

Proverbs 11:1

Sunday 1/4/2015

If you have your Bibles today, I want you to turn to the book of Proverbs again. Today we are going to get into Proverbs chapter 11. I have been waiting for Proverbs chapter 11 ever since we got into the book of Proverbs. I know I had to do all my other 10 chapters and everything, but I want to tell you today that we are going to spend a little time on Proverbs chapter 11 over the next couple of weeks. If there was ever one verse that, in my mind anyhow, totally summed up the Christian life and the Bible and all that you and I have to do to learn it and to have a victorious Christian life, if there is one verse anywhere that gives you the fundamental, "this is what you have got to have and this is what you have got to do," it is this verse.

Without a doubt, this one will be the key to our successful Christian life. In fact, really, whether you are in the world or whether you are not in the world, it is the key to any success anybody has in anything they do in life. This is a powerful concept, and I want to talk about it in a couple of different formats over the next couple of weeks. I want us, when we leave this verse, to thoroughly understand everything about it, to see it.

Proverbs chapter 11, verse 1 deals with the biblical principle of having a balance in our life, and keeping and getting a balance, and keeping that biblical balance in everything that we do. I am going to tell you right now, and I am going to tell you throughout our whole study here, there is nothing harder for a Christian to do than to keep that balance. A balance in your life is the absolute key to everything. You are going to see it and completely understand it, and I am going to work you through it from the top to the bottom over the next couple of weeks.

Proverbs 11:1

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus, and we do love You today. Thank You for those that made it out, and Lord, we thank You for getting everybody here safe. You will get us home safe, and as we endeavor to go out and minister to You this afternoon, Father, we ask You to do that. Lord, we do love You, and we just pray now, Father, that You will bless this time. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

I. The World System and Abomination

We have been talking about, through Proverbs, the world system. Almost every week it comes up because we are talking about a foolish man and a wise man. The foolish man is someone who gets caught up in the world. The wise man is someone who gets caught up in the Word, the Word of God. We have been talking about the world system and how we as God's people literally need to stay away from it. In time, we also know that the world will take us away from God and all that He has for you.

Last week we talked about the great word, "overcome." I showed you and talked about the fact that when you got saved, you really have overcome the world. You have the ability now to live the victorious Christian life. Most Christians do not, but that does not mean that they do not have

the ability to. It just simply means that they choose not to. When you got saved, in God's mind, you have overcome everything in the world. As long as you understand that concept and you apply that concept, and we preach about it all the time, when you do not, then in time the world is going to swallow you up.

I want to take this thing, this verse, completely apart today in every facet, every concept, also next week and probably the week after, maybe even beyond that. For me, I have to simplify things. I am not the smartest guy in the world. I do not understand complex things. So the way I understand them is by taking them apart. Unfortunately, I cannot always get it back together, but at least I can get it apart. I want to take this concept of Proverbs 11:1, of a false balance as an abomination to the Lord and a just weight of His delight, and I want to lay it out for you in all aspects.

We talk about the world. We talk about the world being a bad thing. We talk about God's people getting swallowed up by the world or going back to the world. But fundamentally, the problem with the world and the world system is simply the fact that the world is out of balance. That is the problem. Remember now, he said, "a false balance is an abomination." That is a very interesting word. It is a key word in understanding what we are going to talk about, especially the world system.

Abomination, "abominable nations" is where it comes from. Back in the Old Testament, the nation of Israel was told to stay away from all the abominable nations. The nations that, in everything that they did, everything that they would do, would take them away from God and everything that God was. Israel did not listen. Israel got sucked in and got pulled away from God, and it was a very bad time for the nation of Israel. Out of that concept comes the word abomination. It is based on the concept of an abominable nation that destroyed the nation of Israel. The Jew was told to stay separate from the other nations, but they did not do it. They would not listen. That is the fundamental thing I want you to understand about what we talk about an abomination.

The world system is out of balance. That is its fundamental problem. There is no balance to anything in it. So when a Christian gets back to the world, that is exactly what happens with his life. He gets unbalanced. When he starts to go from the Word of God back to the world, he starts to leave the things of God that give him the perfect balance in his life.

II. God's Original Plan and Man's Disruption

We know that God has a plan. We know that God has a plan for man. I want to tell you that God never intended for the world to be screwed up like it is today. It is not His plan. God's original, and I am going all the way back to walk this thing through, God's original creation in Genesis 1:1-2, was a perfect and complete balance of everything that God was and everything that God was doing in every way. This is so vitally important.

I want to talk about this concept of God's plan and God's plan being a perfectly balanced plan, the devil coming in to throw it out of balance, but then God keeps coming back in to reinstate the balance. We live in an unbalanced world today. The world is an absolute mess. But you know

what God did, and I am jumping ahead here for a second, but you know what God did? God made a way for you and I to have a balanced life in an unbalanced world. That is what He does. That is what He has always done.

God's original creation was perfect. God's original creation was perfectly balanced. But we know what happened. We know that in Ezekiel 14 and Isaiah 28, Lucifer, who was the anointed cherub, wanted to revolt against God and wanted to take over God's throne. When he did, he threw the whole second heaven into chaos. We have been through it many, many times. It is not my goal to lay it all out for you today. The material was available in many, many things that we have done. God has used it in all that He has done to keep God's plan going.

Originally, God's creation was a perfect balance in everything. Everything in its proper place and working the way God designed it to work. But when it all fell apart, the Bible says in Isaiah 13:13 and Isaiah 66:1, when it finally all fell apart, the Bible says that the earth was knocked out of its place. God in His perfect balance had the earth where He wanted it. But when all this chaos ensued over Lucifer becoming the devil and destroying all God's plan, or trying to destroy it, the earth, the Bible says, was knocked out of its place. Now the earth is out of balance. Now the second heaven, the universe, is out of balance.

Then what did God do? Genesis 1:2-3, God brings back the balance, does He not? He brings Adam and Eve and puts them in a perfect garden with a perfect balance. Perfect in every way. God continued His plan for the redemption of man that even though man and the devil tried to upset the balance, God keeps putting the balance in, and thank God for it. So you and I today, in a world out of balance, in a world upside down, in a world against God, we can have the balance that God wants us to have.

He put a garden, put Adam and Eve down in the garden. It was perfectly balanced weather. It was not too hot, was not too cold. Perfect animals. Nobody was going to eat you. Everything was fine. The food was perfectly balanced. The diet was perfectly balanced. He did not have to work for anything. It was right there for him. The climate was perfectly balanced. Everything was a perfect balance. All things that God made when He restored that balance, put it right back where God wanted it to be. He gave Adam and Eve a job to do. He created a perfect balance for them because even though the earth was knocked out of its place, even though the second heaven in the universe was out of balance, God put an order to it all and reestablished a balance with Adam and Eve.

But you know what happened? Genesis chapter 3, we see the fall of man. In this time, man messed it up. This time, man put the whole creation out of balance. Romans chapter 8 talks about how the whole world system is screwed up because of Adam and Eve. Here we have where we are at today. Man wants to blame God. Have you ever noticed how man wants to blame God for everything? Some little baby dies or somebody dies or something happens, and most people do not see it and understand it, so they blame God for it. They say, "Why God? Why are you doing this to me? Why are you allowing this to happen? Why am I going through what I am going through?"

Hey, I am going to tell you something. God's plan was never for that to happen. God's plan was a perfect balance. God never intended anybody to get cancer. God never intended anybody to ever die. God never intended to have a funeral home or to have a grave site or to have a funeral parlor or to have funerals where somebody gets up or caskets. That was never God's plan. That plan was a perfect balance. It was man who messed it up and brought those things in. We have a tendency to blame God for everything. We have a tendency to blame God, and we do not understand it.

God has one function. You know what it is? In this messed up, screwed up world that you and I live in, you know what His job is? It is to try to put balance back in your life. He has to try to put an order in your life and everything that we do. People talk about, "Well, I do not know how God could ever send a man to hell." Well, I have got news for you.

Matthew 25:41

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

God never intended man to go there. He says that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. He does not say one word about any man or any woman ever going to a place called hell. You know why men and women go to a place called hell? Because they choose to go there over the balance that God wants to give them. God never intended it. I think a lot of things are going to be clearer to you once we are finished with this. Whatever spiritual level you are on, I think you will see things a little better. Maybe understand them a little clearer. God's plan was a complete balance of everything, and it was man who threw it all out of balance to make it what it is today.

In the process of time, on the unfolding plan of God, you know what God even did when Adam and Eve messed it up? God even fixed that imbalance. He did. God brings in a way to restore that balance, at least in a partial way, because the Bible says that God's job is He is not willing that any should perish. He knows the universe is out of balance. He knows the world is out of balance. He knows that a man who lives in that world is out of balance. He knows that a false balance is an abomination to God. So you know what He did? He sent His Son down to die on the cross. When He died on the cross, you know what He did? He restored the balance.

III. The Bible as the Source of Balance

Then He gave us the Word of God. You know what the Word of God does? It is God's instruction. It is God's wisdom. It is God's understanding of all that is out of balance. It shows you through contrast, like we have seen in the book of Proverbs. It shows you by context, like I have showed you through the whole Bible. It shows you all that is out of balance so that we as saved people can have a balance in a world that is completely out of balance. When you leave the Word of God, you leave the things of God, you become unbalanced.

We have been studying the book of Proverbs. Last week I reminded you of its main theme: a wise man and a foolish man. We have seen it all through the book of Proverbs, and we will continue to see it as we go through to chapter 31. What you really have in Proverbs is a wise man

who has a good balance and a foolish man who has a bad balance. In the world of psychology and psychiatry, when a person gets unstable and does some really stupid things, they always say, "He has become mentally unbalanced." The reason a child of God gets into things and does some really stupid things is because he gets out of balance.

In fact, the whole world outside of God is mentally unbalanced. It is just what level you are on, depending on what you have been with or who you have been with or what you have done, that determines your level of being unbalanced. America is an unbalanced nation. The world is an unbalanced world. America is an insane asylum that is run by the inmates. Absolutely chaos.

This unbalanced or false balance is seen in everything. We get our telescopes out, we go up into a rocket ship, and we study cosmology, which is the study of the cosmos, outer space. We find a chaotic, unstable, wreck of a place. No order to it. We find dying stars, dead planets, asteroid belts that are made up of chunks of dead rock from dead planets. We find an absolute hostile world and a hostile environment.

You look at the planets, you find Mercury. Mercury bears the distinction of being the hottest and the coldest planet. It is the closest to the sun. It goes around the sun in 88 days, and its rotation is 88 days. So the same side always stays toward the sun, not like Earth. It changes around. On one side of Mercury that faces the sun, it is hot enough to melt lead. On the other side that is away from the sun, it is cold enough to freeze oxygen. Chaos. Absolute chaos.

You want to go to Venus? Think that is a garden spot, Venus in blue jeans? Venus, being sulfuric acid 24/7. Better take some skin block if you are going to go. The great gas giants like Jupiter and Saturn. The atmosphere is completely, no oxygen, completely methane. Do not let that get out. There will be a thousand meth addicts signing up to go to those planets on the first trip to breathe meth. There is no order to it. There is chaos in everything.

You look at the planet Earth, completely out of balance. It is too cold or it is too hot. The weather, they are talking about global warming, that we are getting closer and closer to global warming because we have ruined the atmosphere. They do not even know what they are talking about. They are saying the Earth is getting hotter. The Earth is getting hotter. "Oh, it is global warming. It is glowing warmer." Well, that may be. That may be. I will tell you something. We are right across the street from the tribulation period. The rapture is going to happen. When that rapture takes place, the Bible says the Earth gets seven times hotter from the sun getting seven times hotter. There is global warming for you. It is a chaos.

They talk about, "Well, somebody says, 'Well, the Earth, no, no, the Earth is getting colder. We are headed to another ice age.'" Well, that would be great, but we never had the first ice age. There are no ice ages in the history of the Earth. Somebody said, "Well, it was the ice age that killed off the dinosaurs. Look, we saw over there in a glacier that a mastodon, a prehistoric animal, was trapped in ice that he could not get out of. And there is proof that ice once covered the Earth. And here is this prehistoric animal that got trapped in this glacier and in the ice. And there is another ice age coming." He did not get trapped in that ice. The fastest glacier that moves on this planet is eight inches a year. That is a slow-moving mastodon you have there, doctor.

Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, hurricanes, hemicanes, volcanic eruptions, all the natural disasters that are across this planet. You hear them every day. You have droughts. You have floods. You have 40 feet of snow. You have forest fires. It is all in a world that is unstable and chaotic as Westport on a Saturday night in June and July. Absolutely broken down.

Romans 8:22

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

It was never God's plan. We live in a world that is totally out of balance. If you are not careful, you as the child of God will get out of balance. So this is why you have got to have a balance. In the Bible, there are seven absolute laws which all the world runs by. We have talked about it many, many times before. But one of those laws is the law of human collapse. The law of human collapse simply means that man left to himself will get continually worse until he destroys himself. Out of balance in all things.

If you want a common, ordinary example of that, next time you go put a load of clothes in your washing machine and you do not get them all saturated, you know what happens when your washing machine gets out of balance. I lived by myself for a long time before my mom got remarried when I was back in Ohio. I had to do all those things myself. I had to learn a lot the hard way. I knew nothing about washing machines and clothes getting out of balance. But one time I thought somebody would break into the house, ran upstairs, and there is my washing machine, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, moving all over the place. In fact, we danced around for a little while. That is where I learned to mumble. But it was out of balance.

Go buy four tires from Scott back there and say, "Scott, I want a deal on the tires. I want the best deal you can get." Put them on, but I am not spending the money to get them balanced. See what kind of ride you get out of your car. Well, see what kind of ride you get out of life when you get out of balance. I am telling you, this is an important message, maybe one of the most important messages you have ever heard. If God does not keep injecting Himself into man through the Spirit of God, then man will collapse on himself and destroy everything around him.

There are some of you Christians this morning, and I will ask you to speak freely for a moment. I am going to speak freely only two times this morning. Some of you had a fellowship this morning, and some of you had a fellowship, did not bother to come to church this morning. The reason why you did not come to church this morning and the reason why some of you sitting there wishing you would not have come to church this morning at this point is because when you come to a service like this, or really any service where somebody preaches the Bible, if you are not right with God, you get convicted. It does not matter what the guy preaches on. He can preach on golden geese, and you get convicted. He can preach on whatever because the Holy Spirit of God walks up and down these aisles, and He knows what is not right in your life today. So He kind of taps you on the shoulder, slaps you alongside the head, tries to get your attention. Sometimes you listen, sometimes we do not.

But the bottom line is simply this: You come and hear the Word of God, and you get under conviction because God is speaking to you, you do not like it. You do not like it, so "I am not going back to church." You do not like it, so "I am not going to do this or I am not going to do that." Let me tell you something, pal. You like it a lot less the day God takes His hand off of you and does not put you under conviction anymore. The worst thing that can happen to any child of God, anytime, any place, anywhere, is for God to take His hand of chastisement off him or His hand of conviction off him and just let that guy go his own way. You know why? Because when the Holy Spirit of God stops touching you with conviction as a saved person, you will self-destruct because the greatest thing that ever happened to you and me is for God's Holy Spirit to gnaw on you like a junkyard dog when you are not right with God. I am telling you. I am telling you. You see it because when God puts Himself into man, He gives man the balance that he has lost and so desperately needs.

A great example of this is in American history. Our founding fathers were men who for the most part believed God and believed God's Word. They saw the importance of putting the Word of God in our Constitution. They built this country on biblical principles, even though I know that that is not popular today and nobody believes that anymore. That is only because you are reading the wrong books. But I am going to tell you the reason behind that. When America was started with the pilgrims, they came over from Europe not because they were looking for discovering new land. They came over in 1620 because they were trying to escape the persecution of religion of the Roman Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church and all the other church states, the Lutheran Church, that were severely persecuting them. They came not looking for oil wells and forage and pickup trucks. They came looking for a place where they could teach their family the Bible without somebody kicking their door down in the middle of the night.

When they came over here, they founded this country based on the principles of the Word of God. But right behind them came all the trash that would come out of Europe. It would have been just fine if they would have just came with their Bible and done what they did. But the devil knew better than that, and right after them, he brings in the new teaching of unity, which comes in now, and Unitarianism, which is going to destroy everything. So you know what God did down through history of America? He brought in seven great awakenings, revivals down through the history of our country. When our country early on in the 1700s, when the founding fathers began to be up against all this stuff, you know what God did? He brought in two preachers, Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, that tore this little country's provinces apart and got them back on track with the Word of God. It is called the First Great Awakening.

As you go down through history, in the 1800s, He gave a Second Great Awakening. In the 1820s or the 1830s, He gave the third one in the Cumberland Valley Revival. In the Civil War in the 1860s, the great revival broke out with the Southern Army in the Civil War. In the 1880s, it was Moody, D.L. Moody, in Ohio and Illinois in the Midwest that brought about the Fifth Great Awakening. In the 1920s, it was Billy Sunday and some of the other great evangelists that got a great revival in the Midwest. In the 1950s, on the West Coast, it was Billy Graham. Brother, I am telling you what, God kept injecting Himself in this country because He knew that the moment God quits injecting Himself into man, he loses the balance completely, and he is gone.

Now I say all that to tell you this. That was the good news. Here is the bad news. God has not been injecting Himself into anything in America since the 1960s or 70s. No more great revivals after the 50s. The reason is by the 1960s, Christianity had dumped the Word of God. No more injecting, no more revival, and God today has taken His hand off America other than a few isolated places that still worship Him and preachers that keep preaching the Word of God.

So when you have God in your life and the Word of God in your life, you now have the ability, and I want to explain this, the ability to have the right balance that that Bible puts into your life. God calls it a just weight in Proverbs chapter 11, and it delights God. Now I say you have the ability. Just because you are saved here this morning does not mean you will have the right balance. Just because you are saved here this morning does not mean much of anything other than the fact that you are going to heaven. It does not mean you are right with God. It does not mean you are doing what God has called you to do. You may be alibiing your way through life so you do not have to do it as a saved, born again, blood washed Christian, and there are plenty of them around like that. But when you got saved and God gave you the Word of God, you now have the ability. You now have the ability, listen to me, in a world that is completely out of balance, in a world that is out of its mind, in a world that is mentally unstable and in balance, you now, me, have the ability to have a balanced life in an unbalanced world that delights God.

IV. The Concept of Balance: Three Parts

The next thing I want you to understand, and let me explain the concept of a balance. Understanding what it really is and what in God's mind and the Word of God constitute a biblical balance, and I think this is very, very important. We know that in the Bible there are certain numbers that mean certain things. We call it Bible numerology. I understand the argument is where you can prove anything with numbers, and yes, you certainly can, but there are certain numbers in the Bible that are undeniable, and it steps way outside the logic that, "well, you can prove anything with numbers," because there are some things in the Bible and some numbers that God proves certain things by them that you cannot deny.

One of them is the number three. The number three in the Bible will be the number of completion. When you have three parts to everything, you have it complete, and you also have it in balance. So when we talk about a balance, we have to have three parts to a balance. I want you to hear me now. For something to be balanced out, you have got to have three parts. I know this is elementary and probably way below your mental IQs this morning, so humor me, but the greatest example I can think of that is when we were kids at the playground with a teeter-totter. A teeter-totter is a long board where you put one person on one end and one person on the other end, and it has got a bar in the middle, and you can teeter-totter back and forth, say up and down. When you are 20, it is kind of boring, but when you were five or six, it was the highlight of your life.

Now you know what happens. You have little Susie over here that weighs 50 pounds and fat little Johnny weighs 90 pounds. So little Susie is always up in the air, and little Johnny is down here on the ground or holding her down here. So what do you get Johnny to do? You get him screwed up a little bit. The farther you screw up to the middle, which is the third part of the balance, the

more it balances out. The ideal is to get two people weighing 60 pounds on each side, keep them on the end, and balance it in the middle. You can sit there all day long just like that. You have one end over here, one end over here, but the third part in the middle makes the balance. Balance will always have three parts to it. You need to understand that. Understanding this, as elementary as it may be, understanding this will be key to our getting a biblical balance in our lives.

For a Christian, this is why the Bible is so vital. I know I hammer you with the Bible all the time. I try to do everything, provide everything for you to get you the Bible and keep the Bible before you. I do that simply because I understand how absolutely vital the Bible is in your life when having the balance. It is not enough just to get saved. You have got to have the balance of getting the Word of God. When you get the Word of God into your life, now you are balanced.

The Bible is a supernatural book, no question about it. But it is more than a supernatural book because the Bible provides every balance in life on all levels that you have to face. I do not know of any problem in life that you are going to come up against. I do not know of any problem in life that you are going to have to deal with in your family, in your personal life, in your marriage, in your kids, whatever, in your job, in your situation, in the world, in the work, wherever you are at. I have never found, after 40 plus years in the ministry, a problem that you and I are faced with that you do not find how to balance that out by going to that book. You want to have a life that is problem-free for the most part. Even when you have problems, you do not have to worry about it because you know what the balance is. Get into the Bible. That is the key. That is why I preach it. That is why I believe it. The Bible is the complete mind of God. We know that. It forms for us the complete balance that God is. When you get it, it makes all the difference in the world.

Let us be honest and face some facts. Let us just talk for a second. It is okay. Nobody is mad at you. Everybody loves you. It does not matter. I know this is the end of 2014 going into 2015. So happy new year, and this ought to maybe bring you along to make some things change for next year. If you did not have a balance this year, maybe you want to really get on it this way. Look around your life. Get honest this morning and look around in your own personal life first, and then look around you and at work and wherever you go in your neighborhood, the people that you know, and just see the families that have put the balance in their lives and the ones who have it. Look at their kids. You may not like them, but there are certain things about people, no matter whether you like them or do not like them, you cannot deny. A lot of people do not like me. A lot of people do not. But I am telling you something. When you do not like somebody and God has His hand on his life, that is probably the reason why you do not like them. But you may not like the person, but you cannot get around the fact that God is doing something with them that He is not doing with you.

Here is the problem. Look at their kids. Look at their marriage. Look at their lives. Look at their growth. Sure, they are not perfect. Nobody is perfect. But God is doing something with them. Just look around you at the people who care nothing for God or God's Word. And they are good people. I am not talking about some hunchback motorcycle guy with fire blowing out his nose. I am talking about good people who just do not care anything about God. And look at them versus the ones who do. See the difference. A blind man could see it. One is in balance, and one is out of balance.

The Bible will make a difference in your life. I wish it was easy that you just went to the bookstore and bought a Bible, and you bought it and paid your money, your life changed. That would be so neat. But it does not work that way. You have to take the Word of God and do something with it. You have to recognize that the Bible is the balance that we need. When you get the Bible in your life, it makes a difference. It gives you—somebody says, "Well, how does the Bible make a difference?" It gives you the balance that you need. Because we are out of balance in a world that is out of balance, in a universe that is out of balance. There needs to be order in the universe. But that is not going to happen until Christ comes back. There needs to be order in this world. That is not going to happen until Christ comes back. And there needs to be order in your life and my life. Thank God that can happen today if you get in that book. It will change your life. It will change your family. It will change your relationships. It will change everything about you. Because it is the balance that you and I need in an unbalanced world.

Over the next couple of weeks, I want to go through and show you how the Bible is a complete balance in probably three or four, maybe five different areas. We are going to probably look at two today. I want to show you how the Bible is a complete balance in three or four or five areas that will affect you directly. I said earlier, this is probably the single most important lesson that you are ever going to hear. I mean, it is basic. It is fundamental. There is nothing magical about it. There is nothing earth-shattering about it. It does what life really is. It brings it right down to where it is at. Remember, a balance has to have three parts. These three parts make it complete and make it balanced.

We are going to start at the top and work down here. I will look at a couple of different areas today. I am going to tell you right now, if you listen and apply yourself, I do not really care what spiritual level you are on. You may be somebody who just walked in our church, does not know anything about the Bible. You are going to learn some things today. You may be somebody who has been around here, and you are maybe at a mid-level. You are going to learn some things today. You may be somebody that has been around for a long time and have a great handle on the Word of God, but you know what? Even you are going to learn some things today.

V. God as a Perfect Balance: The Trinity

Let us start with God. I do not know where else to start. At the top, He is the top, so we will start with Him. God, He is a perfect balance. When we think about God, we think about the Trinity. You might know it would be three. We think about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Now why did God do it that way? I know, I know, I know the standard answer, and it is true. God is a spirit. We cannot see God. So God manifests Himself in the form of a man to identify with man. I get it. I understand it, and that is absolutely true, but there is more to it than that. There is a reason why God, when He thought and put together how He was going to display Himself as a perfect balance, He did it the way He did it because even in the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, God wanted to project a balance.

Let us talk about God, the concept of God. God is recognized as a supreme being everywhere in the world. Now it may not be the true God, but my point is the concept of God. We know that there was a true God, and there is only a true God, and then there are all the other phony gods.

We know that. We know that to be a fact. But all the other phonies had to come because there was one time an absolute real one that was the only one. We know that too. What I am saying is that when God wanted to present Himself to man, the first form He chose was a supreme being that would be in man's mind and be a presence in everything that man did. It was an impact that man has never gotten over.

When you go to Washington, D.C., and the Congress has their beginning of the new year or the Senate, they always have somebody come in and opens in prayer. In essence, what they are doing is they are invoking God's approval and God's help in the decision that they have got to make. I have got to tell you, those preachers, they are not allowed to talk about Jesus Christ. But they can talk about God because God is a universal concept. When God portrayed Himself as God the Father, He set down a supreme final authority that all men would look at in everything they do. Even in the government, as screwed up as it is, they recognize—it may be totally off base—but they recognize the concept of a supreme being. Man needs that. He needs that.

God knew that man needed a concept of a supreme, absolute being that at some time in life was going to bring everything in question and was going to judge it. That is why He chose that. Everybody recognizes that. Everybody does. Man needs an absolute final rule of authority to keep him on track. God the Father is a supreme being that all people recognize one way or the other. The concept of God in that form sets up the bounds of absolute right and wrong, the laws that we have.

The world says, "There ain't no God." Atheists say, "There ain't no God." Government says, "We want to have you pray and ask God's blessing." When every president gets on and he says his speech, what is the last thing he says? "And God bless America." Everybody understands it. When an atheist says, "There is no God," come on. That is just a lot of verbiage that you want to put out. You know there is a God. First of all, He is the true light, the light of every man that comes into the world. You want me to believe because you have rejected Him that you in your mind say there is no God when I know there is? Well, how do you know I know about God? Because every other word out of your mouth brings His name into it. The stupidest thing in the world is a man who does not believe in God that he is going to cuss in God's name.

Now, let me just ask you this. Why is it God's name? Do you ever hear a Muslim put Allah's name in a cuss word? "Allah, damn you." Just does not ring. Why is it that any unsaved man who claims there is no God in a world that denies God, when you want to add weight to your filthy talk, you call on the highest name on the planet that represents a supreme authority being, and you have got to bring God into it or Jesus Christ into it? "Jesus Christ was a prophet. Muhammad was a prophet. Muhammad you." Does not mean anything. I mean, if you are going to get good cussing out, Allah and Muhammad are not going to get the job done. I am not suggesting you do that. Do not miss my point. My point is there is one name given above every name. One name given among men whereby we must be saved. When God manifested Himself, He manifested Himself in the form of God the Father first because man needs an absolute supreme being that is a rule of law and a rule of authority for him.

As God the Son, Jesus Christ. Now this is the great one. God can be intimidating, scary because He is so all-powerful, all-knowing. He is everywhere at once. So God wants to have a relationship with us. He is a supreme being, but He wants to have a personal relationship with you. He knew that He could not do that through the concept of the supreme being. So God took on the form of a man, His Son, an earthly man, a man that we could understand, a man who walked just like you do, a man who had a job just like you do, a man who had parents just like you do. What He did by that is a couple of things. First of all, He made a way that you and I can have the fellowship with Him that He so desperately desires, but the second thing He did is to show you and me the model for my relationship with God. Because there is not anything that Jesus Christ does not do that is not a model in His relationship with God that is not the model for my relationship with God. He is His Son. I am His son.

Most religions play on the concept that God is unreachable. They will hold out there where you cannot really know God because you are just an imbecile. "But I know God because I am spiritual. So you come to me, and I will tell you all that God wants you to know." I am going to tell you something. That is not the God of the Bible. The God of the Bible, yes, is a supreme being, but He made a way that you and I could have a relationship with Him that you can get access to Him anytime you want. The model is found in His Son. In other words, He took on Himself a model of Himself in a form of a Son that might give us the model of how I can get to God. He is not scary. He is not unapproachable. People want you to believe that so they can control you. God is every man's friend who wants to fellowship with man. You do not need me for that. You do not need the church for that. You need a church and a preacher to help you understand some things about God, gets you to the place where you can find a relationship with God, and then teach you about God and the Bible on an ongoing level, but get out of your world when it comes to you and God and what you have. Sure. You stay out of mine, or stay out of yours. I do not want in yours, you and Him. I do not want you in mine. It is me and Him because I talk about you sometimes. I do not want you to know what I say. But I know you talk about me, but the difference is I have got a better relationship. He tells me what you say about me. That is how it works.

Then you have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, now it is our guide to get us to God and what He does, that once we get saved and the Holy Spirit of God is in us, He bears witness with your soul and your spirit and God and the Word of God, and that keeps us on track with God and forms for us the perfect balance that God wants us to have between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In John chapter 16, just by way of information, is the greatest chapter in the whole Bible that tells you what the Holy Spirit of God does, and He does seven things in that chapter. Now you see how that works? That forms the balance.

VI. Christ's Titles and Offices as a Balance

Let us talk about Christ for a moment. We know Him as the Lord. We know Him as Jesus. We know Him as Christ. But His complete name and title is the Lord Jesus Christ, by no three. Each one of them represents the same man, but each one of them represents something different about Him, and if you are going to have a complete balance in your understanding of Christ, the Son of

God, you have got to understand those three titles. That is how it works. There are three parts to every balance. Three parts to His name.

Now you take the word Lord. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. Take the word Lord. That is His deity. That is His deity. That is a reference to Him being very God. That is a reference to Him being equal with God, the Son of God. You take the name Jesus. That is His earthly name. That is as He was portrayed as not the Son of God but as the Son of Man. That is God's earthly manifestation of Him. That is His earthly ministry. That is Him as the Messiah to the nation of Israel. Look at Acts 2:36 sometime. When they have to make the repentance of the fact that they crucified their Messiah, you know whose name they have got to repent into and be baptized in? The name of Jesus because they rejected the earthly man that God sent them that represented their Messiah.

So you have the Lord, Jesus, then you have Christ. Christ is the anointed one. Christ is the anointed one, anointed in a sense of the Old Testament priest where He has a specific task, so He is anointed with oil to accomplish that task. So you have the Lord, that is God, Jesus, the earthly man, Christ, the anointed one that is going to do the work that God wanted Him to do. Now you see there are three aspects to it. You want to get the concept of balance of who He is? He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us look at it a little bit closer. He is the Lord. That makes Him king because He is God.

Revelation 19:11

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:16

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

He is the Lord Jesus. Jesus is the prophet. That is prophesying about future prophecy.

Revelation 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

So when He was on this earth, He was a prophet. Muhammad claimed to be a prophet. Joe Smith claimed to be a prophet. All prophets like the Lord Jesus Christ. But they were false prophets. There is only one prophet that ever came from God, and that was the man Jesus. So when you read in history and you get in history and somebody says, "Well, Christ was a prophet," that is true. And they say, "Well, Muhammad was also a prophet," that is not true. It shows you that the earthly man, Jesus, represents the prophet.

Christ had three offices. He was a king, He was a priest, and He was a prophet. He had those three offices, and He matched up to the three parts of His name. The Lord, that is His deity. He is

king. The prophet, that is His earthly ministry as the prophet. And then He is a priest. The Bible says in Hebrews 5:7 that His priesthood is an eternal priesthood. It is a priesthood that you and I get born into the moment we get saved, and we are also a priest this morning. You see, because the only other man in the Bible that had all three offices was David. David was a priest, king, and a prophet. Saul tried to do it, and God killed him for it. Only two men in the Bible that have those three offices, one of them is David, the other one is Christ.

Now there is a third one. You might know there has to be a third one. You know who the third one is? It is you and me. If you are saved this morning, you are a priest, you are a prophet, and someday you are going to be a king. Oh yeah, man. Oh, it will work. It will work. When you get all three of those things into your life and you understand them, now you are balanced.

I do not mean this wrong. I do not mean this wrong at all. I cut a lot of people slack, but we are talking this morning, and we want to be exact with the Bible. I hear people all the time, God's people saying, "Well, Jesus Christ is my king." I have got to tell you, He is not my king. I almost want to repent saying that. Sounds so bad. But the question comes down, how exact do you want to be with the Bible? You know why He is not my king? Because I am a joiner with Jesus Christ. I am a king with Him. He is not my king. We have a kingship together, Romans chapter 8. But when you do not know the Bible, do not have the balance, you say things like that, which, and I am not fighting it. If somebody said that, I would never go up and correct them, but I want to tell you, I ask you the question. How much error do you want to have in what you do with the Bible? That is the question. Me? I do not want any. Do I have some? Plenty. None. But how much do I have? More than I need. I will give you some after the service this morning, get it off my back. But the bottom line is, you have to be exact when it comes to the Scriptures. That forms the balance. It forms the balance. You and I have the same three offices.

VII. The Holy Spirit's Work, Person, and Indwelling

Let us look at the Holy Spirit of God. Again, John chapter 16 is a great chapter on the Holy Spirit. Seven things that He does. We do not have time to get into it this morning. I have designed this message so we can pick up the pieces of it on Thursday Night Bible study if you want to know. To study the Holy Spirit of God, you might know it would be in three aspects. Where Jesus Christ is priest, prophet, and king, and the Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord Jesus Christ, and God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, you want to have a perfect balance with the Holy Spirit of God, you have got to study it three ways.

You have got to look at:

1. The work of the Holy Spirit of God
2. The person of the Holy Spirit of God
3. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God

There are three. There are three. Now, when you get this down and understand it, then you have got a balance. There will be times in your Bible when you get over there to a place like Romans 8:16, and it is talking about the Holy Spirit of God, and it calls Him an "it." I get a thousand questions over the years. "Why is the Holy Spirit of God in Romans 8:16 called 'it'? Why is not it

a 'he'? Why is it 'it'?" The standard teaching is, "It is a mistranslation." You know, it is not a mistranslation. The guy that told you it was a mistranslation, he is a mistranslation. It is not a mistranslation. You know why it is "it" in Romans chapter 8? Because it is dealing with the work of the Holy Spirit of God. In the Bible, where you find it dealing with the work of the Holy Spirit of God, it will always be "it." When you find it dealing with "he," it will be the person. When you find it dealing with the Holy Ghost anywhere in the Bible, it will be dealing with the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. That is why. You want the balance? There it is. There it is. When you get to a passage, you do find one of these three references to Him. It will show you the context of what the Holy Spirit of God is all about. Understanding these things forms the balance.

VIII. The Word of God's Structure and Application as a Balance

The fourth thing, you take the Word of God, complete and balanced. Three parts to the Word of God. An Old Testament, a New Testament, that is only two. There has got to be a third. Christ is the third part. He is the Word incarnate. 99% of the preachers in this city or this country and 9.9% of God's people cannot get what I am about to say to you. You cannot separate God from the Bible. When you understand the complete balance and you see this thing as I am laying it out, there is no way you can separate God from the Bible. The Word of God is God in a human form, just like Christ was God in a human form when He came to this earth. The balance of seeing the Word of God as it really truly is today.

2 Corinthians 11:4

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

He says, "If you have another Jesus, let him be accursed." Well, if the Word of God is Jesus, if you only have one Jesus, see, it just seems like it would be you only have one Bible. But that is probably just me. The balance of seeing the Word of God as it is and as about as simple as it gets.

Now you take the Old Testament. You want to balance and getting the Old Testament down? It will be a balance of three things. When you study the Old Testament, you are going to find the Old Testament is divided into:

4. The Law
5. The Writings
6. The Prophets

The Law will be the first five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The Writings will be Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Job, Ruth, and Esther. And then the Prophets will be all the rest of the books, the major and the minor prophets. Study the Old Testament within that structure format, and you will come away with a

good balance in the Old Testament because that is how God divided it up. Three, it forms the balance.

Now you say, "Well, I want to get the New Testament down." Okay. The balance in the New Testament, God breaks it down into three forms. He has:

7. The Gospels
8. Acts
9. The Epistles

The Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Acts: the Book of Acts. And the Epistles: the rest of the books. Three. See, there are natural divisions in that Bible. We know that. We have studied it many, many times, right? We are not dividing the Word of Truth. When you divide it up properly the right way, you get the right balance. When you divide it up the wrong way, you get the wrong balance. My job, the job of this church, is simply to get a good balance in the Bible and help you get there so you have the right balance because I am telling you, the key to the balance in your life is the most balanced book God ever gave you.

You want a really good balance in the Bible, do you? You heard me say it many, many times. The Bible has three applications to it.

10. A doctrinal application
11. A historical application
12. An inspirational application

You will see it all the time. Some preachers, they are good on the practical, but they have no history and they have no doctrine. You find a lot of guys like that. You get some good stuff from them, but they are out of balance. Some preachers, they have a great on history, but they have no practical and no doctrine. They are the most boring guys to listen to you ever heard in your life because it is all like a history lesson. Some preachers can lay it out in all three because the doctrine in the Bible is like the spark plugs in an engine. It makes it come alive. It makes it fire. It makes it work. It makes it run. The doctrinal application will always be the future or prophecy that is connected in the Bible. The historical will be the actual historical events as they happen. The inspirational will be how it applies to you in your life as you go through life every day. To have a balance in the Bible, you have to have these three. This is absolutely necessary in getting a good balance and laying out the Bible. When you get to the point in your life that 80% of the Word of God you can sit down and put doctrinally, historically, and inspirationally, you have got the Bible down. I will leave you 20% of the stuff that is tough in there. But I am telling you, that is imperative to understand that.

IX. Proverbs' Definition of Balance: Knowledge, Wisdom, Understanding

Now you look into the book of Proverbs and the rest of the Bible. We have been studying the book of Proverbs. You get a balance in life that nobody else would ever have. Proverbs defines for you what a balance in a Christian life is. You know what it is? We have talked about it many

times already. I have said it almost every week. The book of Proverbs provides three things to you that form the balance in your life of understanding everything around you.

13. Knowledge: That is facts about something.

14. Wisdom: That is how you apply the facts and what you are going to do.

15. Understanding: That is how God fits into the equation.

When you get those three in your life, you now have discernment when it comes to God. You have perspective when it comes to God. You have the context when it comes to God. You have the discretion when it comes to the things of God. That is a balance. You now have the insight to look through understanding of what God is doing, either globally, like the war in the Middle East. Most people see it, and they think it is over oil, or they think it is about this dictator or this nation wanting to take this nation or this nation wanting to do this. They think it is because Iran wants to get a nuclear bomb, and nobody else wants them to have it. They think that Putin is coming down to take over the Crimea because he wants to regain what Russia's glory once was, and it is all gone, days were stolen. All that stuff.

But you know what? That is what it is. When you look at it through the understanding and the wisdom and the facts of God, you realize that all this taking place globally around you is God setting everything up for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is understanding. Now it will work like that in a global thing, but it will work like that in your life. Tomorrow you go to work, you are faced with an issue. Tomorrow you have got to work, somebody has got a problem with you. Tomorrow you go to work or you go out into life or you do this or do that, and you are faced with some crucial decision you have got to make or some heartache or something that happens or something that goes down. You know, instead of going to the palm reader or going to the people to read your tea leaves and places that tell you all that, you go to a book that tells you exactly what the bottom line is, and you put that in your life. That is what makes it work for you. You have the insight now, that forms a balance. It forms a balance.

X. The Bible's Audience and God's Plan in Balance

Now the next thing, you want to get your Bible balanced out so you do not get into any heresy, do you? Well then you realize that your Bible is written to three people groups.

16. The Bible is written to the Jew.

17. The Bible is written to the Gentile.

18. The Bible is written to the church.

All the Bible is written for you, but not all the Bible is written directly to you. He says some things to the nation of Israel that He does not say directly to you. It is important for you to understand which it is, and that gives you the balance. Now this is one of the biggest issues today in churches that you get caught up into, and it shows you that there is no depth in anything in the Bible today. The three hardest books in your Bible, you might know there would be three, the three hardest books in your Bible are Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews. When you look at those three books and you put them into perspective, you see that Matthew deals with the history of the Jews up to the crucifixion. Acts deals with the actual apostles and the early ancient of Israel after that,

and then the establishment of the church after the crucifixion. Then you find it from the rest of the books down through it from Hebrews on, transitions you back out into the tribulation period. Those three books, the way they lay out, are key books in your Bible that form the balance. But who sees that today?

Now you want to keep the plan of God in your life in balance? Well then you get the three areas that make it complete and balanced that line up with the three people groups that this gave you. In Revelation 21 and 22, you have a new heavens, you have a new earth, you have a new Jerusalem.

Isaiah 9:6-7 talks about God's eternal government. We have studied it many, many times, and it is in book form back there, it is on tape, you get all the material you want on it. That is not my point today to lay all that out. My point today is to tell you this, the balance in the Bible is based prophetically on those three places based with those three people groups. That in a small way shows you the absolute balance that God has in the Bible. God is a perfect balance, the Word of God is a perfect balance.

When you take and get the perfect balance of God and who He is, what He does, and I could have spent, I could have spent an hour on each one of them today. I am just walking you through showing you what the balance is, where it is at, how important it is because the Bible says that a false balance is an abomination to God, but a just weight is His delight. We live in an unbalanced world, the world is upside down, everything about it is cockeyed and wrong and messed up. But you and I, God has provided a way for you and for me living in this world of unbalanced to have a balanced life. We either will or we will not.

Now you see how it works? There is a simple basic understanding of how God and what He does and the Bible itself forms the perfect balance in our life. Way back when, when God started it out, the devil messed it up. God said, "Well, not going to stop me, I will just use what he did, and I will bring a balance, and I will put a man down there in a garden, and I will give that man a balance." Then man messed it up. God said, "Oh, not going to stop my plan." So He brought Christ down, gave us the Word of God, and you and I today in a world that is chaos, in a world that is upside down, in a world that does not understand right from wrong anymore, in a world that is completely out of balance, you and I have the ability of God's people to have a balance in our life. But it comes back to this book and every detail of it.

There is no thing, nothing in this Bible that is not important. There are lots of things that we do not know, probably lots of things we will never get to before the Lord comes back. But I will tell you, everything is in here for a reason. Whatever you are struggling with in your life, whatever you are going through, whatever heartache, whatever problem, whatever trial, whatever you are dealing with, you do not have to go to the world. You do not have to go to someone who can tell you your future and tell you what it is going to. You have got a book right here that will give you the absolute balance in your life. Spend the time learning it. Get whatever it takes. We will help you. That is what we are here for.

Fundamentally, you talk about the church, the pastor of a church, my job, it is only fundamentally for one reason. That is to help put back the balance in your life that was taken out

at one point because the only way you are going to get that balance in is to get into the Word of God and then see how it balances out. Over the next couple of weeks, today we talked about God and the Bible. Over the next couple of weeks, I want to talk about the balance in ministry. I want to talk about the balance in churches. I am going to talk about the balance in your family, the balance in your marriage, the balance in your life, the balance of everything that you face, every issue that comes into your life. I am going to show you and take you where the balance is that balances it all out. When you balance it out, you understand it. When you balance it out, you do not have to be afraid of it. When you balance it out, you do not have to wonder about it. You do not have this big X over your head of the unknown because that is what the Bible does. It takes an upside down world. It takes an out of balance world, and in it makes your world perfectly balanced.

Every head bowed, every eye closed. I said earlier that no matter what level you are on, if you just got saved or you have been a young Christian for a long time or you are a midline or you are someone that has been around forever, you now fully understand this is going to be of value to you. My advice to you is to learn everything you can. Ask every question you need to ask. If it means you schedule a time to come in to see me or you bring up some of the larger things on Thursday night, whatever it takes. The job is to help you get a balance in your life. That is all we are here for. We do not care about your money. We do not care about your problems. We do not care about anything you are going through because we know that at the end of the day, the Bible has the answers to it. You bring them to us, we will take it to the book, and we will find the balance because every time down through history, something went sideways, upside down, that threw God's plan into chaos. God simply regroups, takes the chaos, and out of it brings an order and gives us a balance. You can have the balance in your life. You do not have to go through life unbalanced unless you just simply want to.

Now, Father, we thank You and praise You today for the Lord Jesus. Thank You for the good folks that have come out. Thank You for all the things that You have given us, and we pray, Father, as we look at this great passage here, Lord, this great verse, help us to understand. We just finished 2014, and we are moving into 2015. Help us, Father. Help us to get to the point where we really do and it be everything that God wants us to be. There is a work for us to do. This church has a work that it needs to accomplish. Lord, even though there are many people that do not want to do the work, Lord, we are mandated to do the work. So help us in all that we do, and we will give You the honor and the glory and help me to help these people find that balance, keep that balance, and maintain that balance. Over the next couple of weeks, may we find the keys to it all that we see that the hardest thing we ever have to do is to keep that balance. But then, Lord, give us the keys to show us the best way to keep it. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. Bless today as we go out and all that we endeavor to do for You. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen. God bless you. I will call you back in about five minutes, and we will get set up for restart today. Amen.