

Proverbs 13:14-16

October 27, 2024

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want to invite you to turn to Proverbs chapter 13. That is the chapter we have been in, and I want to look at verses 14, 15, and 16 again today. I always enjoy preaching on Sunday morning and spending time in the Bible together. But Thursday night is probably—it is hard to pick which one I love the most because I enjoy them both. What I really love about it is when the questions come up, and you know how it works on Thursday night. I do not set up the questions, and I do not even think that you do. The Holy Spirit of God does within you. Many times, He will bring up questions, and it will be pointed directly where I am going to go on Sunday.

Now, most guys would look at that and say, "Wow, if I answer this tonight, then I will not have anything to preach on Sunday." First of all, I never have a problem finding something to preach on Sunday. But second of all, I think that really enhances what I have to say because I can always, and I will today, go back on it and make the point of references. Some of the points that you folks make on Thursday night really help accent the things that I want to say today. So I look at that as an absolute cohesion of the Holy Spirit of God in all that we try to do together.

Proverbs chapter 13, verse 14, 15, and 16 says this:

Proverbs 13:14-16

The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.

Now, Father, help us today as we come to Your Word. We love You. We thank You for all that You have done for us and all that You have given us, and we ask Your blessings upon it today. We give this time to You, Holy Spirit of God, that You may take it and give us what we need. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.

I. The Importance of Laws in Our Lives

I want to talk to you today, out of this passage, about the importance of laws in our lives. The Bible talks about the law of the wise. Laws will form structure. Without any laws, there is never any structure. You are going to see that, and I want to try to help you understand how this goes together. This is going to be a very practical message for us all today.

A while back, I preached on the importance of balance. A church has to have a really good balance in three areas. It has to have, in its preaching, a good balance of doctrinal stuff, a balance of historical, and a balance of inspirational. You find churches that are truly out of balance, and you find Christians that are truly out of balance. You find some churches that all they want to focus on is history. They are always going back. History is very important, but history alone will get you out of balance. You will find some that are very shallow, and all they talk about is the inspirational side of things. The inspirational side of things always gives the illusion that if you

are really in the inspiration, you are really godly and spiritual. Not according to the law found in the Bible. You have to have doctrine, and that forms the balance.

I have talked about this many, many times, but in 2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 16, the Bible says that all Scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable. The first thing that it is profitable for is doctrine. Doctrine has to be the number one foundation by which any church is built on. You can have all the historical aspect you want. You can have some of the greatest practical inspiration material you want. But if the historical and the inspirational are not grounded within the doctrinal, you do not have anything. That is from the law of 2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 16. Doctrine has to be the foundation of any church. It has to be the foundation of your life. Then you build the other things into it.

I want to talk to you today about the importance of laws forming structure in our lives. The Bible says in verse 14 that the laws of the wise are a fountain of life. We want to talk about that a little bit. Verse 15 says, "A good understanding of laws giveth favor." Obviously, in context, it will be favor with God, but it is also favor and success in life. Then verse 16 says, "A man who is prudent"—prudent means to be cautious, careful—"a man who does his dealings in life by knowledge," that would be the laws, "that he is always better off." In the context, verse 14, we find in the contrast, we find that in verse 14 that a fool will get caught in the snares of life and be destroyed because he is outside the laws.

We talk about a criminal who winds up going to prison or going to jail. We call him an outlaw. He gets caught and goes to jail for what he does because he is outside the law. For a Christian, for you and me, when we get outside these laws found in the Bible, then we can have some trouble. Verse 15 says that that trouble will be he has a very hard time in life because his transgressions are against this law. Verse 16 says, "And everybody will know it, that he is a fool because his folly will be open and displayed to everybody."

When we talk about understanding God, what a subject that is to try to tackle. There are so many aspects to God, so many levels to God, so many dimensions to God. But if you want to put God into one simple concept and to better begin to understand Him, God is a God of structure. God is a God of order. God is a God of patterns. He operates by those patterns, by that order, by those laws. He puts into play in the world and also in our Christian lives some absolute rules which the Bible says are laws. I want to talk to you about them.

When God established the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, He established it on the basis of the law. We think of the law being the Ten Commandments, but in reality, the whole first five books of the Bible are called the Books of Moses. They are considered the law. He wanted them to build the structure of the nation of Israel by a system of laws because laws give us structure. If there is any one thing that we all need in our life as Christians, it is structure. We do not ever get the structure if we do not get the laws. It is just that simple.

A man who robs banks, a man who sells dope, a man who lives his life completely outside whatever God wants you to do, is a lawless man. He does not respect the law. It winds up getting him in trouble at some point in his life. And a child of God who does not respect the law? I was watching last night a movie on TV called Public Enemy, and it is about John Dillinger. I have

always been fascinated with John Dillinger. I am fascinated with him because John Dillinger, when he was a child, went to Sunday school in a Baptist church, Southern Baptist church. He was just a little guy, and he did not have a lot of money, and he did not have a lot of nice clothes. He was dirty, and he went to Sunday school one morning, and one of the high, prideful deacons told little Johnny that he probably ought not to come back to church until he could get some decent clothes to wear. Well, little Johnny never went back to church, but little Johnny grew up to be the infamous John Dillinger. So I have always been kind of taken by that and interested in that.

I watched last night in the books that I have read about him. Here is a guy who was completely outside the law, but he rationalized what he did. He was famous for what he did. He was looked at as the Robin Hood guy. He would go into a bank and rob a bank and take \$80,000, and he would be walking out, and there would be some old farmer that had his egg money there, wanted to put in the bank, laying on the thing. And John would say, "You keep your money. I do not want yours. I am after the bank's money." Well, man, they loved him. He actually got to the place in his life where he had justified and rationalized his lawlessness so much that he thought it was just a way of life. You know a lot of God's people do that with their life and the things in their life? It is a common thing, you see. That is why we need laws. That is why we need structure.

In a historical application, that is what we have here. He is writing to a young man, Solomon, and obviously it is his son, Rehoboam. Rehoboam, who only adds to the problems of Israel, the Bible talks about the fact that he literally destroys it. He splits the deal. When we talk about a man who played the fool, it was Rehoboam. But Rehoboam was lawless. He forsook the law that God gave the Old Testament nation of Israel. So when we look at Proverbs, we know that historically it is Rehoboam who forsook the law. When we look at it doctrinally, we know it is Israel as God's son who forsook the law. But when we put it into the practical application, which we want to focus on today, we know it is me and you as New Testament Christians and the importance of us keeping the law. So I want to, and I am going to talk about the Old Testament, I am going to talk about the laws in the New Testament. So I want to look at these verses and talk about the laws that apply to us.

II. Seven Legal Precedents in the Bible

You probably have never seen this before, but since we are talking about it today, the concept of the structure in the Bible is very important. The Bible is a book of laws. God is an orderly God. God has a structure to Him. So when He wrote the Bible, the Bible is an orderly book that has a structure. So you will find throughout the Bible seven legal precedents that the Bible says, seven of them. If you went down to any law office or you went into any courtroom or you went into any judicial system, you would find these seven exact same things in any court of law, in any country, in any state, in the world. So the Bible will follow some legal terminology.

In the Bible we have, I am going to give you them and give you a definition of what they are, and you will want these.

➤ Laws:

- Statutes:
- Commands:
- Precepts:
- Judgments:
- Testimony:
- Ordinances:

Very clearly, the Bible is based in every aspect on the rule of law, God's law. When we used to talk about America and its founding judicial system, they would call it Judeo-Christian. You do not hear it anymore, but for many, many years it was Judeo-Christian. That simply means that our law system is built on Judeo, the nation of Israel, Christian, Christianity, the New Testament. It is incredible. The laws of God, I must say, will be absolute and affect everything that God has created.

III. Seven Universal Laws

For instance, in the Bible, you will find seven universal laws. These laws affect God's creation in a physical way, and they affect man, me and you, in a spiritual way. They are all tied into the Bible, which is the structure and the law of God for everything that God does.

1. The Law of First Mention
2. The Law of God's Perspective
3. The Law of Sowing and Reaping
4. The Law of Human Collapse
5. The Law of Natural Creation
6. The Law of History Repeating Itself
7. The Law of Natural Division

Now these seven laws are absolute, and all other laws of science and physics or man's life on earth will be found within these seven. They are absolute. They are laws.

IV. Laws in New Testament Institutions

I want to look forward for a moment. I want to show you how the laws work in your life and my life. When God established the New Testament, He built the New Testament on three institutions. Two of them were already here. He added a third one. All three of these have their own set systems of laws that they run by.

The first one is marriage. Marriage is established in Genesis chapter 2. The definitive chapter on it for the structure and the laws of marriage is 1 Corinthians chapter 7.

The second thing that was already established was civil government. Civil government was started back in Genesis chapter 10 verse 10 with the first Gentile kingdom. But in the New Testament it is defined and laid out for you under a structure of laws that you and I are supposed to follow in Romans chapter 13.

The third institution, and this is the one that He added, was the church. The church is defined in Acts chapter 8 through Acts chapter 20 and in the book of Ephesians. Within these three, He established a set of laws in each one of them that will give man the ability to be fruitful and have his life as a fountain, Proverbs 13, if he follows the law.

In government, for a nation to survive and not fall into anarchy, it has to be a nation built on laws. Our founding fathers knew this. I do not know how much you follow the debates that have been going on for the presidential campaign coming up next year, the Republicans or the Democrats. I like to watch them just for the instance that every once in a while you get a good joke that you can use on Sunday morning. I watched the last time the Republicans had it, and they were talking about the issue of immigration. Donald Trump has made some tremendous statements. We have in our country of the United States over 12 million illegal aliens. I am not talking about the ones that came back with the Corey Weaver in the movie. I am talking about the ones that are here that are here illegally. It is a tremendous problem. Believe me, I am not someone who wants to keep anybody out of America. But Donald Trump, whatever you may think of him, and I do not really care about him one way or the other, but I like when a man, I like to listen to somebody that every once in a while says something exactly what needs to be said. He simply said this: "We have to be a nation of laws." He says, "You have two million illegal aliens who are going through the process to become citizens." And he says to just wipe away the laws and write an executive order to let everybody who is illegal come in.

Now I will be the first to tell you, I do not have an answer. His answer is to put them on buses and send them back. I do not think we have that many buses. I will be the first to tell you I do not have an answer. I do not. I am not sitting up here saying, "If I was president..." If I was president, we would all be in trouble. I have no answer. Very frankly, probably the answer is that it is impossible to fix, that we have gone too far over the cliff. That is probably the answer. But what he says is right. If you are not going to be a nation of laws, then you are going to be a lawless nation. If you just get rid of this law because you want to let illegals in, who you will think the Democrats who want them in are good guys, and then we will get them to vote and we will stay in office, and the Republicans are the bad guys because they want to send them back and follow the law so they will not get in. I understand your agenda and your motive, but that does not change the fact that if a nation is not a nation of laws, it breaks into anarchy. This is the fundamental flaw that is leading this country down the sewer. They are ignoring the law on the books to accommodate your own agenda because you are in power. I am not just putting that on the Democrats. I totally believe that if Republicans were in power, they would be doing something the same way. I do not like either one of them. I am not a Republican, I am not a Democrat. I do not get political. My vote is not for a Republican or a Democrat. My vote is for

Jesus Christ to come back and fix this thing. That is my vote. I wrote it in one time, and they never let me vote again since.

Just so you do not miss the spiritual application here, when a church forsakes the law of God, which they have for now 30, 40 years. We talked about that last week, didn't we? So goes the church, so goes the family, so goes the government. When the salt, the church, loses its savor, when the salt, which is you and me because we dump the laws and do it our way, when the church, the salt, loses its savor, then the world will lose its savor. It is just that simple.

V. Personal Laws for Christians

The Bible says if a man keeps the law, that he will be kept from the snares of death. His life will, as a Christian, in his life will be a lot better off. In our lives as Christians, we need to have some personal laws that we govern our lives by. We should all be law-abiding citizens, not necessarily like the guy in the movie. We all should be law-abiding Christians. We should follow and obey man's law, and we should follow and obey God's law. So based on this verse in a personal way, I want to show you from me some laws that I have learned to follow, and I try to keep them. I do not claim any success with the Lord or the ministry, whatever, but if I would ever have any success in life at all with God, I would tell you right now it will simply go back to these laws that I saw the value of and put them into my life.

Now I have to say this, so I do not get you thinking that, "Boy, he really got the law down." No, no, no, let me say I am far from perfect in these laws. I want you to know I will still do 90 miles an hour in a 70-mile speed zone of life. I wish I could say I always follow the laws, but I will say this, when I do not follow them, I still know that they are the law, and I know that I am always better off keeping the law than I am breaking them. I am 65 years old, and life has taught me some lessons. Some were good, some were hard, but I try to learn from everything. Based on my 65 years, 45 of it being saved and in the ministry, my advice to you is the quicker you learn and apply these laws to your life, the better off you are going to be.

For the years as God showed me these absolute laws of life, I wrote them down. Today I have three or four notebooks completely full of them. I just want to take some time this morning based on Proverbs 13 about laws, and I want to give you a few of the main ones. These will form the basis of the structure in your life, the beginning of it. Everything that I try to do in keeping these laws because of their importance and in adding whatever I give to you today, probably a hundred more. You know what Paul said to Timothy? He told Timothy in 2 Timothy chapter 2, verse 15, and it is so true.

2 Timothy 2:15

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

He said a man will strive for the masteries. That means a man will get into church, get into ministry, do everything he thinks, do everything for God, and yet the Bible says he is not crowned. You know why? He did not run lawfully. There have to be some laws. You cannot just

decide you are going to do whatever you want to do. You have got to have some laws that you follow. You cannot just decide to get on the freeway and drive 100 miles an hour when it is a 55 zone. I mean, you can. You cannot decide you are going to do whatever. There have to be some laws. Running lawfully is such a foreign concept to most of God's people. You know why? Because we are in the book of Judges. We do not have any laws.

I told you Thursday night in our great study that somebody asked about the great study of Jonah. When Jonah did his own thing and he violated the law that God said, "Go to Nineveh," and he said, "Oh no, no, no, I am going to Tarshish." I showed you how he picked up the tab. There is a movie, and I cannot remember. I get a lot of my sermons out of movies, by the way, I want you to know that. I cannot remember the movie, but the classic line is, "Okay, boys, there is a new sheriff in town." I want to tell you something. Some of God's people need a new sheriff in town today. They need to start keeping the law. Now let us look at these quickly. Just give you a couple of them here.

8. The Royal Law
9. Life is About the Choices We Make, Making Good Decisions
10. We Are Who We Hang Out With
11. You Can't Solve Problems with the Same Kind of Thinking That Caused Those Problems
12. We Have to Learn from Our Mistakes
13. You Only Get Something Out of What You Are Willing to Put Into It
14. The Law of the Judgment Seat of Christ