

## I. Two Aspects of Real Bible Christianity

If you have your Bibles this morning, I would like to invite you to turn to Proverbs 12. Last week, we were in Proverbs 12:11-12, and we saw the importance of having a work of God in our lives. We talked about that quite extensively last week.

When you start to talk about God doing something in your life, I know in my own personal life, I have looked at what God does and wants to do in my life, and basically wants to do the same thing in your life. I have broken it down for myself to better understand it: two aspects of real Bible Christianity. Unfortunately, most of God's people never fully realize either of these two in their Christian life. It is a tragedy.

We get the idea that Christianity is just going to church, trying to do the best you can, and not going to certain places or saying certain things or doing things you should not do. Obviously, that is important if you are to be separated from the world. But there are two fundamental, real Bible aspects to being a Christian.

The first one is—and I use this phrase quite often, so it is not new to you—what I call a working knowledge of the Word of God. Last week we saw how the Bible says that we are to study to show ourselves approved unto God, as workmen. When a Christian has a working knowledge of the Word of God, that is you learning how to use the Bible, making the Bible work for you in your own personal life, being able to solve issues in your life when you struggle with them, or being able to deal with things when they come up in your life.

Very few people go through life without having some form of tragedy or some kind of problem. In your own personal life, it gives you the ability to have the Bible work for you, and work for you in dealing with others. God is going to take you, or He wants to take you anyhow, and He wants to put you in scenarios where you can be there for somebody else. That is His whole desire. That is the whole concept of Christianity, taking your life and matching it up with somebody else. When you have a working knowledge of the Bible, it helps you deal with other people.

Part of what we do in the people ministry, and really in the singles ministry, is helping people, and I do it in just about everything. Many of you have worked with me. You teach the Bible. You are a disciple, or you are on different levels of giving away the Bible. You know that the moment you start getting into the Bible and laying out things, whether it is discipleship, discipleship 2, or whatever, people are going to open up to you about what they are struggling with. The Bible in any format is one of the greatest keys to opening up where people are at.

And then, of course, thirdly, it is just understanding the mind of God: what God is doing, where God is at, what He wants to accomplish, and being able to take the Bible apart and put it back together again.

Then the second thing is a working relationship with the Lord. That is you learning how to let God use you. The first one, you learn how to use the Word of God. The second one, you learn how to let God use you. Use you to accomplish that work that we talked about last week for Him, accomplishing what He actually saved us for.

In the hard reality, the facts of the Christian life are simply: you cannot have one without the other. Most Christians honestly do not have either one. But you cannot have one without the other. You simply cannot have the relationship with the Word of God, the working knowledge, and not have the second. They go together.

Many things are like that in the Bible. We are big today on spiritual gifts. You can read books on it. Everybody wants to talk about your spiritual gift and all those aspects. But here again, that is another subject that goes right along with this. Because in the Bible, you have spiritual gifts. That is the power of God in your life. But then you have what the Bible calls the fruit of the Spirit, and that is the character of God in your life. It is the same way in that as it is with this. You cannot have power in your life with God without first having the character of God in your life. You see that many things go hand in hand in the Bible.

A Bible that works for you, and a Christianity that works for the Lord. That is what we want to have. Everything we do here in this church, everything I try to accomplish in your life, whether it be one on one or as we work together, tries to bring you to that end.

## II. The Consequences of Spiritual Poverty

Last week we looked at Proverbs 12:11-12, and I showed you the impact of what happens when we go into spiritual poverty. People talk a lot about not working and getting what you need to have from the Word of God. When we refuse to let God do the work in us that He started at salvation, we talked about how that grieves the Holy Spirit of God.

I gave you a great verse in Philippians 1:6 that said:

*Philippians 1:6*

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

That is true. The day you got saved, God began a work in your life. God wants the honor and glory out of our lives and everything that we do. Many times we have a wrong way of looking at it. I want to tell you, and I want you to understand, no matter what you decide to do, some of you will give your life to God, and God will use you, and you will touch a lot of people's lives. Some of you may keep your life to yourself and never do anything for God. But I want you to know, when God's Word says that He began a good work in you, He is going to get the honor and glory out of your life one way or the other. It is just that simple.

You will do a work for God, and people will get blessed, and you will see the power of God in your life, and God will get the honor and glory out of that. Or in some cases, God's people will not do the work of God. People see your spiritual poverty, they see your lack of understanding,

they see the lazy attitude and the careless approach to the things of God. God, through His chastisement, deals with those things in our lives: our spiritual poverty, the fact that we lose our family and wreck our home, the failed relationship that we have with God, and all of the things that Christians get into that just keep coming up empty. God uses that to warn others that a life like that is only a couple of bad choices away.

When I see somebody really mess it up, or I see a Christian's life that does not match up to God, or they seemingly just do not care, I love people, and I care for people, and I want to see people do what is right. I am not going to lie to you and say that when I see Christians that do not do what is right with God, it frustrates me to a certain degree. But I never let it get to the point where it comes into a personal thing in my life.

When I look at that, what do I think? When I look at that, instead of looking at them and thinking that they are terrible—because I do not ever think anybody is terrible, other than cases in the Bible where you have some really terrible people—I look at them, and I look at the struggles that they go through, and I look where they are at. Instead of just looking at them, I may have to deal with it. I may have to deal with it in a harsh way and deal with it in a reality way. But even in all of that, when I look at where they are at, the thing that I focus on is the fact that where they are at is only about three bad choices for me to get from where I am to where they are at. That is how you have to look at it.

I told you, two valuable formats for learning. One is to learn by your mistakes and the other is to learn by the mistakes of others. Not in a judgmental way, but realizing that in any person, no matter what they do or how bad they blow it, you and I are only a couple of steps away, a couple of bad choices away from putting ourselves in the same scenario. And God will get the honor and glory out of that.

Romans 9:21 and again in 2 Timothy 2:20-21, he tells us very clearly that God has vessels of honor and He has vessels of dishonor. He tells us in 2 Timothy 2 that we as Christians are to purge ourselves from the vessels of dishonor. We learn from it. We learn from it.

### III. Structure of Proverbs and the Power of Words

Today, as we move on into this chapter, we again will see some great practical truths for your everyday life. I do not know if you have picked up on this or not. I do not know how quickly you are looking for little things in the Bible, but you will note in this chapter, in fact the last couple of chapters, we have had no paragraph marks. I made it a big deal to tell you about paragraph marks and how important they are in the Bible, but it is just as important when you do not see them in the Bible.

Now in this chapter, and if I remember right, the last couple of chapters, we have had no paragraph marks. Why is that? Because these proverbs now that we are studying, all will form themselves around one main principle, one concept, or one thought. A paragraph mark will break up thoughts and put them in some kind of order or at least show you a different context. But when you do not have them, you know that the whole chapter or whatever you are reading, it is

all going to one central thought, one central theme, and there is no interruption of the thought process by the paragraph marks.

Now let me read for you Proverbs 12:13-14. This is where we are going to be today. It says this:

*Proverbs 12:13*

*The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.*

*Proverbs 12:14*

*A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.*

Let us pray. Father, we do thank You and praise You today for the Lord Jesus. We thank You for the folks that have come out today. We pray Your blessings upon this service, that You would help me to convey to their hearts what You would have them to see out of Your Word. We thank You, Lord, for our church and for its stand on the Word of God, and for the good host of great men and women, and young men and young ladies, and boys and girls and families that You have brought to our church and continue to bring. We now pray, Father, Your blessings upon all of it. We love You, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Proverbs is one of the most powerful, doctrinal, and prophetic books in all of the Bible. You are going to find that in a doctrinal sense, in a prophetic sense, it is all loaded, dealing with the nation of Israel, dealing with the Tribulation period, dealing with the Antichrist, and almost every facet of it. We pointed those things out as we have come through. It is also rich in history from a historical perspective. It gives us great insight into the times of Solomon's life, and where he is at, and what he is trying to accomplish, and what he is doing.

But along with that, you would be hard-pressed to find another book in the Bible that is just continually—I mean verse after verse, chapter after chapter—that keeps laying out good, solid, practical, everyday living principles for all of us to live our lives by. It is built around two key men in the Bible. Those two key men in the Bible are the same two key people that you have on planet Earth as we deal with life: a wise man and a foolish man. We find the eternal and the physical consequences of each man, what he goes through. And we can learn from both.

These verses deal with what a man will say today, and that is very important, what comes out of a man's mouth. We also know that what comes out of our mouth will originate from what is in our hearts. I hear people say all the time, "Well, I just follow my heart." People give advice. "Well, just really follow your heart." Well, that is the worst thing you can do. And the worst thing you can do, because Jeremiah 17:9 says:

*Jeremiah 17:9*

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

You never want to follow your heart. If you want to follow a heart, follow God's heart. That is the one you want to follow. Matthew 6:21 says:

*Matthew 6:21*

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

And wise man or foolish man, your treasure will either be the world or your treasure will be the Word. Based on that, the Bible says—and this is what Proverbs 12:13, where we are at today, is talking about—he says in Matthew 12:34:

*Matthew 12:34*

*O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

What is deep inside our heart is what comes out of our mouth. When a man is unsaved, or a man is a saved man but he is out of fellowship with God, then he will speak to where his heart is. And the things of the world will come out. When a man's heart is like God's heart—and by the way, that is what happens when you get saved, God gives you a new heart—Psalm 40 says:

*Psalm 40:3*

*And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.*

He takes the old thing out and puts all the new in. So when a man now speaks based on the heart that he has, like God's heart, then you get to see where his heart is because what comes out of his mouth is the things of the Word. One of them is the things of the world; the other will be the things of the Word.

We have been talking about defining yourself for the last couple of weeks, that people will define themselves. You do that by the way you speak. If people really want the key to where people are at, just listen to what they are saying and what comes out of their mouth. You define yourself by the way that you speak, who you really are, where your treasure really is. And a great proof of that is a great principle in Ecclesiastes 5:3 that says:

*Ecclesiastes 5:3*

*For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.*

It is typical, and nothing will show us more where a man's heart is than what comes out of his mouth in a lifestyle conversation on a consistent basis. In the Bible the word "conversation" is used, it is an old English word. We do not use it really the way that it should be used in the Bible. But in the Bible the word "conversation" is interchanged many times for the word "lifestyle." And the King James translators, when the Bible was written, God's Holy Spirit knew how important that was. So you find the word "conversation" interchanged with what could be "lifestyle" because they knew that whatever your lifestyle is will be based on your conversation, and vice versa. And that is the way it works. And it is a thing where these two things are very important. And the verse says that a man is snared by the transgression of his lips.

## IV. Snared by Lips and the Judgment of Words

Now when we start to look at this verse—and we are going to kind of just take these verses apart today and squeeze everything out of them we can—you are going to find two things here that you will want to get down. Two ways that a man will snare himself with his own words: an evil man, a man who is not doing right.

If anybody knows just a little bit about the Bible, they know it is wrong to speak in a way that hurts people or destroys people, or hurts and tries to destroy the work of God. Backbiters, gossip, slander, personal attacks to hurt somebody. All you have to do is get on somebody's Facebook, and somebody is slamming somebody all the time. It happens with people; when they get a problem with somebody, they will rip them up one side and down the other. And we hear it all the time, you listen to it all the time. But a man defines himself by the things that he says. And you, as a Christian, when you have understanding, know that that is not right. So you know to stay away from it.

It is like if somebody came into Bible study on Thursday night, and they got up and started to ask a lengthy question, and they started to teach some heresy. Baptism for salvation or tongues or whatever, they just start going off and laying all this bad doctrine out. Almost without exception, everybody would know that that is not the Bible teaching on the subject. And out of that man's lips everybody would know that he is teaching bad doctrine and that would snare him. You see it in a second. They would define him. And it is the same way here. A man is snared by the things that he says. You do not have to be a rocket scientist to know when a man continually, or a woman continually, blasts negative things about people that they do not really even have any association with. I know everybody can have problems with people. I get that. But you find people that just go off on anything because of the way they are. They define themselves.

What comes from the lips? Transgressions of the lips (Proverbs 12:13), or good fruit out of his mouth (Proverbs 12:14).

Now the second thing is this. Did you get out of that? He snares himself by his lips and what comes out of his mouth based on his heart attitude at either the Judgment Seat of Christ if he is a saved man, or the Great White Throne Judgment if he is an unsaved man.

In Job 26, I have taught this to you before and given it to you before. Most likely in Job 26:1-4, you have the six questions probably that God is going to ask about the Judgment Seat of Christ of you and me. And I say that not just flippantly, but after years of searching that out and studying that and laying it out, I have told you this before. These six questions, the only one that can legitimately answer them is a born-again New Testament Christian, because these six questions are very specific about things that only take place in the church. I am not going to go through them all this morning; we have been through them many, many times, but of the six, number five and number six, I think are the worst.

Now when you come down in Job 26:4, the last two questions that he asked are simply this:

*Job 26:4*

*To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?*

Who you talked to? Those two questions deal with what comes out of your mouth and why it came out the way it did. And the implication is overwhelming to me because at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will be judged on these six things, but the last two are pretty incredible. And what comes out of your mouth, to whom, and whose spirit was behind what you said?

I have told you this before, Einstein back in the 1930s when he was working on relativity and working on all of those things that are way beyond most of us. They came up with a theory that whatever you say goes out of your mouth and moves forever. The example that they used was that in the 1930s, if you could get into a rocket ship fast enough, overcome the speed of sound, overcome the speed of light, you would eventually catch up and hear the exact words of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. In other words, your words do not just fall empty. When you project them out, they move out.

Everybody has seen the movie with Jodie Foster, Contact, where she is one of these people who were looking with the big radio telescopes to find extraterrestrial life, the SETI program. And how, accidentally, one day she starts picking up these signals that came from Vega. The whole world now is enthralled. They thought she was an idiot and wasting her time. Now that she struck gold, everybody wants to get in on it. And when they finally put it all together, they find out that when they put it on a screen, and they unencrypted and got all this stuff, they find out what they got was Adolf Hitler in 1933 at the Munich Games of the Olympics, giving them the opening ceremony. And they all about have a heart attack. I mean, you will find alien life, and the first representative you want to give them is Adolf Hitler. That is not probably the best thing to do.

But what happened was, when Adolf Hitler gave the address in 1933 at the Nuremberg Stadium, it opened that Olympic. That was the first time that it was ever broadcast over primitive TV. And that speech went out in space. And when it went out in space, it kept moving. Now Vega is 4.2 light years away. That means if you had a rocket ship that traveled 186,000 miles a second, the speed of light, it takes you four and a half years to get there, and four and a half years to go back. So what happened was that this thing was moving out there all that time, and they found it, and then they sent back an answer showing that what you say—in the movie anyhow—that Einstein's theory was correct, that whatever you project keeps going out.

Now I have a terrible nightmare that I have, oh, more than I would like to have it. And it is standing at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and standing there, and over here on my left are all these big tubes. And every one of them has a heading over it: sports, hunting, fishing, jibber-jabber, whatever. And just about the time I am going to give an account for the Lord for what I have said and the spirit behind what I said, all those words that have been traveling through space now for years and years and years at the speed of light show up at the exact moment that I am standing there. And every word that I ever spoke in my life and everything I ever said goes into a category of what it was said about.

What if when we get there—and this is my nightmare—what if we get there, that the category on sports is full, the category on work is full, the category on everything in our life, family, is to the

brim, but when it comes to the things of God, it is empty? "To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?"

I do not know if you know that there are only four spirits listed in the Bible. Man can have three of them. The first spirit is the spirit of an animal. We know that animals do not have souls, but animals have a spirit. Ecclesiastes 3:21 tells us that. Now you cannot have an animal spirit. That is one spirit that you cannot get. But the other three you can. As a human being you have a human spirit. That is the number two. We know that if you are saved you have God's spirit. That is number three. And if you are unsaved or just generally in the world, you have the devil's spirit.

So those three spirits—man's spirit (that is your human spirit), God's spirit (that is the good fruit out of a man's mouth)—the devil's spirit (that is the transgression of a man's lips). They are the spirits that project what comes out of our mouths. Lips of transgression or lips that produce fruit.

## V. The Just Shall Come Out of Trouble

Now look at the last part of Proverbs 12:13. "But the just shall come out of trouble." It says, "A man shall be snared by the transgression of his lips, but the just shall come out of trouble."

Doctrinally, and you probably need to get this down if you do not have it in your Bible already. Doctrinally, the wicked and the evil man all through Proverbs will be the Antichrist and his crowd, doctrinally and prophetically. And they are up against God's righteous people, the nation of Israel. You should know that already. These two doctrinally make up the book of Proverbs when we look at it. The wise son is the nation of Israel that follows God. The foolish son are all the crowd that goes after the Antichrist and rejects God, and foolishly thinks that they can destroy the nation of Israel; hence they are called a fool.

But then you have the trouble. Whenever you find it in the Bible, it will always be a key to the context. The word "trouble" in the Bible will always, probably in most cases—I may be an exception, but I do not think I have ever seen one or could think of one right now—but it will always be a reference to the Tribulation period. Sometimes it is called Jacob's time of trouble. Sometimes it is just called a time of trouble. Sometimes it is called "troublous times." Sometimes it is called just trouble. But in a practical application, it is talking about the people who, in your life and my life in Christianity, will hate the work of God and hate the workers of God, and transgress against them with the words of their lips and what they say about them.

It is no secret that men and women who take a stand for God will get clobbered by the world, and many times, probably more so than by the world, by other of God's people, other Christians, who will never take a stand for anything for God publicly. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:12:

*2 Timothy 3:12*

*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

If you take a stand for God and you decide to do a work for God, I am here to tell you right now, there will be a price that you pay for that. We will talk about that in a minute. But the Bible says in Romans 8:17 that:

*Romans 8:17*

*And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

So there is a payoff, a recompense for it. We will talk about that a little bit later too. We know, our greatest example, Paul, went through tremendous suffering at the hands of the world, but also through the hands of other Christians for his own stand on the Gospel. And so will you. And I want to tell you that because we talk about a work for God, doing something for God. I will be honest with you. This here is the fundamental reason why many of God's people will never do a work for God because of the trouble it brings. They are not up to the warfare that comes by taking a stand. Working on the heresies head on. Dealing with and identifying the wolves in sheep's clothing.

I have a message I am going to preach to you at some point. I have to wait for one more event to happen, but when it happens, it will probably be one of the best things that you will ever have to hear in your life to put things in perspective for you. I cannot do it just yet. But I understand where my roots are. I probably have a greater appreciation for the Word of God and where we are at as a church than probably many of you do. And I get that. I understand that.

When I got saved and I started to get into Christianity, I wanted to make sure I had the right thing. You are looking at a guy who, when he first got into this, tried everything. I mean, I looked at Roman Catholicism. I went through the Reader's Digest back then. It used to have a little thing where you sent it in, and they brought you through all the catechism classes through the mail. And when you approved them all, you got a little certificate in the mail that you could go and present it to a priest and be baptized and become a Catholic. I got my certificate. I just never did anything with it. But I wanted to see if that is what the truth was.

I looked at being a Jehovah's Witness. Back then, I thought that maybe they were the real deal because they were so, so passionate about what they wanted to do. I have been around Christians all my life, and I will be honest, I never saw a passion in most Christians like I did in the Jehovah's Witnesses. But I only had to have one or two meetings with them and I found out that they did not know what was going on. We did not have any Mormons back where I lived, so that was never really an option for me. We had a lot of Charismatics and I checked them out, but I never could dance very well. And all this, and I prove all things.

One time I had, I wanted to find out if the Charismatic Church was really the up-and-up deal. And I had a buddy of mine, and I said, "Hey, I am talking with these guys," and he spoke Cherokee or Choctaw or some Indian name. It started pretty well. And I said, "I want you to help me." So he came over, and I told this guy, I said, "My buddy here, he speaks in tongues." And I said, "He wants to, he has a message he wants to speak, and he wants you to interpret." And the guy said, "Oh, absolutely." So he goes off for about five or six minutes. I do not know what he was saying, but it was in his native Chickasaw Indian language. When he was done, the Charismatic began to interpret what he said. My buddy stopped him, and I said, "You are a fraud. That is not what I said." And I was the end of that. Did not want to be one of them anymore.

I looked all over the place to find the truth. And when I found it, when I finally came to the place that I found it, I went after it with everything that I had, and I micro-examined it, got it to the point where I looked at every facet of it. So I say all that to say, I have a somewhat, probably, a deeper and a better appreciation than a lot of God's people today, especially younger Christians, maybe some of the older folks, not so much. Because I realized that if you go down in Texas and you mention the name J. Frank Norris, you get lynched in some places down there.

J. Frank Norris is one of the most loved and one of the most hated guys that you ever find on this planet. He lived back in the 1920s and 1930s, and he died right around the end of the 1940s. And people today that every time they say his name down south will spit. And there is a lot of Northerners up here that all they ever hear is the negative stuff about J. Frank Norris. And hey, I want to tell you, he is a character. He is a character. He broke from the Southern Baptist Convention and started what we know as fundamentalism today. And I want to be honest with you, the reason you have a Bible in your lap that you know is the absolute perfect Word of God starts with J. Frank Norris. And sometimes it just bothers me when people want to trash him because they do not like him, because they do not understand him, but I want to tell you something. Without him, you would not have the Bible you have today. I appreciate what he did. They look at a man like that and see what they do not like, but what they do not see is the stand that he had to take and the price that he paid. You would not have survived all that he went through if you were a wimp like most of God's people today.

There was a guy one time that called him up on the phone and said, "You blankety-blank, I am going to come down and blow your blankety-blank head off." And he says, "I will be here until three o'clock." Guy comes in the church, comes into the office, pulls out a six-gun. He beats him to the draw and shoots him right in his church office. He would preach at one time about the drug lords and all the booze and all the crime and corruption in town in Texas. And one of the big labor guys challenged him out and said he was going to have him hung and going to do this and do that. And the guy was drunk one night, driving down the road with a girlfriend in his car that was not his wife, and he got out of control and he hit a butt-butt, and his brains were splattered all over the place. J. Frank Norris went down and picked up a piece of his brain, put it in a jar, put it on a pulpit Sunday morning, and preached on liquor. Try that today.

People want to criticize him for what he was. Hey, I know he did some unorthodox things, but you better understand the stand he had to take that other guys were not willing to take. And because of that stand, we have the Bible today. I will tell you another one. You can get on the web and type in Peter S. Ruckman, you will get 180 pages of the most blasted stuff you ever saw in your life. And there are people who hate him. I have known a man for 45 years. And he is as rough as they come, and he is J. Frank Norris, but God needed somebody else after Norris was gone to keep that Bible. And the only reason, the only reason you have a Bible today that you can believe and you can trust is because those two men were willing to take a stand.

And I am telling you, people say, "Well, I do not like this." "I do not like the name-calling." Hey, some people need to have their names called out. They said, "Well, he is crude and rough." Let me tell you something. They came out of a world that wanted to absolutely do away with them. I sat in Camp Choff back in the 1970s while he sat in Mel Shabaka's house weeping because his

wife, when he went into the ministry, his unsaved wife deserted him, left him. And for 25 years, that man stayed single preaching the Word of God, doing what God said. And what would Bible colleges do that hated him because of that book? They would find out where he was preaching, send call girls up to his room to try to get him to fall. That is the price that he paid. They would take his picture, airbrush it, and put him through Photoshop in bars with two girls sitting on each side, and then put it on the internet. You bet they were rough. You bet they were tough because of what they were up against. And they paid the price. And yet some of God's people that hold the very Bible that you would not have in your lap today criticize the very man who paid the price for you to have it when you paid nothing.

Now, you would not have a problem if I got up here and laid out sexual perversions, people who are sexual perverts. You would not have a problem with that. You would thank me for that. Because you do not want your child part of that. But if I got up here and talked about biblical predators, biblical perverters, oh, now you are not so happy with me. Over the years I have seen this phenomenon. I have seen many a pastor's own people criticize him for the things he says or what he calls people who are lazy or hate the work of God. They have never seen the thousands of lives that those kind of people have destroyed. They have never picked up a broken marriage, never picked up the pieces of somebody's life who has lost their faith in the Word of God because of some of these people. They have never had to deal with it. They never had to pick up the pieces. They never had to struggle and sit there and listen to them with all the agony they go through.

I completely understand why they do that. I do. God bless their hearts. I get it. Because they have played it safe all of their life, all their Christian life. They have never had to deal with the idiots out there to get their Bible. They have never had to pick up the pieces of a broken life or a broken marriage. They have never had to do any of that. They have kept their hands squeaky clean. Everybody loves them. They, God love them. They have never been in a real spiritual battle and a good fight one day in their life. I get it. And God help them. They have never had to stand for anything that ever got people mad at them. They just let the pastors take all the flak. And they just enjoy all the Bible they get without ever having to get their hands dirty. And then have the audacity to criticize him. Criticizing him for the stand that he takes so they can have a real Bible.

Let me tell you something. If it would not be for those two men, you would be in some lackadaisical, dead church today that believed in same-sex marriages, that did not have a Bible, that believed in namby-pamby, those smooth evangelical messes that just go along with everybody. And you would not even know you had a Bible. Two guys paid the price. Where was everybody else? This is the fundamental reason some of God's people will never do a work for God. It costs them too much. They are going to always play it safe. They are always going to make sure they offend no one. They cannot handle anybody talking about them or blasting them on Facebook or putting them up here or saying this. They just would fall apart. They have never taken a stand for anything, and they cannot. And yet they got the guts to criticize somebody out there that does. While they reap the benefits of the price that they paid.

As old Edmund Burke said it all, I think he was even an unsaved British philosopher, but he sure had it right. He said, "Evil triumphs when good men do nothing." And yet I want to say to you today, never worry about what people say about you. Never worry what they think about you when you just preach the book. Why? It is a great principle. For the just shall come out of trouble. That is why. There is not one person ever on this planet. No matter how wicked or evil he or she was or is, no one time ever stopped what God was doing in a person's life; God always gave him the ultimate victory. Why? "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4). That is why. You are going to come out of it okay because the just shall come out of trouble. That book stands and whoever stands with it stands too. It is just that simple.

## VI. Satisfaction from the Fruit of the Mouth and Recompense

Look at Proverbs 12:14. "A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him." Now boy, that is a great principle. And here are two great aspects to this verse that we need to see. "A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth."

Last week we talked about being satisfied by the bread, the Word of God, that you work, you labor to get the good. Being satisfied in life by yielding to the work of the Holy Spirit of God, and He desires to do the work through us. Now today we will take it one step further. Where the work of God starts within our heart, it then will manifest itself in what we say. A wicked man or woman spews out wicked things. The child of God spews out good things. And there is no greater satisfaction in life than to see the satisfaction that takes place in others' lives that God used you to bring into their lives by what you have taught them.

Preaching the Bible will have two aspects to it. Teaching the Bible will have two aspects to it also, the same two. The first thing it does, it pierces the spirit of man. That is your will. That is where you feel the conviction. That is where it needs to get broken. And once it breaks you, it does not leave you broken. This is the difference between slander and preaching. Preaching may beat you up as it pierces your spirit, but the second aspect of preaching and teaching is it heals that spirit in the heart of man. The lips of a transgressor will hurt you, but they will never heal you. Preaching may hurt you temporarily as it pierces you, but it has the power to heal man's heart and bring man to God. And that is why you really do not care what the trouble causes you with people who do not like the Bible. And when you actually see that happen, when you are actually involved in a person's life, it is quite incredible. And it is more satisfying than anything else in life.

I think the world of medicine is absolutely one of the most incredible things to watch, where medicine has come from to where it is at. And I marvel, I just marvel at doctors who can—I mean any doctor who does those things—but I mean you get into the thing where they are doing liver transplants. They are doing kidney transplants. And they are doing heart transplants. Can you imagine that? Who would have thought 20, 30, 40 years ago—maybe 20 years ago, but who would have thought that 30, 40 years ago—that you could actually, I mean you realize, I mean

we said, "Well, you had a heart transplant." "Oh yeah, that is like you had your big tooth pulled." Are you kidding me? They have to open you up, take out the bad heart, while that heart is out, hook you up to some kind of sump pump that keeps you moving. Doc, I hope I am getting this anywhere nearly right here. They trash the old one, pick up the other one, put it in, and then rewire it. I mean, how many hookups is that? That is incredible to me. I mean I do not know if they will ever get to the place where they can do brain transplants. I do not know, that probably is way out of the realm, but heart transplants at one time you thought, "If they ever do brain transplants, I have a list of you that I want to talk about too."

I marvel at that. I marvel at a man that can go in and open up the human body, see the heart, take the heart out, keep the person alive. Another heart from another donor, puts it in there, and then hooks it back up, and then that man lives with another man's heart in his chest. I was, and the thing that got me thinking of this, I was watching Dick Cheney this week in a discussion, and they asked him how he was doing, and I had forgotten this, but he had a heart transplant three years ago. Three years ago he had his heart taken out and another heart put in and here he is going as good as he did before. It absolutely amazes me.

And yet I have to tell you this, I mean I bet you, I bet you when a doctor goes—I know he is worn out, I know he is tired, I know he is probably after all those hours of surgery and all the post-op stuff he has got—but he has got to have, he has got to have the greatest sense of satisfaction of what he just did. But I want to tell you something, even with that, there is no greater satisfaction in all the world. It even beats that, as good as that is and I take nothing away from that. The greatest acts of action are when you learn how to do a spiritual heart transplant: you take that marriage that is broken, that from the world's standpoint is over, but from God's standpoint, you know it is not.

Now where the world looks at a man with a bad heart and he says, "He has a bad heart, he is going to die," the doctor says, "I can fix that." The world will look at a marriage with two kids and they will look at that thing and they will say, "It is over, it is done," but a spiritual physician looks at it and says, "No, no, I can fix that." What satisfaction you have when you know not just that you did it—forget that, praise the Lord—but the fact that you and me, a worthless, godless sinner who deserves to scream our lungs out in hell, God would love us enough and care enough for us to come down and not only just save us, but then get in me and say, "Let us do some heart surgery today." "Let us get this guy, this gal off of this addiction." "Let us get him past this struggle."

We were at the thing last week for the parents, and I will tell you, while the kids had their activity and Charles gave his testimony, I will tell you, buddy, you talk about God coming down and doing some surgery. It was the most amazing thing I have ever heard in my life. I am telling you, when I see people like that, I know to myself God has got something special because I will tell you what, the odds against what happened and turning that around are more than the electrons in the universe. God came down and did what God does. Why? Because he is the great physician. When the world looks at it and says it cannot be fixed, God takes whoever is the physician in attendance at that point. When Rob works the emergency room and somebody comes in, he looks at it, he is the guy, man. He is the guy who has got to do what needs to be

done and he has been trained to do it. No other doctor around, he is there, it is his deal. And you know what? You will be, if you train yourself and let God do it, you will become the attending physician in the casualties spiritually of this whole world, and God will teach you what to do. It is incredible. That is why you really do not care about the trouble it causes you with the people who do not like the Bible and there will be plenty of them.

You will watch God put a marriage back together, take that addiction away, take you out of the life of sin, establish you in the Word of God, give you the character qualities of Christ, and knowing how unworthy as we are, God used you to do it because you decided to do what worked for Him.

I do not know what you think of Donald Trump. I have heard a lot of people say that, "Well, he is just a big boy." Well, for the last eight or nine or ten years, this country has been bullied by everybody else in the world. Maybe it is time we get us a boy. I do not know. I do not care really. I am apolitical. It does not matter either way to me. But I think what I like about him, and what most people like about him, is that he is not afraid of anybody. This world, this country, is so sick and tired of lying politicians that he can get up and say anything about anything, and as long as it is hard-line and the truth, they like it. He is an amazing guy. He is completely, totally incorrect politically. He is going to build a wall down in Mexico and make the Mexicans pay for it. He is going to bus up 12 million illegals on buses, ship them back. Somebody says, "Are you going to rip up those families or the kids that were born here and are American citizens?" "Oh, no, I am not going to rip up any families." "We are sending them all back." It is crazy. But at least somebody is now doing something. He takes on everybody. He is not afraid of anybody.

Now I use him as an example because why is that? Because he has got more money than anybody on the planet. He can buy and sell his enemies so he does not have to fear them. He will bury them. You want to sue him? He has got a whole team of lawyers. He will run up your legal fees under the millions of dollars. Millions of dollars is just chump change to him. He will bury you. Now that is power. It is not necessarily that he is a strong, brave man by nature. Maybe he is. I do not know. But when you have two or three billion dollars and you can spend your enemies under the table, you do not have to be afraid of anybody or what they think about you. He got to go in here about the fence down in Mexico, and the Spanish TV pulled out of the Miss America pageant, like, "We are going to show you." He turns around and sues him for \$450 million. Now \$450 million for Spanish TV is a lot of dinero. That is his bar tab on a weekend. He will bury them. He will run their legal fees up so high that he will just absolutely bury them. And you do not have to be afraid of anybody when you got that kind of power, when you got that kind of riches.

But I want you to know, and here is my point. It is the same way with you as a Christian. If you know your Bible, or have a working knowledge of the Scriptures, and you have understanding, and you have God's work going on in your house, your spiritual wealth will put Donald Trump on the streets as a homeless beggar. You have a hundred zillion dollars in your bank accounts spiritually every day. This spiritual understanding and insight and truth from a Book that God gave you, that many times somebody else paid the price for. You are richer than your enemies

and you are smarter too. So you never have to fear them. You can buy or sell them with the Bible.

If you ever get a chance, I think John Bissett probably has them all, but we may have some in the back. You have to just watch one or two of these idiots who tried to debate Ruckman on the Bible. You talk about somebody destroying somebody. These guys come down here like they are going to show, and he puts them under the table. I watched him take on Karl Keating one time, who was the head of the Catholic Church, and he buried him, and I timed it. In 26 seconds, it was over. It may have gone on for another hour and a half, but as far as anything ever getting accomplished, he killed him in 26 seconds with one thing. That is you. When you have the riches and glory by Christ Jesus, your enemies cannot ever outspend you spiritually. You will bury them. That is why they will only take cheap shots behind your back and never show up one on one with you. You will get buried with what you know about the Bible because you are richer than your enemies and you are smarter too, so you never have to fear them. You can buy and sell them with the Bible that God has given you.

David understood this in Psalm 119:97-104. He says:

*Psalm 119:97*

*O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

*Psalm 119:98*

*Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.*

*Psalm 119:99*

*I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.*

*Psalm 119:100*

*I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.*

*Psalm 119:101*

*I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.*

*Psalm 119:102*

*I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.*

*Psalm 119:103*

*How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

*Psalm 119:104*

*Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.*

Now that is power. He says you are wiser than your enemies. You have more understanding than your teachers and you have more understanding than the ancients. And you just focus on the people now that God gave you. Do not ever focus on the ones that He has not given you. That is part of your problem. You get so worried about, "Well, they are saying this about me, they are saying that about me, they are thinking about this, they are thinking about that." Ah, man, go fishing. And out of your mouth comes the fruit that changes people's lives, and 30, 40, 50 years of that, and brother, you said God used you for that long, and God used you in situations that He wants to. And brother, after 30, 40 years, you are living in tall timber, brother. Life is good.

The power of the fruitfulness of God versus the power of the fruitlessness of the world. The action of a living God in your life will always dwarf what every wicked person says and does to stop you because God just keeps pouring it on, and you have your focus.

I had to laugh at the trap shoot a couple weeks ago. Some of our little tykes wanted to shoot, so they got him a shotgun, and they shot a couple of times, and some of them, it hurts. I mean, it does and they were crying, I get it, man, I get it. The guy was really good. He said, "Well, that teaches you and lets you know that you are not ready for this yet because it hurts and it whumps you pretty good." And I got watching that and thinking about that, and I sympathize with them, those little guys. Because when I was a kid, my dad brought me my first 20-gauge shotgun for Christmas, and we were going to go rabbit hunting on Christmas afternoon, and I was all excited about it. Christmas afternoon, he took me out to practice, bought me a box of 20-gauge shells, put them in there, and I remember setting cans up there and shooting those things, and I will tell you what, it hurt so bad. I mean, I did not cry in front of my dad, but I was crying on the inside, and he would put cans up and I would shoot it, and I mean, I kept on shooting it because he was excited, and I was really excited until I started shooting it, and then I am thinking, and I just gritted it, boy, and I did, oh, it just, it, it hurt. I had "Winchester" stamped on my shoulder from the butt plate when I went back home. It was black and blue and I thought, how am I ever, ever going to do this?

We went hunting about two weeks later, season came in, and we were out there walking through the field, and I am, I got it on and on, I am thinking, "Oh boy, I got one," and all of a sudden I stepped on this thing, and boy, a big old bunny rabbit pops almost straight up and shoots straight out in front of me. Instinct, I caught that gun, swung that thing down, missed him the first one, put another round in, flipped him over with the second one. I ran over that rabbit, my first rabbit I ever shot in my life. I picked it up, my dad patted me on the back and said, "That was a really good shot, son, you really recovered after you missed the first one." I was so excited. Later on I thought to myself, "I never felt the kick." You see, when I was just standing there doing nothing, shooting at tin cans, I felt the kick, but when I was dedicated and focused on stopping that rabbit, I never felt the recoil. That is what is wrong in Christianity. Why do you feel the recoil? Because you are not focused on anything. You are sitting around just taking the shots and it hurts. You get focused on what God is doing in your life. You get your bead drawn on a target that God got you on, you do not feel the kick. I am telling you, now you little guys, it will not help you shooting a shotgun, but it will help you in ministry. And you know what? Nobody can take that from you.

Donald Trump, bless his heart, in a bad economic time, a collapse, he could be a homeless person; we will give a hot dog to him next week. But you know what? The fruit that comes from your putting out the Word of God, nobody can take from you, nobody can take it. That is why the Bible says when you get saved, you build on that foundation, gold, silver, precious stones. He is satisfied, the man is satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth.

## VII. The Recompense of a Man's Hands and The Journey

Now look at the last part of Proverbs 12:14. "Now the recompense of a man's hand shall be rendered unto him." A reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ again for a saved man, and a reference to the Great White Throne for an unsaved man. In the Bible, a man's hand will always be a reference to what he does in life, the things he does, his works.

The first time you find it in the Bible, it is a definitive part on it, it is Genesis 5:29. This is the first place you find it in the Bible. He says:

*Genesis 5:29*

*And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.*

And from that part on in the Bible, every time you find a hand that is connected in a picture of somebody doing something, either good or bad, for the world or for God. Psalm 18 says, David says:

*Psalm 18:34*

*He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.*

Job 1:10 says:

*Job 1:10*

*Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.*

Psalm 8:6 says that when God made everything, He gave the dominion to man over the works of His hands. Our hands represent our works, whether they are good or they are bad. So when an unsaved man stands before God, he is judged by his works. Revelation 20:11-12 says:

*Revelation 20:11*

*And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

*Revelation 20:12*

*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

Well, the Great White Throne was judged, and I know it says the books were opened, but really God could just open one book, the book of Proverbs, and He could decide whether the guy was wise or foolish just based on that one book. He could judge him by the fruit that comes out of his lips or the transgression that comes out of his mouth.

Now, when a Christian stands before God on the Judgment Seat, he is judged for his works. I showed it to you last week, what he did with his hands after God saved him based around those six questions. 1 Corinthians 3:13, I gave it to you last week:

*1 Corinthians 3:13*

*Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

Now, in our case, I do not know if you picked this up or not, the difference between the two? An unsaved man stands before God and the books were opened. Those books are the Word of God. When you and I stand before God, the Judgment Seat of Christ as a Christian, there are no books. You see that? There is no opening of the Bible to find out what we did or did not do. Oh, there is a book with an unsaved man, he is judged out of the book. But there is no book opened at the Judgment Seat of Christ for you and me, why? Because all your life, since you have got saved, the Holy Spirit of God has been inside of you.

I am going to show you one of the most terrifying stories in all the Bible. Tucked away back there in the Old Testament, in Genesis 24. One of the most terrifying, one of the most amazing stories that you ever see. Some of you will not sleep tonight after this, I hope not anyhow. You know the story of Genesis 24. We use it all the time. There are 19 principles on how to find a spouse. Somebody says, "Well, I went through that, what happened to my case?" You only went to 17, you missed the last two. But beyond that, you know the story.

Abraham wants a bride for his son Isaac. So he calls his eldest servant and he says to him, "Go out there and find a bride for my son." And the story, as you read it through there, that servant whose name is Eliezer goes out, and he is looking, and he finally comes, and he comes to the well, and there is this Rebekah lady, and he has a conversation with her about the master. They go home to her parents and he tells the whole story and then he asks her two great questions. Well, one great question and she answers it back. He says to her after he laid out the whole thing about his Isaac, he says, "Will you go with this man?" And she says, "I will go." The Bible says after she makes that commitment, she leaves her mom and her dad and the Bible says she goes his way to meet Isaac.

Now let me put it into a biblical, practical application for you. Abraham is a type of God the Father, the greatest type in the Bible. Isaac is a type of Christ. Genesis 22, he almost became the sacrifice, carried the wood on his back like Christ carried the cross. Eliezer, his name is not given here in this chapter. You have to go someplace else to find it out, and he is just called "the servant." Why? Because Eliezer is a type of the Holy Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit of God seeks nothing for himself. He is the great unknown equation. Rebekah, she is a Gentile, a female Gentile, a type of the Gentile church, me and you. And Abraham, God the Father, says, "I want a

son, I want a daughter, I want a wife for my son, Isaac, the Lord Jesus Christ." So he calls Eliezer, a type of the Holy Spirit, "Go out into the world and find my son a Gentile bride." So he loads up the camel train, and the camel train goes out, they come to that well, and he finds her there, he tells her the story, he says, "Will you go?" He says, "I will go," and he brings her back to Isaac.

We have the song that the boys sing over there when the camel train comes in. "Oh, get ready, the evening shadows fall, can't you hear?" "LAA is our call." "Is the wedding going to be ready?" "The bride will soon be there when the camel train comes in." Right now, the day you got saved, you are on a journey to see your Isaac. And when you get to see your Isaac, you are going to marry him. You are the Gentile bride that God sent the Holy Spirit of God, Eliezer, to find for his son Isaac, the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, what an incredible picture that is. And in Genesis 24, one of the most amazing stories in all the Bible.

When they get back to Abraham and Isaac. And Isaac, a type of Christ, pictures the Judgment Seat of Christ. Isaac wants to know about their journey in life: where they went, what happened, who said what to whom. In Genesis 24:66, 66 books in your Bible. And in the last book of your Bible is the Judgment Seat of Christ. Genesis 24:66, when Isaac, Christ, says, "Tell me about the journey." Rebekah did not say a word. You will not say a word. The Bible says:

*Genesis 24:66*

*And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.*

The day you got saved, the Holy Spirit of God got sealed inside you, and you have been dragging him along in life everywhere you go. Oh, we all do it. We all rationalize our situation. We all do not like this or do not like that, or we do not do this because of this, or we justify it in our mind. And we have our, we have our, we have our answers to those questions all laid out. But I want to tell you something. When your camel train comes in, and your Isaac, who before you marry Him, is going to ask you where you have been the moment you try to open your mouth. The Holy Spirit of God is going to step out and tell every place we have been in our journey in life. He is going to tell who we said to what, and whose spirit came from us when our camel train comes in. God help us.

In the Bible, laid out in the book of Proverbs and throughout the Word of God, in closing, you have the four components of a man's life with God.

- Man's heart. That is what he thinks about God. And that one will lead him to the next one.
- The second one is man's mouth, where the man's heart is what he thinks about God. Man's mouth is what he says about God.
- The third one is man's hands. Based on the heart and the mouth, it equals attitude and action. So a man's hands now, where the man's heart is what you think about God, and man's mouth is what he says about God. Man's hands is what he is willing to do for God.
- Then the fourth one is man's feet and his legs. Man's heart is what he thinks about God. Man's mouth is what he says about God. His hands is what he is willing to do for God, and man's feet and legs is how far he is willing to go for God and take his stand for God.

Song of Solomon 5, and I will leave you with this, talking about my Lord Jesus Christ. Song of Solomon 5:15 says:

*Song of Solomon 5:15*

*His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.*

Marble is the hardest stone there is. They make tombstones out of it because it endures for centuries. And it is a picture of Christ's legs because what Christ stands for is something that will never change. And in your life and my life, when we are like Christ, we have the things and the character qualities of Christ. His stand is like marble. It is unmovable. Your stand for Christ is unmovable. You take a marble statue and you put it in the backyard, and you can invite all your neighbors over, and they can call it all kinds of funny names, call it all kinds of stupid names, make fun of it, laugh at it, yell at it, scream at it, cuss it up one side and down the other. What? The statue never flinches. It is made out of marble, the hardest rock known to man. And when you are a Christian, through the work of God of your heart, your mouth, your hands, and your feet, you decide to take your stand for God. It never bothers you what somebody thinks about you, says about you, because you know that at the end you are going to come out of the trouble because your legs are made of marble and you stand for what is right. You find out what the Word of God says and then you take your stand on it.

We will hold up there. Thank you.