

Proverbs 14:22-25

Sunday 1/31/2016

If you have your Bibles this morning, I would like you to turn over to the book of Proverbs, chapter 14. I would like to welcome all the people that are tuning in on YouTube this morning. We have some 15 or 16 people that got in on it today and are following along, and we hope that you are enjoying everything. All the quality that you see that we are doing here, the cameras and everything, we did it for you folks. Not a week goes by that I do not get a phone call from somebody in Oregon or Florida or somewhere in the country that follows our ministry and cannot find a Bible-believing church and stays faithful to where we are at. So we appreciate that.

Proverbs chapter 14, and today we are going to look at another set of verses. We have kind of been taking these verses. Sometimes when you come through Proverbs, you will take four, five, six verses and you get through all of those. One verse will be so important that you just spend the whole time on that. But the last couple of weeks, we have been taking them in little series or little blocks of verses, and they kind of all tied together. So we have been kind of doing that way with it.

Last week we had a great look at how we view others and the inheritance that we are going to leave our children. It talked about an inheritance of folly. We saw a great principle in Proverbs 4:7, one that I think that you always ought to keep in front of your thought process and always look at it and remember it. It is simply that wisdom is the principal thing. The principles are the Word of God. We talk about it all the time, getting to the point in your life where you operate through principles, a principled life, principled based on the Bible, and how that gets us a crown of knowledge in this life and yet leads to a crown of righteousness at the judgment seat of Christ in the next life.

Today we are going to look at verses 22 through 25. Let us read it and then we will jump right into it here.

Proverbs 14:22-25

22 Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.

23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

24 The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.

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

Chris Schmidt, would you ask God's blessing on the service this morning?

[Prayer]

I. The Error of Devising Evil

Now verse 22, as you noticed, our first verse here, it starts with a question. It says, "Do they not err that devise evil?" The answer is, of course, yes, they certainly do. When you begin to look at this, you are going to first of all, and I want you to be able to get all your notes in your Bible, the

“they” here as we look at it, doctrinally, will be the Antichrist and his crown. I always like to show you how the verses all kind of go different ways so you can, and then we come back to the practical. It is dealing doctrinally with the Antichrist and his crown who plot and plan and devise evil against the nation of Israel.

I have showed you before how that in the Old Testament, we talk a lot about the Antichrist, and that is a very popular subject today. But in the Bible, in the Old Testament, I have showed you many, many times how that there are 18 men who in their life and the things that they do really are a type and foreshadow the Antichrist. There are 18 types of the Antichrist in the Bible. Somebody says, “Why 18?” Because his number is 666, and 6 times 3 is 18. That is why. You are going to find that in each case in the Bible, each one of these men go up against the nation of Israel. Each one of these types, each one of these actual men in the Old Testament devises a plan, devises some kind of plotting against the nation of Israel to hurt the people of God. When you go to places like Revelation 12 and 13, and in the book of Daniel, especially Daniel 11 and 12, you see very clearly that the real Antichrist when he comes, he does exactly what this proverb says. He goes against and devises an evil plan against the nation of Israel.

Now in a practical sense, how it applies to you and me, we want to look at that now. It will be a reference, of course, to anybody who will devise evil against the people of God. Somebody who has a plan to position himself or herself to hurt someone or use someone for their own gain. They have put a whole elaborate plan together. I have seen it all down through my own ministry of 40 some years, and I am sure some of you have seen it. I have seen young men that go into a church and their whole planning and plotting is to undermine what is going on in the church to try to get ahead or try to establish whatever they want to try to establish.

I have seen men that were businessmen, and they are either insurance salesmen—and this is no slam if you are an insurance salesman this morning—or an investment broker or whatever. They will join the biggest church in town, two or three thousand people. Then they proceed, they have a plan to work their congregation to make money off of it. They will begin to find out who the people are and send them flyers on whatever they are doing, whatever they are selling, and they will pretend that they care about the things of God. But in reality, they just want to make a buck off the people. They look at the people in the church as a sales prospect. They have a very clear plan to it, and they do it by design.

Now the first part of this is in the form, as I said, of a question because the answer is an obvious no. You will not get away with it, and yes, you certainly do err when you try to do it. There is a great verse in Matthew 22:29. Jesus is talking to the scribes and the Pharisees, and they are giving Him all kinds of problems about what He is doing. They pretend that they know the Bible like so many of God's people today, yet they are using the Bible to their own advantage. When you study the Bible, you will find that the three biggest enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ were all within His own church, with His own group of people, the nation of Israel. You have the scribes; they are legitimate. They were the keepers of the Bible, the Old Testament. They had to be from the tribe of Levi. But then you had the Sadducees and you had the Pharisees. When you begin to look at it and study it, you will find that throughout the Bible, nowhere were there ever any Sadducees or Pharisees ever recognized or ever put into the nation of Israel. No, that was a plan.

That was a devised plan by men who wanted to get control of the nation of Israel through their religion. So they come up with an idea, plotted and planned for a group to be called the Pharisees and a group to be called the Sadducees. Neither one of them believed anything about the Bible. They certainly did not believe that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, and all three groups were His biggest problem.

When He was talking to them one time, and they were talking about where they were at, where He was at, He gave one of the greatest verses. I use it all the time, or at least I think about it all the time, and He simply says this: “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures.” Of course, that was their problem. The simple truth is in all the Bible, anybody who devises a plan, plots a plan, comes up with a deception who tries to do what the verse says, they do err, not knowing the Scriptures. Because you will not get away with it. Certainly, you will never profit by it.

In the Bible, there are some great examples of this. I always like when you find places in the book of Proverbs. Proverbs is such a rich book, and it covers such an expanse of the whole Bible that there are always great examples. When you talk about somebody putting a plan together, devising a plan to hurt somebody, boy, there are some great examples in the Bible.

- Cain and Abel
- Jacob and Esau
- Saul and David
- Absalom

They all devised an evil plan for their own personal selfish gain. Yet the proverb is true, because in Cain and Abel, it did not work out. Jacob and Esau, go to Genesis chapter 32 and see the day that God got Jacob alone and see how it worked out. Saul and David, Saul gets the kingdom taken from him, winds up a suicide, and David gets the throne. Absalom winds up getting hung in a tree by his hair, beautiful hair, long hair. He is being chased by David's guys, and he is on the back of a mule when it is running, and he goes under an oak tree, and his beautiful hair gets caught in the tree. It pulls him off, and he gets hung in a tree, cannot get down, somebody comes up, shoots him in the heart with an arrow, and that is the end of Absalom. Moral of the story, keep your hair short if you are going to ride a mule.

All of them got caught in their own plan. The plan never worked out the way they planned it. Not one case in the Bible, and I will just add this, nor will there ever be one case today in life where it will ever work for anybody to devise a plan against something that God wants to make happen. Because the proverb is true, that God has set up some laws that are at work on planet Earth, and they are righteous laws, they are absolute laws, they are principles, that when violated, they come back to you.

II. The Blessing of Devising Good

Now, at the same time, look at the second part of that verse. It says, “Do they not err that devise evil?” That is the first part. Now look at this: “But mercy and truth shall be unto them that devise good.” The verse is clearly saying that, and we need to understand this, that just as a man can devise evil to hurt somebody, plot to hurt somebody, and devise a plan to their hurt, somebody can also devise a plan, plot, put a devise and plan in place to help somebody. It is an incredible concept.

Now the two key words here are mercy and truth. A lot of people in the world today, good people, have mercy for people, but that mercy is not based on the truth of God's Word. You have relief organizations and groups, and I am certainly not fighting them. I appreciate what they do to help people. I certainly do. I am just making a point. They help people. They show mercy, but they never give them the truth. Of course, I have always thought to myself, what good is it if you feed a starving person or get him a better place to live or help him wherever he is at and help him get to a better place in life if you just leave him, die and go to hell and spend an eternity without Christ? Making his life better is good, but making his eternal life sure is even better. But mercy has to be connected to truth.

Many times you see good groups of people. I remember reading about William Booth, who started the Salvation Army back in England in the 1800s, and back then it was really a Salvation Army. Today, it is a Salvation Army only in name. The Salvation Army went out a long time ago. They do a lot of good things, but they do not give salvation out. William Booth, you never got a handout or did anything to help anybody that you did not get the gospel about your soul. But times have changed. You know, mercy has to be always connected to the truth of the Word of God. It is a good thing when we as Christians devise a plan to get the truth and mercy to people without them ever knowing it.

We think of the word devising a plan. We always think of a bad connotation. We say, “Well, he is plotting against you.” We always think of that in a bad way because most of the time it is. But the verse clearly says that a child of God can devise and plot a plan for somebody else's good. Here again in the Bible, we see some really good examples of this.

- David and Mephibosheth
- Boaz and Ruth
- Abraham and Lot
- Joseph and His Brethren

When you plot and devise a plan for good, there is no ulterior motive in it for you. There is nothing in it for you at all, but there is everything for the Lord. I say it again, that is what God did with you and me. God devised a plan to get to you and to get to me. First of all, He devised a plan that He was going to go to the cross to pay for our sins. Second of all, He said, “I am going to send the Holy Spirit of God to come down so I can convict them of their sin to get them to the cross.” Then He said, “I am going to send people in their life, put people in their life, give them a

church, give them a preacher, give them friends who love the Word of God so they can help them get there.” It was the most masterful, devised plan and plot forever to get your soul into heaven.

You know, the more I think about it, the Christian life should be a ceaseless plotting of how to bless people and get them the truth of God and help them without ever being detected. That is the real key to ministry. Right now, you want to put it here at home? Okay, let us do it. Right now, we are plotting volleyball. Most churches have a volleyball league. They have a volleyball program and they all sit around and try to figure out how to minister to people. We put a ministry together and sit around and try to figure out how to play volleyball. Why? I tell you, you cannot wait to invite people to get on your team. I do not think for a moment, we do not have that kind of element in our church. I do not think for a moment it is because you want to win. I mean, what is the prestige of winning the Old Path Baptist Church Volleyball League? You will not be on the front of People Magazine, I promise, or Sports Illustrated. Where will anybody ever care? You may get a free meal at Jason's Deli, but whoop-dee-doo. I mean, you have been eating there for the last six weeks every night after volleyball, and now you are going to get a free meal. I mean, I just assume that we eat someplace else. So there has to be another reason why you do it. You know why it is? Because you know that is the way you can get people to the gospel.

I mean, if I asked for a show of hands here, how many people came into this church? I said a couple weeks ago, he was gone, he is here today, but that is how we got Darren and his wife and his family. Darren and his wife are some of the most valuable people in this church. You know how many years they came and played sports before they ever came to church? Somebody was devising a plan all that time. I see you do it, and when summer comes around, we are going to devise another plot and plan. It is called softball. I invite people to come all the time, and I tell them, I say, “You know,” and they say, “Well, I am not a very good player.” I do not care. I am not a very—there are a lot of people that are not a very good player. Almost said I was not a very good player. That would not be true. I am terrible at volleyball. I just like to get on the team with three or four people who do not like me, so you knock me down, you feel better about it. That is all. But is that about that? It is about being together in fellowship, and it is about hearing the devotions and hearing the Word of God, being around people who are clean, wholesome, who love God and love the Word of God, and you all love the same thing. If you are trying to get to a goal in life, one place in your life, or your marriage, or your life, or wherever, the best way to get there once you start getting into the Bible is to get around good, wholesome people to love the Word of God as much as you want to.

Hey, I have seen some of you, you planners, you plotters. I have seen some of you put on a social activity, invite 20 or 30 people. You feed them at your own expense. You host the events, all for one person or one couple that needed the truth of God or needed a good church, and you plotted and devised a plan to get that going and get them there so they could get around some good people and get the truth.

We are talking about going to camp. Camp is a fun time. It is a great week for all the things that kids love to do and like to do, but Jack and Joe and all the rest of you on the 14th, you are going to begin to plot. You are going to begin to devise a plan. You will have some of the funnest stuff that they could ever do all of their lives. I mean, you really will. People do a fantastic job, but

you know as well as I do, it is all a means to an end, and that end is to get them the gospel and to get them dialed into the Word of God so we do not lose another child out of this church to the world. I am excited to be there this year. I really am. The more I think about it, the more excited I get. I love to watch all my people go to work and do the action. Boy, I tell you, I love it. I just love being there with these kids. I love these kids, and I am going to tell you, I am not only going to preach to you the Word of God as best I can, I am going to teach you how to trap the snapping turtles. That big pond they have up there, they have 30, 40 pounders in there, I guarantee you. I am going to show you, and then Enoch is going to come up and clean them and cook them for us. Where is Enoch? You are going to come up and clean them and cook them, right buddy? We will cook them on the fire, and we will show them what real eating is like, will we not? Absolutely. We are going to have a fun time.

The wise and the prudent child of God will continually be on the lookout how to always get mercy and truth to people and have a plan. You know, that is how, I hate to say this, because I give away all my trade secrets, that is how I snag many of you. Joe Christians is one of my best friends in the whole wide world. He is a hero to me, and I love him very, very much. When I think of, and he probably would totally disagree with this, but when I think of a model, to me, Joe Christians, he is just a stand-up guy. I had a plot and plan to get him. He probably does not even know it. When we first started our church, his mom and dad came to our church, who were two of the finest people on this planet. I am not kidding you. I love them with all my heart. They are the most serious, best people that you ever had. But none of their family was going to church anywhere. Joe was not really going anywhere. The girls were not going anywhere. They were not married yet. David, they were not really going anywhere. So, you know, mom and dad, David was a ball player. He played for Fort Osage. He is back in the back today, but he was a pitcher for the Fort Osage and a great pitcher. Like myself. Now that I think of it.

So, I knew there was a ball game going up, and you were going to come and watch them, Joe. The girls were going to be there. So I thought to myself, I am going to go to that game. Now I love to watch David play, but high school ball is not my thing. I mean, I would have to, I went to watch Alex play when he played football for Fort Osage right down south and all that. I enjoyed it. But I do not make my Friday nights and Saturday nights going to those games. But I went to that game. In fact, I knew where, I will confess something else to the girls. Where are the girls at? Or when I am in the back. I knew where Fort Osage High School was. But if you remember, I came to your house that day before the game. You guys were very rude to me. I knew where it was. But I wanted to be there with you guys. I wanted to talk to you. We all went over to that ballpark. Then Joe showed up. I sat next to Joe. We just, Joe, I do not remember what we talked about, but we just talked. But I knew at that point in time that this was a great family. I knew that I had to put together a plan for their good. Because of the fact that, you know, in Acts sometimes when Philip goes to that Ethiopian eunuch, you just hear the Lord say, like He said to Philip, you know what He said to Philip when He saw that old guy out there in a chariot, kind of reading that prophet Isaiah? You know what the Spirit of God said to Philip? He said, "Go join thyself to that man's chariot." I cannot tell you how many times in my life that somebody has said, "Go join yourself to that man's chariot." Today, Joe and his family are here, love Chrissy. All the boys and the girls are here with mom and dad. Love them all. But I plotted. Now next week, one of the

boys is going to do his own devotion. The oldest one is going to marry one of my granddaughters.

The funniest one I got to tell you is Judy Schmidt. Years and years and years ago, when Judy first joined the church, she got a burden for all her brothers and everything. They were all good guys and they are all coming up in Lincoln. Judy had a unique way of getting them to me, a great plot in the grand plan. She would go to them and say, "Bob wants to talk to you." Then come to me and say, "I told my brother you wanted to talk to him. He is going to make an appointment. Will you take care of it for me?"

Some of you know Dave and Cindy Madden. Some of you knew Dave and Cindy Madden years ago. Cindy Madden, dead now. She went home to be with the Lord. Years and years ago, Cindy was a saved girl, sweetest little gal on the planet. She loved the Lord, loved the Word of God, just a great little gal. But her husband David was lost, was unsaved, wanted nothing to do with church. But he liked to shoot. He liked to go to gun shows. So I plotted and planned and we went out shooting out his property a couple of times. This was years and years and years ago. We started going to gun shows together. We just started spending time together and I never pushed anything. He knew where I was and he knew where he was not. One day at a gun show, I will never forget it, it was down at the old halls down there. We are sitting down there and he is real quiet and he says, "Bob," he said, "I need to be saved." So we left our gun show table, went behind the partitions there and walked down about, oh, I do not know, 200 feet. One of those old pillars were down there. He got on his knees and he trusted Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior. But I had to plot and plan and devise to get him. I mean, that is what it is, you are going to either do it to hurt somebody or you are going to do it to help somebody. But I am telling you, every Christian ought to be doing it. That is just that simple. I mean, the devil is going to lay a plan and he plots to destroy you in hell and he will use his people to do it. God devises a plan and plots it out to save you and He will use His people to do it. Which one do you want to be taken by? One wants to send you screaming into the lake of fire. The other wants to send you through the gates of the New Jerusalem singing and shouting. But by mercy and truth shall be unto them that devise good.

III. The Profit of Labor

Well, look at verse 23. "In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury." Now then this proverb is a very easy and simple proverb. It simply says, if you do not work, there will never be any profit in your life. In a physical sense or a spiritual sense. When the fall took place in Genesis chapter 3, Genesis 3:19, Adam was told that from that point on you have to get up in the morning and go to work. He said, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground." You know the world has many spin-offs on this great proverb and this great principle. Somebody said one time when opportunity knocks, somebody else will answer the door instead of you because you are lazy. Somebody else said if you do not climb the mountain, you never get the view. Somebody else said faith that can move mountains will always come with a pick and shovel. Somebody said nothing will ever turn up until you are willing to turn it up. Somebody says, "I love work, it fascinates me. I can watch somebody do it

all day long.” My favorite one, if you are not the lead dog, your view never changes. That has nothing to do with any of these ones that I gave you, but I just wanted to let you have that one.

You know the Christian life is about a work. This church is about a work for Jesus Christ. Jesus came to do the work of His Father. He tells us that, but then He did not finish the work. The reason why He did not finish the work is because He expects us to finish the work. The Christian life may not be about works for salvation, which it is not, but it sure is about works after salvation. The Bible says, “Work for the night is coming when no man can work.” The Bible says, “A workman that needeth not to be ashamed.” The Bible says, “He has begun a good work in you before the end of the day of Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 4:12 says that He saved us and gave us the church for the work of the ministry.

It is a constant question, and I get it all the time. Obviously there are people who do a lot of works for God simply because they want people to look at them and think that they are spiritual. That is unfortunate, but it happens. Then you have people on the other end that never want to do anything for God, and they will never do anything. The question is always up in the air, and I get it all the time. People ask, “Well, you know what? I mean, what should I be doing and what kind of work should I be doing for the Lord?” The answer is simple. Once you become a Christian, your whole life is a work for God in everything about you. Now, that does not mean you necessarily get involved in everything it does, but it means that you are ready to get involved whenever God wants you to get involved in. You know what it means? It means you do not pick and choose what work you get in and what work you do not. You are so dialed in with the Holy Spirit of God and your work with Him is your life, you do not have to worry about ever being someplace in the wrong work or no work, because it goes back to your whole life as a work.

Would it have been a great thing if Jesus were to come down and just work through Monday through Friday? His whole life was a work, and it is not about whether you go here or you do this or you do that or you do not do this or you do not do that. We like to make it on those terms so often. It is not that way. The bottom line is when you got saved, listen to me, He began a good work in you and will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Your life is the work of God, whatever you are doing. I mean, just look around this room. Think of where some of you were when you came in here and where you are at now. You know why? Simply because somebody went to work on you. Somebody took you in their world and you became their work. They loved you enough to do their work and give you what you needed.

I hear it all the time. “You do not know how busy I am.” Well, these people that did the work on you, what do you think they are on welfare? They have jobs. They have families. They have careers. They have hobbies. They like to hunt. They like to fish. They like to golf. Some of them get up four or five o'clock in the morning to go to work. Some of them work 10, 12-hour days. It is not the fact that their whole life is a work for God. That is the point. Now listen, the cure for almost everything that messes up a child of God will be many times just the fact that you are doing the wrong work or you are doing no work, or sometimes you are doing the right work the wrong way. It has to be your life. It has to be your life.

Look at the last part of the verse. “But the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.” Now, penury is an old English word. We do not use it anymore, but it means extreme poverty. It goes akin to the word penniless. Now, this person here just gives God lip service, as we say in the world. The context of this, to get your notes in the Bible, doctrinally would again be the nation of Israel. That is exactly what they did with God. He said in Isaiah 29:13:

Isaiah 29:13

13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

That is the nation of Israel. Israel talked a good game about God with their lips, but their heart was with the precepts of men. There is a lot of that today. Most of God's people are there today. Certainly most churches are today. That is because that is how they all come to extreme spiritual poverty. God's people just talk about learning the Bible and then never learn it. They talk about getting involved, but they never do. It just never goes past the talking stage. This is why the spiritual poverty in their life is so rampant. It translates itself into failed marriages, lost families, no power of God in your life. Their hallmark is that they always start something, but they never finish it. Oh, I want to do this in the Bible. They never really finish it. Then they jump to something else in the Bible and they go from place to place to place, never finishing anything and never learning anything. Just the way it works.

IV. The Crown of the Wise

Look at verse 24. “The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.” Now, a couple of things in this verse we want to look at. First of all, the crown here will be the crown of knowledge of verse 18 that we talked about last week. I want you to know that. The riches spoken of here will be that of a wise man, what he has. He will be the one who sets his affection on things above like Colossians 1:1-2. He is the one who will have the true riches.

Second of all, it will be a reference to obviously the crown will be a reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ. In other words, it works like this, and I told you this earlier. A crown of knowledge now based on the Word of God and the principles of the Bible will lead to you to a crown of righteousness later at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

“But the foolishness of the fools is folly,” last part of the verse. Here again will be the two men of Proverbs. One is wise and one is foolish. One is spiritually rich, one is spiritually poor. One is filled up and full and complete, the other one is always completely empty.

Then the last thing I want you to see out of this verse is when you wear a crown of knowledge, people will see it and they will seek you out. They will see your marriage and see that it is different than theirs. They will see your family, your kids, and see it is different than theirs. They will look at your personal life. Romans 14:7 says, “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.” There is always somebody looking at your life. When Paul stood before Festus and King Agrippa in Acts 26:26, he is laying out to these two pagan Gentile kings. He is

defending himself in his Christianity. He looks at those kings who rejected God, hated Christianity, never read the Bible, cared nothing about the things of God, and he looks at them and he says, "King Agrippa, you know what I am telling you is true. And King Agrippa, you know that what I am doing and what God is doing was not done in a corner." Everybody knew what God was doing. Everybody knows what God is doing in your life. They see the crown you are wearing. When they see that crown on your head and they see what they perceive you to be happy, be successful, have something that they do not have. That Bible says in 1 Peter 3:15:

1 Peter 3:15

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

That verse says that they will see it in you first before they ask. You, because you have a work of God in your life, and your life is God's work, you see it immediately and you put a plan together to get them mercy and truth.

V. The True Witness and the New Birth

Now this leads right into the next verse here, and boy, it is a great verse. Look at verse 25. "A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies." Now the verse is a masterpiece to destroy and yet identify all false religions that are false witnesses. You would not think it. One little word. Boy, this is, you have to love this Bible, man. You have to love the book.

Any night. We had a lady that came in under the pretense, so she had some, and this is that I got this earlier, that she just had some verses on baptism for salvation that she wanted, she wanted to be clear on. Now I knew nothing about this lady. I knew nothing about anything about her. I said, "Absolutely, let her come and I will be kind to her and we will lay her out and all these things." When I got here and she got here, I saw her come down the steps and I think it was Eve that came over, maybe it was Ryan that came over and said they had just taken her to dinner and spent some time with her and that she was Church of Christ. The moment I heard Church of Christ, I knew from 45 years experience, the game was over. I knew this was not going to end well. Some of you are naive enough and you are good people and I love you very much and you will learn and grow if you stay with it. But you know, you look at something like that and you, you know, you feel like, "Well, this is just a poor," no, no, no, you do not misunderstand something. The Church of Christ is the most, if not the most, one of the most demonic organizations on the planet. I know what they think about Baptist and I know when they come to a Baptist Bible study what their plan is and it did not take long to prove out because she got a text from her this morning.

What happened was that she started a song and dance on baptism for salvation. I just very nicely just held her accountable and she, she did not want to be held accountable. So she got mad and she got up and she, I do not know if she got mad, but she got up and she left. She knew that she was not going to accomplish what she came to accomplish that night. Most Bible studies and most Baptist churches are run by marshmallows. She hit the brick wall that night. I am just

telling you, but they are never, never, never out of the game. I told you that night that they come in. She did not expect what we had. Most Baptist church Bible studies are very informal, very goofy and nobody knows anything about the Bible. She does. She asks very unassuming questions when she seeks out the crowd that she knows it is a weak target, soft target. Then she goes to work. She may not overtake the Bible study, but she will pick out one or two weak people that she will build a relationship with that she wants to know. Before you know it, she has got some converts to the Church of Christ because they do not know what they know.

You know what that girl did when she left here, she sent Eve a text yesterday last night or this morning thanking her for inviting her here. Then she said, "You know what? There were two people that helped me find verses and that was so kind of them. If you would please give me their names and their phone numbers, I would like to contact them to thank them in person." Yeah, I guess you would. They never give up. They never give up.

Now I want to show you. I want to show you something. This is why I love the Bible. That word there says, "A true witness delivereth souls." In Proverbs 11:30 it says:

Proverbs 11:30

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

Now we see that winning souls is defined for us as delivering them. You deliver them with a new birth. A new birth, John 3:3, "Ye must be born again," will take place when you deliver that baby into the kingdom of God. When you win somebody to Christ, when you deliver them, you are the tending physician spiritually who delivers them into the family of God and the kingdom of God. Christ is called the great physician. You are working under His supervision.

You know, when a person gets saved, the Bible makes it very clear that they go through seven stages of spiritual growth. We have talked about it many, many times. But that person, we all start at the same place and we all start out like a baby. Babies in Christ. 1 Peter 2:2 says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Now that Bible is something else.

Now you know why you will never get to heaven following the Roman Catholic Church? You know, you are Catholic here this morning. I have no axe to grind with you. I am just stating the fact. You know why you will never get to heaven if you are a Jehovah Witness this morning? You know why you will never get to heaven if you are a Mormon? You know why you will never get to heaven if you are a Church of Christ? You know why you will never get to heaven if you are a Lutheran or Presbyterian or a Methodist or Episcopalian? Now I did not say that there would not be people that would not be part of that church that would not be saved. What I am saying is you follow those church doctrines and you are going to wind up in a lake of fire. If you got saved, you got saved because somebody got you and witnessed you and won you to Christ in spite of what your church teaches.

The reason why you will never get to heaven following those churches is because they all teach, listen to me now, here it comes, oh the Bible. They teach that you have to be baptized to go to heaven. When you get baptized to go to heaven, that is not being delivered. You only get

delivered by a birth, not a baptism. Birth can deliver you. Baptism gets you wet. It takes a spiritual birth. You must be born again. 1 Peter 1:23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God." When you got born the first time in your physical body, you were delivered by a physician to your family. When you were born again the second time, if you did, you got delivered into God's family by a tending spiritual physician who won you to Christ and delivered you in a new birth. You simply cannot be delivered by baptism. How absurd. What a marvelous verse. One little word destroys every false witness on salvation. You have to be delivered. You can only be delivered by a birth, not through a work. When you were delivered into God's family by a true witness, the Holy Spirit of God.

If you have never been delivered into God's family, if you have only been baptized, or you joined a church, or you just try to live a good life, there is no deliverance in that. You have to be truly born again because these things cannot deliver you. It took a birth that put you into a new family. John 8:44 says, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." When you were born the first time, you were born spiritually in the wrong family. Getting wet and dunk is not going to get you out of that family. If a birth got you into it, a birth can only get you out of it. If you were born into the devil's family this way, then you have to get born into God's family the same way you must be born again.

"But a deceitful witness speaketh lies." I told you a couple of weeks ago when the devil destroyed the plan of God in Genesis chapter 3 with Adam and Eve. I showed you in those verses that when he came to Eve, in those couple of verses there that wrecked mankind and destroyed and sent everybody on their way to the lake of fire. When you look at the verse, 85 to 90 percent was right on the money. The world went to hell only on 15 percent of error. He left everything in there except how to get to heaven. You are going to find that that is exactly the way they do it today. But these things can never deliver you because they are a false witness. You can only be delivered through a birth.

When it comes to delivering souls, verse 25, every Christian should be a first responder. Our brave police officers, firemen, paramedics, our doctors, our nurses, they are all trained to be able to deliver babies in emergencies. As a Christian first responder, you and I should know exactly how to deliver a newborn in the born-again spiritual sense. You know as well as I do, especially you people in the medical field, that sometimes when you deliver a physical baby, things do not go the way they are supposed to go. That baby does not get turned the right way. Or maybe the cord is around its neck or whatever. I hear all kinds of things. They have to do something different. But a trained responder will know exactly what to do to make sure the birth takes place the right way and a healthy baby gets delivered. Sometimes they have to do a C-section. Sometimes they have to do this. Sometimes they have to do that.

But in a spiritual sense, sometimes the new birth does not always go exactly as planned. Sometimes when you start to talk to somebody about being saved, they have had a lot of bad doctrine all of their life and they have got things confused. Sometimes they do not understand how the Holy Spirit of God works. Sometimes they think that they can lose their salvation. I have not, I just go ahead and be nuts with people today in churches that make salvation such an easy thing. The Billy Graham Crusades, when you go down front, you get a card and you read

that card. Nobody is allowed, if you are confused on the Holy Spirit of God or baptism or you belong to some cult church, you cannot talk about those things. Here is the card, read it. Bless God now you are saved. I have been in church after church after church. When the pastor preaches a message like this, he has everybody bow their heads and he gives an invitation. "Who would like to be saved? Raise your hand." 20 people raised their hand. He said, "Repeat after me this prayer and now you are all saved." I watch Joel Osteen every Sunday morning before I come to church. Pick up a few things. After the end of his sermon, this is what he always does. "Now bow your head and pray this prayer after me," and the whole place prays it. Then he says, "We believe that if you prayed that prayer and you believe you are now a child of God." That is like you going into the hospital, going to have a baby. The doctor comes in, looks at you and said, "Yep, you are ready. Here is some instruction sheets, read this, deliver it yourself." Would that work for you? But that is exactly what they do with the spiritual new birth. Here is a card, read it. I am not getting involved. That is not delivering them. You have got to get into their world. You have got to get one with them. You have got to get there and understand what they are dealing with and what they are struggling with.

Hey, I have had to stop the procedure of soul winning somebody and deal with an issue that they were struck with so many times. It is one of those things where, you know, I do not care if they, I mean, I want them to get saved, but then what I do not want them to do is not to get saved and then leave thinking they are. Because I, as the attending physician, did not do my job. I know right now some of you want to win people to Christ, you want to learn how to do it, and I just scared the fire out of you. Because you are sitting there saying, "Oh, how am I ever going to do this? What am I ever going to do? I mean, wow, wow, I want to do it. But what if somebody asked me a question and I do not know what to do? What if I mess it up and I abort the thing and the whole thing goes down and they go to hell or I give them some fault?" I know where you are going right now because you are good people. But you think a doctor who went to be an OB, that is what they call them, who deliver babies, right? OB, I do not know. OB, OB? OB? Well, they call all the empires, OWL, so I guess it works. They have got a little hat that says OB. Anyway, hey, hey, you think the first time he got out of med school, he has never delivered a baby and he is on his own. He has got nurses who have done it for 30 years standing around him. This is his first time in there. You think his hands are not shaking a little bit? You said, you think he is not a little nervous about, "I have never really," you think he is going to say her, "Now, honey, it is going to be okay. I just want you to know. I have never done this before."

I had a doctor one time, I had to have a very delicate operation. I will not tell you what it was because, but it was very tedious and very delicate. He was a good guy and he was a good doctor. Most of you old folks know this guy. He is a great guy. I have seen him every once in a while. Nice guy. He was a good doctor, but he had just got out of med school. I went to him because I wanted to give him business and he was a nice guy. I had to have a surgical procedure that was, that was pretty, it was a surgical procedure. I had some issues and he had to take care of them. So I go in and he looks, examines me and he says, "Yeah," he says, "We could, we, no problem." So he says, "Okay." I said, "Well, let us just get this over with." He said, "Okay." He said, "Now, one thing, I have never done this before, but if you hold the book for me, I will go ahead and," I said, "You know, when I second thought it, I heard as bad as I thought it did. I am healed. I am

okay. I just know it. Just know it.” Now you could do it was enough for me. I got out of there. Now he might have done it and it might have went fine. Take it any chance. You are going to practice on me, man. Get a couple, get some of them cadavers or whatever they are called, you know, and work on them.

I do not know how many times I have had to stop the procedure and say, “Hey, no, do you understand this?” When I am dealing with a person who is coming from another faith who believes in baptism, you know what I do and has been baptized, you know what I do lovingly, kindly. I am a nice guy. I am not a mean man. I will come down there and before I have them pray, you know what I will say, ask them. I will say, “Now, look, do you understand everything that I have said? Now you, you, you are coming out of a religion in the church that believes that you had to be baptized to go to heaven and you got baptized believing that. Now, before we go any farther, right now, I want to ask you, are you willing to renounce that baptism? Are you willing to renounce what you were taught, renounce that baptism and trust Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior and then let me baptize you the right way based on the Bible?” If they say, “Yes,” we proceed. If they say, “No,” then we stop till we either we figure it out or we figure we cannot go through with it. It cannot be no fast thing just because I want to say I went to sky got saved. Sometimes we want people to get saved and there is got a good thing. That is a good thing. But you cannot want them to get saved more than they do because that is a bad thing. You will learn how to deal with it. You will. You stick around here. There is enough people that you can help with and do this and you learn the procedure. I will sit down and show you how to do it and work with you. You will get to that point. You will get to that point because fundamentally you are a true witness. When you are a wise man or woman and you wear a crown of knowledge, you can learn. You can learn how to deal with those things and you can use those things. You are absolutely in full command when you are the attending physician. When you deliver, you deliver that newborn babe into the family of God.

VI. Recap and Conclusion

Well, now there were some great verses that we saw today and let us just recap very quickly here and then we will be through.

1. First of all, we saw that the aspect of you are either going to devise evil or you are going to devise good. In this church, for the most part, you guys already understand that principle. I see it all the time.
2. The second thing we saw is the ability to do a work, not just talk about it, but the work to learn the Word of God, realizing that the Christian life is a work. Your whole life is a work for God. You do not just say, “Well, I am a work for God when I go to restart or I go to here or I go preach here.” No, your whole life is a work. Everything about everything you do is the work. You are finishing the work that Christ started and did not finish because He is depending on you and me in this church to finish it.
3. Third thing we saw, getting a crown of knowledge now that in time will lead to an everlasting crown of righteousness. Realizing that you are building your own inheritance with everything you do every day of your life. I know that is not the reason you do it. You do it because God

loved you and He did it for you. You love Him for you doing it for Him. I understand that. But when you get that crown of knowledge from learning the principles of the Word of God and people seek you out and you have the ability to help people, it is only going to translate into an everlasting crown of righteousness on the other side.

4. Then the last thing, fourth thing, as a child of God with a crown of knowledge, you will be used of God to deliver souls into the family of God. You know, we talk about a lot of miracles today. Charismatics have their thousands of miracles. Catholic Church has their miracles. Everybody has got a miracle. Everybody looks for miracles. How many times has somebody said, "Well, we are praying for a miracle." I have got news for you. For the church age today and for the body of Christ, whatever happens in your life between, it will not be a miracle. It will be between your relationship with God and the Heavenly Father taking care of His child based on how well you have taken care of Him. There is only one miracle today in the church age. Only one. There is only one miracle today in the church age and it is the miracle of the new birth. The fact that you and I like Mephibosheth, the fact that you and I like Ruth could be an enemy of God, be alienated from God, be everything that God is not. That He loves us enough to come down, devises a plan and plots it out for you and me to get into His family. But you only got there one way. That is because there was somebody that was prepared to deliver you. Now your job and my job is to let God prepare us that we might deliver others into the new birth.

Let us pray.

Father, thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. Again, Lord, I pray for this gal that came Thursday night. I pray that Father, that even Lord, since that night, that the Holy Spirit of God, Lord, I tried to give her the right things to send her out here to think about in a short time that I had. But Lord, Holy Spirit of God, You have to do that work. I pray for her. I pray that at some point she will truly get delivered and she will truly find Christ as her own personal Savior. That she will leave the false witness of the church that she is in. Lord, that she will turn to the true witnesses, which is Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of God and being delivered into salvation by a new birth, not by baptism. Thank You for these folks today. I love them dearly. Thank You for everybody in this church and for the times that You have used all of them to bring somebody to Christ. For the things that they do unselfishly, the things that they give and the things that they do for others. The many here who plot and plan for others good to make sure that they get the mercy and grace and truth that they need. Now bless the rest of this day. Bless the activity today with the kids and the time down at Crown Center and bless our fellowship together. We just hang out and enjoy each other because we love each other. But we love each other because You put us together. We love You for that because You first loved us. Thank You, Father. In Jesus name, for His sake we ask it. Amen. God bless you. You are dismissed. Amen. Thank you.