

Proverbs 12:17-19

Sunday 9/20/2015

If you have your Bibles, I would like you to turn to Proverbs 12. We are moving through the book of Proverbs, and Chapter 12 is an incredible chapter. We are going to look at verses 17, 18, and 19 today. Today, we are going to see the reference that has been the theme of this chapter: what really comes out of our mouth. You are going to see it with a little different twist today.

I do not think we take for granted many, many times, and do not understand the importance of our words, the things that we say. Words are very powerful. They have the power to, if they are used in the right way, and there is a power if they are used in the wrong way. Words can be used to either destroy somebody or they can lift up somebody or they can knock somebody down. They are very powerful. The words in any language, the words themselves are not bad, but it is the attitude of heart and how they are used that will make them bad in a biblical sense.

Sometimes you find the word "lips" a lot in the book of Proverbs, and the lips are what is used to form those words. Today, I want to read these verses. We will pick it up in Proverbs 12:17.

Proverbs 12:17

He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

Proverbs 12:18

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Proverbs 12:19

The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Father, we ask Your blessings upon our time today in Your Word. We ask You to open up the Scriptures, open up our hearts, and may we see all that You have for us today and learn from this great passage as we continue through this great book. We will be careful to give You all the honor and the praise and the glory. In Jesus' name and sake we ask it. Amen.

These three verses here are some very powerful verses. The application, as we get into this, is going to take us much farther than just your average everyday life and the things that you deal with. You are going to see that when you put them into a proper context, it will really take our study of the lips, the mouth, the fruit of our lips, the transgression that comes out of our mouth to a very new level.

I. The Power of Truthful Words

In Proverbs 12:17, it says, "He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit." I want to break this verse down as we always break the verses down, and I want to break it down around its natural breakdown here, the little word "but." The little word "but" is a conjunction. The conjunction in the English language does many things, but one of the main things it does is show us a contrast. It contrasts the first part of what you read to the last part of what you read. They are very important in the Bible, and Proverbs is really filled with them.

It says, "He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness." That is the first part of the verse. This verse, when you begin to study the book of Proverbs, will go along with Proverbs 11:30, Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 12:22, and Proverbs 14:25. You will find that it has a soul-winning application to it: speaking truth to show forth righteousness.

Anytime you find the word "righteousness" in the Bible, it is going to be a reference to Jesus Christ. When you are righteous, you are righteous because you have His righteousness. The only righteous person and the only righteousness in this world is the righteousness of Jesus Christ. You want to remember that. This is talking about using our lips and words to show a lost world God's righteousness, which, as I said, is Jesus Christ.

The lips, as we talked about, are for the forming of words. The words themselves carry the truth or the message, whether it be truth or false. The mouth is the communication with words that are formed by the lips. So you find those three used in the book of Proverbs all the time.

Along with Proverbs 12:17, Proverbs 14:25 says this:

Proverbs 14:25

A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.

Have you ever noticed that when Christ talked through the Scriptures, most people do not even pay attention to this, but you realize that not one time in the Bible did He ever reference the original manuscripts to anything? We make so much of that today. I tell people all the time that one of the things when it comes to the Bible you never want to do is emphasize too much the things that God does not emphasize. Today, we live in a world, a Christian world anyhow, that is all about the originals: the original Greek, the original Hebrew, the original manuscripts. Yet, when you just come back to the Bible, you will find that never one time did He ever refer to the original manuscripts. You never, in what He is saying, see Him say, "Well, the original Hebrew text," or in the New Testament, "the original Greek text." Not one time. Any time or place in the Bible where He talks about the Bible or what He said, He simply uses the word "words," just that simple.

John 8:31

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

You have a whole Christianity today that thinks that the only real truth of God's Word is found in the originals that somebody, once upon a time, had. Of course, that is not true. The Bible says that it is in His Word.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

That is a real problem if you are a guy who believes that you do not have them.

John 8:47

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

It is always the words, always the words, the importance of words. That is because the power of the simple words of the Bible are the life that God gives us.

John 1:4

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Most people do not think this through. But if I had the original Greek or the original Hebrew here this morning, it would be absolutely useless for three basic reasons.

1. The Greek or the Hebrew is absolutely useless because nobody has ever had them. They have never been in existence in one book. Nobody ever had them for any length of time in any way, shape, or form.
2. The second reason they would be worthless is that you cannot even read them today because they do not exist.
3. The third, and to me the most important, reason why they are worthless is that down through the history of the world, from the Old Testament to the New Testament, not one person ever got saved from them.

Based on that, the only good they are for is for somebody to puff themselves up with it. But as far as from a practical application, they just do not work. You talk about being a fool in the book of Proverbs. Guys say, "Well, I studied the original Greek and the Hebrew." Really? Well, I will tell you something, pal, come on down to 18th and Sherry today, or go out on Will's team, or go out on Darren's team, or go down to the library and bring your Greek New Testament and try to win somebody to Christ with it. You think that way because in most cases you have never won a soul to Christ in the last 40 years of your life. If you ever have won a soul to Christ, you know what you have to do? You have to use the very words that I am talking about today that you think are inferior to the original manuscripts that you think are everything. You can only study the Greek. You are a geek. Those words are life. They are light. They are the power of the words of God.

In the New Testament, in Matthew 18:18, there is a passage there that a lot of people have a tough time with.

Matthew 18:18

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Over the years, I have had a lot of questions with young Christians about that, and they will say, "Well, I do not understand that verse. What does that mean? How do you have the power to bind somebody or loose somebody of their sins?" You, on your own, do not have that power. But when you get saved and the Holy Spirit of God is in you, and you have the Word of God in your life, which is power, now you have the ability to either remit sins or bind somebody with their sins.

I will show you what I mean. You sit down with somebody and they know they are a sinner and they want to get saved. You do not save them. You take the Word of God, the words which are life, you open up that book, you show them what Christ did, and through the Word of God, when they get saved, you have now loosed them from their sin. Whatever you loose down here is loosed up in heaven.

You sit down with somebody and they know they are a sinner, and you try to win them to Christ and show them all that Christ did, and they reject it and they walk away and never trust Christ. You, through the Word of God, now giving them the witness, talking about God's righteousness, have now just bound them to their sin through the Word of God.

I have taught you before that when we hit Proverbs 11:13, we laid out that great passage on soul winning. I took you back to probably the greatest soul-winning chapter in all the Bible, Acts 8, the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. I remember telling you back there that the whole key to putting forth God's righteousness and using your lips and your words to tell people about Christ is simply letting God prepare you. I showed you back there on that great story that God had a prepared sinner, that was the Ethiopian eunuch, and God had a prepared servant, that was Philip, and God's Spirit got the two of them together. When you come down through there and study it, and when Philip won that man to Christ, you know what he did? He started right with the Scriptures that that man had. That was not the originals. The originals were not Scripture. You mean to tell me that the eunuch had the original copy of Isaiah 53 when Philip hooked up with him? He had a copy of a copy of a copy of a copy that probably for the last six, seven hundred years had been copied. But the words were powerful when the Bible says they were Scriptures.

The true New Testament born-again witness for Christ will fulfill two great passages in the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms is a great book on the words of God. Psalms 119 is probably the greatest chapter in the Bible on the words in the Bible. But in Psalms 35:28, it says:

Psalms 35:28

And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

This righteousness is Jesus Christ. The other one is in Psalms 40:9-10.

Psalms 40:9

I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.

Psalms 40:10

I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

The thought behind those two verses is simple: with the words of my mouth, with the lips forming those words, and the speech that is the communication, our job is to declare God's righteousness to a lost world. That is what we are to do. I have a little note in my Bible by Psalms 40:9-10. It simply says this: "God did not hide His righteousness from me. Why should I hide it from Him?" That is our job: to put it out, declare God's righteousness.

When you and I speak of God's righteousness, we speak of only one authoritative, absolute, eternal, infallible standard: the Word of God. The fact that we got God's righteousness as a guilty, hell-bound sinner through the death of Christ on that cross and got saved by those words. I cannot tell you how important the power of words are. When you and I talk about the power of words and the things that we say, it is either going to have a positive effect or a negative effect. There are people that all their lives have a negative effect on everybody that is around them simply by the words that come out of their mouth. Then there are other people who have a positive effect on everybody around them simply because of the words that come out of their mouth.

The Bible says that when you and I declare God's righteousness, when we got it, I was a guilty, hell-bound sinner through the death of Christ on that cross. We got saved by those words, and we are supposed to put it out. The Bible says through His blood, the forgiveness of sin.

Colossians 1:14

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Proverbs 12:17 says, "He that speaketh truth, sheweth forth righteousness." That is what a soul winner does. That is what a Christian is supposed to do.

When a Christian speaks truth, when a Christian declares God's righteousness, you will find five things in his life that go along with that. That is found right in this chapter here, if you look at them and look underneath the surface.

4. He is a faithful messenger. The job of you and I is to declare the Gospel. Sadly, most Christians today do not even know where the Gospel is found or even know what it is. They think the Gospel is Jesus, or the Gospel is salvation, or the Gospel is the Bible. All those things are certainly important, but they are not the Gospel in itself. The definitive passage on the Gospel is in 1 Corinthians 15. It lays out the Gospel.
5. He carries the message. He does not send somebody else in his place. In 2 Kings 4, there is a great story. It illustrates how a person really gets saved, and it is a great Old Testament example of New Testament soul winning. The story is built around Elisha. Elisha is the man of God, and we have a woman in this story who has a son who was born. He grows up to be,

probably a teenager, and then one day he just dies. She knows that the power of God can resurrect her son, so she sends for the man of God. That story, as you read it, is a picture of how to give life to dead men. We know in the Bible that a dead man is a picture of an unsaved person, an unsaved person who was dead in trespasses of sin. That boy back there represents an unsaved person. His mother wants to get him saved. So his mother sends for the man of God to come in and to literally in the story raise him back to life, but in our illustration, spiritually, it is a picture of somebody getting saved. Elisha, just like so many of God's people, when the messenger shows up and says this boy is dead, he needs the man of God to come and give him life. You know what he does? He does what most of God's people do today. He sends somebody else in his place to try to raise this dead kid. A dead kid cannot get raised by somebody else. That is a great illustration. The whole story is a great story. It goes on and shows you the actual thing and how he brings life to that person. It is an incredible picture on soul winning. But the thing that I want to focus on this morning is simply the fact that when God has called you to do something, when God has given you the mandate to put forth His righteousness, when God has put it in your heart, the same Spirit of God that is in my heart or somebody else's heart that goes out and wins people to Christ, you cannot send somebody else to do what God has called you to do.

6. He delivers it in person, one on one. Getting involved with that person, building a relationship, and then earning the right to tell him the precious story of the Lord Jesus Christ. This last Wednesday night, we had our meeting of the FEW, the Foundation of Exceptional Warriors. I told you Thursday night, there were about eight or nine people that they had, and we had about 30-some people there. It was a great night. We got a clear presentation of what is going on. We got everybody that wanted to divide it up, and other people will fall in as we move this thing through. It is going to be a once-a-month meeting. I do not know how many of you saw it or not, but in that crowd right there, I could see there were four guys who were just right for the picking right there. Four men who came with the best intentions. Four men who probably, if we do our job down the line, will get saved at some point. Four men who, and I did not even count their wives, four men that probably do not even know they need Christ as their own Savior. But last Wednesday night was just the impetus. It was just the beginning. It was just the Holy Spirit of God in a very mellow way knocking on the heart door of their heart. When they talked about the fact that our church is going to do all the counseling and develop the hotline and be able to be the source that all these veterans that go through all their struggles deal with afterwards, two of them came up and both of them said to me, "You know what?" Now, keep in mind, one of them is probably lost as can be. The other one is probably saved. They come up to me and he said, "You know what? I want to help you. I want to be part of that." The guy who was lost probably has an incredible group already that he works with that suffers through all these things that he has been working through with the VA. The VA will not do anything for him. He simply said, "You know what? I want to bring those in here and have some classes where you guys can teach them and give them what they are not getting and what they need." He said that clear as a bell, not understanding that he needed it too. But that is okay. You deliver the message in person. One of the other guys, the guy and his wife that came in on a motorcycle, he got me afterwards and he pulled me aside and he says, "You know what? I am really confused about the world

that we live in." He says, "I do not understand what is going on. It is the most confusing thing in the world to me." I talked with him and I said, "You know what? It is confusing to me too." I said, "When we get into this and we start to develop some things, together we can maybe come to some answers. There are some things I would like to show you, and you can help me understand it a little better from where you are coming from, and I can help you understand it where I am coming from." That was the beginning. That night was the very beginning of that man's walk to find Christ as his own personal Savior. He does not even know it. He does not even know. He is just confused. I am confused. We are all confused. The world is a very confusing place, but you have to be a faithful messenger. You have to carry the message. You cannot send somebody else, and you have got to deliver it in person. You have got to be willing to invest your life in that person to be able to get the chance to tell them about Christ.

7. He delivers the message intact as he received it. You never get creative with a simple plan of salvation. Man likes to take something as basic and simple as salvation and make it as complex and complicated as he can. That is what human nature does. He takes the simplest things of God, like the Bible. The Bible probably looks like an intimidating book. Honestly, the Bible is probably the easiest book in the world to learn if you just follow the simplicity of the way it lays itself out. What makes it so intimidating and so hard is when man gets his hooks into it. He makes it complicated. He takes it to levels that God never intended for it to go to. He takes the hard route every time. Of course, that is the problem. When you show forth Christ and who He is, righteous as He is, you do not have to get creative about it. You just follow this simple thing. I always tell people, people say to me, "Well, I want to do this, but I am not sure if I understand how to get into something that maybe I am not prepared for, or have to get a question asked to me that I am not ready to answer, and I am a little worried about that." I always give them the same advice. In situations where you are going in to do something for God, here is the simple plan: stick with what you do know. Just stick with what you do know. Do not try to get creative. Do not try to get outside the box. Just stick with what you do know. You will be surprised how much you already have that when the Holy Spirit of God starts tapping into that resource, you will be surprised what you will say and what you will do.
8. He learns to disregard the consequences of delivering the message. Christ paid a price for you to have your salvation. You will pay a price for putting out and declaring that righteousness. We live in a world that hates Christ, hates God, hates the Bible, and everything about it. We live in a world that has absolutely no use for Christ and Christianity. We live in a country that is no longer Christian. We live in a country that no longer cares about the things of God. We live in a country where we see families that are broken and busted and messed up simply because nobody cares anymore about truth, righteousness. When you take that stand, it raises you up above the crowd. It raises you up above the common person, not in a prideful way, but in an illuminating way. You are the light now in the darkness. You are the city on a hill that cannot be hid. When you start to declare God's righteousness through your mouth, through your lips, it elevates you to a point that God allows people to see that light. Not everybody is going to appreciate that light. Not everybody is going to like it. It is going to

cost some people something to proclaim Christ's righteousness because it cost God something for our salvation.

Most of God's people are good people. You find some really weird, bad people, but the majority of them are good people. They really are. The majority of them, I believe, try to do the best they can with what they have. The major flaw is simply this: they want a Christianity without any discomfort. They want a Christianity that just, they love God, they love the Bible, as long as you do not rock their little boat and rock their little world, they are fine. They think of Christianity as something that gets along with everybody, and in reality, Christianity is something that outside the brothers and sisters in Christ, you do not usually get along with anybody. They do not like that. They completely misunderstand the consequences of delivering the message, and that is why they do not do it. They will go up to a point as long as it is comfortable, but stepping out of that comfort zone, it is the hardest thing for somebody to do. I watch it in some of you as you approach that point, and you worry about it. You look at it, you fear it, and then pretty soon you step over the line and you are into it, and you realize that it was no big deal, and it is a lot more fun when you get into it. It is a lot more fun on the other side making people mad than it is over here trying to run around and keep everybody happy.

The Bible says in Romans 10:13-15:

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:14

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:15

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

You know what that verse says? That verse says that every saved man, every saved woman, ought to be a preacher. We think that preachers and pastors are one and the same, and that is not true. God may have never called all of you to pastor. He certainly never called a woman to pastor, but He does not always call a man to pastor. But I can say this on the authority of the Word of God: every man and woman in here is called to be a preacher because preaching is nothing more than declaring God's righteousness.

I go back to Acts 8 when Philip was with that Ethiopian eunuch, and he pulled into that chariot, and Philip goes over and says, "Hey, do you understand what you are reading there, pal?" He said, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" The Bible says that he desired Philip to come up and sit with him in that chariot. If you could go back in time and just pan up on that, that would be a great thing to see. That old boy coming through by that old chariot, by that old Isaiah 53 tucked in his jacket pocket someplace that he had gotten. I would always like to know where he got it. Things like that in the Bible intrigue me. You know why God does not always

tell you where those things come from? I will tell you why: because in your life and my life, the Bible says God's Word does not return void. I do not know where that portion of Isaiah 53 came from, but I know ultimately it came from God. God had somebody leave a tract here, put this here, put this over here, and the guy said, "You know what?" I have seen people who have cleaned out their house, and I have seen them take tracts that they thought were outdated or tracts that they thought were no good, or maybe the covers were off of them. I have actually seen them throw them away, and I have seen when a garbage guy came by or a trash guy came by, they picked them up. I have actually seen out there where the guy was just reading that thing. God knows what He is doing.

When they finally get together, Philip sees he is reading Isaiah 53, which is the prophetic about Christ and the blood atonement, and he opens up that thing, and the Bible says that he opened up at the same Scripture and preached unto him Jesus. I want to tell you what Philip did not do. Philip did not say, "Okay, now you got that. I need a pulpit. Let us get a pulpit here, and let us see. We do not have a piano. We do not have a choir, but we need to take up an offering here, and we will get this all done." He did not. The Bible says that preaching has nothing to do with a church service. No church service should be about preaching. But preaching is nothing more than declaring forth God's righteousness, and if you are saved this morning and you are here under the sound of my voice, you ought to be a preacher. That is simple.

He says in Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things." That is speaking truth and showing forth righteousness, being led by the Spirit of God. God does not look at things like we do. I never wear sandals because I have the ugliest feet in the world. I do not know what is wrong. I have that fungus among us. I envy some of you gals that people must make a fortune off the toenail painting that they do. I see little flags on your toenails. I see little bugs painted, not real ones. I see little multi-colors. Can you imagine? When I go to Walmart to get the water, they have a toenail place there, a pedicure or pedophile or whatever it is called. They have all these little oriental people in there. They have masks on, and these women up there look like Fred Flintstone feet sticking up on these things. These women are painting them. They are painting them. We are doing a Michelangelo artwork on the Sistine Chapel. They are painting them suckers. We do everything we can to make what normally does not look very pleasing, our feet, better. If I had my toenails painted, I could just take them off and leave them and pick them back up when I am pulling back out. We do so much because honestly, our feet are probably in most cases the ugliest part of our body. When your guy took you out for the first time, he said, "I love your hair. Your eyes are just like, man, they are blue. Man, it just makes everything. Your face, that cute little nose you have got." You never heard anybody say, "You have got the nicest feet I ever saw in my life." This does not work that way. We try to cover up in most cases. I understand back in the Old Testament, they used to do foot washing. I realize why the church does not do it today. I get it. You would be wearing more than a mask. You would be having goggles with a flip slant, and you can close those suckers and a welder's mask or something. It always struck me that the thing that we look at and is probably the most unattractive or can be the most unattractive part of our body, our feet. God says when you preach the Gospel, that is the most beautiful part of your body because it is carrying forth the Gospel. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel

of peace." He does not care how big they are. He does not care how small they are. He does not care if they are double, triple E, wide, wide. He does not care if your toenails are yellow, green, purple. He does not care if they are all gone. It does not matter to Him. He looks at the feet that declare the Gospel, that carry forth the righteousness that declares His Son.

II. The Deceit of False Witness

Look at the last part of Proverbs 12:17: "but a false witness deceit." These false witnesses are throughout the Bible, and as you well know, they are throughout life. Moses had them. Job had them. Joseph had them. There were false witnesses at Stephen's death in Acts 7 that got him killed, and in Matthew 26:60, there were plenty of them there at the crucifixion of Christ. But to you and me, Jesus says in Acts 1:8, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me." That is a righteous witness.

That puts every preacher, Bible teacher, theologian, and Christian in the position of being a false witness if he preaches or teaches contrary to the New Testament teachings. Under that heading, you would find the people that today stand up in a pulpit and they preach post-millennialism, the fact that they are going to clean the world up and Christ is going to come back, instead of what the Bible teaches about pre-millennialism. You would find along with that the people who teach a-millennialism. That is a false witness. The fact that there is no literal kingdom to come in, it is a spiritual kingdom.

- This would be the people who teach Reformation theology, better known as Calvinism.
- This would be a whole crowd that teaches baptismal regeneration for salvation, and there are tons of them.
- This would be the Charismatic Movement.
- It would be the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons.
- It would be the Methodists, the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, and even many, many Baptist churches.
- It would be unity.
- In the world, it would be socialism and communism. They are a false witness to the things of the Bible.
- It would be education that teaches evolution.
- It would be the scientists who reject creation and think that it all happened through the Big Bang Theory.
- It would be in Christianity or the world, it would be those who accept the teachings of Freud or Huxley or Kant or Menzendor, all of those great philosophers that the world holds in such high esteem, which the Bible tells us in Colossians 2:8 is a warning for the church.

There are two warnings for the church in the Bible. One of them about philosophers, the other one about science falsely so called. Proverbs 12:17 says, "but a false witness deceit." These false witnesses will deceive you.

Now look at Proverbs 12:18: "There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise is health." Words that are untrue that come out of the lips of a false witness are like

the cutting of a sword. It pierces you. It hurts you. It is intended to wound you. It is intended to do damage to you or your reputation.

In Zechariah 13:6, you find a prophetic passage there talking about the Lord Jesus after the crucifixion. It is an incredible passage. It is dealing with the false witnesses that were against Him that led up to His crucifixion. In Zechariah 13:6, it is somebody talking to somebody, obviously it is the Lord he is talking to, and it says:

Zechariah 13:6

And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

That is a prophetic verse about Jesus. The Bible says He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. The wounds He received, He received in the house of His friends, the nation of Israel. He came as their Messiah. He came to help them. Many believed on Him, but the scribes and the Pharisees turned the people against Him. As I said, in John 1:11, it says:

John 1:11

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

They are the ones, the ones that should have been His friends, the ones that said they were looking for a Messiah, were the ones that wounded Him. Not only is that a great prophetic chapter, but it is a great practical application too, because as you probably well know, many times it will be the people who claim to be your friends who will hurt you the most and try to do the most damage, cut you with the sword of their tongues.

Let me be clear about this sword here, because I do not want any confusion. This is not the sword of Hebrews 4:12. This is not the sword that cuts the joints of the marrow. This sword here is not the sword of the Word of God. This here is the sword of the devil's sword. It is used by wicked people. In Proverbs 6:16-17, you find about the things that are abomination to the Lord, and the last one is sowing discord among the brethren. That is a false witness coming out of somebody's mouth like a sword that cuts people up. No, no, no. This sword is forged and wielded with malice and hatred. It is based on a wicked man's attitude of heart. It is tempered with jealousy. It is tempered with envy and slander and false witness and slanderous behind-your-back talk. This is not the Lord's sword. It will cut you, your family, to pieces and try to leave you bloody. This is the sword of the devil, the sword of the wicked man that will out of his wicked heart bear false witness against you.

One of the great things about it is, you find that the devil, I have said all the time, he counterfeits Christ in everything. In Revelation 19:11, when the Lord comes back at the second coming of Christ, the Bible says a sharp two-edged sword comes out of His mouth by which He shall smite the nations. That sword is the Word of God. Here you have the devil's sword, which comes out of his mouth, but it smites you, the people.

III. The Healing Power of Wise Words

Look at the last part of Proverbs 12:18: "but the tongue of the wise is health." That is spiritual health. Words of God will be health to you when you start to use them and put them into your life. Jeremiah 46:11, one of the great verses in the Bible, talks about the balm of Gilead.

Jeremiah 46:11

Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not be cured.

The balm of Gilead, you know, Gilead was east of Jordan, and it was a very rich and very fruitful part of the country. It was a great place and a source of comfort. In Gilead, they had all kinds of spices that came off of trees and alloys that came from fruit and all those things. One of the things that came was a balm, a salve that they made, a medicine. It was called the balm of Gilead, and they actually exported it as medicine. You read several times in the Bible about a balm in Gilead and that balm to heal the nation of Israel. That balm of Gilead is a type of the Word of God. It shows you that the words of the Lord will help man to heal.

I know that we all go through tough times in life. Some of them are very unfair. Some of them we deserve. But it still hurts. Some of them we do not deserve, and it really hurts. I have seen people all my life get mad at God and mad at the church or mad at this or mad at that, and they take one crayon out of their coloring box, black, and the rest of their life they color Christianity with that dark color. That is because you have been hurt inside. I get it. I understand it. I realize it, and I have had people say, "You know, I do not go to church because I got burned at a church one time, and I am never going back to church again." I understand that. I get it. I am sympathetic for you. But I have to also tell you that is pretty dumb.

I mean, I would never have you go to a restaurant and you get a terrible meal. We went to a Mexican restaurant here that opened up in Lee's Summit a while back. It was the worst place you had ever been in your life. The food was cold. It was late. The waitress was on drugs. It was terrible. It was supposed to be one of the best Mexican restaurants on the planet, and it was absolutely terrible. Worse yet, we waited an hour and a half to eat something that was this bad. The food was terrible. The service was terrible. She could not get it right. She got pictures of people's food mixed up. She did not have everything on it. It was one of those things where finally the manager came over. This is a true story. The manager came over. He apologized and he said, "Your meal is on us tonight." He says, "There is no way." He says, "I realize that some of you did not even eat all your food. There is no charge for this tonight. I just hope that you will come back, and we are going to copy on this meal." We had, it must have been, it was somebody's birthday. We must have had 12, 15 people there. We got the whole meal free. All the way out laughing, "Boy, that was a great meal. We sure pulled it over on him. Just tell us bad. They will give it to you free. Let us go someplace else and do that with dessert." No, it was bad. But you know what? I do not know how many restaurants I have eaten in since that place. Probably half of them Mexican. In other words, because they had one bad experience here, does not mean that all restaurants are that way. Just because you have one bad experience in church, does not mean all churches are that way. But I get where you are at. You got hurt. You got busted. You got broken. But my word to you is you need the balm of Gilead. You need to heal. You need

to let the Word of God do what it does: help man to heal. The Bible is a book of medicine. Proverbs is the book of medicine for the spirit of man.

How many of you, when you came in here, your marriages were on the rocks? You know what God did through the Word of God? He healed it. Busted relationships, they get healed. Your children, your family gets healed. You get restored to the fellowship of the brethren because it heals. It will cure the blindness of spiritual blindness of not being able to see. It will soften a hardened heart and make it soft. It will heal and overcome our anxiety. It will heal and overcome our depression. It will heal and overcome our loneliness. It will heal and overcome our strongholds.

I cannot even talk about this without thinking about our little Victoria up there in Lincoln. Here is a girl that, I mean, I do not even know what to say about her. She is one of the sweetest little kids we have ever met in our lives. Yet she was forsaken by everybody. The church she went to dumped her. Her friend dumped her. She got a terrible illness because of going on the mission field. Everybody misdiagnosed it. Everybody wanted to blame her. I mean, you talk about anybody that for a short three or four years, I am sure it was a lot longer than that in her mind, but it ever went through something close to what Job went through as far as his suffering, it was her. Her friends forsook her. Her pastor forsook her. The church forsook her. She was dating a guy who was a pastor at one church, and he just up and forgot her and left her and moved on. All of her friends quit calling. At the time she needed everybody most, everybody left. I understand why she got the way that she did, and her mom and dad, they said to themselves, "You know what, if this is Christianity, I do not want any part of it." I get it. She actually walled up and closed the doors. It was like going up to an armored truck and trying to beat the door to get in. I understand people like that. I understand that it was hurt and it was bad. When she needed people most, nobody was there. But look at her today. She is one of the finest young ladies. She loves the Lord. She is listening online. She comes down now about every month. The church here, we go up there. She is turning around. She is feeling better. Somebody would say, "Wow, what happened?" Only one thing happened. It is the only thing that happened, but it is the thing that needs to happen in everybody's life. It was no great miracle. It was no great "we are better than anybody else." It was simply we have a balm from Gilead. When you apply it to someone's wounds, it heals them. That is all. That is all that it is.

I look at the people in the FEW that we talked about the other night we were here. That is all they need. They just need the balm of Gilead. They need the healing in their hearts, in their spirits, in their souls. They need the healing that only comes from the Word of God. They can go to the Veterans Administration, and nothing against the Veterans Administration, but they can go there the rest of their life. They may get their wounds showed up, and they may get their wounds fixed as far as the physical, but they will never get what they need applied to their wounded spirit. That is the Word of God. That is our job.

Proverbs 12:25 says:

Proverbs 12:25

Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

You bet it does. That is depression right there. Your heart stoops. It goes to the bottom. "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop, but a good word maketh it glad." That good word is the Word of God.

Proverbs 25:25 says:

Proverbs 25:25

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

You get out there in this old hot, dusty, dirty old world where there is nothing for you and nothing satisfies, and you are like a man on the Sahara Desert that had not had a good cold drink of water for a long time. Then somebody shows up and gives you the purest, cleanest water you ever had in your life, and it refreshes you and gives you your strength back and quenches your thirst. You are good to go. You say, "Where did that water come from?" He looks up and says, "It came from a far country." It came from the Lord.

When you have this balm of Gilead, you have to do a couple of things with it.

9. You have to apply the medicine.
10. After you apply it, you have got to follow directions on the bottle. It will not fix your marriage, it will not fix your family, it will not fix a wife or a husband, not unless you follow the directions.

When I was about 12, 13, 14 years old, I had strep throat for about three months. I kept going back to the doctor. You know why? Because I would get really bad and really a sore throat, and I would go to the doctor, he would put me on some antibiotics, and I would take them, give me like a week and a half of antibiotics. I would take them for three or four days. They tasted bad back then. As soon as I started feeling better, I quit taking the medicine. So I had a relapse. He did it again. I did the same exact thing, and I got it again. He did it again. I did the same exact thing. I realized that the reason why I kept getting, going back to my relapse, to my strep throat, is that I was not following the directions. He said, "Take two of these a day for the rest of your life." I was doing it until I felt better. You know that is exactly what a lot of God's people do with the balm of Gilead. You have worked with them, you have helped them, you started to disciple them, you started to work with them. They come in, they are busted, they are broken, they are, "Oh, wham, wham, wham, this and that, and I am hurting, I am down, I am out of that." So you start to put the salve on. You start to rub it in and you start to massage it in and get it going into the pores and going into the bloodstream. Suddenly they start feeling better. As soon as they start feeling better, they are done with the balm of Gilead. Then six weeks later, two months later, a year later, they are right back in the same mess they were in before. It is just that simple. People stop taking the medicine or start taking it, but as soon as they start feeling better, they quit taking the meds, and they are right back in the problem they have.

Or I have seen this, people are complaining all the time. I do not mind people who complain because I complain, but people who complain when the reason and the answer to their problem is right in front of them, I have a tough time with. I have people all the time saying, "I have a killing, splitting headache." I will say, "Have you taken anything for it?" "No." "Well, then enjoy

it." That is my advice to you. Enjoy it. What is the point? When Kelly was a little girl, when she would hurt her hand, twist her arm, she did something to one leg. For the next week, she walked, I mean, it was not broken. It was not bad. But for the next week, she walked around the house like this. It is like she... I talk to people all the time, "I have really, really, really..." There are a lot of people who simply die because they will not go to the doctor. There is some generation, especially the older, there is a lot of the younger generation, they just think, "Well, I am not going." When they finally do go, it is way too late. You get a first sign of something ain't right? Be proactive about it. Spiritually, it is the same thing. Do not let it get out of control. That person, I say, "Well, I am like, you are just killing me, man. Just killing me." "Well, have you taken anything for it?" "No, no, no, no." Get out of here, man. I do not know how many times I have seen people talk about the fact, "Well, I am this, and I am going through that, and I am going through this." You know what? The cure is laying right on the shelf next to their bed. "Oh, I am hurting. Oh, I had this happen. Oh, I do not know what is happening. Oh, it is so terrible. Oh, it is so bad. What am I going to do?" The medicine, take the medicine and stay following the directions. You do not come to church for three or four weeks and then you get feeling better and go back out and do your own thing. You do not come for six months and then simply say, "Well, I am better now. I can handle it on my own." You cannot handle it on your own.

A guy one time, he was down in a dump because he was diagnosed legitimately with a particular problem that he had to be on meds for the rest of his life. He does not like, like most people, I do not like to take any more medicine than I have to take. He did not want to take this at all because he thought it made a stigma on him that he had to be on these drugs to handle his problem. He was down in the dumps about it. I told him, "You know what? I have the exact same problem." He said, "You got what I got?" I said, "I got worse than you got." I listed off about 20 terrible things that I have in my life if I do not take the meds every day. I am stuck with the medicine of God, taking it in daily doses the rest of my life. So are you. When you have high cholesterol and they give you a cholesterol medicine and you do not take it, and you go to the doctor and he says, "Your cholesterol is 9,443. What are you doing? You are not taking the medicine." When you have all kinds of struggles in life and you have all kinds of problems in life and you are a Christian and you come into me and you say, "Well, it is this, it is that. I cannot get ahead of this, and I am down and out about this. This is falling apart, and this is not working. This is not working." The answer is simple: you are not taking the medicine. God gave it to us.

IV. The Eternal Impact of Truth

Proverbs 12:19 says, "The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment." This is an incredible verse, I think. This verse deals with time and how God looks at time and what we say and do and His timeframe and His concept of time or eternity maybe. It says, "The lip of truth shall be established for ever." There is a depth of this verse that most people will never see or probably understand. It is the eternal state and impact of what we say for the Lord, our words. The lip of truth shall be established two ways in God's time. One will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The other will be at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Psalms 119:89 says:

Psalms 119:89

For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

His words are eternal. They are forever. When you give them out, it has an eternal effect. Those who preach it, sow it, put it out, believe it, teach it, it will come back to you. It is eternal. It is the only thing in this world that lasts forever.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 says:

Ecclesiastes 11:1

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

It is going to show up later because it is eternal. Just like the book is eternal, settled in heaven. The words that you and I speak about the righteousness of God will have an everlasting impact on people you give it to. That is why a couple of weeks ago I told you about Job 26:4 about the sixth question God is going to ask at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The last two were, "To whom hast thou spoken words, and whose spirit came from thee?"

In many respects, the Judgment Seat of Christ will be a grand hallelujah day full of saints of God. The trials of this old world are now gone. The darkness of this world is broken into the morning sunrise of the Lord coming back. The joy of our being with the Lord and our pilgrimage and our sojourn on this earth is now over. The great reunion with the loved ones that went on before us. The great satisfaction of finally you and I see it all and now we know it all as to what God was doing. The thrill to know that in this physical, messed up earthly body, we had enough presence of mind to get into the mind of God and just figure out enough of it to get us through that day.

I am sure there will be people who in their excitement want to grab you and take you to the Lord Jesus Christ. You see it on TV all the time. Somebody is trapped in a burning house, and somebody is walking their dog and walking by, and they hear somebody crying and screaming upstairs. They cannot get out. He forsakes his own safety, runs in that burning house, goes up there and grabs them, leads them out, and when Channel 9 gets there, she is saying, "He saved me. He saved my baby." He said, "No, I really did not do anything. I just was walking by, and the house was on fire, and I just went in and got him. I am not really a hero." She says, "Oh, you are, you are." A car blows up on the freeway, catches in the flames, and a truck driver pulls up behind, runs out, and the guy is in there. He cannot get his safety belt off to get out of the seat belt off. So he gets in there, opens it up, drags the guy to safety. He is a hero. When the news cameras show up, the guy is going to say, "Well, tell us how you did this great act," and, "Oh, you are a true hero. Why your unselfish act. The car could have blown up. You got out of your truck, you ran over. You could have just as easily stood by and not did anything, but you acted and you saved that person."

I am telling you, there are going to be people at the Judgment Seat of Christ with this excitement, and we all get up there, and it is all a great time, and we are all praising the Lord. It is going to be a hallelujah time. It is not going to be like most church services where you just sit around with

your arms crossed. It is going to be a shouting match. You are out of this world. You are home with Him, and you may have the Judgment Seat of Christ to go through, but brother, you are out of this old world, and you are wherever going to be with Him. Just like somebody is excited about you pulled them out of their burning house, and somebody is excited about you pulled them out of the burning car, there are going to be people going to be excited because you pulled them out of a burning hell by preaching His righteousness. I believe it with everything that someone will come over and grab you and bring you over to the Lord and say, "Oh Lord, Lord, I was struggling, and I was down in the dumps, and I was thinking life is empty and worthless, and I want you to know Lord, this faithful servant, this man, this woman that You saved, they came and they loved my soul, and they invested their life with me, and they took me in. They gave me my Bible. They disciplined me. They taught me. They encouraged me. They helped me in all areas of my life, and they helped my kids, and Lord, I just wanted You to meet them and know what they did through You for my family." "The lips of truth shall be established for ever." What a great day.

In some of God's people's lives, that line will be a mile long. Billy Sunday died. A New York Times reporter. They had his body laid in state in Madison Square Garden. The New York Times reporter recorded the event, and he said in three days, three million people filed by that open casket. He says, as I stood there, almost everybody said, "If it was not for that man's ministry, I would be in hell today. If it was not for that man's ministry, I would not have my family. I would not have my health, would not have my sanity." That man told me about the Lord, one after one after one. Can you imagine getting to the Judgment Seat of Christ with a record of a man who preached God's righteousness, of over three million people wanting to grab him and take him to the Lord and say, "Lord, you know what?" I know God knows who did it, but just the excitement of the fact that somebody cared enough about you.

There is a lot of ungratefulness that goes on in the world today, and there is a lot of ungratefulness that goes on in Christianity. Not on that day. You will see clearly now. You will understand it all. Right now we look through a glass darkly, but then face to face, and you will realize that somebody paid a price for you to have what you have today for the glorious day, or what a shameful day. What a day that will be when we are standing there in the midst of the rapture that just happened, and people are screaming and yelling and thanking God, "I am out of that mess," and suddenly they realize that there is the guy who witnessed to me, there is the guy that disciplined me, there is the person that invested their life with me, and they run over and grab that, and the people in the fury grabbing everybody and running to find Jesus. You are standing there all by yourself. Nobody comes to get you because you invested your life with nobody. You stand there and watch your own wife run by you and go to somebody else because you never one time opened that book to do anything with her in the Word of God. You watch your husband run by and go to somebody else because of the fact that you never, never gave encouragement or whatever and had nothing to spare. You watch your own kids run past you, say, "Hi, Dad," and run for the person because you never disciplined that kid, you never spent any time with him in the Word of God with that kid, you did absolutely nothing for them all your life. It was somebody else doing your job. Do not send somebody else to do what God has called you to do.

I think it will be a lot like Genesis 19. Remember when Lot got told by the angels that God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and he said, "You get your family and you get out of here because we are going to destroy this place." Old Lot got into a panic, and he got his station wagon backed up and started loading in the thing, and he said, "Finish this up. I am going over to our kids' house, and I am going to tell them." He ran over to that house and knocked on the door about two o'clock in the morning, and he opened the door and he says, "We have got to get out, we have got to go, we have got to get out of here. God is going to destroy this city. It is time to get out." The Bible says they looked at him and laughed at him as one that mocked. They thought to themselves, "The last person on the planet that would have a message from God would be my dad."

That day will be the glorious morning of our redemption. That day will be the terror of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:11

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

I am trying my best to persuade you this morning. That will be the Great White Throne. The people who are lost for all of eternity. As they begin to give their excuses and the reason for their rejection of God's righteousness over their own righteousness, you and me, the faithful witnesses, will come forth to be the witnesses against them. All the words that out of your righteous mouth will now have been moving through time and space will roll right into that throne room. They will hear every witness. They will hear every sermon. They will hear everything that anybody ever said to them about the righteousness of God. The whole assembled universe will hear the righteous words that tell of the life of Jesus Christ, the Savior, and His righteousness. The Savior that they rejected and substituted their own self-righteousness for His perfect righteousness. Oh, the power of words. The power of how we use words and its eternal effect.

Daniel 7:9-10 says:

Daniel 7:9

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

Daniel 7:10

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Daniel 7:22 says:

Daniel 7:22

Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

See that thing? Great White Throne Judgment. It is the saints who do the judging. Because you were the righteous witness. That person is going to get up and he is going to start to argue his way, and all God is going to do is say, "Hey, come over here," and your words are going to roll in, and you are going to be the witness against them.

Look at the last part of Proverbs 12:19. Here is a good thing for you: "But the lying tongue is but for a moment." Time. What an incredible study in the Bible. Time versus eternity. One of the hardest concepts to grasp. A place where time is everything, and then a place where time means nothing. Doctrinally, all this deals with the Antichrist and the seven years of tribulation and the suffering of Israel just being likened to a moment to Christ coming and establishing the kingdom doctrinally. The sword and the fake sword of the fake Christ, connected, contrasted to the one, the Lord's Christ, and the real sword and second coming of Christ, doctrinally.

But there is a great practical lesson here. He is showing that man's existence of 7,000 years, Genesis 1 to the second coming of Christ, compared to God's eternity, is but a moment of time with God. That is why you never care about the consequences of being the witness because it is just a second in God's timetable. It does not mean anything. We get into the Bible. We lose our perspective, and we think this life is so important with all the things that we have and all the things that we do. Our life is nothing more than just three score and ten, the Bible says, and then it is over. Yet the Bible says that man's life is just a wisp of smoke. James 4:14 says it is like a vapor that appears for a little while then fades away.

I heard a story one time. A guy was having a conversation with God, and he says, "God," he says, "what is a million years like to You?" God says, "A million years to Me is just like a minute." He says, "Man, Lord, I do not understand that." He says, "Well, it is." He says, "Lord, let me ask You this. What is a million dollars like to You?" God says, "A million dollars to Me? It is like a penny. Nothing." The guy was a Baptist, thought for a few minutes, and he said, "Lord, can I have a penny?" Lord, "Sure can, in a minute." Time. You hear me talk about perspective and contrast and understanding and perception. For the child of God, it is the understanding that this life compared to the plan of God and His eternal plan. Find out your part in God's great plan for man that only takes, it is only a moment in this eternal process of God's plan for man. The haters and the backbiters and the slanderers and the false witnesses, they are just passing like a second.

I will be the first to tell you I do not completely understand the aspect of eternity completely. There is so much to it. The depth of it all beyond human comprehension. I get it. You have time, you have the ages of ages, you have eternity. It can get confusing. But I understand enough about it to know this: this life down here right now, my three score and ten, there is nothing to compare with what God has for us in eternity. This life is just a vapor. It is a fleeting shadow, and yet God's people will trade in eternity with Christ and to reign with Him for just a wisp of smoke and a fleeting shadow that passes so quickly compared to the eternity that lasts forever. The power of words, the power to use words. You use it to lift and build up people and put forth God's righteousness, or you use it as a sword to destroy and tear down God's people by being a false

witness. Proverbs is one of the greatest books that you will ever get into. This is one of the great practical lessons that continues on with what comes out of our mouth based on our heart. We will hold up there.