

Proverbs 9:1-6

Sunday 9/14/2014

Today we will be back in the Book of Proverbs. I cannot speak for you, but I have really enjoyed the Book of Proverbs. I am enjoying the Book of Proverbs. I think it was a good choice that we decided to go through this book. Today we are going to be in Proverbs chapter 9, and we will talk about the first six verses. Here again in Proverbs chapter 9, we have another great chapter in the Book of Proverbs, and it will lay out for us some key doctrines and elements in the Bible that we must have if we are ever going to get what the Book of Proverbs is focused on, and that is God's wisdom.

When it comes to the Bible and learning the Bible, there is a right way and there is a wrong way. I should say there are all kinds of wrong ways, but there is only one right way. Very few people ever find that right way, but when you do and you get the Bible and you learn the Bible, it will change everything about you. To learn the Bible, I think one of the things that people have to understand is that there are some fundamental doctrines that you must have in place as to your understanding to get the Bible. When you get them down and you learn them and you understand them, then as far as the structure and putting the Bible together and the picture of the Bible together, it will begin to take shape for you.

That is really what the Bible is. The Bible is nothing more than a gigantic picture of what God is doing. We have a chart on the wall over there that is probably the best chart that I have ever found, and we sell them in a bookstore, not that big, but that chart represents the whole Bible. That is taking the Bible and drawing it out and putting it into an understandable picture form of everything in the Bible from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22. When you get that down and you understand that the Bible is a picture of what God is doing, most people get the idea that the Bible is a record of what man is doing down through history in his search for God. That is not true. Not true at all. Rather, the Bible is the book that records what God is doing in His search for man.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

God has a plan, and that plan in the Bible unfolds into a gigantic picture, much like that chart, only in much more detail of exactly what God is trying to do and God is trying to accomplish down through history.

I. God's Three Distinct Plans

You remember a couple of weeks ago I talked briefly about God's three distinct plans in the Bible. In the Bible, there are certain numbers that are associated with God in certain ways. We know that number seven is the number of perfection. God seemingly always does things by seven. But the number three in the Bible will always be in reference to something being complete. When you want the complete picture of something, you have to have three parts to it. Time is past, present, and future. The Bible is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Everything breaks down along those lines. So God has three distinct plans throughout the

Bible within that picture. Getting the fundamentals down about that is the key to understanding what God is doing.

1. God has a plan for the universe.

We have talked about this many, many times on some of our more detailed studies that we do on Thursday night or even on New Year's Eve. But we know from Isaiah 9:7, it talks about the increase of His government, there shall be no end. It is going to accomplish God's purpose when God finally puts it all into play, and it is going to go on forever. I preached Sharon's mom's funeral yesterday, and one of the things I try to do is get people to come to a reality of where life is at. I told them, "You know what? We come to funerals and we think that because somebody has died, that that is the end. But the truth of the matter is, when you and I die, it is not the end; it is only the beginning." It is the beginning of what God's plan is going to unfold in eternity, one way or the other, heaven or hell, and however it lands where you have done with the Lord Jesus Christ. But God has a plan for the universe.

2. God has a plan for the earth.

Isaiah 45:18 says that the earth was created to be inhabited. The earth now is in the universe. So you see how the plans are connected. There are three separate plans, but they are connected not only to each other, but they are connected to me and you. God has a plan for the universe. There was a purpose why He created all the galaxies, all the nebulas, and all the solar systems and all the planets that He has done out there. Right now, as we speak, NASA and their programs are trying to find exoplanets, which are planets outside our solar system. Last time I checked, I think they had found over eight hundred of them that are out there outside our structure of our solar system, way out in the universe someplace, and it is only the tip of the iceberg. There are millions and millions that are there for a reason. God has a plan for the universe. God has a plan for the earth. The reason why God, out of everything that He created, only chose to put life on one planet. The big question that the scientists have out there is, "Is there intelligent life in outer space?" I never get that far. I am not sure there is really intelligent life on planet earth yet at this point. But what we find out here is the fact that God had a plan for the earth.

3. God has a plan for you and me.

Just as God had created the universe, put the earth in the universe, He put you and me on this planet. God has something that He wants you to know how to accomplish.

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

He has something He wants to accomplish with your life and my life on this earth while this earth is in the universe. As I told you a couple of weeks ago, Proverbs is that book of instruction for us. I showed you a couple of weeks ago how that the key word "instruction" is found thirty-three times in your Bible, twenty-five of those times in the book of Proverbs. It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that the book of Proverbs for you and for me is our book of instruction. This is why we are studying it, why we are spending the time to go through it. That is how when we get it, when we get the Bible down, then we begin to see all of the aspects of God's

overall plan. The picture begins to take shape. Everything comes into focus. Not only do you understand what God is doing in the universe and the earth, but now, most important, you realize how you and I play into this and what our part is as God's child.

II. Proverbs 9:1-6 and Prayer

Our text this morning is going to be in Proverbs chapter 9, and I want to pick it up in verse 1, and I will read it on down through here. Here is what it says:

Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Now, Father, we thank and praise You today for the Lord Jesus, and we do love You very much. We come here today, Father, from Your Word to help us to grow and to get the things that You have for us. Lord, we know that You have a plan for us. We also know that fulfilling that plan is vital to our life. We know that plan is not just simply to get married and raise a family. We know that plan is not just to get an education or get a good job or make lots of money or to buy a house. Those things are important for sure, but Lord, we know that first and foremost, the number one thing for our life is to find out what God has saved us for, called us to do, and then to find out through God's Word, through His instructions, what He wants us to do. Help us today as we come to Your Word. Help us to grow, help us to learn, help us to become more like You in all that we do, and we will be careful to give You the honor and the glory and the praise. In Jesus' name and sake we ask it, Amen.

III. Three Applications of "My House"

The context here is as wisdom hath builded her house. We have already learned from our previous times in the Bible that there are three applications to all the different scriptures you are going to find.

- Historical Application
- Inspirational Application
- Doctrinal Application

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Now that is your soulish body. You see, that is the doctrinal application. All three applications—Israel historically, a mom and a dad inspirationally, or your individual growth as your body being God's temple doctrinally—we are to build our respective house with the wisdom of God by the instruction of God. But the last two will certainly directly be to us as God's people.

The main goal of any church, or should be, the main goal of any church should be to build strong families that work and minister together. That ought to be the job of the church. I know and understand that I have no magic formula to make you do what is right. I do not have any magic formula that is going to make you choose the Bible and invest your life in the Bible versus somebody who chooses not to. That is not the job of the church. The job of the church is to motivate you, to preach to you the Word of God, and then to give you the tools. Lay them out on a table. Show you what the plan of God is. Show you what God has done for you. Help you understand the price that was paid on Calvary's cross, and then you taking it into your heart, wanting to give back to God after He has given to you. All I do, all we do, all this church does, or any church should do, is lay the tools on a table. You pick up the tool and you go to work. It is just that simple. You do that through the Bible in general, through the book of Proverbs as we are studying it in particular, by putting God's principles in your life and then following them faithfully and getting God's wisdom and getting God's instruction.

This house in Proverbs chapter 9 is like a structure that is being built that will stand the test of time. So it needs a cornerstone because all buildings have to start with a cornerstone that everything else is tied into in the building.

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

The cornerstone of your life and my life needs to be the Lord Jesus Christ. It needs to be built on a strong, solid rock.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

You find the story of a man who, two men. One is a wise man, one is a foolish man. One builds his house on a rock, one builds his house on the sand. When the wind comes and the tornadoes come and the tsunamis come and all the things of life come, the guy who built his house on the sand does much damage. It gets destroyed. It collapses. It cannot stand the test of the wind and the rain and all the things that come on. But the man who built his house on the rock, it stands up to the wind, to the weather, to the rain and all the elements of this world that want to rock your world and destroy your house.

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

So it needs a cornerstone. It needs to be built on a rock, and it needs a sure foundation.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

He becomes that foundation. As you should be well aware of by now, from our other times in the Bible and coming through all that we do, you only build a strong family by building strong individual Christians. Taking moms and dads, taking your children, helping you build that strong house by simply giving you the tools. But in doing so, giving you a sure foundation. That is simply our job here at this church and should be the job of any church.

IV. The Seven Pillars of Wisdom

Now look at the second part of Proverbs 9:1: "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars." I guess over the years I have been asked about that so many times I cannot even remember what these seven pillars are. You have asked me that many, many times. If you have been around here any length of time, five, six, eight months ago, we took a Thursday night and I completely laid out the seven pillars for you as to what they are in the Bible. It is on our website if you would want to study it up after we are done here. I will not have time to go through it all again this morning, but you know what they are now. Several months ago, I brought you through all seven of these and showed you how that they are the seven key doctrines by which all the rest of the Bible is built on. The Bible says they are hewn out of a rock.

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

We know now these seven pillars that all the world and all the Bible is built on. If you would take the time, and this was my purpose in doing it through Thursday night, so I do not know how many of you caught it. If you would take the time to thoroughly understand each one of these seven pillars, that you could go backwards and forwards with an upside down, explain it in your sleep, you cannot get these seven pillars down because within these seven pillars contains everything, everything in the picture of God of what He is doing.

4. The Kingdom of God
5. The Kingdom of Heaven

I showed you how that everything in the Bible divides itself up around these two kingdoms. Most preachers, most churches, most Christians think they are the same. I am not the smartest guy in the world, but I know they are not the same because I know they are not spelled the same. That would lead me to be suspect that they are the same, but that might just be me. When you come through the Bible, you will find they are not the same. They represent two different aspects.

6. The Doctrine of Christ

That is the central person in the Bible that you really need to understand all that He did.

7. The Doctrine of Creation

That is the foundation of it all. Your Bible starts in eternity and it ends in eternity, and everything about it is found in the creation, the doctrine of creation.

8. The Doctrine of the Nation of Israel
Israel was God's identity in the Old Testament.
9. The Doctrine of the New Testament Church
That is God's identity in the New Testament.
10. The Theme of the Bible / The Doctrine of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ
Everything in your Bible, everything in your Bible will come down on these seven major doctrines, the pillars.

Now take your Bible for a moment and turn over to 1 Samuel 2:8-9. I want to show you, I did not give you this, I do not think, when we went through it, but I want to give it to you now.

He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

Now you see that? That Bible says that the whole world, not only all of the Bible, but everything on planet earth and in planet earth and life on planet earth goes back to those pillars of the Lord that He has set the world upon them.

V. The Deep Things vs. Practical Things of the Bible

Let me clear something up for you because I hear this all the time, and it just drives me nuts. The more I get, the more patient I become, and the more my teeth fall out, the less I can bite you, but there will never be a time I will not be able to gum you to death, so just be with me here for a while. The standard church teaching is this, and I get it, but it drives me crazy. I do not know how many times I have heard this. I have heard some pastor or some Christian tell another Christian, "Now, the deep things of the Bible, you do not want to go too deep into the Bible because, you know, the deep things of the Bible, they will not replace the practical things of the Bible. The deep things of the Bible will not help you get through what you have got to face tomorrow." Now I understand what they are saying, but I want to tell you that is simply not true. So they will tell you, "Do not spend time getting the deep things, but rather just the practical things, and that is all you need to do." Now that sounds nice, and it sounds really spiritual, but it is not very biblical when you put it to the test of the Word of God.

I have got to be honest, most pastors and most Christians will tell you that because they do not know anything about the Bible themselves, so they do not want you learning more about the Bible than they do. So it is a thing where they try to keep you down and try to discourage you in learning the deep things of the Bible. I hear that all the time, and there are a couple of things that I want to say about that. Many times, a person that takes that position, and you might as well understand this, they take that position simply because they are too lazy to really study the Bible themselves. They do not want to take the time it takes to get into the Bible, so it is a good excuse. It sounds like a spiritual excuse. You are not saying, "I do not really care about the Bible, and I am too lazy." It sounds a lot better to get up there and say, "Well, you know what? The deep things of the Bible are okay, but what is going to get you through life tomorrow are going to be

the practical things. You do not want to become so heavenly minded that you become no earthly good," as I have heard it said many, many times.

Let me tell you something, to really learn the Bible, it will be a labor of love.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

Christians are a dime a dozen today who simply want an entry-level relationship with God in the Bible with no real effort made to get into the depth of the Word of God. I just gave you 1 Samuel 2:8-9, and I am going to show you how that that verse goes in stark contrast to everything those people tell you, but I am also going to tell you that those jaybirds would not know where 1 Samuel 2:8-9 was if somebody put a gun to their head.

Look what it said: "The pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them." Now that is some pretty deep stuff if you have not figured it out yet. That is the same exact pillars we are talking about in Proverbs chapter 9. Yet look at 1 Samuel 2:9: "He will keep the feet of his saints." Now that is your everyday walk. He says, "You understanding that the pillars of the earth and the earth is held up by these seven pillars are all the things that go along with it, that you knowing that will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in the darkness, for by strength shall no man prevail." Now there is a verse that says when you get the deep things of God, it keeps your feet from the wicked man. We have studied the wicked man in Proverbs, and when you go down in verse 10, it says it will keep him, keep you from the adversary. That is the devil.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

He is now telling you that understanding the pillars, understanding the depth of the Bible, will keep your feet from the adversary and from the wicked. Here is the issue: every practical thing in the Bible will go back to a deeper doctrine in the Bible. I do not know what people think about the Bible today. You do not have the deep things over here and then the real shallow practical things over here. They are connected together. It is the nice, easy, practical things that we all love. The milk of the Bible will always be anchored in the deep things of the Word of God. If you do not understand the deep doctrines behind the simple principles, you are going to get messed up as sure as the sun comes up tomorrow, and people do all the time.

To deal with life's issues, and we are going to have to deal with them, you are going to have to deal with issues in your marriage, you are going to have to deal with issues with your children, you will have to deal with issues within your family or your personal areas of your life. You need a depth to you. You need to understand the doctrine behind the practical things that you are doing because they are anchored together, and it only comes from getting into the Word of God and learning the Word of God and learning the Bible that gives you the practical things in the world. I mean, come on, you can teach a monkey to turn a crank on an organ for the organ grinder, but

that does not mean that he understands the theory behind music. As a Christian, you can mimic practical Christianity all you want, but that does not mean you understand the doctrine behind it until you get the depth of the Bible.

Now please, I know some of you are probably angry now because you are saying, "Well, you are comparing those kind of Christians to monkeys." No, I am not. I would never do that to monkeys under any circumstances. I mean, you can mimic or practice Christianity, but you will never understand it until the doctrine behind it that lays it out in the depth of the Bible. It is just plain and simple. I mean, you say, "Well, I am saved." Yeah, you are saved, but you could never explain what happened inside your body the day you got saved. "Well, I believe that once saved, always saved." Yes, but you could not go to the anchoring verses that show you why you could never lose what God gave you. I have had people all their lives that were that way, and when it came to their own kids, they could not even win their own kid to Christ. They understood salvation, but there was nothing, no depth to them to grasp the great principles.

VI. Wisdom's Feast: Old Testament, First Coming, and Church Age

Now let us look at Proverbs 9:2-3. What follows here is a picture of the wisdom of God. This is what we have been talking about in Proverbs, the wisdom of God moving down through the Bible in the person of Christ. If you remember from our chapter 8, we got into who Christ was and all those things. Well, now we are going to see Him moving down through the Bible in history, in the Old Testament nation of Israel, and then into the New Testament body of Christ. So bear with me, and you will probably want to get these in your Bible as you are coming down through here so you will have it.

Look at Proverbs 9:2: "She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table." Now there are three distinct things here we want to look at, and this shows you God through the person of Christ, the Holy Spirit of God moving down through the Bible.

- She hath killed her beasts That will be a reference to the Old Testament from Adam up to the law, where you know as well as I do, they killed their beasts. They offered the animals of sacrifice as part of the atonement of man's sin. We know that the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin, could not pay for sin. It was only a temporary covering, but that is what they did. From Adam on up, God took something innocent and required the innocent blood to cover the sin of somebody else. It happened before the law. Abel did it, Job did it, Noah did it. Then it happened during the law under Moses. In Leviticus 11, he gives you the animals that you can do it with. In the book of Hebrews, he tells us in the Old Testament that they made animal sacrifices. We know that, and they made them to God for temporary covering of their sins. But he also tells us in the book of Hebrews that the theme of the book of Hebrews is something has come which is better. The whole book of Hebrews is a comparing of the Old Testament stuff under the law and the New Testament stuff under Jesus Christ and showing you that the New Testament is better than the Old Testament. When you get into Hebrews 10 down through there, he lays out that throughout the Old Testament, yes,

they killed their beasts, they took their animals, they sacrificed them, and they offered that sacrifice to God. But now he is saying in the New Testament, when Christ came, that was a better sacrifice. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. It tells us that Christ's death on the cross put an end to the killing of the beast. So when he says "she hath killed her beasts," he is making a reference to the Old Testament.

- She hath mingled her wine Now that will be a reference to the first coming of Christ. Wine in the Bible, we know, is a type of blood. The greatest chapter in the Bible on that will be Deuteronomy 32, where it tells you that there are two wines, and that one wine, that is the new wine in Deuteronomy 32:14, is called the pure blood of the grape. The reason why when any church, or this church anyhow, takes communion, when we take communion, we take grape juice, fruit of the vine, because it represents in the Bible the blood of Christ. When Christ showed up in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, do you know what the Bible says He did? The Bible gives the appearance and shows you very clearly that what He did is He mingled the blood, the wine of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. When Christ shows up, He has God's blood in His veins. It is sinless blood. What God did at the first coming of Christ, when He showed up, He mingled the blood of God with the human birth of man in the human flesh, the God-man, through a sinless birth. Let me show you this in a little clearer manner. When Christ is on the cross, and you will find this in John 19:35, we know what happens in that verse. A Roman soldier picks up a spear and he throws it up there, and the Bible says the spear goes in His side, and the Bible says when the spear goes in His side, the water and blood came out. Now the average surface Christian just reads that and says, "Oh, ho hum, water and blood." I know what the standard teaching is in Bible college: you have a sack of water around your heart, and it says that they punched that sack and the water and the blood came out, and everybody goes, "Oh, that was really nice." More to it than that. You have got to read on. The Bible says when that spear went in His side and water and blood came out, the Bible says that John says in that verse that that testified of something. Now I do not know about you, but if I saw that, read that, and it said it would testify of something, I would want to find out what it testified to. You see, you get the surface, but that is all you get, the doctrinal meat behind it that makes the practical thing mean so much more. Now turn over to 1 John 5. I want to show you what this signified. I want to show you what John means when he says when he saw that water and blood that it testified of something. We want to go back to the epistle of 1 John chapter 5, and we will pick it up in verse 5 through 9. Here is what he says: Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we

receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. Then this thing witnesses to something. In 1 John 5, he says what it means, what it testified to. He says, Christ when He came, He came by the Holy Spirit of God. So He had a sinless spirit. Two, He came by the blood, Acts 20:28, God's blood, so He had a sinless nature. And He came from the water, a human physical birth through Mary, yet without sin, so He had a sinless birth. Christ is threefold in nature, as He has a sinless spirit, a sinless nature, and a sinless birth. Do you know what God did at the first coming of Christ? He mingled the blood of God with a human flesh of man. That is what He did. That is why the first miracle in the Old Testament had to do with water being turned to blood, and the first miracle in the New Testament had to be water being turned to wine. But you have got to get into the deep things to see that. Oh, it is an incredible concept. Now I do not want you to miss this. You ever notice that there are two minglings of the wine in the Bible at the first coming of Christ? You do not get that by being a milkman. You say, "What is a milkman?" It is just somebody that just has the milk in the Bible. They are milkmen. They are always running around clanging a little bottle, but they never get anything. They deliver milk. You ever see that there were two minglings of the wine in the Bible at the first coming of Christ? He is on the cross in Mark 15:23. Jesus is on the cross. They bring Him wine mingled with what? Myrrh. Wine mingled with myrrh. They bring Him that, and they give Him that on the cross, and they offer Him to that on the cross. Of course, standard teaching, standard teaching is that it was to kill the pain. You see, when you do not know what the Bible says because you are a milkman, and you do not run a meat market, then you have got to come up with all kinds of goofy stuff. The standard teaching I have heard all of my life is the fact that when they gave Him the wine mingled with myrrh, that it was a painkiller to take the pain of the cross. Let me tell you something. The Roman government cared nothing about Him suffering pain on the cross. I want to guarantee you something else over and above the Roman government not caring about it: God was not going to lessen His pain on the cross because if He had lessened His pain on the cross, it would not have paid for your pain in hell. So that goes out the window. So let us look and see what we have got here. Now this is the world's wine that they are offering Him. This is also found in Deuteronomy 32:32. It is called the wine of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is called the wine of the poison of asps. It is the fermented stuff. It is the world's wine, not the pure blood of the grape. Yet they are taking the world's wine and they are mingling it with myrrh. I do not know if you remember the three gifts in Matthew 2:11 that the wise men brought to Jesus, but they were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Each one of those gifts represents a different aspect of Christ. The gold represented His deity. The frankincense represented His priesthood. And the myrrh represented the fact that He was God's prophet. Now I want you to notice that when they give Him that, He refuses it. You know why? Well, allow me to tell you why. You have to study to get this. You cannot be a milkman all your life because He is shedding a principle and He is shedding example. You cannot mingle. Two minglings had the first coming. He mingled the blood of God with a human birth of man for you and me. The world, the devil, tried to get Him to take the wine, the world's wine, mingled with myrrh, a picture of the prophet. You cannot mingle the world's things with God's things. That is why. He was God's prophet, and taking the wine of this world will not work. Wine will picture everything that this world has to offer. You just

cannot mix the two. Once you have mingled your soul with God's blood, then trying to mingle it with the wine of this world will never work, no matter how much cheese you eat with it. It just will not happen. Christ refused to mingle the fact that He was God's Son and God's prophet with the wine of this old world. Now you think what God's people could see that. You think God's people could get that. But they do not. Instead, they load up the busloads and they go to places like christianmingle.com. They try to mingle everything in their Christian life with the things of this world. They try to go to Christian Mingle when it should be called Christian Mangle. It will not work. You cannot take the things that God has given you by the mingling of God's blood with the sinless birth and then take them and mingle with the wine of this world. I do not see what that is so complicated.

- She hath also furnished her table Now that is a picture of the church age. You see that? When Christ died on the cross, He says, "It is finished," and He completed His work. Then we move into the church age. Now that the church age has come in Christ's death and the finished work of Christ has put the church age on the map, the table of fellowship has now completely been set and ready to go. "Come and dine, the Master calls, come and dine. You can feast at Jesus' table anytime." He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. So when the church age comes, our table of fellowship is now set. It is complete. They did not have that in the Old Testament. They did not have nowhere near the fellowship of God that you and I have. In fact, God gave the answers to them through the priest or the prophets or a few other ways that He did it. But He did not come down to everybody in the Old Testament of the nation of Israel and fellowship with them on a daily basis. He does with you. You know why? Because at the cross of Calvary, He mingled His blood, God's blood, with a sinless birth. He came down and He furnished the table of fellowship. He made it complete. Now you and I, every day of our life, consider that table and feast in the fellowship we have with Him. Now that is the fellowship now, but I might as well tell you that is also a reference to the coming marriage supper of the Lamb. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. There comes a time that we are going to, that fellowship is going to be complete. 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. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. That is why you come down through here. You will find that not only do we have the fellowship that we have now, but we are coming to a day that we are going to sit down when the Lord comes back, and we are going to have that marriage consummated, and we are going to have that marriage supper. This is why Jesus said in Matthew 26:29 at the Last Supper: But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. He is talking about that supper. That is why in John 2, after three days, He turns the water to wine, and somebody says, "Man, I have

never tasted any grape juice like this in all of my life, the best stuff I ever had." You know why? Because that is a picture after three days, a picture of the marriage supper of the Lamb. That is why. But you do not get that by delivering milk.

VII. The Tribulation Period and the Invitation

Now look at Proverbs 9:3: "She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city." Now you want to mark that word "maidens" in your Bible. That will be a reference in verse 3 to the tribulation period. Look at Matthew 22:1-10.

And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

That reference in Matthew 22 was during the tribulation period, time of Jacob's trouble, time of trouble, and God sends out His servants. Here in Proverbs 9, they are called maidens. I told you to mark that because they are a maid. A maid is someone who is not married. A maid is someone that is a virgin. So in Revelation 7 and Revelation 14, we have 144,000 servants going out who the Bible tells you they are virgins. They are maids. That is what you have. They bring along with Israel to the marriage of God's Son all the Gentiles. They can evangelize and bring in, talking about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with a marriage supper that follows in the millennium. That is how this works.

If you want to get this chapter all together and kind of get it set up, here is a summary of it. Proverbs chapter 9 shows you that it is God's wisdom that will be the key ingredient to building any house, whether it is the house of Israel historically, your house in an inspirational application, or your spiritual body in a doctrinal application. Then he shows you that God's wisdom will operate through the Bible and through the history of man on earth through seven pillars of truth that not only the Bible sits on, but we are told in 1 Samuel 2 that all of the earth sits on, and it will get you through life's problems and protect your walk with God from the evil man and from your adversary. Then he says he proceeds to show you how that this wisdom of God moved down through history in the two main vessels that God will use to reveal Himself to man: in the old time with the nation of Israel and in the New Testament, the body of Christ.

As I have showed you, he gives us the invitation that he always does. He just showed you what he is doing. He gave you a great insight, and I showed you a couple of weeks ago, every time

God lays out some great thing about Himself, He stops and then He gives an invitation for you to get what He wants to give you, and He does that in Proverbs 9:4. After He laid all this stuff out, showed you God working, showed you about the mingling, showed you all that God is doing, all that He wants to do, then He comes to verse 4, and He simply says this:

Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

See how that thing is? He gives an invitation. He always does that. He wants so desperately for you and for me to get His wisdom because He has a plan for us. He has something that He wants to accomplish in your life on this planet, in the universe. God has something He wants you to do, but I want you to take note: smart, educated, self-righteous people need not apply. I want you to know Bible scholars, Bible experts, Bible critics, Greek and Hebrew scholars need not apply. Only the simple ones, only people that are as stupid as we are, only people that are so dumb in life that we simply just believe that God said what He said and meant what He said when He gave us the book that we can trust. That is who it is for, the simple ones. People who have never been educated out of their intelligence, people who just simply are dumb enough to believe that God wrote a book, a perfect book, and meant what He said when He said it, the way He said it, to whom He said it to, and that is where we are at.

VIII. The Way of Understanding

Now look at Proverbs 9:5-6. Here is the invitation:

Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

"Eat my bread." That is the Word of God. That is the manna from heaven. In John 6, the great bread chapter in the gospels, it talks about Christ being the bread of life, the supernatural gift from God to man, the revelation of God to man in the form of a book that reveals God's picture, God's plan, and everything God wants us to see. Then He says in Proverbs 9:5, "and drink of the wine which I have mingled."

I encourage you to get and learn everything you can from God and about God. That would be my advice to you. Remember, the basic practical things in the Bible are not just there to get you through tomorrow, but they are the gateway to the deeper things of God that will reveal more and more to you of who He is and what He is doing, and most important, how you fit into it. When you get that, my friend, you will not care about tomorrow. You will just look for today. You will know that man is to boast not thyself of tomorrow, for they will know not what a day may bring forth. You will not worry about the problem down the road because you will be focused on where He is at today, and you will just be so sure in your mind that He is coming today that you will not have to worry about what about tomorrow. If He does not come today, then tomorrow you will be so sure He will be here tomorrow, and you will not have to worry about Tuesday. That is a walk by faith and not by sight. That is what the deeper things do. They build you into such a relationship with God and He with you that all you do is focus on what He has got for you to do right now, and you realize that all the things in the future are in His hands. But remember the great lesson of Mark 15:23: you cannot mingle the Christian life with the things of this world.

So Proverbs 9:6 says, "Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding." I like the way he says that, and he says it a number of times in Proverbs, "the way of understanding." Notice it is not just coming to church and taking what you like and leaving what you do not like. A lot of people look at church that way. I want you to notice it is not just developing the Cliff Notes of the Bible. When you were in college and you had to read a book, the thing that saved your hide was going to the bookstore and getting the Cliff Notes. You could read some book that was that thick, you could get the Cliff Notes that told you everything you need to know, and you could skate through it. I understand it. I never got the Cliff Notes. I always bought the book, The Bible for Dummies. That helped me a lot. But you do not get there by that. He says that Christianity is a way of life. Christianity is a lifestyle. It is a culture unto itself. A life-changing event that will change everything about us to a new way of life. It is based on God's wisdom and instruction of knowing who God is, knowing what He has done, knowing what He is doing today, and knowing how you fit into it.

You know, it has always bothered me how the things of this world that it takes years to master, how man pursues them. Bubba was talking about putting a golf thing on for Kyle, and I think that is an incredible thing. But golf has got to be one of the hardest games to master on a planet. It is also one of the boringest things on the planet. I get that. I hate golf. I would pay \$100 that day just to come and drive the carts around, you know, and have fun with that. But I am not going to play golf. I do not have golf. I played golf one time for a short period of time. I almost killed two people, and I quit, hung up my clubs. But golf is the boringest game on the planet. It really is. I mean, you know what? I do not know what you big macho men out there make you feel so big and strong when you beat a little ball to death. I do not get it. I do not get it. But I am glad you are doing it for Kyle, and I am glad when you like it. But I am going to tell you, golf is a tough game. I mean, you have got to, it looks easy, but you have got to have that thing precision. You have got to have your back straight, your legs straight, your body straight, your hands at an angle, your hands on a golf club at an angle. You have got to keep that perfect thing, I guess. I know what I am talking about. All the way through, you have got to keep a form all the way through. If you break that form, the ball goes left, the ball goes right, or you do not hit it at all. You have got to discipline yourself to that. You do not just go out there and say, "Yeah, give me..." I do love the, I have seen the golf club now that I could play with. They have got the real big ones on the end of them. Now that is my kind of golf club. I mean, I could hit golf balls, gophers, groundhogs, you know, anything with that. They are huge. I do not know what they do. Man, those things look like something that Fred Flintstone used to play with. But I watch these guys, you know, go out there and they work at it. They work at it. They work at it. And I do not understand their terminology. I do not know what a par is. I do not know what a birdie is. I do not know how long that stuff. I do not know, you know, "I am three under par. I am four under par." Well, I am hungry. Let us eat. I do not get it. But it is a tremendous discipline, mental structured game that not only has to focus, it is when you watch the big golf tournaments. Everybody is a spray. You have people, a hundred people from hole to hole. Everybody is afraid to talk. Nobody wants to sneeze. Nobody wants to break the guy's concentration, you know, and even the moderator, whose name he is in hushed tones. It is such a concentrated game, and a guy has perfect form, and he does not break that form in all that he does. I have always admired that. I think that is neat.

Tennis is another one. Tennis ball. I watched Venus Williams playing tennis. I mean, that girl and her sister can play some tennis. I mean, they are out there, and they are going to town and knocking that ball back and forth. I mean, it is an incredible physical game, but you have got it, you know, and it is not just hitting the ball. You have got to have control all the way down your arm and everything you do. You have got to have that racket for every time you hit the ball, that racket has got to be set the right way to get that ball to go where you want it to go. It is not just like we play badminton. Then you have got to have the physical stamina to running back and forth and running up front, and they hit it over your head. I have seen them. I have seen them come back where the guy, the girl put it up there, and he hit the ball over, and the girl ran, got in front of it, and actually bounced that ball, hit the ball between her leg, and put it back over there. I would have been in the hospital for a month. It is true with football. I do not care what it is. Basketball, hockey, whatever it is, it takes an absolute dedication to that sport.

I have seen it in people with their careers, people who are computer gurus. They spend, they spend a whole life. They know everything about a computer. I hate my computer. It does whatever it wants to do. It is demon possessed. It will change up formats, and I do not know what is doing with it. It is an electrical world. I mean, you know what, you can be a surface electrician. "All the light bulbs out, I can fix it." That does not make you an electrician. Show me a little better. You can fix a light switch, put in a fan, but you start messing around with 240, 170, or two phase or three phase. Now you are into the deep things of electricity, which will bury you deep if you do not get it right. You see it, you see it in plumbing. You see it in construction and building a house. You look at the thing. This guy is a master builder. He is a master electrician. He is a master plumber. He is a master carpenter. They have spent their whole lives, and it is not just, "This is a pine board. This is a two by four. This is oak. This is this." They got into the depth of it.

Why are we so willing to get into the depth of our careers to know the difference in the grain of the wood and the structure and the tools and the two phase and the three phase and the four phase and whatever other phases you have got? But when it comes to the Bible, we just want to be milkmen. We want to stay on the surface. We just want the basic things. But when it comes to sports, when it comes to tennis, when it comes to golf, when it comes to our careers, we want to be everything we can be. We will get the depth down that we are said we are a master at what we do. But we are ignorant of the Word of God beyond a few basic things that we know. It is like I just found an incredible gold mine in the Bible, but only taking one or two nuggets and leaving the rest of the mine.

Years ago, I would not confess to this to anybody else, but I will tell you, I used to love to go to all-you-can-eat places because I wore my cargo pants. It is true. I would stuff those big old cargo pants with rolls and shrimp, chicken. I would walk out of there, man, I was 20 pounds heavier than I went in. It was not because of what I ate, but it was for a little snack later. You see what I am saying? I get those big floppy with the big pockets on them. You know, I even got some of the airborne ones that have got the ties on them. They put those ties on them so they could tie them up. So when you jumped out of planes, the load would not rip your pants pockets off. There are many times that Colonel Billy's over there, I had a, remember Colonel Billy's, do not you?

All you could eat for \$9.95. After I left, the depth was \$15, but anyway, man, I would fill those pockets up. I had rolls, I had bread, I had all kinds of stuff in there. My wife would get out early. She would not even walk out with me.

We ought to be the same way with the Bible. We ought to wear our cargo pants every time we open that book. We ought to stuff the Bible. It is not all about what you get right now. When I went to Colonel Willie's or Billy's or whoever it was, it was not about just eating there. I was full when I left. I wanted some for later. When I get into Bible, you get into Bible, sure we get full, but you know what? I am going to stuff my cargo pants with everything I can get out of that Bible because I want some for later.

Listen, if I did not know that that Bible was the Word of God and Bible Christianity was true any other way, I know it was because of the way men look and treat that book that God gave them. I will tell you what the problem is. When it comes to this Bible, the gold mine God gives you, I am going to tell you, we get so much of it around here, we just take it for granted. I never say anything about this, but I am getting right now, probably I would say eight to ten calls a week. I have got a guy in Nebraska, got one in Utah. I have got a guy in Ohio, a guy in Oregon, two or three out in California, a couple in Washington state, one in Illinois, Florida, had one yesterday call me from South Missouri. They are all clinging to our website. Every one of them are thanking me for that website. They are on that website all the time. I get eight or nine calls a week about the Bible. I have got to the point where, and 20 emails, and I hate emails, so I just call them back, but I have to take now a whole night, usually on every other week, and just set aside time to call these people to get their Bible questions in. They are out there with no pastor. They are out there with no church. They are out there with no teaching. They are out there with no fellowship. Believe me, they are hungry for that book. We have here all that you have anytime you want it, so easily to get all you want, anytime you want it, as much as you want. We get lazy and lethargic about it. We get taken what God had gave us for granted. We have so much gold on the walls and gold around here and everything that God has that we get tired of gold. I am telling you, when you love that book, you never get tired of it. It is the thing that just drives you on.

We are like the church at Ephesus. We have lost our first love. We left it. We have forgotten the day that we found that book. So now it is just, you know, we got saved by it. So it does not mean anything to us anymore. We do not want to go beyond that. We do not want to find more about God. God is up there absolutely on the edge of the throne, wanting you and I so that He can have that relationship with us. But in so many of our lives, the Bible was so important to us when we were in our crisis, was it not? When we were going through our tough time, boy, the Bible was always everything to us. But now the crisis is past. Storm blown over, the sun is coming out. So we discard the greatest book that God gave you that you will ever see. Oh, we will apply ourselves to our careers. We will apply ourselves to our jobs. We will work hard. We will never miss a day's work. We will strive to be the best at what we can do, but we will never with that book will we allow it to change you for the glory of God. We will keep it, come to church, but all about us is the glory of us. What we want out of life, what we want to do, it will never be about for us what God wants to do with us.

I have met saved people all my life that I believe were truly saved and on the way to heaven, and all their life, it was just all about what they wanted to do. Never one time in their life did they stop and consider what God wanted them to do with their life. Never one time did they ever get past the four spiritual laws, John 3:16, the basic things of the Bible. They never got to the depth where it really made a difference, not only in their personal life of going through the issues of life, but going through their building a relationship with God that when you get to that point in your life, it does not matter what you are facing tomorrow. Boy, I hate to live my Christian life based on worry about what I have got tomorrow. I have got to have a verse for it to get me through. I just read a rest in what I already have with Him and where we are at with that book that I do not have to worry about what comes tomorrow, that I know I just do not have a verse. Bless God, I have got the whole gold mine. It will get me through everything in life.

Father, we thank You today.