

# Proverbs 11:30-31

Sunday 5/24/2015

Last week, if you can remember back that far, we began the final two verses in Proverbs chapter 11. Those verses are Proverbs 11:30-31, and we looked at the bottom line, really, the final aspect of what God's salvation should produce in our lives, and we know that is to bear fruit.

God saved you and He saved me for one reason. I understand that everybody here today is on different levels of spiritual growth. I get it. I understand that. But you need to know that fundamentally, God saved you for one purpose. Wherever you are at in that level, your goal should be in time to get to the point where you reproduce yourself into others.

I showed you how Israel in the Old Testament, and then I showed you how the church in the New Testament, were to bear fruit for God. It is a great study, one of the greatest studies found in all of the Bible.

You also remember I reviewed for you those five spiritual stages that the nation of Israel went through as God called them out, formulated them, and brought them to a place where they were to bear fruit. Then I also showed you that the church goes through the exact same five stages in history. In both cases, we now know that it ends in a failure of Israel and the church to fulfill that Great Commission that God had given Israel to bear fruit.

Then I gave you an introduction to today's message on biblically based New Testament soul winning by showing you what soul winning, first of all, is not. Today, along with last week, I am going to show you what it is.

Christianity has misdefined so many things today. We live in a day and age where, because we have lost the Bible and we have lost sight of what the Word of God says as God's absolute standard, we now live in a world of a lot of misdefined concepts in Christianity. Soul winning is certainly one of those, and we are going to bring it back online this morning with the Bible.

We know and understand that winning people to Christ is a byproduct. We talked about this last week. It is a byproduct of your intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit of God. It is not a program. It is not some book that you read. It is not some format that you follow. It is the relationship you have with the Holy Spirit of God. When you are one with Him, when you know Him and you have that intimate spiritual relationship with Him, you will bear fruit through a natural process of that relationship with Him.

You remember I told you many, many times that there are seven things that you lose when you lose your Bible. When the devil takes your Bible from you and you do not have an absolute standard anymore by which you go by, by which you judge things by, and through which you run everything, that is what has happened today. You lose seven things. One of those things, and we have talked about it many times, is your ability to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit of God.

So then, man now has to make soul winning a program. He has to come up with all kinds of ideas and concepts. He has to come up with some man-made method that will appear that what they are doing is really Bible-based.

## I. The Team Concept of Soul Winning

I also gave you probably one of the greatest single verses on understanding how soul winning works, not only in your own personal life, in your family, but also in our church, found in 1 Samuel 30:24. I am going to read it again because it is so vitally important.

*1 Samuel 30:24*

*For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.*

I want you to remember that verse this morning because it simply says that as a husband and wife team, as a family team with your children, or as men and women in this church, we are a team. Not everybody always goes down to battle. Not everybody gets on the firing line all the time. Some people have to stay back and stay by the stuff.

You are in here this morning, and you are getting the Word of God, and you are in the forefront of it, but there are people in the back that are taking care of your kids. They are staying with the stuff. I have seen some of you, when somebody went to Lincoln or somebody did this over here or got involved in this and they had children, you stayed home and kept their kids because they could go. You see, that is a team concept.

The Bible says that when you do that, when we work as a team, and I want you to see this today, when we work as a team, it does not matter who wins that person to Christ. The Bible says we all part alike. You are as much of value in that person getting saved as the actual person who sat down and opened up the scriptures. That is a foreign concept today, but it is one that I want you to remember.

Today, I told you I was going to take you inside the Bible, and I want to show you the defining passage in the Word of God on soul winning. I have told this many, many times: the defining passages in the Bible are absolutely imperative for you to get down at some point in your life. It keeps you from making up your own interpretation of what this thing means. It shows you very clearly how the Bible defines things.

Today, I want to give you eight definitions, or eight concepts, or eight teachings, or eight doctrines in the Bible, however you want to lay it out, of what it takes to be a biblical New Testament soul winner. This is a flourishing branch off the olive tree, which we now know from Romans chapter 11 is the tree of life, which is Christ that produces fruit. If you want to bear fruit, if you want to do it right, if you want to get to the judgment and the urgency to Christ and have a full reward, then this message is for you.

Our verse today, the same as last week, will be Proverbs 11:30-31. That is where we are going to start. We will move from there very quickly.

*Proverbs 11:30-31*

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

*Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.*

Help us today as we come to Your Word. We love You. These good people have come out today and traveled many miles to hear the Word of God. We pray, Father, that You will take this unworthy servant and open up my heart and my mouth and my ears and my eyes, and that I might put forth the things of God that will change their life and help them be better in their relationship with You. We ask You, Father, forgive us where we have failed Thee and put us under Your blood, that we might receive all that You have for us today. We will be careful to thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

The ending of this great chapter is filled with principles for our Christian life. At the end of your Christian growth process, when you get to that point—of course, you never really stop growing—but when you get to a certain point in your life, you now begin to bear fruit, and you understand what it means and how important it is to reproduce yourself. You realize that that is the basic purpose for why God has saved us.

Now, I want you to take your Bibles this morning and I want you to move all the way over to the New Testament to Acts chapter 8. Acts 8. I do not know what you all know about the Bible, but Acts 8 is the first time in your Bible when a Gentile gets saved just like you and I got saved. I do not know if you know that or not.

I know that there were people saved in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, but did you ever see that? That is a salvation to Israel. In Matthew 10, when He sent the disciples and the apostles out to win them, He told them not to go to Gentiles. You are a Gentile. That is not your salvation.

I know that you get over there in Acts 2:38, and somebody gets saved, you know, baptism of repentance, but that is for Israel. I know you have a lot of water dogs running around today thinking that you get baptized, you go to heaven and all that stuff, but that is not true. That verse there is not to you. That verse is to the Jews because they crucified the Messiah. You have to be able to rightly divide your Bible.

If you want to find your salvation and my salvation, and you want to see it as it really happened, you have to go to Acts 8. In Acts 8, God up in heaven pans down that big old TV camera He has and He records for you and for me in the Bible exactly what happened. This man got saved, and it is exactly the model of what happened when you and I got saved. It records all the necessary things that you and I need to see. It lays out all the aspects for you and me to be a biblical New Testament soul winner led by the Holy Spirit of God to win souls, like Proverbs 11:30-31 says.

Do not get discouraged today if you have just been saved a short time and you have not won anybody to Christ one-on-one. As I said, be part of the team. Pray for people. Get in a prayer group and pray when somebody says, "We have so-and-so not saved and praying for him," or somebody raises their hand on Sunday morning and they get saved, or Thursday night Bible study. Be part of that because the Bible says that we part alike.

In this definitive passage, we are going to look at eight key aspects of New Testament Bible-based soul winning. This passage, Acts 8:25-40, is kind of lengthy. Look at it, and then I am going to break it down for you section by section.

*Acts 8:25-40*

*And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.*

*And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.*

*And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,*

*Was returning, and sitting in his chariot reading Esaias the prophet.*

*Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.*

*And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?*

*And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.*

*The place of the scripture which he read was this,*

*Isaiah 53:7-8*

*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

*He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.*

*And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?*

*Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*

*And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?*

*And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

*And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.*

*And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.*

*But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.*

I am going to break this down into sections and I am going to point out these eight areas as we move through them, so you will want to be ready to get them down.

## II. The Three Aspects of Soul Winning: Sowing, Watering, Reaping

The first three areas that I want to look at, and you will find these, and I will make mention of them all the way through as we come through this passage, you will find all through here, and they are very important. When it comes to soul winning, you must understand that there are three aspects of soul winning. These are the first three things I want you to get. You are going to realize when you come through this passage here and other places that when it comes to soul winning, there are three aspects to it.

1. There is a sowing aspect to it.
2. There is a watering aspect to soul winning.
3. There is a reaping concept to soul winning.

You will remember when we started Proverbs chapter 11, we saw in Proverbs 1 where the Bible says, "A false balance is an abomination in the sight of God." I took a couple of weeks and laid out what balance is and how important it is. When it comes to soul winning, there is your balance. A balanced soul winner understands three things. He understands that in winning people to Christ, there is a sowing, there is a watering, and there is a reaping.

I am going to explain these three, and then I am going to look at each one, and then we are going to move on to the other five, but I want you to see it.

### ➤ Sowing the Word of God

First of all, let us talk about sowing the Word of God. You realize that sometimes God just wants you to sow the Word and not win that person to Christ. That is a foreign concept to most people today. All they can think about, all churches, not all people, for the last 20 or 30 years, has been to win them to Christ, win them to Christ, win them to Christ. But I am telling you, there are times in the Word of God and times in your life when God does not want you to win that person. He just wants you to sow the Word of God.

You see, a man getting saved, and I do not mean this in the wrong way, because it does, but as far as what is going on inside him, it has nothing to do with you and me. We are just a delivery boy with a message that God has given us.

Proverbs 11:31 says that we get recompense for that. God is going to bless us for it, get rewards for it, we know that. But salvation is in a man's heart based on what God is doing with him.

Many times we forget this. Salvation with that man is not based on you and him; it is based on where he is at with God and what God is doing in his life at that particular time. You and I have no idea what God is doing with him. There are times when he is not ready to be saved yet, and all God wants us to do is to sow some seed and let God work it in and let God take some time in the Holy Spirit of God to work on it.

When a child of God is indifferent to the Holy Spirit of God, he keeps pushing it, he keeps pushing it, he keeps prying it. I have seen guys take a guy who did not want to get saved, and he just beat him and beat him and beat him, and many times it produces a false salvation. They get saved just to get you off their back, and of course, they never really get saved.

I do not want to degrade Billy Graham for anything in the world. I think in many aspects of his life he has done a lot of good things, and I am the last guy in the world to criticize him. But I will tell you this: I know early on, later on in the ministry, when all the other people got involved in it, they had such a desire for people to get saved. That is a good thing; you ought to have a desire to get people saved. They had a desire to get people saved, but you have to stay within the limitations of the Bible. Their desire was so great that it overrode the principles of the Word of God.

When they would give an invitation, and I know this to be true because I have been to several of their meetings where they take you into churches and they tell the people who are going to work with people down at the altar, they tell them, "Once the music and the invitation starts at the end of the sermon, there are going to be a lot of people that are sitting there that may not feel comfortable with stepping out and coming forward. So I want all of the workers," probably a thousand people, "I want all of the workers at that cue to get up and start moving down toward the front like you are going to get saved. That will loosen up the crowd, and they will get up and they will move down and they will get saved too."

I have a simple rule that I follow. I have been in Baptist churches all my life. When the end of the sermon comes and the guy gets up there, he wants to get people saved so bad. Hey, I do too. I have seen him sing that famous old song, "Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me, O Lamb of God." Thirty-five stanzas. When that does not do it, they switch songs: "Almost Persuaded." You see, that is supposed to finally get you.

Now, I want to see people saved, but I follow a simple rule. You know what that rule is? I never want a person to get saved more than they want to get saved. Because when you do, then you have to resort to trickery. When I give an invitation on Sunday morning, there is no music. Tabby does not play some soft, sweet song to melt your heart, bring tears to your eye, to bring you down. There is no pleading. I will maybe sing two or three stanzas, come across the crowd once or twice, and then I am off to McDonald's, man. There is no trickery.

I have seen guys up there give an invitation, and nobody moved, and the guy said, "Yes, I see that hand," when there was no hand. I understand what he is trying to do: get somebody out there that does not want to raise their hand to think somebody else raised their hand, and you will raise your hand.

I want to talk to you a minute. If you want to get saved, get down the aisle and get saved. If God's Holy Spirit cannot break your heart, if the preaching of the Word of God cannot get down in your soul and just bust you loose, all my tricks of the trade are never going to get you saved. There are times when God just wants us to sow, and He has no intention of us reaping.

➤ Watering

2.) The second concept is watering. There are times when God, after you sow the Word of God, wants you to water. That is praying for people. Sometimes that is what God wants you to do. You sow the seed, and then you water it.

Now, the watering is in relationship, and boy, is this an absolute foreign concept to God's people. The watering is a reference to us weeping over lost people.

*Psalms 126:6*

*He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

You see, here is the problem, and I am going to show you several problems today. I will tell you where they are at. Here comes number one. The problem today is God's people have no tears left for lost people.

I will tell you why. You only have so many tears, and we waste most of them. We will go see some movie, a late-night movie on TV, and we will sit there all curled up with our popcorn and a blankie, and we are sitting there watching some sad movie, and you know how they all go: sad movies always make me cry. You will sit there and boo-hoo and weep. Man, I will tell you what, you are sitting there watching two people in a movie or three people in a movie, and you are lying, crying, and they are fine. They are out in California someplace, living high on the hog. They are not dead. You are wasting an expensive amount of tears on something that is not even real.

God's people today have no tears left for the lost. You know why? They spent all their tears on the bad relationships they have gotten themselves in. They have cried themselves asleep at night over some goofy girl, some Bozo the Clown guy, some bug-wit that could not even figure out life. They have no tears left. They spent it all on the bad relationships or many times the terrible choices that they have made.

Oh, I have seen them cry and cry and cry to us like their heart was going to come out their mouth. They were so broken over some of the bad choices that they made in life. I have seen them cry their eyes out because their kids were out in the world and not doing what was right. I have seen them cry their eyes dry over the trouble they have caused in their own house, Proverbs 11:29. Now they are reaping the whirlwind, and there is nothing left for unsaved people. That is why.

But sometimes that is what God wants you to do. He