

Proverbs 11:19-22

Sunday 3/22/2015

As you can obviously tell this morning, the Old Paths boys were missing one of their key components, Bob Greg. Bob is in Israel, and his job requires him to go to Israel quite often, but that is just a cover story. That and Yahoo had ordered all of my tapes and all of my books, and did not want the Obama administration finding out about it, so Bob is secretly and covertly taking them into Israel.

A couple of Thursday nights ago, I talked about when Benjamin Netanyahu spoke before Congress. I talked about how so many people in America, especially in the government, were like, "Who is this guy?" I walked you through who he was and what he has done. We talked about the Israeli commando raid on Entebbe in Uganda, Africa, which I think was in 1978. I got the idea that most of you, especially you younger folks, were probably not even born in 1978 or shortly thereafter, or you were still on your fudge circle watching Bugs Bunny on Saturday morning. Once we get past the volleyball, which is in a couple of weeks, we are going to have a night on a Saturday night where I am going to show you the movie Raid on Entebbe. It is one of the best movies that was ever made documenting how the Israelis pulled it off. If you want to understand why the Israeli commandos are the best commandos in the world, that movie will show you how. So, we will have a popcorn fun night and we will show it, and it is good for your kids to see. There is no bad language in it. The only people these commandos kiss are their tanks and their airplanes. It is a very good movie, and it is right down the line of what happened. Most people do not know that Netanyahu's brother was the only casualty in that raid. It is an incredible raid of what they did. It is unbelievable, and I am not going to take it away from you because you have to see it to believe it. But they did it, and they set the standard for special operations tactics. It is incredible. I had that coming up, just so you know that. Maybe once she gets on my tape, maybe Netanyahu wants to be here that night, and who knows?

Last week, as you know, we are in the book of Proverbs. We came through Proverbs 11:15-18. We are kind of working our way down through these chapters verse by verse. My goal is to lay out some great practical principles for you. Last week, if you remember, we came through four of them.

1. We talked about how you are to be sure for somebody before you sign for them or get in a deal with them. The Bible calls it surety. Be sure for your friend. Make sure that you are not going to get stuck with it.
2. We looked at the gracious woman and her honor, and how she is a picture of the end result of the book of Proverbs in our life, the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31.
3. We also saw how strong men retain their riches. I showed you the contrast between women and men, and we talked about some things there.
4. We looked at the merciful man versus the cruel man, and talked about that.

Then I showed you the three things. We ended up with the three things that a child of God can be absolutely sure of in a life where there is nothing to be sure of. That is a sure reward, a sure calling, and a sure word. We came through those last week, and today we will pick it up in verses 19 through 22. Again, we will lay out the keys to all these verses and how they form our

guidelines for life. Again, we are going to see now that all of these are built around a positive and a negative. I have told you that almost every week since we got into these series of verses here in the Proverbs themselves, that that is how they lay out. They lay out in a positive, then a negative. They keep going back and forth because that is the way life is.

Proverbs 11:19 As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.

Proverbs 11:20 They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

Proverbs 11:21 Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

Proverbs 11:22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.

Now, Father, we thank you today for the Lord Jesus and all that you do for us. Thank you for the Word of God, for its truth, for these great people that have come out today to hear your word, and Lord, may they not be disappointed. May you give us the Word of God today that you have for us and teach us these great principles to live by, great principles of life that we can take and use in every endeavor in life. We love you. We thank you, Father, for the folks that are here today and your blessings upon them. We pray for the Langford family, Father, and that your arm is around them. As we have Steve's memorial service this Tuesday, Father, that you will get the honor and glory out of the service just like you did out of his life and the life of the family. We will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name, for his sake we ask it. Amen.

I. The Pursuit of Righteousness vs. Evil (Proverbs 11:19)

Now, verse 19 says, "As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death." I have taught you before that, doctrinally, when you start putting out your Bible and getting your Bible together, there are key words in your Bible. I have given them to you many, many times, and most of you know what they are. But I want to tell you that when you come to the Bible and you want to learn the practical side of things, you do the same thing. You will notice down through here that I am focusing these verses and unlocking these verses by finding one key word, sometimes one key phrase, because the truth of these verses will be built around that. In English, grammar is usually the subject of the verse, not always, but in most cases. So, I want you to be aware of that today. I will point them out to you as we come down through it. But I want you to see that everything in your Bible, whether it is doctrinal, you will want to look at the key words there, or whether it is a practical application, and you are reading it for something for you, look for the key phrase. Look for the subject of the verse and the key word, and then you build the truth around it. You will see today what I am talking about.

Now, let us look at the first part of that verse. We are going to break them down into the negative and the positive as we have been doing. He says, "As righteousness tendeth to life." For us as Christians, the key word here obviously is the word "life." That is the subject of the first part of

that verse. Here it will be eternal life through Christ's death on the cross. In the Bible, and most of you probably are already aware of this, when you find the word "righteousness," when it talks about somebody being righteous or the righteousness, or righteousness of God, it will always be a reference to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know the Bible teaches in Romans 3:10 that as far as you and I are concerned, there is none righteous, no, not one. The Bible says that all of our righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God. So, in this world, there is only one righteousness, and that righteousness is Jesus Christ. It is the only righteousness on this earth. It is God's Son. When we get saved, that is really one of the fundamental things that happens. I know salvation, there are a number of things that take place, and we have talked about all of that, but if you want to put it in a very simplistic form of what salvation is, salvation is simply you and I, who before salvation were unrighteous, at the time of salvation getting God's righteousness that makes us righteous in God's sight. That is what salvation really is.

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

That is you getting God's righteousness. That is you and I getting God's righteousness. We talk about in the book of Ephesians, in chapter 6, the armor of God. How many times have you heard somebody lay that out? What a great study it is, seeing every piece of the armor that is listed there and how it applies to your life. Most people do not take it any farther than that, but in 2 Corinthians 6:7 it says,

By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

The whole armor of God in Ephesians 6 is built on the righteousness of God. When you got saved, you got God's righteousness. When you got God's righteousness, now you have the ability to build everything in your life. We see it again in 2 Corinthians 6:14, the admonishment to a saved person to stay away from the world. This is the passage that is always used not to marry an unsaved person. That is true, but it applies to any situation where it is a Christian to the world. The Bible says,

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

The next verse says what we have to do with Christ and Belial. Belial is the Old Testament name for the devil. So, in a practical application, the first part of that verse, the righteousness of Jesus Christ, is what you get when you get saved, and that is what God gives you in your life. That is how it talks about "as the righteousness tendeth to life." That is exactly what you get.

Now he says in the second part of that verse, and here is the contrast of this. It says in the Old Testament under the law, it did not work that way. You know, this is something that most people have a tough time with. In the Old Testament, the Jew did not have Jesus Christ. There is a contrast between New Testament salvation and Old Testament salvation. The righteousness in the New Testament is based on you and I getting Jesus Christ in a personal way as a personal Savior. That did not happen in the Old Testament. Christ had not come yet. There was no Pentecost. The Holy Spirit of God had not come. You are dealing with a different economy in the Old Testament in a spiritual sense. The Old Testament Jew, the man in the Old Testament under the law or before the law, he got the righteousness of God simply by obeying what God told him to do. We look at Noah. Noah was a man that got righteousness from God. Noah and seven members of his family were the only eight people that survived the great catastrophe of the flood. Yet Noah obeyed what God told him to do. By obeying what God told him to do, that is how God gave him his righteousness. Not in the same sense that you and I got it. Noah was not indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. He is in an Old Testament scenario. We know the Old Testament is based on the kingdom of heaven, which is the physical manifestation of things. So, he has to obey what God tells him. God told him to build a boat. Somebody said, "Well, that does not sound like much." Well, it would be if you are building a 400-yard boat in your backyard. That would be something in your neighborhood, I guarantee you. And the fact that people are asking him why he is building a boat, and he says, "Because it is going to rain." Now that complicates it because the Bible tells us up to that point that it never rained before. So, he is trying to explain to people why he is building this aircraft carrier in the backyard, where there is going to be a flood and it is going to rain, to a group of people who did not believe anything or know anything about rain or a flood. You see, that was a very tough situation for him to be in. But the Bible says that he believed God and he did what God told him to do. His salvation was that boat. That boat is a type of Christ. You believe what God told you to do, you get in Christ spiritually. In the Old Testament, he believed what God told him to do, and he got into a physical boat that was his salvation. That is how it works.

You get a little farther down the line and you find that that is how it worked for Abraham. God took him out one time in Genesis 15:5-6 and he showed him the stars. He says, "Abraham, someday your seed is going to be just like those stars." The Bible says that Abraham believed God, and then what does it say? "And it was counted to him for righteousness." You see? In the Old Testament, they got their righteousness by believing what God told them to do in any particular situation and obeying God. You and I get our righteousness by believing in Jesus Christ and his death on the cross. Somebody says, "Well, Noah, they had to believe how goofy was that to believe in a boat." It is no more goofy than me going around telling everybody that 2,000 years ago a dead Jew hanging on a tree had enough salvation in his blood to pay for the sins of the whole world. That sounds goofy unless you have experienced that blood. That is how the world looks at it. That is exactly how the world looks at it. In the Old Testament, if a man lived by God's Word and he kept his commandments, then he was to have a long physical life. That is the difference between, as I said, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. The oldest man in the Bible is a righteous, godly man named Methuselah. He lived to be 969 years old. Noah was a righteous man. He lived to be 950 years old. Abraham was a righteous man. He lived to be 175, and Moses 120. So, you see that when the Bible says and lays this out about this

concept of righteousness versus the people who do not do what is right, then you see that you get life from it.

Now the second part of that verse is the negative part. It says, and here shows us another contrast, "So he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death." Now the key word here is going to be "pursues." Somebody pursuing something. It does not matter if the person is saved or the person is lost. Everybody on this planet is in a pursuit of something. We think that pursuing evil only pertains to unsaved people. Well, it certainly does because all an unsaved person does is evil. But let me tell you something, I have met some of God's folk that are pursuing it too. The key word here for a man, lost or saved, is the word "pursueth," pursuing evil. This guy, he goes out after evil. If there is any time that you see this, you see this in the world that we live in today. I just have no time in my mind to think of how this world has turned away from God in everything. We talk about it, but even in talking about it, sometimes it is hard to believe. There is nothing left on this planet that seeks after God in any way, shape, or form. I am not talking about unsaved people. I am talking about God's people. I am talking about God's people have lost their way when it comes to anything to do with God. This guy here goes out of his way after evil. He is not your garden variety sinner who just lives in his depravity and goes through life. No, no, no. This guy is on the hunt. This guy is on the prowl. This person cannot wait for the weekend. They cannot wait for Saturday night. They hop from bar to bar. They go from party to party. They go from relationship to relationship. They pursue evil with a passion as only an unsaved man or an unsaved woman or a worldly, out-of-fellowship Christian can. And he gets death.

Now that death can come in a couple of different forms in life. Let me give you a couple of good verses here. The first one is in Romans 6:23 that says,

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

That is one of the greatest verses in the Bible. I always call that my flip verse. Whenever I am winning somebody to Christ, the first thing I do is I bring them through and show them that they are a sinner. I use what has been commonly called over the years the Romans Road. It is called the Romans Road to Salvation. Somebody called that years ago because Romans is the great book of the doctrine of salvation. So, you start in Romans and you go to Romans 3 and you learn that you are a sinner. You get four or five good verses there, add a little more on. Then you go to Romans 6, and Romans 6 is your pivotal verse. Romans 6 says that you just saw you were a sinner. Romans 6 says the wages of your sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. So, that is my springboard verse. I show them they are a sinner. I take them to Romans 6 and show them that that wage of sin is death. But I show them the alternative. That springboards you into Romans 10 and shows them how to be saved. You see, that is how you do it. There is no magical formula. That is called the Romans Road. That is the Matthew Turnpike, just as good. You can go down to Ephesians Highway. It does not matter. But that is a standard, and it is so simple because the book of Romans is where salvation is really laid out in a key way. It talks about that the wages of sin is death.

Proverbs 15:6 says,

In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

When I was growing up, I heard all my life, when I went to school, we did not have career officers who try to help you get where you are supposed to be. We just had our mom and dad. What a novel idea. But anyway, I remember hearing them get up in class and the teacher say, "Crime doesn't pay." You have heard that all your life. When I went to Sunday school a little bit later on, I heard a Sunday school teacher say, "Sin doesn't pay." I grew up under the illusion that crime did not pay and sin did not pay. Well, I stand here before you now, having been in the book for a little bit, I will tell you that is not true. Crime does pay, and sin pays. It has got wages. Not only has it got wages, the Bible says there is revenue connected with it. That is a compounding interest. Not only every month do you get paid for your sin, it builds interest in your life to the point where it compounds in your life. An unsaved man or a Christian out of fellowship with God, there is a payday coming. R.G. Lee was one of the great old evangelists. I heard him actually preach two times before he died. I think he died in 1978. I actually heard him preach two times. He was known for one message. He preached some great messages. But his greatest message, and you can still go on YouTube and listen to it, was one little sermon called "Payday Someday." He preached that to a church, and he talked about there is a payday coming for your sin. He talked about that you think you can go and do your life or do what you are going to do, and he built it around Romans 6, that the wages of our sin is death. There is a payday coming. When a man pursues evil, he is going to get a payday. It does not matter if he is a saved man or an unsaved man. There is a payday coming if they do not make it right with God.

There are two ways that that can happen. His death can come in a spiritual sense where he dies and he goes to hell. Separation from God. That is the real death in the Bible. Death in the Bible is separation from God. So, an unsaved wicked man who pursues evil and never pursues anything for God, he can come to the place in his life where he dies and he goes to hell. That is his payday. He is going to stand at the Great White Throne Judgment, and he is going to stand up there someday, and he is going to have paycheck after paycheck after paycheck come his way in the lake of fire. Or his payday can come by cutting his life short 10, 15, 20, 30 years if he is a Christian. I do not know how many times over the years of my life I have seen some young Christian die way before his time because of drunk driving, an overdose of drugs. We get to the place where he gets so despondent in life over things because he has made a lot of bad choices, or he or she, that they actually commit suicide. Here is a life where God had a plan for them. Jeremiah 1. God had something that he wanted to do with them, but they wanted nothing to do with it. God had a payday for them with the judgment seat of Christ. They chose a payday down here on earth of the life they live without God, and their payday came because your payday will always come, and it will come one way or the other. It will show up at the judgment seat of Christ or the shadow of God who did what God wanted you to do, or it will show up in this life. Sometimes God will, you will put yourself in a scenario and circumstances that God has a plan for you. He wants you to accomplish that plan, but you know more about it than God does, just like when you are 18 or 19, you know more about life than your parents do, and it goes short. It goes short.

I used to work down in Paola a number of years ago, and I traveled around all four or five counties down there. Every springtime there would always be one or two kids in the high school that over that high school break, they always got killed because down there there was not a

whole lot to do, and they went out and did what they called hill jumping. They would get a fast car, and there are a lot of hills down there, and they would try to get their car to go off the road and sail through the air a little bit. But unfortunately, whatever comes up must come down, and sometimes it does not always come down the same way it went up. I do not know how many times every year, time after time, some young kid got killed. Got killed in a car wreck, and sometimes two or three people with him. I used to take a break in a local cemetery down there because I would get my paperwork done, and the last kid that got killed down there, his grave was right there. He was a ball player for down there, a baseball player. He had a little picture on there. I always like when they put the little pictures on, I like to know who I am standing on. His picture was on there, and all these guys came over, his buddies. Some of them put a baseball, some of them put, I never got putting change on the tombstone. But there were three, four quarters. I do not know, maybe he did not make a phone call. I do not know, but there was money on there. One of his buddies had put his baseball hard hat on it. Somebody else put a couple of bottles of beer on the thing. I look at that and I thought to myself, that is exactly what the Bible talks about. This kid thought he was invincible. This kid thought he could go and live his life and do what he wanted to do. It is very obvious from everything on there that he was pursuing evil. He was not pursuing God.

Sometimes it happens. I have seen them disobey the law. You may not like the law. The law may be corrupt in some areas, but Romans 13 says it is still the law. When a police officer pulls you over, you have a choice. You say, "Yes, sir," even if you think you were being mistreated and you should not have been pulled over. Here is the authority. You say, "Yes, sir," you give him your driver's license, you do not fight the guy. You only fight the guy when you have done something wrong and you do not want to get caught. Then something bad happened, and it is a police officer's fault. I tell you something, obey the law. If it is wrong, if it did not work out, if you were wrongly accused, work it out in court. But put yourself in that situation where here is a police officer who all day long he has to go up on cars, and the chance that somebody is going to shoot him in the face or somebody is going to shoot him in the back, he has to be on guard all the time. He wants to go home at night to his family just like you do. When he pulls you over and he asks you for your driver's license and you give it to him, you say, "Yes, sir," you say, "No, sir," you do not get out of the car and say, "I am not giving you nothing." That is not the way to handle it. Many of them do. And when they do, unfortunately, many times things wind up not going the right way.

For a Christian, the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 11:30,

For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

That is physical death. There are actually times in a Christian's life, and there have been many a child of God, who God ended their life early, simply because they refused to do what God had saved them for. God has a plan for us. God did not save us so we could just go to heaven, but in the meantime, continue to do what we wanted to do. He saved us, took us out of this world because he had something he wanted to do. A Christian who takes God's salvation but refuses to live for the Lord, you are walking on thin ice. You are going to head for trouble. It is simply because a person refused to do what God wanted him to do. A couple of weeks ago, we talked

about the word "naughty," naughtiness in an old English phrase, and how it is used today, but how it means in the Bible. It means worthless. It means of no value. Many of God's people live their life this way, not God's way. They complicate their life so bad with bad choices and bad decisions that there comes a point where they can do nothing for God. They only get worse. It compounds it because sin has wages. They continue, as the Bible says in Galatians 2:21, to frustrate the grace of God. In the book of Galatians, if you know what that book is about, there was a group of people who claimed to be Christians who were diverting from the truth of the Word of God, and Paul says, "You are frustrating the grace of God." A lot of God's people do that. You know what that means? That means God gave you his grace for you to do what he wants you to do, not what you want to do. When you do not do what he wants you to do and you do what you want to do, it frustrates him. Worse than that, it frustrates the grace that he gave you. So, in the end, the frustrations through the lust of the flesh, the world, totally controlling our lives and all the ungodliness that goes along with it, God comes down and sometimes checks that shadow of God out of this life early to keep his sin from corrupting others. So, the Bible says, "He that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death," and that is whether you are saved or you are lost. It is a tremendous principle.

Listen, God's main goal in this life is to get honor and glory out of everything that goes on. We look around in the world, and the world is a mess. You look at Christianity, it is a mess. You look at the world, it is a mess. You look at our country, it is a mess. You would have a hard time thinking about how in the world can God get honor and glory out of anything in this country, out of much in Christianity. Well, he can and he will because sometimes God gets the glory by judging what is wrong when there is an absolute standard of what is right. God will get the honor and glory because we are a vessel of honor, and we give honor and glory, and God will say, "You get the glory out of that young man and that young lady," or he will have somebody disobedient over here, and God will whack that person, and God will get the honor and glory out of that. Other people out there will say, "Wow, you know what, he was a Christian. I do not want that to happen to me." God is going to get the honor and glory out of it one way or the other. You might as well, I always thought the verse over there where the Bible says that every knee shall bend and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. You know that is not an option in the Bible. You know that it is going to happen. You are going to bend your knee and you are going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. You are going to either do it now and submit yourself to the things of God, or you are going to do it then when he forces you to do it. You are going to do it.

II. The Froward Heart vs. The Upright Way (Proverbs 11:20)

Now look at verse 20. "They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight." Now "froward" here is the key word. We know that froward means perverse. It means totally against God. In this case, somebody's heart. Here again, this is the man of verse 19. These two verses go together. In fact, all these verses kind of go together. He is not just, as I said, he is not just your ordinary sinner. He is an abomination to God in what he thinks, in his heart. We know that the Bible teaches very clearly from Ezekiel 28 and

other places that our sin starts in our heart. It is where it always starts. Where it started the original sin with Lucifer was in his heart, Ezekiel 28. He said in his heart, "I will be like the most high God." In his heart, he was lifted up by his pride. That is where sin starts. This man's twisted, wicked heart does more, as I said, than just rest in his depravity of being an unsaved man.

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Now here is a man who gets past feeling anything from God. You know that can happen in your life? It can happen in an unsaved man's life because he cannot really feel anything from God anyhow until God touches him. But it can certainly happen in a Christian's heart. You can get your heart so cold and so far away from God that the preaching of the Word of God does not touch you anymore. If you are sitting here this morning and you are listening to what I am saying, and you are getting the mindset, "Oh, here we go, this or that," you are halfway there. I am not up here because I have something that I think that I have to say. I am up here because I have a message from the Word of God that everybody that is saved needs to hear. We go through life, and everything you see in life, whether it is a billboard, a commercial, a TV program, a magazine you read, everything you see in life tries to prepare you to live a life on planet earth. My job is totally different than that. I have a hard job because I am in competition with that, because my job is to try to get you prepared for the next one because that is really the one that matters, not this one. So, you begin to see how this thing works. He is past feeling anything for God. He seeks out many wicked inventions, the Bible says.

Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

You see, the original creation, God made man upright. But here again, man would not leave it alone. Man was not satisfied. Man wanted a better deal than he got from God. There is always somebody out there who will try to give you a better deal than God. But they have sought out many inventions, and that is what men do who are wicked, who pursue evil, who have a froward heart. Now he calls evil good and good evil.

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Romans 1:21 now says that their foolish heart was darkened.

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Some of God's people are exactly the same way. They get to that point in their life where they cannot feel anything from God anymore. That in the Bible calls that the hardness of your heart. It calls that searing of your conscience. Getting to the place where sin is just like eating a sandwich, that it does not bother you anymore. There is no conviction in your life about it. There

was a time when you were a young Christian that you thought something or you did something wrong, and you could not come out of the house for two days. God smote you to the floor. But as you grow and you learn the circles and you learn the little paths out of them under all of the conviction, and you start getting into other circles and this, that, and get away from the Bible, there comes a time in your life where you cannot feel anything from God anymore. Now it is a tough place to be in.

Look at the second part of verse 20. "But such as are upright in their way are his delight." Now this is the positive part. Here the key phrase is "upright." Upright in His way. I told you Ecclesiastes 7:29 says that originally God made man upright. But man did not want that. Even though Adam fell and sinned and brought sin into the world as we have already seen, praise the Lord that Jesus Christ, who makes the difference, saw that, loved us in spite of that, and then came down in spite of your sin and my sin and made a way out that even though I am not upright anymore, once I get saved and get God's righteousness, in His mind, I am now upright again. That is an incredible thing.

But you know, some men just have to go the wrong way. I have seen it in the ministry. I love people. I do not think I have ever hated anybody in my life. I do not even think I have the capacity to hate. Maybe I did before I got saved, but I do not even remember hating anybody back then. Well, there was one guy who used to beat me up all the time and take my lunch money. But he was my uncle. I love people, and I try to do the best I can with people. I try to help people, and I try to do what I can. But I will tell you something, there are some of God's people. I am talking about, an unsaved man, he cannot go the wrong way. He is the wrong way. But I am telling you, when it comes to God's people over the years, I have seen some of God's people just bent on going the wrong way. There is nothing you can do about it. You can preach to them until the cows come home. They are just going to go the wrong way in life. The Bible says they seek out many inventions.

There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

They are constantly looking for things to put in their life that go the wrong way. Down by my house, I live right off of 83rd Street, Woodson. Most of you have been there, so you know where I am at. But by my house at the intersection right up over the hill there, 83rd and 350 Highway, is one of the greatest examples of this verse in the shadow of God out of fellowship and going his way to death and destruction. Every time I go up there, every time I see it happen, but every time I just drive up there to go somewhere, because it is a main way to get out of my subdivision, I always think about this. I go up 83rd Street, and I live down right below there, so I come out of it. I go up over the hill about a quarter of a mile, and right at the top of the hill, I come up to 350 Highway. 350 Highway right there is eastbound. Then there are lights there. When the lights change, you have to drive probably another quarter of a mile, and then you have the 350 westbound. But you cannot see it from this end. So, somebody who does not know what is going on, and there is no traffic coming, you will think that that 350 is both eastbound and westbound there at 83rd, where that might be off of my house. I do not know how many times I have been in behind somebody and watched them come up to that light and turn right into oncoming traffic. I have seen them run off the road on the other side to keep from getting killed. I have seen them

stop and cars honk their horns and cars split around them. I have seen it at least five to ten times. So, you know how many times it must happen. But I am telling you, right there at the light is a big sign with an arrow with a red line through it. That arrow turning this way with a red line through it means do not turn that way. Then on the other side there is a big red sign that says "No Left Turn." If you really made the mistake and you turned on it, there is a big sign with a skull and crossbones on it that says, "Prepare to Meet Thy God." There are three signs there. When I sit there anymore, I used to honk and try to tell them. I know what is going to happen. The moment they turn their turn signal on to turn that way, I know that that right turn that way is another quarter mile up. Everybody is that proactive. I know what is going to happen. I just kind of put my truck in neutral if I have room, back up so I do not get hit by any debris, get my smartphone out, get a picture of it. Every time they will turn in, that light turns green, they turn into it, and there comes a big old tractor trailer on one lane and a bunch of other cars in the other lane. You ought to see the expression on their face. They slam on the brakes like that is going to help. They run off the road on one side, they try to back up, that is not going to help because I have got your block now because I want to see the wreck. They try to get out of that every way they can. Fundamentally, they made one bad choice. You know what it was? They went the wrong way. I am telling you, God's people, when they go the wrong way in life and they ignore the signs that God gives you through some half-baked preacher preaching it to you or somebody telling you about it, you are going to get in a wreck. It is going to be a disaster. Sometimes it will be a fender bender the first time. Sometimes you will escape and get off into the gutter. Sooner or later, you will meet a tractor trailer coming at 55 miles an hour loaded with steel, and it will be over. It will be because you are going to go your way, ignore the signs, and even though 350 only goes one way, you are sure in your mind it is going your way right to the point where it kills you.

III. The Consequences of Alliance (Proverbs 11:21)

Now look at verse 21. "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered." The key phrase here is "hand joined in hand." In psychology, this is called group association syndrome. People with the same mindset, same interest, you see it in ethnic groups, people with the same things in their lives will gravitate and always group together, hands joined in hands. A bonding through similarities. You see it in the cities, if you are paying attention, any city, New York, LA, Chicago, Kansas City. We all know about Chinatown, that is where all the Chinese people live. Down in New Orleans, it is called the French Quarter. In Utah, all the Mormons gravitate out there. Also in Eastern Independence because the Mormon church split a number of years ago, and the real quote unquote Mormons who consider themselves, they all moved to Utah. The Mormons who broke from them, they moved to Independence. In fact, it really started in the pen, went from there. They are confirmed, believed, beyond it, they got a temple. If you ever go to the airport, you see there is a big temple out there on the long road out there. There is the big temple over in Independence, and of course they believe that at the second coming of Christ, Jesus Christ is coming back to Independence, Missouri. I do not mean any disrespect, but if your God cannot do any better than Independence, I have been to Independence, Missouri. They built a sprawling big tower so he could find it when he comes back. If you have a God that cannot find it without you helping him and has to come to

Independence, Missouri, you are in trouble. I am just telling you right now, you are in trouble. I have no criticism. I am just telling you, there are some things there that you have some problems with. My point is they gravitate. The German people in certain cities, they have the little German section. They have what sometimes they call Little Mexico. In Ohio, down South Ohio, they have Amish country where all the Amish people live. You drive in Kansas City, you never see a horse and buggy. You never see people with long black dresses and down to their ankles and hair all the way unless you go to some Baptist churches. I guess that was a bad illustration, I should not use. They ride horse and buggies, and they all live together. Everybody wants Amish food like Amish cooked better than anybody else. That is a rip off. They put on these costumes like they are really primitive people. They build these big restaurants, and all you people come down and eat there. They make millions of dollars right back and forth in a horse and buggy. Then they get into their Lexus and they drive out wherever they want to go. I know how it works. Did you ever see some of the farms that they have in those places? I am telling you, my point is people like to gravitate together when they have the same kind of issues.

Now from a Bible standpoint, this is one of the greatest principles that I have ever found in life, and you will ever see at work in any church and Christianity in general. Because if you are going to put it in a practical application, a Bible context simply says this: making alliances with other wicked people when you are wicked does not make you right. When you get your nose bent out of joint about something over the Bible, and you know you are wrong, and you do not want to admit you are wrong, you are going to search out other people who got their nose bent out of joint about the Bible, and you are going to find them. That is called misery loves company. That is hand joining hand. People who do not want to do right will always seek out other people who do not want to do right so they can pretend that everybody is doing right. Last week I talked about a talebearer. People who gossip and slander and lie will always hang out and make their alliances hand in hand with people just like themselves. You see it all the time. All the Christian drinkers will always hang out with the Christian drinkers. All the Christian whatever will hang out with this. It is just the way it works.

In the Bible, in the Old Testament, you had a group that was called the mixed multitude. They always murmured, they always complained, and they always caused Israel to stumble. They never were happy about anything. They never were happy about what God was doing. They had no relationship with God. When they got in a little jam and they did not have any water to drink in the wilderness, then they all whined and wanted to go back to Egypt. God gave them water, and they were very happy, and then the food runs out, and then they are murmuring again, and they remember all of the good things they had back in Egypt, a type of world, and they go, "All this list, we had garlic, we had leeks, we had fish, we had cucumbers." Nobody even brought up the fact, "Are you kidding me? You had 430 years of slavery in Egypt." But you see, when you lose sight of what God is doing in your life as a Christian, you want to go back to that old world, and you forget all the bad things the world did. You start looking at all the things that you think are good. The leeks, the garlicks, cucumbers. I do not know how you put that on paper, but that just gives me gas. Nothing in it of any nutrients at all. That is the world. When they made the golden calf, it was that crowd. Moses had been gone for 40 days or whatever it was back there. He is up meeting with God. They could not even wait 40 days for Moses to come back. They

stood up and they said, "Oh, he is dead. We need to go back." So, they made a golden image, a calf. That is the crowd. That is the crowd. That is what they do. You will find that this mixed multitude, no matter where you find them in the Bible, they always did two things. This is a great lesson on Christian human nature in churches.

5. When they all camped every night and pitched their tents, they all camped together. They did not mix with the other people. All the mixed multitude had their own little group over here called Little China, Little Italy, Little Mixed Multitude. They are all together.
6. The second thing that they all did, they camped as far away from the spiritual source, which was the ark, as far as they could get, but still considered themselves part of the nation of Israel.

You know there are people that do that in churches? People that do that in Christianity. In 4,000 years of history, nothing has changed one bit in the church age about that principle. I am telling you, they want to get as far from where the action is as they can. They want to get as far from where the hot spot is. They want to all hang together. Now we do not have this problem in our church, and please you folks sitting in the back, this is no reflection on you because I know where everybody is at. This church is a little different. But in most Baptist churches, it is a thing between the preachers that all the worldly people always sit in the back. Now I look at that and I think to myself, "Okay, but what? Everybody going to sit up front?" If everybody sat up front and they got in front of you, pretty soon you would be in the back. So, it is a little stupid to it. But I understand the concept. Because the mixed multitude did not want to be part of what was going on. Obviously, where you sit in the church has no relevance to where you are at with the Lord. It is what you are doing with the Lord. That is the deal. But I have seen it all my life. In all my years.

In 1968, I was just a young guy. In fact, I was in the military. I learned a great lesson. The Vietnam War was not a very popular war. This country was ripped apart by it. There was an element in this country back then who was anti-establishment. They were anti-military. They were anti-government. They were anti-police. This is where the word "pigs" for police got coined back in that era. I watched them as they literally tore this country apart. Even back then, even though I was not a Christian in any way, shape, or form, or living like it, I learned from things like that. I learned a great lesson. I walked across this country. I remember when they had what they called the Kent State Massacre. The Kent State Massacre was, I do not know, seven or eight Kent State college kids got shot by the Ohio National Guard. It was rampant all over this country. It started on college campuses. That is where it always starts. You know who runs the college campuses. They were burning down buildings, tearing up this, burning down everything. They called the National Guard. The Ohio National Guard was standing in a line, trying to hold them back. The crowd got too big. They were throwing rocks at them. They were throwing dog crap at them. They were doing all kinds of things, taking bombs, balloons, filling up with urine, and throwing it on them. These guys were afraid for their life. They were getting pretty rowdy. They were burning down every building they could see. These guys were standing there, and they kept backing up, kept backing up. They pushed them up to a little knoll, and they surrounded them. Right or wrong, the National Guard guys thought their life was in jeopardy.

They opened fire on them and killed seven or eight of them. This country erupted. It was unbelievable. I was stationed at Fort Devens, Massachusetts at that particular point in time. I will never forget. They besieged every military fort in this nation. There were hundreds and hundreds of people outside the gate, chanting, throwing rocks, throwing everything. Our commander over at the fort up there, he was a rough old boy. He had no place for this. I remember walking up there on a hill in my binoculars and watching down at the front gate, and they had all these MPs down there with flak vests on and bayonets fixed to keep them out. I looked over here and up the road, about 200 yards, I saw four companies of Green Berets with nightsticks just waiting in line. These kids' cars coming and started coming and started coming. It was all over the Kent State deal. Our commander gave the order for the MPs to fall back, and I will never forget. He said, "Let them in." They came through that first gate and met four companies of the roughest boys you ever saw in your life. It was beat you six ways to Sunday. Those guys held high and beat up those people to a pulp. They went out of there, and they never got past the front gate in our fort. But I learned something, things that I brought into my own life years later. Because I watched across this country an element of people who hated authority, burned down whole cities, burned down college campuses. They were against any established authority whatsoever. They hated the police, they hated the military, they hated the government. All of that, I learned a great truth. This discontent element will burn down a building and burn down a city. But I noticed that these same groups never built up anything. I want to tell you something, hand joining hand, when you as God's people, you begin to hate God's authority, and God cannot touch you anymore, and you cannot do anything, and you will not do anything, you become an expert in destroying things. You destroy other people, you destroy churches, you destroy the work of God, you destroy the ministry, but you will never build one single thing in your life, including your kids. They will never win somebody to Christ, they will never teach or minister the Word of God to anybody, they will never give a dime to the work of God, they will never get involved in any ministry, and they will stay as far away from the hot spot of the ministry of Jesus Christ as they can, and camp with their crowd as far away as they can. I am telling you.

But the seed of the righteous shall be delivered. In the Bible, the key word here will be the "seed." In the Bible, the Word of God, that is what saves you and will deliver you when your heart receives it. The Bible says, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." 1 John 3:9 says that that seed after you are saved remains in you. There is a great story in Matthew 13 about the parable of the sower. They go forth to sow, and the sowing is the Word of God. It shows you there are four different kinds of sowing. He sows some seed, it goes by the wayside. Fowls come up, eat it all up, nobody gets it. He sows some more seed in the stony places. That is a picture of somebody's heart who is already hardened, and it cannot penetrate, so it does not do any good. He sows some seed in the thorns. They come up and choke it. That is a picture of giving the Word of God output, but you have got some bad friends in your life that just keep taking away what God gives you. Finally, the fourth one, he finds some good ground. That sown seed gets sown, the Word of God, and it bears fruit. It says some 30-fold, some 60-fold, and some 100-fold.

Now I do not know if you know it or not, but in the Bible palm trees are likened to two things. Doctrinally, it is always a picture of the millennium. A palm tree represents the millennium. But

inspirationally, it is always a picture of a fruitful Christian. You probably do not know where it is, but one time in the Middle East, years ago, there was a certain kind of palm tree that was very plentiful. It is hard to find them anymore, they are almost extinct. Yet those palm trees are a perfect picture of this passage and a picture of what a Christian should be. They are very rare today. They hardly exist at all, much like real Bible-believing soul winners. They once were plentiful in the Philadelphia church age, but now they are very rare. This palm tree, or species of palm trees, had over 360 uses that you could almost make and use to make anything, very versatile, just like what God's people used to be. This palm tree species, its roots went down very deep. It fastened on the rocks and could never be pulled out. It went down beyond the rocks and got its water from a deep source underneath the ground, and it survived through the hottest deserts because its roots were down in the water, much like Christians used to be. It bore fruit, dates. But the best dates off of this particular tree did not come until after the tree had been in the ground for 30 years. A picture of Christ when he started his public ministry. It grew up straight and it grew tall. But this particular type of tree, which represents God's people, came in three forms. One of the branches of the, one of the species of the tree grew 30 feet. The next one grew 60 feet, and one grew 100 feet. They were almost straight up, upright. They brought the great principle that it does no good to grow tall if you do not grow straight. That is, the seed of the righteous shall be delivered because we are born again, not of corruptible seed, but by incorruptible, by the Word of God. God will always deliver us from anything in this world when you put your trust in the Word of God. It is incredible.

IV. Inner vs. Outer Beauty (Proverbs 11:22)

Now verse 22. "As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion." This is one of the greatest principles of the 20th and 21st century. For God's people today, as the world, they always seem to look at every situation, every person, everything they are in, and only see the outside of it. They look at a situation, they will see what it appears to be but never see the reality of what it is. They will see a man or a woman, she will be beautiful, he will be handsome, and all they will do is look at the outside and never consider the inner beauty of that person's character. This is called the lust of the eyes in 1 John 2:16.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

In the Bible, there are two animals that represent, one an unsaved man and an unsaved woman. The man is likened to a dog. In the Old Testament, you will find where they talk about Gentiles being dogs. That is a picture of an unsaved man. In Proverbs 26:11 and 2 Peter 2:22, the Bible says,

As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

Now that is a verse that needs no Greek lexicon. That is a verse that needs no interpretation. That is about as plain as you can get. A dog, and we all love dogs, but a dog will throw up and then turn right around and go eat what he just threw up. I know that is gross, I understand that, but you know what? You see a lot worse than that on television. To me, I think it is a good thing

because when I hear my dogs throwing up, I just do not pay attention, and I know it will be gone in five or ten minutes, and I do not have to deal with it. Maybe a little shiny spot, but that is what they do. You know the story of the two bums that were walking down a railroad track. They had not eaten for days. The one bum says to the other bum, "Man, I am starving to death." The other bum says, "I am too." The one bum says, "I am going to eat the first thing I see." The second bum says, "Not me, buddy, I am waiting for a hot meal." So, they are walking on down the track, and there is a dead possum over here on the side of the road. That one says, "I am eating it." He got down there and he ate that thing up, and the guy says, "Not me, boys. I am not touching that. I am waiting. I will get a hot meal. I am waiting." He ate that thing down. They walked down the tracks about another 45 minutes, and that bum that ate that possum got turned green and yellow, and he just started going over the side of the track. He just threw up and threw up. He just threw up and threw up. And I said, "I told you not to eat that." He said, "But the good thing is I told him I would wait long enough, I would get a hot meal."

But the verse is true because just like a dog will go back and eat that, an unsaved man will go back to his sin every weekend. He will get so sick and so tired of it, and it will wear him out. She will get so burnt out. I have seen them puke their guts out on a Sunday morning, and just nothing left, or a Saturday morning or whatever it is. And you know what? They are laying there, and they are saying to themselves, "I am so sick. Oh, I am so, why did I do that? Why did I do that?" And you know what? The next weekend you will be right back at it again. That verse is true. Why? Because verse 19, he pursues evil.

Now for the unsaved woman, it is a pig, a sow.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Now I want you to notice here that she was washed, but she went right back to the wallowing in her mire. That is a great lesson here. That is because she got washed, she got religion. She went to AA and got dried out. She went to NA and got clean. She went to church, got confirmed. She got baptized. She got washed on the outside and cleaned up on the outside, but what really needed to be washed was being cleaned on the inside. Proverbs 11:22 says that you can take a sow, a pig, and clean her up, dress her in a sequined sparkling dress or gowns, put jewelry all over her, put a gold jewel in her nose, perfume and bubble bath all over her, put her in a sequined dress and put her on Dancing with the Stars, put her right there at the Academy Awards, go to state dinners, inaugural balls, Miss America pageant, Miss Universe pageant, The Bachelorette. They look good. They are shimmying around up there in the sparkle of sequins are everywhere, and it is saying, "Wow, look at her, look at that, look at this." And The Bachelorette, this guy has 20 women to choose from. They ask questions. Never one time. He is overwhelmed. They are all knockouts. They are all knockouts, and he is sitting there looking at that, and I have never heard one time, "How many times have you read the Bible through?" It is all about what is on the outside. You can take an unsaved woman and you can dress her up all those ways and put all those things in her life. I am telling you something. You can do all of that. But all you have got at the end of the day is just a star-studded pig. I do not know what to tell you. I do not know what to tell you. You can put clothes on her, diamonds on her, perfumes on it, bubble bath beads all

around her, whatever you want to do. You cannot change the character of an unsaved person by putting and dressing up the outside. A godly woman has to have her beauty on the inside.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Now, guys, I am not saying you have got to find the ugliest woman in the world if you want to be happy for the rest of your life. I am not talking about that. I knew this guy one time. He was married, and his wife, she was pretty. His wife left him. About four or five years later, he got remarried. This is a true story. My uncle told me that. They were in the army together. I finally met him. This woman was the ugliest woman on the planet. She fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch coming down. I am not kidding you. She looked like the south end of a northbound tractor trailer. I am not kidding you. She was ugly. I remember my mom. My mom, she knew nothing. She asked whatever question she wanted. She said, "Why did he marry such an ugly woman?" Because he is not a bad-looking guy. You know what his answer was? He told my uncle this. He said, "The first woman I married was really good-looking, and somebody took her away from me. So, I just thought when I got married the second time, I was going to marry somebody that nobody else would want to take away from me." That was the true statement. That was the right thing. Nobody. Nobody. I thought what he was saying. There are plenty of very beautiful, attractive women in the Bible who had great godly character on the inside. And there are plenty of them out there. Just look around here. That is not what it is saying. It is saying that real character, Christian character, is on the inside.

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price:

For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

Now there are the real ornaments. I know the charismatic crowd, the real weird charismatic crowd. They take it, and they say, "Okay, the women, they cannot wear any makeup. You have got to have your hair straight. You have got to get with no jewelry." I get that. That is not what it is saying. It is not saying that. Old Bob Jones Sr. used to say, "Ladies, if the barn door needs painting, you paint it." It is okay. Put the makeup on. It is fine. I get it. But what he is saying here, what made the virtuous woman a great example was not what she had going on the outside, but what she had going on the inside. Chaste conversation. That is lifestyle. That is saying the right things at the right time in the right way based on the Word of God in her life. Meek and quiet spirit. That is an ornament. Guys, that does not mean she is a doormat. It does not mean that she does not have a say in things. It does not mean that at all. It means the fact that she,

meeekness in the Bible is power under control. It is knowing how to do it. That is what he is talking about. She knows when to be quiet. She knows when to speak. She knows what to say. The Bible says she is in subjection to her husband. That does not mean that the husband lords over her, does it all around. But in a godly way, and down the line here, it talks about Abraham and Sarah. That there is a great working relationship. She is in subjection to her husband. It is not the other way around. I have seen guys who were 350 pounds, 200 pounds. They were great hunks of a man, and they had a wife that led him around like a little poodle on a leash going out for potty. I look at him, and there is this little guy. Sometimes they are not so little, but here is this gal that, and she has got him. He just, he is just walking along like this, "Come on, hurry up, go." All these inner character qualities, ladies, they come from you first and foremost being in love with one man. That is the inner man of your heart, the hidden man inside you. When a woman does all that she does and is all that she is to please that man first, the Lord, she will be everything you will ever want her to be to you.

Those are some great practical principles. You can see how Proverbs will just work its way into every aspect of life. Proverbs is filled with them. Every chapter is a goldmine. Every verse is a treasure trove. When we apply them, life will become less complicated. Life gets uncomplicated in two basic ways. God will show you the problem as it unfolds and will give you the principles of life through the Word of God to understand it and then to deal with it. Life gets simplified. There will be times in your life where God does not show it to you that way. You have got something that comes into your life that you do not get an answer on, you are not sure on, God just does not reveal it. You know what you do in that case? You rest in a relationship that you have with him that knows that even when you do not know what is going on, he does, and he is always going to be there, and you are always going to come out exactly the way he wants you to come out. When you belong to God, when I belong to God and doing right, then any problem I have in my life is really not my problem. I may have caused my own problem, but I can deal with those with the Lord. But when things come in that I am not responsible for, they are not my problem, they are the Lord's problems. I spend so much of my time trying to solve the Lord's problems when they are really not my problems. That just gets me complicated. So, you have got two choices. God will reveal it to you, learn the principles, open up the book, show it to you exactly what it is, you get a handle on it, understand it, you deal with it. There will be times in your life when something will come in, you do not see it clearly. God does not just open it up and make it crystal clear. He is not always going to do that. You know what you do in both cases? Trust the book that he gave you. Trust the principles when he shows you what to do. Trust the principles when he does not show you what to do. Ultimately, he is going to bring you through it and deliver you because of your righteousness. We will hold up there. Let us have a word of prayer.