

Proverbs 13:6-8

Sunday 10/25/2015

Good job, Tabitha. If you have your Bible this morning, you might know I brought my planner up instead of my sermon notes. That's okay. I could preach a planner. If your Bible is open to Monday the 26th, that's tomorrow. I want you to know that whatever you do on the 26th, tomorrow, is going to follow you on the 27th, which is Tuesday. It could be a chance that Judgment Day will come Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. So you better make sure that whatever you do tomorrow on Monday doesn't follow you through the rest of the week.

Every head bowed and every eye closed. Bring my sermon up here. Don't know how I did that. Thank you, dear. Did you learn that lesson? All right. Yes, this was last week's sermon. I guess we're going to have to do it again.

Hey, Barb Christie wanted me to let you know and remind you that this coming Thursday night is for our Halloween guild for the kids in the nursery. They always wear their costumes and they parade around Bible study and exercise the place. But anyway, so you know, always have a little party for them. So have them come and enjoy it. It'll be a great time when we all get together with that. Also, I forgot to put on the prayer list, pray for Phil. He called this morning. He's not here. He really hurt his back and he can hardly get out of bed. So we need to pray for him that he'll get feeling better quickly.

I. The True Riches of God's Word

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want you to turn to the book of Proverbs chapter 13. We've been talking a lot about riches, spiritual riches versus worldly riches. We've been talking about how it all kind of lays out in the Bible. Obviously, if you're paying attention at all, the book of Proverbs is one book that'll make you rich. The book of Proverbs is probably the richest book in the Bible for getting knowledge and truth.

The Bible talks about the true riches. The true riches is understanding, being able to understand things in life and see things in life and understand why they are the way they are. We all get into problems. We all have things we struggle with. Some of us make a bigger mess in life than others, but we all make our messes. Really, the key to getting out of whatever mess you're in is simply realizing how you got into that mess, realizing how you can get out of that mess, and then putting the truth and the knowledge of the Word of God, the true riches.

The problem is what gets us into a mess, and this is not a criticism of anybody because we've all done it. What gets us in the mess is we start making investments in the wrong things, the riches of this world. I'm not just talking about money. I'm talking about possessions and things, relationships, things that we think and we hold to a real high value, but from a Bible standpoint, really don't have much of a value. Then what happens is that they cause the problems we have in our life, and they compound those problems, and pretty soon our life is in a mess, one way or the other, in a big way or a small way or a medium way. But the only answer to that is knowledge and truth, and that comes from the Word of God.

Today we're going to move on in Proverbs chapter 13. Last week we saw how in a practical way the book of Proverbs is basically right where we live, I mean right where we live. We talked about learning the Bible, and again, nothing in our life will be as rewarding as learning the Word of God. It will always bring with it everything that we need to really put those things in our life that we need. Yet we saw it has to be done God's way.

The problem is that in everything in life we want to do it our way, and nothing in our life will be as rewarding as learning the Word of God, but you've got to do it God's way. In the world of religion, there are thousands of ways, thousands of ideas, thousands of thoughts and books on theology and teaching on the Bible. Honestly, 99.999% of it is absolutely worthless. The world is full of heretical teachings that will send a man to hell, or at the very least will confuse him and defeat him all of his life.

It all comes down to the same source: learning the Bible man's way, or learning the Bible God's way. The Bible calls it rightly dividing the Word of Truth. When you rightly divide the right way, then you'll learn it the way God wants you to learn it. When you wrongly divide, then you're going to do it man's way, and you're going to come up with a lot of issues and a lot of problems when it comes to the Bible.

Learning the Bible and understanding salvation have much in common. I don't know if you ever thought about it. Both are taught by man that there are many different ways to get to heaven, just like there are many different ways to learn the Bible. You've talked to people and I've heard people talk about the fact that, "Well, there are many roads that they all lead to heaven." No, the Bible says, "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way." See, there's man's idea versus God's idea. People say, "Well, you know what? You can, all kinds of ways that you can get to heaven." No, no, no. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus Christ is the only way. If a man tried to climb up any other way, he's a thief and a robber.

Yet when it comes to the Bible, you find the same thing. All kinds of ideas on learning the Bible. Man, you can get every religion out there on the planet and everybody's got their own way of teaching it and their own way of concept. I ask the question all the time, why are there so many churches out there who don't believe the same thing? Because all of them but one is wrong. Not necessarily talking about this when I'm talking about there's one true way to learn the Bible. There's one right way to get it. Just like there's only one right way to go to heaven. You'll spend your whole life working your way to heaven, trying to get this, trying to do that, and you'll spend your whole life going here with the Bible, trying to learn this with the Bible, reading this book with the Bible. At the end of the day, both salvation and the Word of God both come back to one common ground: you have to do it God's way.

II. Proverbs 13:6-8 Explained

Today, we're going to look at Proverbs chapter 13, verses 6, 7, and 8. Just three short verses. Three short verses that won't take me long at all to go through them. We can get on with the hay ride. I'll be done in four or five hours and you'll have a chance to get a bite to eat before you get there.

Here's what it says in verse 6, 7, and 8:

Proverbs 13:6-8

Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.

Let's pray. Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus, and we do love you today. Lord, this is a simple message. It's not hard to comprehend. Maybe there's someone here today that needs exactly what we're going to talk about. Because all through life we hear there are so many ways to heaven. We hear there are so many different ideas about the Bible. That is so true in the worldly sense. But we know when we come back to your way of thinking and your way of looking at things, we know there's only one way and that's God's way.

The Bible says there are many devices in a man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand. Many areas that a man will come up with in theology or dealing with people or the Bible or churches or preaching in sermons. But yet when it comes back to the Bible, there's only one way to get the truth of God, and that's God's way. Help us today. Thank you for the truth that we do have. Thank you, Father, for all that you've given us here and for the great host of people who love you, love the Word of God, and for the lives that have been changed. For the men and women whose lives have been turned around by the things of God. We'll thank you now and praise you in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

Now let's begin to look at this. Verse 6 says:

Proverbs 13:6

Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

That's a great verse. It's a great simple verse, but it's so profound in its concept and its content. We know the book of Proverbs is about two men. It's about a wise man and about a foolish man. The whole book of Proverbs is built around that. In reality, the whole Bible is built around that. You find that concept of a wise man and a foolish man all the way through the Word of God. You know why? Because that's true in life. In life, you're going to find the wise man who does it God's way, and you're going to find the foolish man who does it the world's way.

When you come back and look at that concept in a historical sense, that's the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. Nation of Israel, some of them were wise because they stayed with the Word of God. Some of them were foolish because they left the Word of God. In a practical sense, it's true of people that we're around today. A wise man would indicate somebody that has found the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior. They found the wisdom of God. They're focused in on it. A foolish man would represent someone or a woman who has never been saved, that they're living in the world and doing the things that they want to do. Yet there's another application kind of off of that because I found saved people who were saved and on their way to

heaven who are some of the biggest fools you've ever seen in life. So we see that there's a lot of ways that we can look at it. So keep that in mind today as we kind of come through here. I want to kind of explain both.

Now in verse 6, we see that the first part, "righteousness keepeth the upright in the way." This will definitely be a picture of a saved man for you and for me. The last part, "the sinner that gets overthrown," that will be an unsaved man. So we're going to start with it like that and then we'll kind of move back and forth on it as we look at some of the different areas.

III. The Heresy of Losing Salvation

One of the heresies of man's way of learning the Bible is the false teaching that you can lose your salvation after you're saved. All of my life I've dealt with people and I'm sure you have too if you've ever kind of worked with people, you'll find people who are of the persuasion that once you get saved that you can actually do something to lose that salvation. That God will give it to you but then God will take it back. I've heard all the stories on it. Honestly, most of their arguments are pretty lame. I've heard somebody try to argue with somebody who thought they could lose their salvation and simply say, "Well, you know what? Salvation is a gift and if God took the gift back then that would make God an Indian giver." Well, you know what? God doesn't care about being an Indian giver. He'd take it back if he wanted to. You think God cares about, you know, cross your heart and hope to die? Tell the truth. He doesn't care. He doesn't cross his fingers to be a boy scout and scout's honor. He's God. He can do whatever he wants to do. So that's kind of lame. It really is. I've heard people try to explain it in a number of different ways. Yet I just simply look at it, like I look at everything in the Bible, very simply, very plainly.

Now let me just say and tune your ears now so you don't hear the wrong thing because some of your ears are turned backwards. I can see it this morning. Technically speaking, I put emphasis on technically speaking. Technically speaking you could lose your salvation if it was your righteousness that got you saved in the first place. I mean honestly if it was your righteousness that got you saved in the first place then I would agree with that person that you could do something stupid and you could lose it because your salvation was based on a faulty righteousness to begin with. But here's how it works. You see when you got saved it wasn't your righteousness that saved you, it was God's righteousness that saved you. Now that changes the whole picture. That changes the whole perspective.

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Now if you have your Bible there and you're kind of a new Christian, I want to explain just something to you in passing here. You see the word "renew" in the Holy Ghost? People have a tough time with that. Some people are going to say, "Well, what does that mean when I got saved that we got renewed in the Holy Ghost? I don't understand that." It simply means this: a long time ago with Adam and Eve in the garden they had it. When Adam sinned, sin passed upon all men and from Adam on, Genesis chapter 3, we all lost it. But when you got saved God saves you

and he renews the Holy Spirit of God in you that Adam had but Adam lost. That's how it is. Nothing big but you want to put that in there.

Now you and I, we have no righteousness. Any righteousness that we do have, Isaiah 64:6 says it's filthy rags in the sight of God, not much good. I just keep it simple. I mean I don't get theological about it. I don't get deep with it. I think too many people try to get too deep with things in the Bible that are so simplistic in their origin anyhow. I just look at it from a natural standpoint in a basic way. The idea that you and I don't deserve salvation in the first place is 100% clear. Y'all agree with that? Is there anybody here that thinks you deserve to go to heaven this morning? Well if you do don't answer because you don't. The idea that you and I don't deserve salvation in the first place is 100% true. Then the fact that even though we did not deserve it in the first place and then God gave it to us anyhow. And then God's going to take it away because we did something now that we don't deserve it anymore when we never deserved it to begin with when he gave it to us in the first place. Ridiculous. Ridiculous.

As a Christian, you and me, you're going to fail in life. I want you to know that. We are going to fail in life. Some bigger than others but we're all going to fail. I failed. You'll fail. We'll all fail. It's hard to stand in a pulpit for a preacher and castigate people for where they're at in life when you're honest with yourself because we all fail and we're all sinners. We will have our struggles. Everybody does. Here's the key. When we do struggle and we do fail and we will, it's God's righteousness that we didn't deserve and we never will deserve that keeps us when we can't keep it ourselves.

David said in Psalms 51:12 in his great prayer of getting right with God, he says:

Psalms 51:12

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

David knew it wasn't his salvation. It was God's. God gave it to him. A great example is in Genesis chapter 3 with Adam and Eve. Before they fell the Bible says they were naked and they were not ashamed. It was a beautiful place. Didn't need clothes. I mean it was the ultimate nudist camp. You didn't need clothes. No cold weather. No sweaters. No long underwear. No jackets. Just absolutely perfect. But when they sinned in Genesis chapter 3, that all changed. Now Adam and Eve know that they're naked and they know that that nakedness is before God. So what did they do? They ran out, found the nearest Sears and Roebuck fig tree and sewed aprons together of fig leaves and covered their nakedness.

When God came down and met with them, you know what he said? He said, "Uh-uh, that's not going to work." You were once in innocence and now you're in sin and now you know right from wrong and you know you're naked and you're trying to cover your nakedness by the things that you've done. The fig trees that you found, the leaves that you sewed together is a picture of man's unrighteousness and him trying to do something, make something, work something to cover his nakedness. God says that won't do. For time and eternity, the fig tree in the Bible has been a picture of self-righteousness. They were now lost. They were now sinners. They were now outside of God's grace. But they were naked and they thought, "Hey, we'll cover that nakedness

by doing something, then making it and covering it." That's what every 20th, 21st century, modern Christian does today. They're naked in their sins but they go to church. They buy a Bible. They sing songs. They get in the choir. They do all kinds of things to cover their nakedness but you know what? Didn't work with Adam and Eve. Won't work with him.

You know what God did? God came down, the Bible says. God came down there in Genesis 3:21 and he made them coats of skin. You know what God did to cover their nakedness? He did the same thing with them he did with you. He killed something innocent by shedding its blood to cover their nakedness. When you were naked and your self-righteousness wouldn't do it, he sent down his son, innocence, who died on the cross and shed his blood and his righteousness will cover your unrighteousness. Yes, I'm preaching now. Say, "Well, I don't like that kind of talk." Well, you're going to like it less before you get through, so hang on.

In Isaiah 61:10, when he talks about that, you know what he says? He talks about salvation to Israel and he makes the reference back to Adam and Eve. You know what he calls those coats of skin? He calls them garments of salvation. That's God's righteousness. That's man's way, fig leaves versus God's way, coats of skin, garments of righteousness.

IV. The Overthrow of the Sinner

Now, look at the second part of that verse: "But wickedness overthroweth the sinner." That's one of the greatest statements in all of the Bible. It simply says that if you're an unsaved person here this morning, there's not a thing you can do to help yourself. You can try to get better. If you're an alcoholic, you can go to Alcoholics Anonymous and you can quit drinking. If you're into drugs, you can go to Narcotics Anonymous and you can get out of drugs. You think you've accomplished something and you have. But at the end of your life, you're still in your own righteousness and you may be sober for the next 40 years of your life and never touch drugs again. But when you die in your own righteousness, you're going to split hell wide open. Your righteousness won't get it done. And wickedness will overthrow you every time.

An unsaved person has absolutely no power to overcome sin in his life because his righteousness is no good. He can get religion. He can straighten up. He can clean up his life. He can do and say all the right things. But his problem is none of those things. His problem is he's a sinner and he needs God's power through God's righteousness and he'll never be able to get that. You'll never be able to get that on your own.

Now a great example is if you have your Bibles this morning or look on with somebody that does is Matthew chapter 12 verse 43. By the way, if you don't have a Bible today, you come and see me afterwards and I'll get you one. We'll bill you the end of the month. They're only \$2,000. We'll get it to you. Have time payments, two payments of \$1,000 each. One in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Now look at that. Matthew chapter 12 verse 43. Here's what it says:

Matthew 12:43-45

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Now in a historical sense he's talking about the nation of Israel, but this in a practical sense is a picture of every unsaved man and every unsaved woman. The thing that I want you to see is you have no control over whenever the devil influences you. He'll do it as his will. He'll come and he'll go and this man had absolutely no power over it.

Yet look at verse 44. This guy, he cleans up his life. He gets a broom and he sweeps up the beer cans, the cigarette butts, the needles and all of the trash in his life and he said, "Man that looks pretty good." Then it says he garnishes it. Now garnishing in the Bible will always have a religious context. Now he starts to put crucifixes on the wall, pictures of Jesus over here. He starts to put holly up here and he puts all these things, gets a statue of Mary over here and he wants to cover all the bases. So he gets one of Buddha on this side and he gets everything in his life. He's now swept up his life. He's hanged all of the garnishings of the religions of life, but I want you to know the Bible says in spite of that he's still empty. No Holy Spirit. You see you can have all the religion in the world. You can have all the religious things in the world. You can clean up your life and do whatever you want to do, but until you get filled with the Holy Spirit of God and you get God's righteousness, you're not going anywhere.

The Bible says that his word, he's worse now before he was because before he was just an old unsaved sinner demon possessed. Now he's an unsaved religious demon possessed man. That's worse.

V. Worldly Riches vs. True Riches

Now look at verse 7 back to Proverbs:

Proverbs 13:7

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: and there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

In Luke 16:10-11, you have a story of the true riches. I've always wondered and marveled at the fact that when the true riches is found in the Bible, it's found in Luke chapter, yes here it comes, 16:11. Because if you want the true riches, you're only going to get it out of a 1611. You have a story of an unfaithful steward. Now doctrinally again historically, I know this is Israel, but from a practical standpoint, you and me.

He says in verse 10, 11:

Luke 16:10-11

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

That's a great verse. That verse there is the greatest verse on the word dysfunction. Somebody who can't do it in the little things of life will never do it in the big things of life. Certainly when it comes to a spiritual thing, people who can't discipline themselves to get the Bible the right way will never get it in a great way. That's what he's saying. He's saying you can't even take care of the things in the world where you live. You can't even take care of the basic common things of life in this world. How in the world am I ever going to give you the true riches? You know, there's a reason why a lot of people never learn the Bible. They're so dysfunctional in their physical life, they can't ever possibly get to the spiritual side of getting anything out of the Bible.

The definitive passage on this making himself rich yet hath nothing and having poor and yet having great riches is found in Luke 16:19-31. So I want you to turn over there. Just a couple pages up. Or not a couple pages up, a couple verses up.

Now this is the story of Lazarus and the rich man. The Bible says in verse 19 that there was a certain rich man which was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus which was laid at his gate full of sores. Now we see a contrast here. Here is our original wise man and a foolish man talked about in Proverbs. Here's the original postscript for that verse back there in Proverbs 13:7. Here is a classic example of a rich man and Lazarus, a rich man who has everything and a poor man who has nothing as far as the world's concerned. He lays at the rich man's gate full of sores and he doesn't get Obamacare, he doesn't get a handout, nobody's on the street giving him a hot dog and a thing of water. No, no, no. In his case and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which he fell from the rich man's table, moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. That's close to Obamacare or what it's probably going to get you to.

As you look at that from a worldly standpoint, one of them has got everything, the other one certainly has nothing but watch.

Luke 16:22-31

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

I don't believe in hell, tell it to the rich man. I've dealt with Jehovah Witnesses all my life and they would say, "Well we don't believe in hell." And I'd say, "Really?" I'd say, "Well I know lots of Jehovah Witnesses that believe in hell." "Where are they?" I'd say, "Everyone that died without Jesus Christ." They believe it, too late.

You know what? The rich man never gave a flip about his five brothers while he had all that he had. Now that he's lost everything in his hell, suddenly now he's a soul winner. Suddenly now he wants somebody to go back and tell his five brothers. My point is this, don't wait till it's too late before you do what's right. You got these people at a time that go into seances and think that he can contact Edna or somebody that died went on before you're out of your mind. If you're dead and you're saved, you're in heaven. If you're dead and lost, you're in hell. And you ain't having any communication till the Lord comes back, rip you off and take your money.

Now, in a New Testament application, a couple of things here. We know that the rich man yet he's rich, yet he has nothing. That's the concept. Last week, I showed you the contrast of two churches, Revelation 3:7, a church of the open door that had the Bible, it had great power. And in Revelation 3:20, the church of the closed door, Laodicean church period. And when we're living in, they have no Bible. They have huge complexes as all the riches in the world and possessions. And yet they say they have need of nothing. In reality, they have nothing. Bibles are they're blind. They can't see a thing.

In Christianity today, this is not a crock against the Roman Catholic Church. If you, if you, it's a true statement. Back in the sixties and the seventies, there was a man by the name of Avro Manhattan. He wrote a series of books. He was probably the world's foremost authority on the Roman Catholic Church. He's dead now, but his books out of print long ago, you can find them, but they're very expensive. I happen to have a set of them that I hang on to and cherish. We have a couple of them back there or back in print, but he wrote a book called Vatican Billions. It was a book dedicated to showing the net worth of the Roman Catholic Church. Now, this was in the 1970s. He said in the 1970s, the net worth of the Roman Catholic Church was over 200 billion, billion with a B, billion dollars. Their interest in assets alone in all the things that they own. They

own all the parts of all the steel company. They own part of the Miller brewing company. They own all kinds of things. He said, you add to that the art, the gold, the artifacts, the property, the manuscript, what a Vatican library alone probably is a treasure trove where those manuscripts are probably worth million dollars apiece. They're filled with it. There's more security in a Vatican library than there is in Washington where our Declaration of Independence is.

Yet the true Church of Jesus Christ during that time period, well, they were collecting all of that junk with the poorest people on the planet as it seemed. They only had one thing, and that was the Bible. While the Roman Catholic Church was amassing great wealth, they had the Word of God. From a worldly perspective, they look at that and you say, "Wow, look at the gold, Basilica, look at this, look at that." And you look at this old Waldensian over here and all he's got is a dog-eared Bible with no shoes on his feet and a ragged coat. From the world's perspective, you say, "Now that's the rich one. That's the poor one." From God's perspective, that's the rich one. That's the poor one. All depends on your perspective. You better get God's perspective on it.

It's also true in a Christian's life, great possession, money, cars, homes, RVs, bank account. There's nothing wrong with any of those things in balance. Don't get me wrong. I'm not against these things. But a man who amasses all the possessions of his life, there's no lasting satisfaction in those things. If you had a hundred millions of dollars in your bank account and everything you want, you know what you'd do at night? You'd think you'd sleep good. You wouldn't. You'd stay awake tonight worrying that somebody was going to steal it. You'd sit there with your mind going, "Man, how am I going to make the right investment to keep it?" And then you had all these things, all these toys and everything. You'd stay there saying, "Wow, now I got to maintenance it all.

Hillary Clinton. I love her. She's my buddy. She made the statement a while back and I thought it was hilarious. Everybody just went over the head. She said, "You know what?" They were talking about, you know, all of her finances and everything. And she said, actual statement. She said, "You know what? When Bill left office of the presidency, we were all, we were broke. We were down to our last two or three million dollars." How many here want to be broke just like that? Yeah, I'm with you. See, that's the world. That's the world. Two or three million dollars. And you think you're broke. Now, seriously, two or three million dollars and you think you're almost broke. What it must take for you to think you're rich.

The Bible is filled with stories of people that illustrate this. Great principles and great truth. I can list a whole bunch of them. But I'll tell you, since we're talking about righteousness and God's righteousness, I'll just tell you about the greatest one in the Bible. The greatest one in the Bible who had everything and was rich and left it all for you and for me was Jesus Christ. You know what's wrong with us today as Christians? All of us. You know why some of us don't serve God at all. Don't do anything for God. Yet you're on your way to heaven. I'll tell you why. You do not understand what He gave up for your salvation. Your salvation means nothing to you because you see no value on it because you don't see what He gave up for you to have it.

Oh, there was a day when He left the splendor of heaven. I told you before, 1 Corinthians 3:12, when you laid out foundation, when you get saved, you're supposed to build gold, silver,

precious stones. That's how you learn. When you learn who He is, gold, the deity of Christ, then you can't help but understand the silver redemption that was paid for you, what it cost.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Hey, He was equal with God, yet He took on the form of a servant. Hey, He was born in a stable. He had no place to come. Everybody in this room was born in a better place than the Lord Jesus Christ was, and He was the king of the universe. When He died, He didn't even have a tomb. Most of you probably have a place to be buried, or if you don't have one, you can get one. He didn't. If it wasn't for Joseph of Arimathaea who said He can have my tomb, He'd have laid in the streets. The king of the universe, the king of heaven. When He came down, the world rejected Him. He couldn't even get a hotel room to be born in. No hospital would take it. He was born in a stable. He died with no place. In fact, all His life. In Matthew 8:20, He says, "You know what? You want to follow Me? You want to come with Me? You want to be one of my disciples? Well, let me tell you, pal."

Matthew 8:20

And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

Left it all. Left all of His glory. Left all of the majesty and the throne. Left all of the royalty, and left it behind for simply you and me. Oh, do you know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that ye through His poverty might become rich.

VI. The Ransom of a Man's Life

Look at verse 8:

Proverbs 13:8

The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.

Oh, boy. Is this verse ever true in life? Job 2:4 says, Satan really says, when he's in that confrontation with God over Job, he says:

Job 2:4

And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

Well, you know that's true. That is so true. People hold life, especially rich people, because they don't want to let go of what they got. You know, you're poor and you have the Lord and you understand it and you're just, you're true riches. You understand death and dying. But, boy, a rich person, somebody who, or maybe not even rich, but has once desires all the possessions of the world, they don't want to leave this planet. This planet is all they got. I heard a man say one time that if you're an, for an unsaved man, this earth will be as close as you ever get to heaven. And for us, and for a saved person, this earth will be as close as you ever get to hell. Boy, a lot of truth in that.

You see, the idea of verse 8 there, "the ransom of a man's life are his riches." The idea is that money will get you out of all the tight spots of life. Boy, isn't that true. This is why they don't bother kidnapping you or me. We ain't worth nothing. This is why multi-millionaires have security teams and more than the president does and they guard them. Because people want to kidnap them, hold them for great ransom because the ransom of a man's life were his riches.

I remember back, well, I don't remember, but I remember reading back in the 1930s with Charles Lindbergh. Charles Lindbergh was the first man who shuttled across the Atlantic in 1927. Afterwards, he became a world famous, Lucky Lindy. He got married and he had a little baby and a little baby was just three, four, five months old and the baby got kidnapped. It was the greatest unbelievable thing in that time, about 1933, 1934, somewhere in there. Absolutely the whole world was after that guy that kidnapped. You know what he wanted? He wanted \$50,000. His name was Richard Hoffman, German immigrant. He put a note, \$50,000 is what I want. They shut up a meeting and he never showed up. But later on they found that the baby, he had died shortly after they take it, he killed the baby. He got the electric chair. But he targeted Lindbergh because of ransom money.

In World War II and the concentration camps like Auschwitz or Sobibor, Dachau, those Jews, when they were taken out of the ghettos in Poland and Warsaw and all those places and shipped across there, they had to leave their possessions behind or clothes or furniture. But all of them had tons of money, jewelry, gold. They hid that in their person or their body. When they got to those concentration camps, you know, when they were almost starved to death or going to be put into a death place here or here, what they used is they used that money to bribe the SS guards. They used those diamonds, they used those jewels to get extra food, to keep from going on this detail, to keep from going to see Dr. Mengele, who would put him in the gas chamber. That's how they survived.

In 1912, when the Titanic sank, Titanic was on a maiden voyage. There were so many rich people up there in the upper class, it was absolutely the most, it was the most prestigious thing to sail across on a maiden voyage of the Titanic. It was packed with loaded with rich people. When that ship hit an iceberg that fateful night, and it wasn't enough lifeboats for everybody, and all the men had to stay back, and they put the women and children on and some of the men got on, there were rich men who were billionaires and millionaires that were offering people on those lifeboats \$100,000 just for them to give up their seat. No takers. No takers.

I remember one time reading the story of an English queen in the 1800s, can't remember her name now, but was on her deathbed. She said, "I give my whole kingdom for just one more year to live." During the Korean War, a news reporter was going around and his Marine, first Marine division had been cut off with the Chosin Reservoir and they were getting tromped and looked like they're going to get wiped out. Our correspondent was going around and it was Christmas day. He was going around interviewing these guys trying to document where they were. They came up to this old Marine, snow everywhere, freezing to death, eating frozen C-rations with his bayonet trying to chip. The guy tried to make him kind of light and make it like it was Christmas. He says, "Hell, Marine." He says, "What would you like for Christmas this year?" He never looked up, never stopped chopping. He just simply said, "Tomorrow, I'd like to have just tomorrow just to get through today." Nobody wants to die. In the 1920s, a gangster offered a doctor \$100,000 to prolong his life just a little longer so we could continue his sinful life.

But you know, folks, there are some people you can't buy off. You realize that? There are some people, no matter how much money you got or how clever you are, how you think you can manipulate and buy this and buy that and get this and get that. There are some people in life you just can't buy off. But you know, you say, "Do you know any?" No, I don't know any, but I know one for sure. I'll tell you one you can't buy off. That's the pale horse rider, Revelation 6. Death. That's a death angel in Exodus 12. You want to buy him off? That's the grim reaper that we all talk about in the world. You won't buy him off. With all your riches, gotten by your unrighteousness, you'll never escape that man or buy him off when he comes for you.

Listen, my friend, the hoof beat of the pale horse rider called death will be at herd at the threshold of every palace, every mansion, every bar room, every mud hut, every grocery store, every hospital. It'll be found in Johnson County, Jackson County, in New York, in Cleveland, in Ohio, in Guam, in Tokyo, and all the money in the world won't buy him off. No, no, no. Not at that day. The only ransom will be the ransom for your soul for all of eternity. You'll either take the ransom that Jesus Christ paid for you on the cross of Calvary, 1 Timothy 2:6 says that he gave his life as a ransom for all, or you'll pay it with your own soul.

1 Timothy 2:6

Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Hey, listen. "The ransom of a man's life are his riches." You know, JFK, the Kennedy family, was one of the most interesting families, really a dynasty to study. I mean, it's absolutely intriguing. The whole Kennedy dynasty was built by the father Joe, who during the war was the American ambassador to England, but in the thirties he was a bootlegger, heavily into politics, and every corruptible thing to make money, he was into it, and he actually built a dynasty in the twenties and the thirties and amassed great riches. All his life he had bought his way in and out of anything that he needed. Most people don't know this, but anybody in political science world understands it. When his son JFK ran for president in the sixties, he literally bought the election for him by all the power wheels that he paid off in his Chicago political machinery. He amassed a great fortune to keep his kids out of trouble.

When Ted Kennedy was out there, fooling around with some secretary and Chappaquiddick, drove her back to his place and it got both were drunk and drove off the cliff or into the end of the bay and she drowned and he swam away and he went back to his house, slept all night, never reported because the rumors were she was pregnant with his baby and he never reported it and it was a next day before they even told anybody and they went back and she was dead and she found it. He never faced one prosecution for that in any way at all. You know why? They bought everybody off everywhere. Why John F Kennedy was one of the biggest clowns you ever saw in your life and you never heard about a thing. You know why? Because his daddy owned all the newspapers. Their kids were always above the law, but you know what? When old Joe Jr. was killed in World War II, when JFK took one in the head in Dallas, when Bobby got it in the head in a restaurant, hotel in LA, and when Teddy was dying of terminal cancer, that old alcoholic fornicate can reprobate stepping out to meet the God of eternity. Not one penny of their fortune called off the pale horse rider, Revelation chapter 6.

The Bible says it's appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment and he'll not buy off that appointment. Rudyard Kipling, a short story writer in the early 20th century, told a group of students one time, he says, "You know, men will spend a lifetime with all their money buying other men. Someday you'll meet a man that you can't buy and then you'll know how poor you really are." Incredible statement. What a great truth in life. Some people you cannot be bought at any price and a death angel is one of them.

VII. The Poor Hear Not Rebuke

Now look at the last part of verse 8: "But the poor heareth not rebuke." Now within our context the poor here will be the guy who thinks he's rich but really poor. He has a lot of money, a lot of possessions, but in truth he's very poor. He doesn't have the true riches and yet the verse is so true.

Hey, if you'd have been in an Auschwitz concentration camp when those Jews were starving to death and being sent to the gas chamber, when their little kids were being eaten alive by guard dogs and the Germans SS troops were standing in line and shooting them in the head, betting on how many heads the nine millimeter would go through to win the money. If you'd have tried to tell them that they're in the predicament they're in because of the decision they made back at the crucifixion when they set out let his blood be upon us and our people, they wouldn't have heard you. You know why? Poor doesn't hear rebuke. They don't hear it.

Listen, on that Titanic when a guy's trying to buy a boat seat running back and forth saying, "I'll give you \$50,000 for your seat," no way. "I'll give you \$100,000 for your seat," absolutely no way. When he was out there on a deck, hey not 20 yards down a deck was old John Harper. And old John Harper was a Bible believing preacher that went down with the Titanic preaching about the true riches and that rich guy could hear every word he said but the poor hear not rebuke. Hey, and when they found him in the ocean those bodies, the rich millionaires, oh they found him in silk suits, silk gowns, one man they found with a hundred thousand dollars stuffed in his pockets. They found him with their best diamonds, their best necklaces, they found him with all the possessions of this world but you know what? It didn't call off the pale horse rider.

On YouTube, you want some fun, Tom-Time? Google on YouTube, strange deaths. You can see the body, you can see the survivor bodies of the Lusitania, the Titanic all stacked out there, I mean it's incredible. I was blown away. This guy who was a motorcycle guy on a Harley Davidson died and he loved his motorcycle so much and loved riding so much that I ain't kidding you. The whole YouTube shows him when he's inbound in his riding suit, straddling his Harley in a funeral home, holding onto the handlebars and like he's riding and all of his friends around. He's not one of those biker guys from the Hell's Angels, he's just a guy obsessed with his motorcycles and loved to ride and he's sitting there with his goggles on with his hands on and when they buried him, they put him in a back of a trailer and they drove him around town for one last ride and when they buried him, they buried him on his Harley in his riding gear down in the big old hole and buried him. Now I want to tell you something, people get some weird ideas. Riches and possessions will blind you from seeing the truth.

Over there in Matthew 20:16-20 it talks a story about the rich young ruler and he comes to Jesus, classic statement, he says, "Master what good thing shall I do to inherit eternal life?" See, always got to be something you do. So Jesus plays along with him and he says, "Hey you know what? Keep the law." And he says, "I've done that all my life." "Good, good boy, good job." And then he says, "You lack one thing." "What's that?" He says, "Take all you have and sell it and give to the poor and then come and follow me." And the Bible says that young man went away sorrowfully. You know why? Because they had great possessions. Some of you will hear the gospel message this morning and you know in your heart you need to trust Jesus Christ as your own personal savior and you know you're on your way to hell and if you don't do something quick, you're going to be just like that guy except you're not going to have a Harley Davidson between your leg, you're just going to be in a flat casket.

Old George Whitfield one time, old George Whitfield was a great preacher. He's called the Prince of Preachers. He started the great awakening in the 1700s and he preached up there in Boston and all those areas. One time he stayed with a couple while he was preaching and they were a rich family, a rich couple, a nice couple, good, clean, moral people, but they weren't saved. They came every night to hear him preach, you know, neither one of them got saved. So he stayed there. He thanked them when he left and went on his way and the wife went up the room where he stayed and it was a cold winter day and the windows were frosted. Old George Whitfield had taken his thumb and wrote in the frost of that window, "Yet that would lack us one thing." With all the preaching that week and all that they had heard when that woman come up and saw that on the deal, she fell on her knees. The man came up thinking something was wrong. He saw, both of them trusted Christ, their own personal savior. You can have all your righteousness, you can have all your things, you can have everything in your life. And your life may be good or your life may be a tragedy this morning, but I'll tell you something, yet that'll lack us one thing. You'll lack one thing.

That true is so true in our own lives. It's true of churches and pastors. The modern 2020 first church, we mega church, the church of Laodicea, they actually think that the bigger and the better they are, the more possessions, the things that the more spiritual they are. They would never take advice from you or from me, because to them, bigger is sure sign of God's blessing.

They'd say, "Well, you know, you're just jealous of what we have and you don't have." No, not at all. Hey, listen, I wouldn't trade what I got with that book for what you don't have without it for all the gold in the world. Your big buildings, your huge crowds are nothing at the judgment seat of Christ. And anytime you want to make that comparison one on one, just let me know, little man, you want to feel froggy, you can leap this way and we'll sit down and open up the book and find out who got what from where. It's just that simple. You've got your great possessions. I got a great book. You've got your unrighteous mammon. I got the true riches. Just that simple.

Did you ever notice how the world always wants to go along with the Bible, even when they don't believe the Bible? I told you a couple of weeks ago about in Chicago, the Doomsday Clock. How that the unsaved world knows that some impending disaster is going to hit this earth. They've got a Doomsday Clock that was started back in the 40s. On that Doomsday Clock in Chicago, unsaved people are telling the world that the world, if the world is over at 12 midnight, we're three minutes to 12. They know something's going to happen. Don't know what it is. I do. So in 1947, when the first UFO shows up, there have been 10 million UFO movies all coming down through there, all getting you ready for what's coming. And they have no clue. I do.

Ever see how in the last five years or so, the zombie movies have really taken over? I'm not complaining. You got the Walking Dead. You got the Day of the Dead. You got the Dawn of the Dead. You got the Dead Between the Day and the Dawn, Somewhere in Twilight Dead. You got the Night of the Living Dead. Somebody is laying out the tribulation period and not even knowing what's going on, of what's coming down the line. Did you ever notice this? I'm telling you, I know one thing about life on planet earth that you may not know or understand or grasp, and that is that everything in this world has to run by that book. So it doesn't get very obvious that the devil smooths it all over and counterfeits it, that common folk just see it and think it's part of life. When reality, it's part of the book.

The last three or four years, you ever notice how reality TV shows have now come on? When I grew up, there was no reality TV. You got Leave it to Beaver, the Osmond family, not the one you're thinking of, Ozzy and Harriet. You had the, you know, Father Knows Best. You had the Lone Ranger. There was no fornicating and kissing. The only thing the Lone Ranger ever kissed was his horse. But it's all changed now. In the last three or four years, it's all shifted to now reality TV. Reality TV being no script, so to speak, no made up stuff. Take a family, Duck Dynasty, take this group over here, take this, go in and film their real life scenarios and people will just love it. I mean, people just think that's the greatest thing in the world now that you can actually see a reality TV that's supposed to be really about the reality of life. I'm telling you something, the world does it because the Bible is teaching very clearly that the greatest reality TV show that's ever going to hit this planet for the child of God is going to be the Judgment Seat of Christ. If you're here this morning on the stage, it's going to be the Great White Throne Judgment. Those are two realities that the whole world sees coming, don't know what to do with it, so puts it in some kind of folksy form that everybody loves it, but everybody doesn't see the real reality.

Oh, that Bible so true. That Bible so true. It is absolutely so true that:

Proverbs 13:6-8

Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: and there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.

Every head bowed and every eye closed. Now let me ask you a question.