to see, the nation of Israel is committing against God through the acts and relationship of the evil man and the strange woman.

In Hosea 1, you see another great thing here, and I am not going to spend a long time on this, but God was really big in the Old Testament dealing with the prophets that He had them do object lessons. The object lessons, when you read it, many guys scratched their head, and many people say, "Well, it was really weird for God to have him do that."

For instance, Isaiah was one of the greatest prophets. You know what his object lesson was? He walked around three and a half years naked preaching the Word of God. Now all the Bible scholars try to jump to the defense and say, "Well, God would not do that, He just went around in His underwear." But then the Bible comes back and says that He was naked and barefoot, so I guess He had socks on. Naked is naked. They do not get the point. Now I understand that is an embarrassing thing for a man in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Well, maybe it is not too embarrassing today we live in, but it should be, where a guy walks around and preaches the

Word of God with no clothes on. But they would laugh at him and they would make fun of him, but he would use that. It is a case where he was using himself as the object lesson. What he was saying was, "You are laughing at me because I am naked preaching you the Word of God, but the reason why I am preaching the Word of God to you naked is because before God your sins are naked and open before Him." It was a great object lesson, a great object lesson.

When Ezekiel's wife died, Ezekiel was told he is not to cry. He is not to cry. The reason why? Because it is an object lesson. Israel's wife, as far as God was concerned, was dead. It shows the solitude that God had that though He loved Israel, Israel's death spiritually was by her own hand.

Jeremiah is the only man in the Bible told not to marry. He is given the commission of God to go out and preach to Israel as the other prophets are, but he is told, "Do not you marry." I think it is in Jeremiah 16:1. I think it is where it is at. The reason why he is told not to marry is because the whole book of Jeremiah is a picture of the Tribulation Period. If you know anything about your Bible, you know in the middle of the Tribulation Period, Revelation 7, Revelation 4, you have the 144,000 that go to preach to the Gentiles during the Tribulation. They are told not to marry. Jeremiah pictures that.

Here, Hosea is told to take a wife of whoredom. It is hard for me to imagine a harlot named Gomer. Hosea 1:3 says, "So he went and took Gomer." Conjures up all kinds of things in my mind. But the point here is this: I have to tell you, that is a violation of the law. The reason why God told him to take a wife of whoredom and then to have children of whoredom is because it is real, he tells you, "Because the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD." It is an object lesson. Every time somebody brought up and said, "Ah, you are preaching the Word of God, but you disobeyed the Lord and you took a wife of whoredoms," he turned that thing right around and nailed them. That is the way God did it in the Old Testament.

There is another story in the Bible that helps you understand this. What we have here, and follow through here, is God's wrath and anger displayed against the evil man and the strange woman who basically took God's wife from Him, who enticed her, who dressed herself up like a harlot that had all the attire and painted her face and the eyelids and all of those things that she did, and then enticed Israel to leave God.

There is a story in the Bible where this all begins. I have to give this to you so you older Bible students will grasp it. Even if you are a young Christian and you do not get it all, just enjoy the story. Look at it like "20 Minutes" or something, "60 Minutes." Do not be like me, I was so stupid it took me an hour and a half to watch "60 Minutes" one time, but that is me.

In Numbers 22, 23, 24, and 25, we see the beginning of this spiritual adultery. We know that the Bible starts with Genesis, we see the formulation of Israel, then in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, we see them coming out and on that 40 years journey. Boy, did the devil begin to do his work.

In Numbers 22 to Numbers 25, you have three amazing things in this chapter that really illustrate where we are at here.

9. You have Baal, first of all, who we know now is the false God.

10. Then there is a man by the name of Balaam. Balaam in our story is a false prophet. He gets some things from God, but he is dishonest in what he does with them.
11. Then you have a guy by the name of Balak. Balak in our story is the king of Moab. He is the man who represents our man of sin here.

Here is the storyline to make it easy for you. If you do not have this in your Bible, this is what I did when I give you this story either today, I would say maybe later where you could write it on a flat surface, get the tape, go back, listen to this what I am about to tell you and just write this little story and at the beginning you will never forget it after that, never forget it. Here is the story. Baal worship during this time is rampant in the country. Balak, who represents the evil man, who is the king of Moab, he hates Israel. He wants to get them destroyed. So he calls the false prophet Balaam in. Basically, here is what he says: "I hate the nation of Israel, and I want to destroy the nation of Israel. I will give you any amount of money you want if you will destroy the nation of Israel."

Well, Balaam may be a clown, and he may not be everything that he is supposed to be, and he is a guy who is always looking to make a buck. But he does know that he cannot destroy the nation of Israel. Israel says, "I will bless them that bless you, I will curse them that curse you." He knows if he lifts a hand to Israel, he is a dead man. But he wants the money. They go back and forth, and the ante gets up here, and I cannot say for sure, but knowing most Baptist preachers today who fit into this category, he probably had this plan long ago and held out to get it up where the money was really there. He says, "All right, here is what I will do, Balak. I cannot curse them because if I curse them, I will not live long enough to spend a dollar of that money. But here is what I will do if you give me the money. I cannot curse them, but here is what I will do: I will tell you how to get them cursed." Balak says, "Here is your money." He says, "All right, here is what you do. You and I cannot curse them, but here is what you do: If you get their boys to marry our girls and get our girls to marry their boys, and vice versa, they will bring in all the other false gods into their world, and you will not have to kill them because God will kill them." That was the plan. That is exactly what they conspired to do. That is the beginning of the Baal worship by design coming into the nation of Israel, right there in Numbers 22, 23, 24, 25.

You find this mentioned in the New Testament in three places if you do not have this marked in your Bible.

12. In 2 Peter 2:15, it talks about the way of Balaam.
13. In Revelation 2:14, it talks about the doctrine of Balaam.
14. In Jude 11, it talks about the error of Balaam.

Most people read their Bible. They never, never, never read those three things and never associate it back to Numbers 22, 23, 24, 25. What we have here is an incredible picture of how this thing started, and then God showing us in the New Testament and breaking it down.

The way of Balaam in 2 Peter 2:15 was simply this: that he loved the wages of unrighteousness. He was a false prophet that was in it for the money. He found a way to get around the Word of God to do what he wanted to do. I have to be honest with you, that is not unlike most of God's people that we meet today. He knew what the Bible said. God told him mouth to mouth what he

could not do, and yet because he loved the wages, money of unrighteousness, what he did was find a way to get around it to do what he wanted to do, and that is what the Bible calls the way of Balaam.

Revelation 2:14 talks about the doctrine of Balaam. Here is the specific teaching on it. This is where the doctrine of Balaam: you get God's people to commit spiritual adultery against God, eat things sacrificed to idols, bring in the other nations and the men and the women that God specifically said you are not to take as husbands and wives. They will bring in their gods, they will bring in their religion, and you want to destroy the nation of Israel, even though you and I cannot do it, that is the way to do it because God will come down and destroy them. That is the doctrine of Balaam.

Then in Jude 11, the error of Balaam. Balaam's error was the fact that he forgot about the covenant that God gave to Abraham. The covenant that God gave to Abraham, and it all changed with Abraham, was simply this: God now said, "You know what, if you do not do what is right, if you depart from My Word, I will beat the fire out of you." I am paraphrasing here. "I will kick the snot out of you. I will clobber you. I will kill you. I will wipe you. I will beat you to death, but I will never, never, never wipe you out because I gave to your great, great, great patriarch Abraham imputed righteousness." That was the error. The error, no matter what you do to get Israel to sin, and no matter how God comes down and judges them, you are never, listen to me, you are never going to get rid of the nation of Israel. That is the concept here. That is the concept.

This story in Numbers 22, 23, and 25 is the beginning of it all. This is the beginning of the attack on Israel that leads them away from God into an adulterous spiritual relationship with Baal worship and leads to God's anger and His revenge that we are about to look at in Proverbs 6, in a picture of an enraged husband over somebody stealing his wife.

VII. The Deception of False Religion

Let us look back to Proverbs. Let us pick it up in Proverbs 6:22 and come on down through here to 25, and we will take it into some sections here.

Proverbs 6:22-25

When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

When you begin to understand what we have been talking about and put this in the context of the light of verses 20 through 23, we now know that all this was given to illuminate the nation of

Israel on false teachings, so Israel would not fall into the trap as a nation. It was given as a countermeasure to what Balak and Balaam tried to do in the book of Numbers.

Proverbs 6:24 says, "All this light, all this knowledge, all the principles that you and I have made practical applications to in our everyday life and it is right down the line, doctrinally was given to keep the nation of Israel from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman." It says, "Lust not after her beauty, neither let her take thee with her eyelids." A great example of this is 2 Kings 9:30, when Jehu gets in his chariot, runs off to Jezreel, Jezebel hears he is coming. You know what the Bible says she does? She paints her face and fixes her eyes and then goes over to the window to look at him coming in. See, that is the story. I cannot blink them like some of you can, but...

Along with that, to illustrate this, there is another great story in the Bible that is the life of Samson. Samson in his story back in Judges, and it starts around Judges 13 up to around Judges 16. Samson is a picture, a type of the nation of Israel. He is one of the judges that are going to deliver Israel. He has taken a Nazarite vow. That means that he has separated himself from things in this world to do God's job. Samson had a mission from God to deliver the nation of Israel, and God wants to use Samson in this time in Judges just like God wants to use the nation of Israel. I am going to go one step further, just like God wants to use you and me.

But Samson had a problem, did he not? Delilah. I always say that Samson is a he-man with a she-problem. First straight out of his mouth in Judges 14:2 is, "I saw a woman. Get her for me." Where he is a type of the nation of Israel, Delilah is a type of the strange woman, the evil woman. Notice in our story Delilah uses all her flattery and charms and her beauty to get the secret of Samson's strength. Samson just could not be away from her. Samson left God in a heartbeat. Samson forgot about the Nazarite vow. Samson forgot about all the things that he said he was going to do with God when he saw Delilah. It is like Tom Jones over there in Las Vegas. "Whoa, whoa, whoa, Delilah." He left everything for her, and Delilah is a Philistine.

Just as Delilah was the end of Samson, as a strange woman, the strange woman of religion found in the book of Proverbs that Israel runs after gives all their secrets to. You know, in the Old Testament, in the temple, there were some things that were just dedicated to God. I mean, you had everything else that Israel did, but in the temple there were some things that were dedicated to God. Nobody else got to see them, nobody else got to handle them. It was not like that God came down the middle of the night and played with them and looked at them and said, "Oh, look what I got." It was not about that. It was about that they had something special with God, and they dedicated things and locked them away where nobody else could see them, even understand what they were, know what they were, or ever touch them.

Now when these kings come in and they make these leagues with all the other nations and all the religion of Baal worship comes in, you know what these kings do? They open those things up and they give those dedicated things to these pagan godless kings. Let me just step into practical. There are some things in your life and your heart that only belong to God. There are some things in your life and my life that we hide in there, that we get in there, that your wife does not know

what they are, your husband does not know what they are, the guy sitting next to you, there is something between you and God.

God's people do the exact same thing today that Israel did in a historical sense. When we leave God and we go after the strange woman or the evil man of this world in religion and the world system, we take those dedicated things to God and display them to the world. That is the picture. There are many stories in the Bible to deal with this. She was part of the devil's plan to stop him from delivering Israel, but in study of our thing here in Proverbs 6, you know the end of the story. God's judgment comes down, God avenges Israel, and God wipes him out. The woman killer Samson, though unfortunately, was killed by the woman.

Proverbs 6:26

For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

I get the practical side of it. I understand it. For the sake of time this morning and what I want you to get out of this, I am sure you get the practical. Let me show you what he is talking about here. This is a great verse when you put it into the proper context. It says "a piece of bread." The Bible is likened to bread in the Bible.

I am telling you right now, there are some, I do not care whatever false religion you get into. I do not care whatever heresy you want to follow. There is going to be an element of truth within the heresy. I do not care if it is a Mormon, Jehovah Witness, Church of Christ, you name it. There will be some truth, some bread mixed in with the error because that is the only way it can pass off as being legitimate. The problem with God's people today is that we do not know our Bibles. We do not understand truth from error. We look at religion like a guide who is void of understanding looks at a beautiful woman. She may be beautiful on the outside, but she may be as black as the sides of the bottomless pit on the inside. That is the problem you have to look at.

You take the Roman Catholic Church, they believe the fundamentals of the faith. You bet they do. You take the Mormon Church. They believe in God. They believe in the Bible. They believe in holy living. They probably believe in family values more than God's people do. Look at Glenn Beck. Look at, look at, look at Mitt Romney. He stands up there with his family, good clean-cut kids, no real problems in their life. They all seem to be good kids, a tight family. There is always an element of truth, a little bit of bread in every false teaching. That is the only way people can buy into it.

Now let me just give you this, and I do not have time to develop all this today, but if the Mormon Church would come up and say simply this, and this is totally heresy, if they would come up and they would simply say, "You know what, we will never allow a black man to be a priest in the Mormon Church," which they will not. The reason why we will not is because we believe that way, way, way back in Genesis 1:1-2, that Lucifer and God had a fallout, which they did, did they not? We studied it in our deal. What happened was is that a third of the angels left God and went with the devil. Is that not true? Certainly it is. The reason why we will never let a black man ever be a priest in the Mormon Church is because we teach and believe that right now the

spirit of Lucifer is on the planet Kolob, which their astronomers say is in the middle of the galaxy. Nobody else has ever found it. On that planet is the third of the angels that left having spiritual children, which are spirits, and those spirits come to earth, and because they left with Satan and Satan is darkness, that the black folks on this planet have the spirit off of that planet and are of the devil." Now, could you imagine getting up in church and preaching that and getting a crowd to come? In all my years, Arthur Bryant, I never saw a black person down there. I mean a Mormon down there. That is not going in that place. I mean I have seen Chinese, I have seen Catholics, I have seen Buddhists, I have seen monks, I have seen Baptists, I have seen everybody. I have never seen a Mormon.

Now can you imagine the audacity, whatever the word is, I will even get ready to cuss here in a minute. Could you ever see, could you ever understand that kind of blatant, racist? If you taught that, nobody would ever join. You never hear that. The reason why you never hear it is because they could never build a church that way. So they focus on family values, clean-cut. Have you ever seen them out on their missionary, on their little bicycles? Every time I see them, I get convicted because I think they are dying and going to hell, but I have to be honest, they look better than most of God's people. They dress conservative, they dress modest. I have never seen a female Mormon missionary in shorts on the hot asphalt passing out tracts. There is always an element of truth in every heresy. What they do is present the truth, suck you in, and then when you get about four or five levels up the line, and you get so indoctrinated and so caught up in it that you just think it is no other way, then they will lay that stuff on you. I am just telling you, I know it works.

Every Mormon missionary has to wear a special suit of underwear. He can never take that underwear off. His underwear, which is kind of like a full-vested T-shirt and shorts, has an X over his heart, there is an X over his liver, and an X over his stomach or bowels or whatever, and those X's represent that if he ever reveals the secret of the Mormon missionary movement, it will have his heart cut out, it will have his bowels cut out, it will have his stomach cut out. Now how many people other than a few, a handful here, knew that? Mormon missionaries will come to your door all the time, and you try to do your best to defend the Lord. I just ask them about their underwear. Do you ever want to see a Mormon missionary depart the premises? Bring your wife and your kids out on the porch and say, "We would like to see your underwear." That is a great principle. Every false religion will have a basic element of truth in it. I do not care where you go. I do not care which one it is.

Did you ever examine the devil coming to Eve in Genesis 3, to destroy the plan of God? It was not all a lie. He left just enough truth in it to pull it off that his lie was legitimate. Notice the last part of Proverbs 6:26, "the adulteress will hunt for the precious life." This old gal has a great missionary movement in mind. She is out to destroy every precious soul she can find. Old Bible Christianity is out to redeem every precious soul it can find. It gives a whole new meaning to the idea that you hear all the time that it is always the man who always pursues the woman. That is certainly not true. Brother, in a practical sense, there are lots of women just like this in life, and you will come across them as you go through the walks of life.

VIII. God's Judgment and Mercy

Now look at Proverbs 6:27-29.

Proverbs 6:27-29

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

The burning here is defined for you in Proverbs 1:27-28. That is the burning of lust, of desire, in person, passion, we call it.

In these verses, we see the temptation of a beautiful woman who will entice you to make you fall. As I said earlier, she is gorgeous on the outside, but she is as black as the sides of the bottomless pit on the inside. She is, you know, I have seen people all the time in a practical sense. In Genesis 24, you are given 19 or 20 principles on finding a male and female. That thing is in there, we preach it a thousand times, and yet I will watch people just forsake those things and go right after somebody because she is the most beautiful thing I have ever saw in my life, and he is the most handsome guy I ever saw in my life. If I do not land this one, I will never get another one. Then they finally land them, and then three years later they are divorced, they are in a mess, and that fish who landed turned out to be not a very good fish.

In our context here, the temptation of this outward beautiful woman is a temptation of an outward beautiful religion and a church that symbolizes love, that symbolizes peace, that symbolizes serenity and holiness, but all is fake as a three-dollar bill. A religion that will draw you in by your lust and then burn you in the end. I am talking about the lake of fire.

Jesus addressed this crowd in Matthew 23. I mean, they got the beauty, they got the pomp and circumstance, they got all the things that appeal to the eye. Beautiful buildings, I mean, you walk in there. "Why would not God be here? This has got to be a holy place." Jesus said in Matthew 23:27-28:

Matthew 23:27-28

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

That is what he is talking about. This thing has nothing to do in a doctrinal sense about adultery between a man and a woman. It does in a practical sense. I want you to see how God sees this in the context of this.

The beautiful cathedrals of Europe, the beautiful cathedrals of America, how beautiful it was in the Old Testament with Baal worship, the golden idols. Why, one of the seven wonders of the

world, I do not know if you are familiar with the seven wonders of the world, but one of the seven wonders of the world was the great temple to the goddess of Ephesus. By the way, just as a side note, the world got its seven wonders. There are seven wonders in this book that beat the seven wonders the world came up with.

The Roman Empire, the pagan Roman Empire, they had over 600 gods. You would walk through the Roman courtyards, there would be gods everywhere. You would walk through the buildings and the temples, there were gods everywhere. They had gods for everything. They had statues and temples where you could go in and whatever your need was, you could go in and pray to that god. Now today they are saints, but back then they were gods. They did with all their gods what we do with the Bible. Instead of you going to gods, you got one God, you just go to the principles that that one God wrote, and you got everything you need. They did not have that. They had 600 gods. This is why, in case you do not figure it out, they disdained Bible Christianity. They looked at Bible Christianity as a poor man's religion.

You know, people think today that if it does not cost a lot of money, it really is not worth anything. We have a counseling ministry, and I will tell you, this church is filled with people who will come in with their marriages busted up, their lives messed up, and I deal with it not only in here, I deal with the city-wide with people coming in all the time. I do not know how many times somebody has called me and asked me about counseling. "I got this problem and this problem and that problem," and I lay out, "Yes, I will be glad to," and the last thing they asked me is simply this, "Well, how much is it going to cost me?" And I go into my little song and dance routine, "It will not cost you nothing." "How do I charge you for something that God put in the Bible that everybody has free?" Well, I thank you for that, but you know what they say? "Well, it must not be any good then." You know where that mindset comes from? The world we live in.

You know why there are not 2,000 people down here today? They got lost coming here, their GPS is where I am short of. We are in the basement of a warehouse. You make a wrong turn and you will not get God, you will get a mattress. You make another wrong turn and you will be fly fishing this afternoon. God, I love it.

The world we live in today, we think that it has got to be a Taj Mahal with millions of this and that, and you have got to have big screen TVs and projectors and sound systems and choirs and a band over here, praise band, worship band, and then you have got to have a smorgasbord where if you do not like real preaching, you know, come at 10 o'clock and we will give you a watered down preaching, and if you do not like watered down preaching, come around there and we will just have coffee, and for those of you two or three that like preaching, you know, come on up 10 o'clock and 9 o'clock and somebody will yell at you for 10 minutes and then you will go home.

The Old Testament tabernacle, which was the center, and I do not know if you even know this or not, but when you study the Old Testament tabernacle, God gave Moses the pattern for that, and they had that for 40 years as they wandered. When they got into the land, there was a period of time where then it got to be a fixed point in the temple. Most people think that when they went in, it went into Jerusalem. No, Jerusalem did not even become the capital until David took it, and that is up there in the first and second Kings. Until then, it was at Shiloh. When they finally took

Jerusalem and David made it his capital, a picture of the Second Coming of Christ, then they bring the ark down, and there it stays from David's time up through Solomon's time, and we know that David's reign is a picture of the Second Coming, and we know that Solomon's is a picture of the Millennium, and during that time that tabernacle stays right there, and it gets put into a temple, a beautiful temple. You read about it in the Bible when Solomon built it, it is unbelievable what it was.

But you notice for that 40 years when it was wandering, it was not in a temple, it was in a tent. Do you realize that if you would have walked around the desert in the Sinai over there around that period of time and you would have looked for that, "I am looking for the ark, I am looking for the nation of Israel, I am looking for where their center of worship is, I am looking for this big cathedral, I am looking for big spotlights going up in the sky like they got down in a plaza, I am looking for steeples like they put on in Europe so wherever you were in the cities you could see the house of God," I am looking for all these things, and all I see, all I found was a busted down broken old tent made up of badger skins and all kinds of animal skins, and I even saw a couple of huge army camouflage nets dropped over the thing. "Where is this temple of God?" That is it!

The concept, ladies and gentlemen, is not what is on the outside that makes it beautiful and makes it godly. What makes it godly and beautiful is what is on the inside, and you can have the greatest, most beautiful, stupendous building the world has ever seen, 60, 100, 900, 2 billion trillion dollars. That does not make it God's place. What makes it is what you do with the book that God gave you. We have lost that today. We have lost that today because we got enticed by a beautiful woman, a beautiful religion, a beautiful building.

I have to be honest with you, you go to Europe, and boy, I will tell you, I have been to Europe many, many, many times, and one of my favorite things to go through was the cathedrals. I mean, they are incredible. You know, in America we talk about history, we talk about 1900 or 1800, 1700, 1776. Well, we got a church in Missouri that was the oldest church, I think it went back to 1820. When you go to Europe, you are talking about churches that were built in 800 AD. They are in constant state of scaffolding and repair. Wherever you go in this city, I mean, wherever you go in this city, there are steeples that go up four or five hundred feet that you cannot miss it to get to the house of God. You go into those places, there is cold and dead, and nobody goes to church there. In fact, nobody believes in God in Europe anymore. In fact, the great question in Europe, you know, we talk about over here what Bible do you use? In Europe, the question among them is, "Oh, you go to church, oh, I see. Let me ask you a question. Does your pastor believe in God or is your pastor an atheist?" There are pastors of churches over in Europe that do not even believe that God exists. It is all a social concept. That is what happens when religion gets based on appearance and there is no substance to it. That is where America is headed. That is where America is headed.

I do not even try to. You know what, I look at what God has given of us here, and I will tell you what, if somebody offered me a twenty million dollar, eighty million dollar building someplace, you know what, unless God just came down and wrapped us on the head, I would stay right where I am at. I never want to fall into that trap that anybody ever, ever, if we only run sixty

people until Jesus comes back, I never want one person coming to this church because of what it looks like. I cannot compete with somebody that builds a sixty million dollar building, but I bet your bottom dollar I will compete with him when it comes to that book. That is where it is at. That is where it is at.

Now look at Proverbs 6:30-33.

Proverbs 6:30-33

Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; but if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

This passage will show us in the context of what we are looking at here that the evil man taking God's wife will not be taken lightly by God. Proverbs 6:30 says, "If a stranger steals because he is hungry or somebody steals bread, though that may be wrong and he may pay the ultimate price for it, that is accepted a little more because the guy was hungry and wanted to feed his family." That is better than a man who steals another man's wife. In the context, it is dealing with God's judgment on false religion and their eternal punishment.

In Matthew 23, the whole chapter is devoted, as I said, to Christ laying out to the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees, the false religious leaders of Israel who have led them into the spiritual adultery with the other gods. He says there in Matthew 23:

Matthew 23:13-14

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

God deals with them harshly. Harshly.

Now look at Proverbs 6:34-35.

Proverbs 6:34-35

For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

I go back to what I said earlier, God is a jealous God. Exodus 20:5 says:

Exodus 20:5

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Deuteronomy 4:24 says, "For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."

When you get into the book of the prophets, you see the depth of God's jealousy, and the context of those things will always be this Tribulation and the Second Coming of Christ, much what we are looking at in Proverbs 6. You see exactly what this passage is dealing with.

Ezekiel 39:25 says, "God will bring the nation of Israel back, and God will forgive them, but I will be jealous for my holy name," and of course, His name is Israel.

Joel 2:18 says, "Then will the LORD be jealous for his land."

Nahum 1:2

God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

Zechariah 1:14-15

So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.

And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

Zechariah 8:1-3

Again the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.

Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called, A city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

When in the Old Testament you find God's jealousy and God's revenge, wherever you find it, the context is going to be the Second Coming of Christ.

Then in Proverbs 6:34, you have the day of vengeance. Isaiah 34:8, Isaiah 59:17, Isaiah 61:2, Isaiah 63:4, Jeremiah 46, and on and on it goes, are all references to the day of vengeance that he is talking about in Proverbs 6.

Just as a side note, not only is God jealous of His wife Israel, but the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 11:1-4 that God is jealous, Christ is jealous for His bride, for you and for me. It says in 2 Corinthians 11:1-2 really:

2 Corinthians 11:1-2

Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

He says, "I as a serpent beguileth through his subtly so your mind should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." See, God is jealous for His wife Israel, but Christ is jealous for you and me. He does not want the same thing to happen to us that happened to Israel, and that is what this is all about.

It is all about, and you know, Revelation 17:5 in the New Testament, the old Jezebel just dresses herself differently. She has become more modern today for modern man, but underneath she is still the same old person she was back in Proverbs.

Revelation 17:5

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

And in Revelation 18, you have the revenge and the wrath and the anger that he is talking about in Proverbs 6 poured out, laid out for you on the strange woman and the evil man that took the wife of God from Him and committed spiritual adultery with her and then destroyed her and then left her.

The passage is a great passage that helps us put Proverbs 6 in the right context. Though great principles and parallels in the book of Proverbs not only for you and me and our everyday life, but also from understanding it from a fundamental doctrinal aspect, it is warning Israel of the false gods, the strange and evil woman who will steal Israel's heart and love from God to commit spiritual adultery. Yet it shows at the same time, it shows the length and the breadth of God.

When you get into the Church Age, you find the same thing. We studied it the other night, on Thursday night, with the church at Ephesus, a church that was fully perfect, but what did he say? He says, "I have got one thing against you, you left your first love." You did not lose it, did not misplace it, you left it. There in history, in the New Testament Church, is the first place where you begin to see the same concept developing of itself to destroy the Church.

There is no question about it that the job of the Church is restoration. We all know that what we do here is fix broken things. We fix broken lives, we fix broken marriages, we fix broken relationships. It is what we do. When a person is unsaved, we try to fix that by restoring their self, restoring their spirit to God and getting them saved and teaching them how to live for God. If they are already saved, then we would try to restore that fellowship by putting it together because every problem we have is going to go back to one of those two.

But also, we now know that God is a jealous God and that He will exact judgment on sin. But God in His tender mercy to His people, in the Old Testament it is to Israel, and in the New Testament it is me and you. God will judge His people for their sin, but God will restore His people through restitution when they turn from their sin and turn back to Him. But God will always exact His wrath and judgment on the evil man and the strange woman, and that is really what you have got here. He is going through this whole process of showing you where Israel

was, how they got messed up. I have showed you the concepts of how it happened, and now everything lays itself out as God is going to restore them.

I leave you with this: Exodus 20:1-6.

Exodus 20:1-6

And God spake all these words, saying,

I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

God will visit the iniquity, and we will face the judgment of our sin, but God will show mercy unto thousands of men and women who will turn from their sin, love God, forsake the other gods, and make their relationship only with God and the Lord Jesus Christ. My final advice to every Christian that is listening to me today, and you may be listening this on the internet next week, or you may get a copy of the tape that somebody gives to you, my advice to every Christian on this planet will be the last one: get the mercy of God in your life, not the iniquity and the judgment of God in your life. He will judge you for your sin, but He will forgive you of your sin, and He will restore you no matter what you have done in your life. This is why I say all the time around here, I do not care what you have done. Everybody in this room has a history and has baggage. I do not care what you have done, where you did it, whatever it consisted of, that is none of my business. All I care about is where you are at today and where you want to go from here, building the principles of God in your life and everything that God wants you to be. Let us pray. Every head bow and every eye close.