

Proverbs 13:13

Sunday 11/15/2015

The book of Proverbs is a great book to learn from. It absolutely is. It has two powerful aspects to it: Proverbs, the book of God's instructions to a wise man, and then Proverbs, the book of destruction for a foolish man. One book has instruction, the other has destruction.

I want to read Proverbs 13:13. Here is what it says:

Proverbs 13:13

Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

Let us pray. Father, we thank and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. We ask You now, Father, to take the Word of God today and open up our hearts and give us, Father, the things that we really need to see and understand. We love You so much. Thank You for those that are here today. We pray Your Word goes forth and changes our hearts and changes our minds and all that we do. We thank You for the people that got saved last week, even now while we were away and doing God's work in New York. We thank You for the men and the women that held the line here and did the job, and Lord, Your blessings continue. We just thank You for that. We ask Your time blessings on it today. We will carefully give You the honor and the glory and the praise in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

I. The Profound Truth of Proverbs 13:13

The verse says, "Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded." Every verse in the Bible has a very important impact in a lot of different ways. But every once in a while, you will find a verse that just has so much to it and has such a far-reaching effect that it is, in some cases, quite hard to comprehend at all. That is certainly one of the verses we found here today. This is one of the most profound verses in all of the Bible that shows us the importance of understanding what the Bible really is to us.

I appreciated what Danny said this morning about the singing, because everything in our Christian lives, when it just goes on and on and on, it falls into that rut of routine. You lose the significance of it and you lose the importance of it. Most people, when they go to churches, never look at the song service as really preparing their hearts and their chance to give back to God all that He has done for them. They do not see it. The reason why they do not is because things in our Christian life become routine. That is why there always has to be a challenge. That is why the Bible has preachers that preach the Word of God, that challenge our hearts and give us what we need to have to keep the routine in our lives at a minimum.

It is hard to believe that that even applies to the Bible. We come to the place in our Christian lives where we are around the Bible so much, we hear so much about the Bible, that it is easy to get into a routine when it just comes to how you view the Word of God. It is verses like this that I think are some of the most impacting verses that you are ever going to find in the Word of God.

It shows us, as I said, the importance of understanding what the Bible is to us as God's infallible Word.

II. The Bible's Significance to God and Its Divine Order

More important, I think this verse, when you really investigate it as we are going to do today, and there will be few stones left unturned by the time that we are done today, I think even more important, you see what that book really means to God. We think about the Bible and what it means to us. Most times we do not really think about what the Bible means to God. We think that when God wrote it, He just gave it to us and then that is the farthest it went. Of course, that is not the case.

When you start to look at this from the very placement of the verse, you know my position on the Bible: I believe that the Bible is the absolute infallible Word of God. I believe that every verse in it was put there by God the way He wanted it to be there. I believe the order of the chapters are absolutely vital, put there by God. I believe the order of the books of the Bible. People talk about amillennialism or postmillennialism or premillennialism. If I did not know all the inside stuff in the Bible to know that the premillennial return of Christ was right, I could just simply go to the order of the books of the Bible from Second Chronicles to Proverbs, and see the premillennial return of Christ. God put the order of the books in the Bible. He put the order of the verses in the Bible.

III. The Number 13 and Its Biblical Significance

So when I look at this and I see that it is in chapter 13, verse 13, you might know that this is not going to be a good verse for some people. I do not know if you know it or not, but number 13 in the Bible is the number of Satan. Most people do not have much understanding of Bible numerology today. It has been downplayed by preachers and people who want to take your interest out of the Word of God and have your interest focused on them. But there are certain numbers in the Bible, and I understand that you can prove anything with numbers and you have to be careful with that. But let us face it, there are certain numbers that are absolutely undeniable when it comes to what they represent in the Bible.

It is no accident, because the world always gets its fundamental truth from the Bible, but does not really know why. It is no accident that from time and eternity, from the time you grew up, 13 was an unlucky number. There is no accident that seven has always been considered a lucky number.

When it comes to your Bible, one of the first types of the antichrist in your Bible is a guy by the name of Nimrod. When you study his genealogy or his lineage, he is the 13th man from Adam. We know about Judas Iscariot. Judas Iscariot was the man who betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ. When you do a little more investigative study, you will find out that he is the antichrist because there are only two men in the Bible that are called the son of perdition. One is the antichrist in Revelation, and the other one is Judas. Judas Iscariot has 13 letters in his name.

Check out sometime John chapter 13. It is where Jesus talks about the fact that He is going to be betrayed by Judas. Check out sometime Deuteronomy 13, which talks about witchcraft, sorcery, people going to seances and trying to contact their dead relatives or somebody, and it shows you how that is witchcraft and has nothing to do with God.

In Deuteronomy chapter 13, we know from Isaiah 28 and Isaiah 14 that when the devil left heaven and was kicked out of heaven, the Bible says in Revelation chapter 12, he took one third of the angels with him. That would be a 13. Revelation 18:5, the title of the great whore of Babylon, "Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth," has 13 words. If you count up the letters, there are 65, which is five times 13. Nimrod means the son of rebellion.

So in 1776, nobody has to tell me where America is headed. Nobody has to point out for me and make it clear. The Bible makes it very clear. Nimrod means son of rebellion. So in 1776, when America rebelled against England, she did it with 13 colonies, a flag with 13 stars and 13 stripes, and a motto with a serpent from Genesis chapter 3 that said, "Don't Tread on Me," which has 13 letters.

Now the verse says, "Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded." What is going to follow in our study today will be an incredible inside view of what is happening today in Christianity. I think that this verse is one of the most profound verses when it is fully developed and put into its proper context throughout the scripture that you are ever going to get into.

IV. Despising the Word: Unsaved vs. Saved

This verse is about two kinds of people, obviously. One despises the Word of God and gets destroyed; the other one fears the commandment of God and gets his reward. Let me say, the central key aspect of God will always be, and this is really lost today, the central key aspect of God will always be His Word. I do not know how a person could miss that.

When it comes to the Word of God, you have to either take it God's way, never your way. I do not know why people cannot see that. Just like God, you cannot love God and have God in your life on your own terms. Do you understand that? If you are going to have any real biblical relationship with God, it cannot be on your terms the way you want it. Just like the Bible, you have to learn the Bible and love the Bible on God's terms.

I meet people all the time that say they love God. I am not sitting here denying the fact that maybe they do not, but what I am going to tell you is many of them love God on their own terms. That is different than loving God on the Bible's terms. There are many people who talk about, "Oh, they love the Bible," but it is different than loving the Bible on your terms the way you want it, than loving that book on God's terms the way He demands it has to be loved.

As we look at the first part of this verse about despising the Word of God, I want to show you two aspects to it. The first aspect obviously will be an unsaved man. An unsaved man does not have any light from God in his life. He only gets enough light to see that he needs salvation, and

many times he rejects that. His destruction will come because of his life; all through his life, he continually violates the principles of God, and in time it will stack up against him and destroy him.

We see it in people who are caught up in alcoholism. They go through their whole life and become an alcoholic, can never break free from it, and in time, because of a continuance of violating the principles of the clear Word of God, because you have no light, because you refuse the light, it destroys you. You see it with drug addiction. You see it in the world in general, in all the strongholds that those things bring into our life, and it all comes down because a man, an unsaved man, has a complete rejection of the Word of God as the Word of God and what it can do for him in his life, God's way and not his.

As tragic as that is, it is totally understandable to me anyhow for an unsaved man or a woman who despises the Word of God. Let me be clear about something, lest you get confused on this issue, because when I am done today, I want you to completely understand the full impact of this verse. When I talk about despising the Word of God, I am not talking about a man or a woman who rages a lifelong campaign against the Bible. I am not talking like somebody like Madalyn Murray O'Hair. Most of you do not even remember who she was. She was the single most important atheist in the 60s and the 70s and the 80s. She single-handedly waged a campaign against the Bible anywhere, and her whole life she despised the Word of God, she made fun of the Word of God, she ridiculed the Word of God, and she did everything in her power to make everybody believe that the Word of God and believing in God, and the very concept of God, was one of the foolish things that you could ever do in your life. She was murdered, by the way, in 1995. Her atheist son and their atheist granddaughter were kidnapped and abducted, taken to a secluded place and held, and then they made them, forced them to make phone calls to get money out of the bank at a drop spot that was picked up, and of course, they never found them again until later on when they found them all buried. She had been severely tortured. They had cut her toes off one at a time. Tortured her in the most unbelievable way, killed her, and then dismembered her and buried her. Sometimes God will just put a person like that in a situation to think about what you have done against His Word all your life. Now you think for a moment that she did not go through that agony, whether she recanted or whatever, I have no clue today, but I am sure of this: I am sure that while she was going through that tremendous ordeal, the Holy Spirit of God was tapping her on the shoulder and just asking her if she thinks now that she is as big as she thought she was when she was making fun of God.

I am not talking about the American Atheist Society. No, we think that that is what we have to do to qualify as a person who despises the Word of God. I am here to tell you this morning, and you better listen very carefully, what I am about to say has nothing to do with that. Not at all. In God's mind, when you simply reject the Word of God in your life as the final authority, you have despised it as far as God is concerned. He said in Matthew 12:30, "He that is not with me is against me." There is no middle ground with God. We love that middle ground. We love to pretend we are not really right with God, but we are not really out of fellowship with God. We like to play that middle ground. Yet the truth of the matter is that middle ground does not exist when it comes to your having a relationship with God. If you do not recognize the Bible as it is

for what it is, and you do not take it into your life and believe it, then as far as God is concerned, you have despised it and you have rejected it.

So I get it as it applies to an unsaved man. I really do. But it is really hard to imagine in our second aspect how that applies to a saved man or a woman. This is where we begin to get into some problems. Philosophical problems. Fickle problems. People who think with their head instead of their heart in the Word of God. It is hard to imagine how a saved man or a woman that is truly born again, maybe he is a pastor, maybe he is a Sunday school teacher, maybe he is a deacon—I have seen all of those categories—maybe he is a Christian that is in a church and they teach salvation. How could they ever, ever fall into a category of despising the Word of God? Yet over the years I have seen it. Today it is all around in Christianity.

The concept is so foreign to me: how a guy can say, "I love God," but he says, "I reject the true Word of God." Now that is an oxymoron. Because when you really understand the Bible from a Bible position, God and the Bible are the same. You do not have God over here and a Bible over here that is separate from God. The Bible says that the Word was made manifest and dwelt among us. It says in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." It blows my mind; it shows you where people are at in their understanding today. How a guy, a pastor, can say, "I love God," but at the same time when it comes down to this book, he will reject it and think that the two do not matter. Well, Proverbs 13:13 tells me that they do matter.

Yet in their churches today, I would say probably 99% of them, if you walk into their services, they are singing songs this morning, they have prayer lists and praying this morning, they have sermons on salvation, they have sermons on God, all the basic things. Ah, but here is the difference, and maybe you have never done this and maybe you are not into this enough to really understand it, but just sit down and talk to them about the real Word of God. Just sit down and talk to them about the fact that God wrote an absolute standard that is the absolute perfect Word of God against all the other translations in the world, that is absolutely perfect, absolutely inspired of God without any proven error. Try it sometime. And brother, when you do, the fangs of rejection will come out like a werewolf on a full moon night. You will see that in the midst of praising God, loving God, having church, when it comes down to this book, they despise it.

It is not going to be an easy sermon this morning. That is okay, I am not in an easy mindset this morning. I have seen it all my life, I have talked to them, I have read their books, I have heard their sermons, I have read their newsletters. Maybe you do not get out much, but underneath that syrupy, plastic, phony smile will be a hatred for the true Word of God. When it comes, and you listen to me now, when it comes to God, you cannot get to God by coming your way on your terms. You have to come His way or no way at all. When it comes to His Word, which is Him (John 1:1), you cannot get it based on your idea and your way of thinking.

There is only one God. Many fakes. The Witnesses have a fake, the Roman Catholics have a fake, the Mormons have a fake, Charismatics have a fake, Seventh-day Adventists have a fake, hundreds of them. But there is only one true God. He is the God of the Bible, and if you are going to find a true God, you have got to get Him on His terms. You cannot redefine and

reinterpret and change. You cannot add to something to get the God that you want to believe in. Lots of fakes. Only one God, and I am going to tell you this: only one Word of God. And there are lots of fakes. The RSV, the ASV, the NIV, the American Bible, New King James, hundreds of them. Just like you cannot come to God and find God on your terms, you cannot come to this Bible and take what you like and leave what you do not like. But you will wind up despising it.

V. God's Priority: Truth Over Salvation

Now there are some things that I want you to see and understand today. The devil has pulled off one of the greatest tricks the world has ever seen: getting people to think that salvation and souls was God's number one priority. That is the thought and the teaching and the mindset of churches today. We talked about the guy that got saved after Bob preached and the lady that got saved after Lauren preached, and we win people to Christ, and our whole ministry is to bring people to a saving knowledge of Christ. That is what we do. But I am not under any delusion that that is the number one heartbeat of God. The number one heartbeat of God, my dear friend, is truth. Without the truth, the rest of it does not matter. That is, Jehovah Witnesses are right, the Mormons are right, the Seventh-day Adventists are right, the Charismatics are right, everybody is right. You are okay and I am okay.

Most people have no clue that in the Bible, it clearly shows you that there is a counterfeit for everything that God does. So in your Bible, you have two Christs. Do you know that? Do you know that you have two Christs in your Bible? Somebody says, "Well, I believed in Christ." My next question is, "Which one?" There are two. The Bible talks about over there in the book of Revelation 11:15 and in Luke 2:26, it talks about the Lord's Christ, and it talks about in Revelation 12, his Christ. You see, the word Christ is the word we have for the word anointed. If you know anything about your Bible, you know there was a time when the devil was the anointed cherub. He is anointed, Christ is anointed, you have two Christs. That is what the Bible says, just know that Satan transforms himself into an angel of light. He becomes a false Christ because he is Christ. Come on, we have Christ and then we have the man of sin who is called the what? The antichrist, there are two.

Genesis 3:15, you do not go three chapters in Genesis but you find out that the devil has a seed and Christ has a seed. You find there are two seeds, there are two lines, there are two Christs. Why are people so gullible today? 1 Peter 1:23 says, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God." Then there is a corruptible Bible and there is an incorruptible Bible. There is a corruptible Christ, there is an incorruptible Christ. The corruptible Christ will have a corruptible church, he will have a corruptible Bible, he will have a corruptible spirit, he will have everything that is against the true Christ. Your job and my job is simply this: figure out which one is which. I do not know why that is so hard.

Yet if you sat down with the average pastor of the average church, hey, if you do not go to this church, just try it this week sometime. You have two Christs in the Bible, you have two spirits in the Bible, you have two lines of churches in the Bible, you have two lines of Bibles in the Bible. The right book, you get the right rewards. Proverbs 13:13. Despise that book, you get destroyed.

Now that is one of the hardest concepts to wrap your head around right there. It really is. I totally understand and get it, many of God's people that find themselves in this mess are good people, and they just cannot get how a preacher, saved man or woman, deacon, Sunday school teacher can talk about God, love God, try to win people to Christ, but when it comes down to that book, despise it. If you do not understand that, you do not get out much.

There is a reason for this. I hear it all the time. I hear people all the time say, "Well, I just cannot get into that, Bob, because these are really good people. They love God, they serve Him all their lives. Some of them are in missions, they are in ministry. They are doing all the right things." Now here is what I teach. Just let me get this out of the way. Based on Proverbs 13:13. And then I am going to take you where I am going. If you disagree with me now, you can come and apologize after I finish the sermon. I am old school. I believe that God only wrote one Bible. I believe that every other Bible out there other than a King James 1611 Authorized Version, here it comes, is the devil's Bible. Now just hang with me.

To me, it has never been about all the issues that people make it. They want to talk about this and this manuscript and that and all that, I get it. I do not even go there. I just simply know where one Bible came from and where the other Bibles come from. One of them is God's church, the other one is the devil's church. For me, it is real simple. Either you have God's Bible or you have the devil's Bible. If that is too much for you, anybody got any Tylenol at all? Any Tylenol at all? Just raise your hand. Try to help you with the headache I am about to give you.

Now here is what I teach, and I believe this with all of my heart, based on Proverbs 13:13: No book, absolutely no rewards at the judgment seat of Christ. For anything you do, you say, "How can you say that?" "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Now I am not done yet. I have some questions for you. I understand that some people just cannot get there. I totally get it. But God's people are so fickle when they come to this Bible.

Now let me ask you a question. Is being a good person and doing good things, is it really enough to get you to heaven? Of course it is not. Nobody here in their right mind would even think that. It takes the Bible, 1 Peter 1:23, the uncorruptible seed, the Word of God. But let me ask you another question. But after salvation, will just doing things and being a good guy automatically get you rewards at the judgment seat of Christ? No, it will not. Not at all. In both cases, it only works if your attitude about God's Word is His attitude on the right track.

I am not a very complicated person. I cannot be with my lifestyle. I just have to break things down. I am not very intelligent. I am not very smart. I do not have a lot of understanding of things in life. You guys all have iPhones. I have a flip phone. If I had an iPhone, I would never figure it out. It is always that thing where, it is just like I said the other day, every time you get one and it works for a while, then you have got to get another upgrade on it and then it frustrates you. It does not work. Something happens on it. I would never figure them out. Texting, I hate texting. Do not ever text me unless it is less than one word. People text me all the time, "Bob, I am studying here in Jeremiah 28:26. I have a question here." Like, I am going to take now, it would take me the next three days to answer you. I see some of you with your thumbs. Speed, all right, man. I am there. Ah, crap. Why is it doing that? I do not do it. If you have got a question,

call me. I can do in 20 seconds on the phone what it would take me six days to do in one text. Texting is of the devil. If he wants to destroy your soul in hell, he will send you a text.

For me, it has always been real simple. Let us get down to it, shall we? Let us separate the men from the boys today, shall we? Can you get to heaven by following the devil? Of course not. Can you get God's blessing in your life by ministering and using the devil's Bible? Simple question. Can you get to heaven by following the devil? No. Next question, will you get reward at the judgment seat of Christ? Will God bless you through your ministry, through the devil's Bible? It is just not simple.

Maybe you do not understand what the devil's Bible concept is. I do not know what to tell you. You have been hanging out with the wrong crowd too long. But remember, God has His Bible out of Antioch, and the devil has his out of Rome. In either case, it does not matter what a really good person you are, saved or lost. What matters is the truth that you have. God will bless you and reward you. Read the verse on the truth. When you do not have the truth, as far as God is concerned, you despise the truth. Hey, you can be the greatest Christian in the world and love God or claim to love God all of your life. Will that make God bless you through the devil's Bible? I am going to ask you another question. If it is not the devil's Bible, it is not God's, who is it? Because God only wrote one. If you do not understand that concept by now, as I said earlier, you have been hanging out with the wrong crowd too much.

We get this idea that, "Oh, the devil, boy, I cannot follow him, I am going to church." But I will follow him by ministering through his Bible. If you do not have a problem with that, you better look a little deeper. You do not get to God your way, you get there His way. You do not get the rewards out of the Bible your way either. You have got to get to God's way.

Now, these are the cold hard facts. God either has one Bible that is absolute truth and the rest of them are counterfeit, or God has written 400 versions of His Word, none of them matching, changed in 60,000 places from one to the other. God is not the author of confusion, except when it comes to Bible translations.

Back in the dark ages, the Roman Catholic Church would kill anybody, anytime, anywhere who had a King James 1611 Authorized Version and refused to recant this Bible, leave their Bible-believing church, and join the Roman Catholic system. The devil's church with the devil's Bible. Today, 20th, 21st century, the devil is much more sophisticated in his attack. Today, he is willing to leave you stay in your Baptist church, or your Bible church, or whatever church you are in. He is willing to let you stay in that church as long as you now use his Bible. It is just that simple. The question is, will God bless a man's ministry through the devil's Bible? That is the only question. That is the only question that you have got to answer. Will He? Will He?

I mean, maybe I read it wrong. God divided the light from the darkness in Genesis 1:4, and He separated them. Now, you are trying to tell me that God and the devil have gotten back together on the same boat? You are sure you are not a Mormon? They believe that someday in the future, God and the devil are going to patch it all up and be buddies. I mean, God divided in Genesis 1:4, light from the darkness. You have two lines coming down through history. One light, one darkness. One church in light, one church in darkness. One Bible in light, one Bible in darkness.

And now you are telling me that God and the devil got together and put out a Bible together? You are not a Mormon, you are a moron.

I will tell you this. You talk about the judgment seat of Christ. Imagine a true born again Christian defending the position that the devil's Bible, the NIV, the ASV, the RSV, New King James Bible, is better than the book that God wrote and still getting reward at the judgment seat of Christ. You know what that Bible says? "You despise the word, you are going to get destroyed. You fear the commandments, you get your reward." That idea never came from God. That idea came from scholarship. It came from Greek and Hebrew professors. It came from, it did not come from the true biblical line.

I have met over the years hundreds of preachers and Christians and good godly men who claim to love God, who absolutely hated and despised the idea that the King James Bible was God's perfect inspired Word. They put out websites, newsletters, write all kinds of books, Bible colleges, classes. They tear down the King James Bible. Greek and Hebrew professors and pastors stand in the pulpit every Sunday morning and open up a scripture and start to preach and then right in the middle they say, "Now in the Greek that word does not mean what it says here. In the Greek that word means this." Translation: God did not know what He was saying when He wrote that Bible, but I will help Him out.

You go to Peter S. Ruckman on the internet, he has got his issues, I understand it, I get it. But if you went through what he went through in life defending the Bible, you would look like a three-headed monster too. You go on the internet, 100 pages, probably 200 by now. "I hate him, I hate him, I hate him, I hate him." "He is this, he is that, he is a kook, he is that," all of these things. Let me translate that for you. "I do not hate Ruckman, I just hate the Bible that he puts out."

A guy said one time, "You know what? You guys who believe the King James Bible is the absolute Word of God, that issue, that issue is dividing more churches and Christianity than any other issue." Well, you stupid fool. I think that is a good thing to divide for God's people, the devil's Bible from God's Bible. If I get up here and preach on homosexuality, or drug abuse, or alcoholism, or the sins of the world, you would love me. But start preaching about God's Bible versus the devil's Bible when you despise God's Bible and you love the devil's Bible. See where the problem comes in? It is so simple.

An unsaved man takes the light of God as far as he can and then salvation comes in. "Nah, I do not want it," he rejects it. A saved man, he will take the light of God, he will get saved. But as he grows and somebody starts to show him that this Bible has all the mistakes in it, and this Bible this, and this Bible that, and "a better reading should be," he rejects the light he gets, goes his way. So simple. He winds up despising the very Word of God. He winds up starting to defend the devil's Bible.

VI. Saul: The Modern Pastor Who Despises God's Word

Now, there are two great examples of this in your Bible. Two men who represent exactly what Proverbs 13:13 says. One loves the Word of God, one despises the Word of God. One cherishes it as his greatest possession. The other one uses it whenever he wants to and changes it at will to do

whatever he wants to do. Both of them are types of New Testament Christians. In your Bible, if you have not guessed it already, it will be David and Saul.

In the Old Testament, God's form of government, we know this, was a theocracy. A king on the throne of Israel to represent God. The prophets, they would come to the king with the Word of God, and that is why when you get into your Old Testament, every time a prophet says something to somebody that God told him to say, he always prefaces it by saying, "Thus saith the Lord." You find a prophet that says something that before he says it does not preface it with "Thus saith the Lord," he is a lying prophet. That prophet knew that what he had to say had to come right from God, unaltered. He did not have a right to change it. I understand as a pastor that what I have here came right from God, and I do not have a right to alter it or change it. So when I come up here, anytime, when I come up here today, do not get mad at me, do not get upset with me. Look at me as an Old Testament prophet, I am just simply saying, "Thus saith the Lord." You show me one thing that I am preaching today that is not in that Bible and correct, I will publicly make the apology for it. You will not find it, because all I am doing is giving you what the Bible says.

You know the story of Saul and David. The people want a king. God wants to give them a king that is like Him. Oh no, they do not want a king after God's own heart. They want to be like all the other nations. Boy, have I seen this in pulpit committees when they are trying to find a pastor. In the 45 years that I have been connected with people that were looking for pastors, when they have their little meeting when the deacons come in and they bring a candidate in, not one time, you know what they ask him? "Where did you go to school? How many degrees do you have? How successful were you in your last church?" Not one time have they ever asked, "What do you believe about the Bible? How many souls have you won to Christ?" None of those things matter to them, you know why? Because they do not want the man after God's own heart, they want a pastor like all the other nations' churches. They wind up getting Saul, 1 Samuel 8 and 9.

I want to tell you something, I want to give you two warnings in your Bible. If you do not have these marked in your Bible, you are going to have them down. Maybe after today, after today you have been oblivious to them. But I will tell you the two of the most somber warnings anywhere in the Bible. Revelation 3:11 says, "You better take care that no man takes your crown." And Revelation 16:15 says, "You better be careful that you keep your garments." Both of those references are to the judgment seat of Christ. There is somebody out there who can take your crowns from you and make you lose your garments.

Saul represents in every way the 20th, 21st century pastor, Christian, deacon, who abhors and despises the true Word of God, yet claims to love God. He is so spiritual, he is just not biblical or scriptural. He is a professional Christian. I want to show you a contrast between two men, Saul and David, based on Proverbs 13:13. For they represent exactly what I am talking about and what you see all around you today.

First thing we are going to do is look at Saul. I want to show you very quickly eight ministry characteristics of Saul and how they fit right into the pastor Sauls of today. Then contrast them with David.

1. He takes the Bible from the people.

1 Samuel 13:9 says, "there was no smiths found in Israel." What he does is he makes an allegiance with the Philistines, who are God's enemies. He makes an allegiance and he makes everybody in Israel give up their sword. He says, "Turn your sword in and we are going to look to the Philistines to make our weapons." It does not take much of a brain to figure out that Hebrews 4:12 says that the sword is the Word of God. The first thing that he did is he took the Word of God right out of the people's hands. He lined him up with a Philistine concept of the Word of God. A worldly concept that was God's enemy who despised God, despised His Word, and now the people of God are getting their truth from the Philistines.

2. He takes all the credit for what the people do but he himself will do nothing.

1 Samuel 13:3. Jonathan defeats the Philistines in a great battle. Saul gets a trumpet, blows the trumpet and proclaims, "I, Saul, have smitten the garrison of..." He was not even there. He was not even around. These guys will never get their hands dirty. They will send you out but they will never lead you out. Rule number two of pastoring, we will get to rule number one in a minute. Rule number two of pastoring: do not send your people into battle. You lead your people into battle. Down at Fort Benning, Georgia, they have an officer school that during World War II, they trained officers to be officers over enlisted men. The motto of their school was, "Follow me."

3. He puts the people under a stupid oath that weakens them.

1 Samuel 14:24, 14:39. The people are getting ready to go out and fight a battle. But Saul, the spiritual giant that he is, he puts them under an oath and he says, "You cannot eat anything for a day before you go fight this battle." So the people cannot fight, they are weakened. They get defeated. They go out to battle and he puts them under a stupid oath. Totally absurd, nothing in the Bible about it, nothing from God about it. It is Saul's own mindset. "This is what God wants me to do." And they got defeated. This is what these guys do. All they do is weaken their people. They do not build them up in the things of God. This is why, honestly, before God this morning, about 85% of you, I would put you up against any pastor, any deacon, any Sunday school teacher, any Christian in this city, probably 99.999% of the Christians, without any fear that you would bury them when it came to the Bible. You know why? You have been equipped. You have gotten the truth. My job is to build you up, make you strong, develop your endurance, give you an appetite for the sting of battle. We were up in New York, Mike, we were out there walking behind you guys after about the second or third day, Mike said, "Boy, your people are something. Most groups that come up here, they were out of the first day. Your guys just keep, keep, keep on going." I did not say anything to him, but I thought to myself, "You do not know the half of it, pal."

4. He blames the people for his own failure.

1 Samuel 14:24, 14:33. He put them under an oath. He put them in a situation that they could not win in, weakened them up against a full-fledged army that was strong, had all of their might. Then when they fail in battle and they cannot win, he blames the failure on them. Now this is what they all do. When they fail to lead, when they fail to train you, when they fail to equip you, and they put you into a no-win scenario, and when you fail, then they blame it on you. Rule number one of ministry, and you have heard me say it many, many

times, so you probably can quote it for me: everything rises and falls on leadership. The failure of a church, any church, the failure of a church will be because of the failure of the pastor. It will never be the people's fault. Never be under any circumstances. Do not listen to him whine about it, and "Well, the people just do not want to get involved. The people will not give, the people will not do this." No, the people have plenty of money. The people are coming on Sunday. The problem is the failure of leadership to develop what God has given you. So when you fail, it cannot be you, Saul. It has to be the people. A pastor has total command of his church just like a father has of his family. A church will be exactly, I am telling you, put this away somewhere and just watch it. A church will be exactly what the pastor is. Just like your family will mirror what your spirituality is. If this church ever fails? If that church ever goes up in smoke? It will not be one person I will blame. You know why? It comes right back to me. If I let it happen, if you brought up sedition and tried to do something and I did not kill you, it is my fault, not yours. But I will kill you. The failure of a church will always go back to the failure of a pastor of the church. He will whine about it, he will complain about it. You will either have a pastor who is a wimpy person and he will produce a wimpy church, or you will have a pastor who has some steel in his backbone and he will produce Christians with steel in theirs. They both go the way of your leadership or in some cases, a lack of it.

5. He leaves his own son on a battlefield to die.

1 Samuel 14:15. Absolutely no loyalty to his son. Now, I will put this in an inspirational application. For us, it would be sons in the Lord, inspirationally. The Sauls of today only care about themselves. Everybody else is expendable. The soul of the Lord is expendable. When the truth is, he should be the one that is expendable. The people God gives him are not. The motto of every pastor, the motto of every church, to the best of his ability should be, "No one left behind." We pick up our wounded. We help our fallen. Listen, I have been in some rough situations, last 30 some years on the mission field, dealing with situations where sometimes I did not know if we were going to get out or not. I used to get intelligent reports from a guy at Fort Benning when I would go someplace from the old days that I kept contact with, and he was an S3 or S4 and he would get intel. God ever knows they ever found out he would be in Leavenworth, but I would say, "Hey," I talked to him on the phone in code and I would say, "Hey, I am going here, going there." He would supply me all the intel that he could give me of what was coming. We went to the Philippines one time and he said, "You better not go." He said, "Because there is an insurrection going to take place over there as far as we know and it is going to fall right into the time that you are going to be just about getting ready to come back." Well, we were committed and we went. You know what, we got out but two days later, the whole thing erupted. I have been in some tough situations. I have been in El Salvador before when the war was going on down there with people, the diminishment of people, that I had four or five kids standing on the street corner and they were waiting for the church bus to come by and pick them up across from a hospital and there were guards everywhere, armed guards with machine guns and G3s and everything else out there and some old guy came up and he was throwing rocks at the guard and saying something in Spanish. They ignored him and he kept throwing rocks and saying stuff and getting louder and louder. After a while, they got annoyed and one of them unslung his

weapon and took the safety off and shot the guy right in front of everybody. Do not you know that will get you on the bus. But I want to tell you something. If we ever get the chance, by the grace of God, I do not know that we will, but if we would ever be in some foreign country and we got into a bad situation and had to get out and for some reason you could not, for some reason you were hurt, you could not get moved, you could not whatever and we had to get out. We had to get everybody out because it was not going to look good and you could not be moved and you could not get out and you had to stay there, I want to tell you something. I would pick the strongest, strongest leader I got to get everybody out and I would stay there with you. You know what, we either get out together or we die together but no one is left behind. Either way, I would never leave you. I will not leave you on this battlefield and I will not leave you on some other battlefield. That is what leadership is.

6. His philosophy of ministry is that the end always justifies the means, whatever works.

He does not take the Word of God seriously, he changes whatever God says. Over there in 1 Samuel chapter 15, it says: 1 Samuel 15:2-3

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword, but Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fatlings and of the lambs and all that was good and were not, I will destroy them but everything that was vile, refused, they destroyed utterly. That is not what God told him to do. This is the 20th century pastor on Sunday morning with a clear mandate from the Bible and he says, "You know what, I know it says kill everything but in the Greek it does not mean that."

7. His mighty men of valor, he has to force them.

2 Samuel 14:52. The word is conscript. He has to conscript them to be his mighty men of valor. Make them follow him. Nobody stands in line to be his warriors. Compare with David in 2 Samuel 23, wow. Natural biblical leadership will build men who follow not the man but they will follow the book they see in the man. Some people just never see that.

8. He offers the evening sacrifice when he is not a priest.

1 Samuel 13:8-12. Under the law, he cannot do that. 1 Samuel 13:9-12 says: 1 Samuel 13:9-12

And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. Here is what happened. Samuel says, "I am coming, he is a priest, to make the

sacrifice, I will be there within seven days." Six days go by, seventh day comes, he has not showed up yet. It is getting close to six o'clock. Something has to happen, it has to be done. So Saul, Pastor Saul, who despises the Word of God, knows he is not a priest, knows he cannot do that. Reinterprets God's Word and does it anyhow. Just as he is doing it, Samuel shows up and he says, "What in the blankety blank did you just do?" Christian cussing, it is okay in the Old Testament. "What did you do?" You know what Saul says? "Well, he did not come, it was getting late." You have got to read it down here, a couple of verses. You know what he says? "I forced myself." No, you despise the Word of God, you hate the Word of God, and you did your own thing.

VII. David: The Man After God's Own Heart

Now let us look at David very quickly. His whole life is filled with the love of the Word of God. He is called the man after God's own heart. He has been called the sweet psalmist of Israel. He alone writes 73 of the psalms by name. Now 49 of the psalms are anonymous, and he probably wrote many of them. I am sure he wrote Psalm 119, verses 1 through 176, the longest chapter in the Bible. Everything, every verse in that chapter talks about another aspect of loving the Word of God, and it shows what our attitude should be toward that book.

David is the only man in the Bible who holds all three offices. He is a priest, he is a king, and he is a prophet. In that he is a picture of you and me, for as a New Testament Christian, you and I hold all three offices. Right now you are a priest, because you have got the infallible Word of God, you are a prophet, and someday Romans 8, when Christ comes back, you are going to be a king.

The great contrast of two men in the Old Testament, and yet we see the contrast of two types of men in the New Testament, New Testament Christianity. One loves the true Word of God and knows what he has, the other despises it and forsakes it all in his own interest. One has only one thing, the book. The other has huge buildings, Starbucks, McDonald's in their church, health clubs, praise groups, praise singers, auditorium for three or 4,000 people, but no Bible. And they really think that God's hands are on them.

I will tell you something. We all were in New York last week along the skyline. Remember seeing that big sign that said "Watchtower." It is all the skyline of New York. The Jehovah's Witnesses World Headquarters, they own a whole city block in New York. Across the building stretched that huge sign that says "Watchtower." Years and years ago when Mel first took me down to New York City, we were driving down at night. We were coming up and you could come around a corner and you could see the Watchtower sign. In his own gentle, persuasive, loving way, he just smacked me and he says, "Look at that!" And I said, "Yeah, Watchtower." And he looks over and he says, "Listen son, the devil will give you all the blessings in the world if you just deny that Jesus Christ is God." And the devil will give churches today all the blessings in the world if you just deny this book is not God's Word. You are so stupid you think it is really by the hand of God that God will bless through the devil's Bible.

Colossians chapter 2, verses 1 and 2, we gave you a little outline a couple of Thursday nights ago. How that the first chapter just talked about the lay of the Laodicean church and what he goes through and redefines who Christ is. You know what, we have lost who Christ really is today and replaced the Word of God with traditions, philosophy, the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

In the context of what we are talking about, I want you to see something here. "Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded." I want to talk about the last part of that verse for just a moment. Following the book, following the Word of God, will lead to your rewards at the judgment seat of Christ. You must see that. God gave that to you in a King James 1611 Authorized Version. We make no apology for that. We know that that Bible comes out of Antioch of Syria, where they are first called Christians in Acts chapter 11. We know that.

VIII. The Two Lines of Christianity and Their Leaders

Now watch this. Two lines of Bibles, two lines of churches, two lines of Christianity. One comes from Alexandria, Egypt and Rome, which is the type of the world in the Bible. Rome, the greatest enemy of Christianity he has ever seen. That is the devil's line. The true line comes out of Antioch of Syria, the hotbed of New Testament Christianity. Your King James Bible is off the manuscripts that come out of Antioch. Any new Bible that is out there today comes off the manuscripts out of the Roman Catholic Church. Our church today is off the true line out of Antioch. We hold to the Bible that God gave us as the only true Word of God. Today there are two lines of Christianity. One for the true line and one for the fake counterfeit line. Follow me so far? Kind of with me on it? You have been around long enough. Can I have a little help here? Do you understand what I am saying to you? All right, follow me a little bit farther.

Saul and David, watch it. Saul represents the modern 20th century pastor today who despises the book and all the Christians that go along with it. David represents the true line. You do know that when Saul finally died, he died of spiritual suicide. If you read the account, not only did he die, but everybody that followed what he taught died with him. You do well to follow David instead of Saul.

Now watch this. David, he is from the kingly line of Judah. Genesis 49:10, 2 Samuel 23:23. Genesis 49:10 says, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah." David is off the true biblical line. Saul, he was not from Judah. 1 Samuel 9:1, he is from Benjamin. That is the wrong line to be king. What line are you following today? Because there is always going to be two. You are going to be the true line from Judah that produced David or the false line from Benjamin that produced Saul. If you want to love the book and get its rewards, then you get into the right biblical line with the right Bible. You will want to lose your rewards and get into the place where you get destroyed because you are despising the line and you go with Rome and Alexandria. It is going to be Saul or David. It does not get any simpler than that.

Proverbs 13:13 is a great principle in the Word of God. In our study, two types of men. In particular, my goal was to show you two kinds of pastors because pastors lead people. Pastors

produce people. A good pastor will produce good people, strong people, equipped people who know their Bible, who can stand up to any adversity. A Saul pastor will only be thinking of himself.

Two great verses in the Bible describe these two men as pastors. To describe the pastor that you see today, I will make no further comments. You can put all the pastors that you know, wherever you are going, by yourself into one of the other categories.

- The first one is David:Jeremiah 3:15
And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.
- The second pastor is Saul:Isaiah 65:5
Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou.

It is either going to be Saul or it is going to be David. Two lines of Christ, two lines of churches, two lines of Bibles, two lines of pastors, two lines of Christianity. Proverbs 13:13 is a great, great verse showing you that one is going to get you the rewards and the other one is what you are going to lose.

Every head bowed and every eye closed. Father, I make no apologies for the book that You have given me. It has served me, Father, for over 45 years. I have failed it many times. I have let it down many times, but it has never failed me. It has never let me down. Lord, we look at this church with the men and the women and I like to brag on them. I like to talk about how I would put them up against anybody, and most of them I certainly would, with the young men and the young ladies that can preach here like last week and Thursday, and the scores of others that can do it, and the kids tonight at the mission and going out today on the street and what they know about the Bible and how most of them could handle Thursday night Bible study for me if I needed them to, they have been equipped. They have been equipped and they know their Bible. Lord, I am proud of them and I brag about them. But Lord, I am not under any delusion. It is not because of me. It is only because of a book that You gave us. This is what the true Word of God produces: men and women with steel in their backbones, men and women with a love and a thirst for the knowledge of the Word of God and a passion to put it out, who understand that their walk with God and their ministry will only be based on their internal strength of loving that book. Thank You, Father, for the Word of God. Thank You for a church and men and women who rally around it with me. But Lord, it will never be about just me. It will never be about my ministry or my preaching. It all centers around the book that You gave us, and we will hold it dear and we will hold it high till Jesus comes back. In Jesus' name we pray it and I ask it, amen.