

# Proverbs 17:23-24

Sunday 10/23/2016

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want to invite you to turn back to Proverbs chapter 17. We will be back in Proverbs today. Last week we had anniversary weekend and we focused on where our church had come from and talked about some things there. Today we will be back in the book of Proverbs, chapter 17.

As you remember, these Proverbs have been invaluable. We have been looking at each one as a single concept, going through them basically one proverb at a time, which gives us a principle on different aspects of life. It has been very rewarding, talking about a lot of good things. Again, today we are going to take them one at a time and look at each one in its concept.

Today is going to be just a little bit different simply because of where we have been the last two Thursday nights. I did not plan this; it just kind of happened. Not this past Thursday night, but the Thursday night before, Amy from Nebraska asked me a question on the canon of Scripture and the Apocrypha. We got into that, and I laid out quite a bit of material for you. Then John Gowins came to me afterwards, and he wanted me to lay out this last Thursday night the impact of Westcott and Hort, what their contribution was to corrupting the Word of God. They are really the key that brings it into the modern era. When you understand that, it explains a lot.

I had no idea; I was not planning on it. You cannot plan these things. I really never looked at it quite this way until Monday morning, when I always start getting ready for Sunday. I get it in my mind what I want to do. So I got into Proverbs chapter 17, and the next two verses were 23 and 24. When I began to look at that, I immediately saw something that I had really never seen before, or maybe I did, but I just did not ever put it all together based on where we had been on Thursday nights. That was probably one of the greatest concepts that will tie into what we talked about last Thursday night and the Thursday night before. Sometimes God does it that way; it is kind of like a combination one, two, three punch. He will give you three quick jabs, then you will get a lot of material out of it and put a lot of things together. That is basically what we have here.

So when we talk about Proverbs 17:23-24 today, we are going to put it into a context that will really help you understand some more things about your Bible, about history, and about what is going on around us. We are living in times that are unparalleled as far as things being in a mess. Everybody is looking to the election, which is just a short couple of weeks away, to solve something. A lot of people say that if Hillary gets it, the country will get worse. If Trump gets it, the country will get good, and all of those things. The truth of the matter is there is no election in America's future that is going to change anything. That does not mean you do not do your part, and it does not mean that you do not do what you need to do and follow your own conscience. But I am telling you this: America is finished. She has been for quite a while now. It does not really matter who gets in; it really does not matter what happens. You are going to see today, hopefully, based on what we talked about Thursday and what we talked about the Thursday before, thanks to Amy, where this country is at and why.

I want you to leave informed today. Most of you are young. When I grew up, Gary grew up, Vance grew up, and some of you older grew up, we learned things in school. I had a Bible study

one night, and a while back I was talking about Martin Luther, the Reformation Martin Luther. I was going on, and I laid out how important he was. That Sunday, somebody came to me and said, "Wasn't he killed down in Alabama by that guy?" Wrong Martin Luther. There are kids that do not know who Mussolini was. Kids in school learn a lot of good things, but you know what is missing in school, and it is by design? History. History is missing in school, and it is by design. They want to keep you in the dark. They want to raise generations that have lost their history of who we are because of where the country wants to take you. They have to get you not to know where you have been so they can lead you someplace that you will think is okay.

I see it all the time. Many of you younger guys and gals are in your 20s, your late 20s, or middle 20s. I realize we have sharper people here than in most cases, but some of your friends do not have an idea. They think Taco Bell is a Mexican phone company. They do not get it. I had a kid one time; we were talking about raising the minimum wage for manual labor, and he thought that was the president of Mexico. I want you to be informed. I want you to know why we are where we are at and where we are going. I want you to know that while you are living in the time you are living in, nothing is going to change anything. It is not going to get any better; it is only going to get worse. There is a reason for that, and I want you to understand, based on the last two Thursday nights, where this thing is going. I think today it will help you.

*Proverbs 17:23-24*

*A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.*

*Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.*

Drake, would you stand up and ask God to bless the sermon this morning for me?

Thank you so much, Lord, for everything You do in our lives, Lord. The fact that You came down and died for our sins and stepped on that cross so that we can have a relationship with You and have salvation, Lord. I thank You so much for Your Word, Lord. It leads and guides us into all truth and shows us the truth about what is going on in this lifetime, Lord. Even when it gets scary, Lord, You still have Your perfect, infallible Word, Lord. I pray that we will speak plainly from it with all we have, Lord, and it will always prosper us and help us along the way. I pray that You will just give the preacher the words to say, to speak, to be, to be, to be. Amen.

## I. The Wicked Man and Bribery

Verse 23 says, "A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment." The verse is very clear, and it is talking about bribing somebody. It is talking about using bribery, taking a secret gift out, giving it to somebody so you can get something the way you want it, or you can get something for yourself. Of course, we all know that this is business as usual in the business world and certainly the political world.

The political world and people who are involved in politics will use their power and ability to be in a position to make money by perverting a judgment, getting something for somebody by getting a kickback or getting a payoff. For ages, construction companies that wanted government jobs or government contracts would find the right people, get the right things to them, to get the

contract. In Washington, we have what they call lobbyist groups, and big corporations will lobby against something. They will have what they call special interest groups. Wall Street with the bankers, the tobacco companies, the beer companies, all will get whoever has the power to get what they want. They will get them free paid vacations to the Bahamas. They will give them free gifts. They will give them free cars. They will give them monies. They will give them all-expense tickets out to wherever around the world they want to go, all because they are giving them a gift so they will pervert judgment in some way that it will benefit that person.

People are fed up with the corruption in Washington. They really are. One of the reasons that Trump is so popular is because people think that he will put an end to the corruption in Washington because he says he will. It does not matter to me whether he does or he does not. Fixing the corruption in Washington is not going to fix America. You have to fix the corruption in the pulpit before you can fix America.

Last couple of weeks, three, four weeks, thousands of emails have come out, allegedly, from Hillary Clinton, who used the Secretary of State's office to make all kinds of money and all kinds of deals, giving foreign governments access to her for them making a donation to her. I am sure, allegedly, Trump probably did the same thing. You do not get where you are at in this world and make a lot of money by not playing the system. You just do not.

Honestly, that is why a real Bible-believing Christian could never be in politics and never be a politician. I hear people say, "Well, he is running for governor," or "he is running for this," or "she is running for that, and they are a Christian." The moment they say that, I do not want to do it. You cannot be a Bible-believing, Bible-honoring Christian and be in politics. You can for about 15 seconds because you cannot play the game.

You know why I am not popular among other preachers and other churches? There are a number of reasons. But the bottom line reason is, I do not play the game. Never have. In the legal system, whatever trouble you get in, if you have enough money and you get the right lawyer, you can get out of it. There is nothing that cannot be fixed today, almost without exception.

I have often asked myself, why would somebody in their right mind spend \$400 million in an election campaign to win a job that only pays \$400,000 a year? I will tell you why: money and power. When you get into position and somebody wants something, they will have a secret gift inside their bosom that they will give you. Always expense-paid trips to Paris for two weeks, Lake Tahoe in the finest hotel, all the things that you ever wanted as a kickback. That is why.

Not only do we see it in politics, we see it in Christianity. We see it in churches. We see the same thing. I had a guy one time that I knew, and he was a friend of mine. He was a missionary to a certain group of young men that were in the military. He had a place that they worked out of. He would travel around and preach. He was a good preacher, and he would raise money for his deal. He always needed money; he never had enough to get what he needed done, so he was always working the angles.

I had another pastor that I was friends with who was out west in a little place called Montana. This guy went out and preached for him. Here is the way they play it: The pastor got up,

introduced the missionary. The missionary got up, in a church about this size, already really taking good care of the pastor financially. You know what he preached? He preached over there in 1 Timothy where it says, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour." He told that church that they were not doing right before God if right then that night they did not double his salary. On the spot, the church, being full of good people who want to do what is right, voted that night and doubled his income. The missionary got all the money he needed then. See how it works? He will not be preaching here next week, by the way. I would not let him within a thousand-mile radius of this church. That is what they do. That is the way it works. It is not just in government; it is everywhere. It is in Christianity and everything you see.

I have seen pastors come to the place where they will give out the office of Deacon. They are wanting an agenda that they want to get done, some things that they want to do. So they will pass out in big churches the title of Deacon. To them, it is status, it is power. He will give you the title of Deacon, but in the Deacon's meeting, you always give him what he wants. See how it works? It is exactly how it works. It has worked that way for years: church and powerful people using what they have to get what they want by a gift out of the bosom. I have seen it all my life. That is just the way it works.

In the ministry, there is one fundamental rule that you have to follow: Never, as a pastor, push yourself into a position or allow yourself to be in a position where you take from your people. Now, tomatoes are okay. "Hey, preacher, I got some extra corn." That is fine. But do not expect to get something free just because you are the pastor. Pay your own way. Do not put yourself in a position where you think because you are the pastor that everybody owes you something. You do not owe me anything. If anybody owes anybody anything, I owe you. You do not owe me anything. If anything, I owe you. You are my responsibility. I am not your responsibility to a certain degree. I have seen it all my life. Never do that. Do not let powerful people intimidate you with what they have so you will be obligated to them.

Years ago, we had a guy in another church that I was associated with. He was a very powerful guy and a big business guy. He came up to the pastors, and we had about 20 staff members, probably 19 more than we needed. He would come up to them and say, "I appreciate what you do with this church, and I know you do not make a lot of money. I want to buy you a new suit." These guys would just say, "Oh, thank you. Yeah, that is great. Oh, yeah, I like that. I really would. Oh, yeah, thank you so much." So he would take them out. He would take them someplace nice. I buy my suits at Target. They have some good suits there. If you can buy the pieces and match them up, sometimes the shades are a little off, but the lighting always helps out. So as long as you stay out of the bright sunlight, you are okay.

Anyway, they would take him down there to Jack Henry's, some four or five hundred dollar suit. I am not talking about a Sears and Roebuck. He would tell you about a five hundred dollar suit. They would come back. It is funny, we all had to wear suits back then. He came up to me one time and said, "Hey, I appreciate what you do around here. I want to take you out and buy you a new suit." I said, "Well, I really appreciate that. But we just had a missions conference last week, and honestly, that missionary who was here needs something more than I do. Why do you not just take what you were giving to me and give it to him?" He got upset at that because I was

refusing his gift. I knew what he was doing because I knew what he did to the other guys. He was in business, so he would buy them, get them obligated to him. Then when he wanted names for his mailing list for his business, he would come and ask them for their Rolodex of people on the rolls. I was not giving him anything. I could say, "I am not going to give it to you," because I was not obligated to him.

That verse is so true. Pay your own way. Give to others without ever having an ulterior motive, getting something back. Because in New Testament Christianity, it will be just like in politics. There will be people who try to buy their way into everything with bribery, a gift from the bosom.

## II. The Devil's Shifting Tactics (Old Testament vs. New Testament)

Doctrinally, this verse in our context here will be a direct reference to the Antichrist, the wicked man, and all he gets by doing this down through history. There is so much in this verse, doctrinally, important to know how the devil and the Antichrist work down through history and have prepared everything the way it is today for what is coming our way. The reality of this work is that the devil is preparing for his son, the Antichrist, to come to planet Earth, just like God is preparing for His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come in the Second Coming of Christ. It is right before our eyes today.

A great lesson in history, which gives great perspective, is the devil, the god of this world, as stated in 2 Corinthians 4:4. What I am about to give you is really vital. It is a foundational concept that you build everything else on.

In the Old Testament, the devil controlled and ran the world through the Gentile nations and their military might. In Daniel chapter 2, most of them are listed for you: Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Assyria, the Greeks, and then the Romans. They were all nations that the devil literally used to take control of the world, or the known world. When Egypt was in power, he ran the world through Egypt. When Babylon was in power, the devil, through that nation and her armies, ran the world. In Persia, Assyria, when the Greeks came into power with Alexander the Great, the whole known world was conquered by the Greeks. When the Romans got into power, they finished off what Alexander the Great could not get done, and Rome conquered all the world. All roads lead to Rome. Never forget that. All of these were nations that the devil used to literally take control of the world. They were the tools that were able to stop God's people in the Old Testament through physical attacks, physical bondage, and physical conflict with their armies to subdue them. The whole Bible in the Old Testament is nothing but battles.

In the New Testament, it changed. We need to understand this. The Bible says that wisdom is before him that hath understanding. Here it comes. In the New Testament, it changes. The devil knows now that the world is changing, so he has to change his tactics and change his plan. This is the great concept of going from the kingdom of heaven, which is a literal kingdom built on literal nations when they fight literal battles, to the kingdom of God, which is now a spiritual world where we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,

against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. It is a masterpiece of understanding.

In the literal kingdom of heaven, he fought with nations to subdue God's nation. In the kingdom of God, he fights a spiritual warfare to destroy God's church. In both cases, his goal is to run the world and prepare the world for the coming man of sin. You remember that the devil's number one goal, when he was back there in Ezekiel chapter 28 and Isaiah chapter 14, his number one problem was that he wanted to be like the Most High God. He has not lost that desire. Right now, the Bible says he is the god of this world, but he wants to be the very Christ and run everything. He has his plans along that line.

In the Old Testament, he ran the world through nations. He knew now in the New Testament that would no longer work. He knew we were coming into the church age. He knew that God was moving into a spiritual kingdom, and now God was going to have a church where God had a nation in the Old Testament. He met that nation with his own nations. When God switched plans and went into the church age and God established His church, he decided to have his own church. The devil started his church. Where his nations were going to run the world back there, now he is going to run the world through his church. It is a masterpiece. It is a master plan. So he needed a church. He needed a church to counterfeit God's church to control the nations of the world through his church.

### III. The Devil's Garment Changes and Historical Blind Spots

In time, he did that. I am going to show you in a minute. The key event that took place right under the noses of every great historian, saved and lost, they missed its telling completely. Will Durant, a historian, wrote about 20 volumes on church history. One of his classics is comparing Caesar and Christ. He did a great one on the Renaissance. He did one on the Reformation. He was an unsaved historian who wrote about things in a completely worldly way, but he saw some things. But he missed this one.

Philip Schaff writes eight or nine volumes on church history. Philip Schaff is the standard historian. Philip Schaff is the standard teaching in every Bible college on church history. Philip Schaff writes church history like he thinks the devil died somewhere along the way. He missed it completely. Newell put out two volumes on church history. Not bad. It is not a biblical aspect, but it is a general understanding of events, times, places, and people. He missed it completely too. Carnes wrote a book on the understanding history of the New Testament church. His book was the standard in most Bible colleges for New Testament history. He missed it. Josephus is the great historian that everybody holds up; he writes all during that time period. He was a contemporary of many of these things. He missed it. Erdmans puts out more books on history and books on understanding history than any other publisher. They missed it. I showed you a little book Thursday night, \*Who's Who in Church History\*, written by a guy named Barker. He missed it. None of them got it. You know why? None of them had any real wisdom and understanding based on the Bible.

I have told you repeatedly that the two greatest chapters on the devil in the Old Testament are Job chapter 40 and Job chapter 41. The two greatest chapters in the New Testament are Revelation chapter 12 and Revelation chapter 13. In Job chapter 41, verses 12 and 13, and I have given this before, you find the most absolutely amazing, most telling verse in all of the Bible on how the devil works. If you want insight into the way he has worked down through history, both in the Old Testament Kingdom of Heaven and the New Testament spiritual Kingdom of God, this is where you go.

*Job 41:13*

*Who can discover the face of his garment? or who can come to him with his double bridle?*

The answer is not many. Martin Luther missed it. The writers of history all missed it. "Who can discover the face of his garment?" That is one of the most unique phrases in all the Bible: "face of his garment." Unless you have a T-shirt on this morning that has somebody's picture on it, your garments do not have a face on them. When you stop to take that phrase and think about it through the Bible and put it into the context of what he is talking about, you will find that the devil is likened to a man that changes clothes down through history. When you go to a wedding, whatever you are wearing right now, in most cases, if it is an upscale, upbeat wedding, you are going to change clothes and put some other garments on. You go to the beach, you are going to wear other garments. In the wintertime, you wear different garments than you do in the summertime. Garments are changed with the different things that we do. But you know what never changes about you? Your face. You can put all the different clothes on to try to mask who you are or where you are going, but if I see your face, I know who you are.

When we look at a problem we are trying to deal with, do we not always say, "What is the face value?" What is the face value of the devil? The face value is he will change clothes to throw us off in history, but he will never be able to change his face. So if you do not worry about the clothes and just look at the face and follow the face, you always know where he is.

*Job 41:12*

*I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion.*

Three things about the devil and the Antichrist that the Bible says God will not hide from us. If you want to discover his face, this is what you look for. You first understand how he controls the nations in the Old Testament through armies, and how he controls the nations of the New Testament through his church. He even gets a Bible for them. Then you begin to realize that down through history, he is a master at changing his disguise so you will look and think it is something different. As Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, "there is no new thing under the sun." You may put on new clothes, but you are the same person underneath. He may change his garments all down through history, but he is the same person underneath. In the Bible, you will find in history, if you are paying attention, you will find seven garment changes. The devil changes his clothes to throw everybody off. He threw every historian off. He threw 99.9% of the preachers off. He threw the Bible colleges completely off. The only one he ever fools is somebody who has not discovered the face of his garment.

When the Bible says, "I will not conceal his parts," the parts will be the men that he uses down through history. When the Bible says, "I will not conceal his power," that will be the nations that he uses. When the Bible says, "I will not conceal his comely proportion," that will be his church, his religion that he uses. In our text today, it is talking about somebody using bribery to gain something, and he is called a wicked man. It is the Antichrist. The Antichrist has set the stage for being in a political-religious setup and using bribery to get what he wants. Every congressman, every senator, every president, every wannabe, every pastor, everybody out there who uses it, only follows the model that the wicked man has already put in place. It has been going on all down through history.

#### IV. Constantine and the Roman Catholic Church

Without a doubt, and I do not have time to get into them today, the greatest garment change of them all, and we talked about this the last couple of Thursday nights, came with Constantine the Great in the early 4th century AD. From that point on, from the early 4th century AD to today, the devil has run the world through a religion. He still uses nations, but he does not have control of those nations directly now. He controls those nations through religion. He runs the world through a religion that represents his church, and even has, as I said earlier, his own Bible. We talked about it last Thursday night and the Thursday night before, putting the chain of evidence together.

This church is defined for you in Revelation 17:18, very clearly.

*Revelation 17:18*

*And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.*

From 500 AD to 1600 AD or thereabouts, we have what we call in history the Dark Ages. During the Dark Ages, this church runs the world by building a state religion for all European nations. She runs the world, grabs the world, and when she gets these nations through her religion, then she says, "Okay, we are going to make my church, my religion, a church-state setup." In other words, in Romania, in Germany, in France, in Italy, in Spain, or wherever you go in South America, Central America, or Canada, when you were born into that country, you were born into a state religion, and it is the devil's religion, and it is Roman Catholicism.

We are going to celebrate Thanksgiving coming up here in just a few short weeks. That is another thing that you all take for granted. I try to teach my kids lessons, and one Thanksgiving, they were all expecting a great big old meal, which we did have, but when they came to dinner, I had read that at that first Thanksgiving dinner, everybody just had four pieces of parched hard corn. So as my girls came in to eat that day, on their plate were just four little hard kernels of corn. They did not get it. The dog ate the corn and threw it up in the living room yesterday, so much for the pilgrim's progress at my house.

Your pilgrim forefathers, who came over to Plymouth, not in a Plymouth, but to Plymouth, they did not come in a Plymouth. It is like one time in Acts, I was studying there, and somebody said, "I am confused, Bob." I said, "What is the matter?" He said, "In Acts 1, it says that the apostles

were all together in one accord. I did not even know they had cars back then." I said, "Let it go, let it go." Then we had a girl one time; we were going out to a mall doing something with a bunch of missionaries, and she was a nice girl, but she was not the smartest, brightest light bulb in the box. We were standing at the big mall entrance where they had the big sign where all the shops are, and there was a little red light there that says, "You were here." She looks at me and says, "How do they know that?" She is the same way that we are driving down the road and see a sign, "Deer Crossing." She wanted to know, "How did they make the deer cross right there?" You have to be pretty explicit today when you are talking to people.

Your pilgrim fathers came over to get away from that church-state setup that was persecuting them. There was not a pilgrim on that Mayflower that had not either himself or lost somebody to the Inquisition of Europe through this church-state setup of the Roman Catholic Church that persecuted them. When they came here, they came here with the Geneva Bible. That is the forerunner of your King James Bible. They came here looking for religious freedom. They came here to get away from a setup in Europe that was landlocked, that the Roman Catholic Church had locked down tight, that if you did not become a Roman Catholic, you could not get a job. You got persecuted on your best day and got killed and murdered and assassinated on your worst day. They came looking for religious freedom. You do not hear anything about that. At school, you dress a bunch of kids up with blunderbusses and big hats with big buckles, and they walk around. Nobody understands the history of why they came to this country. They were being persecuted by the devil's church, and they were looking for a place that they could believe the Bible, teach the Bible, and preach the Bible without somebody kicking their door down in the middle of the night and putting them in jail. It is lost today.

She ran the world by using religion to grant favors, bribery, to get political persuasion, to get kings, so that she could use those nations to stop the Word of God and God's plan by wiping out Christianity. Today, I have never seen a more stupid Christianity than today. The evangelical crowd has lined right up with the Roman Catholic Church. We look at the social issues in our country, we look at the problems in our country, we look at abortion and all those terrible things that go on, and here we find somebody that is an ally in some of those things. So we try to lock hands with them to do good. Let me tell you something: the devil has played that card all down through history. What is missing today is the fundamental truth that shepherds everything and keeps it clear: no Bible doctrine is being taught anymore. I am not saying this because it is me, because it is not me, but I am going to tell you, you are hard pressed to find a church that will give you the truth on doctrine today. All you get is a bunch of fluff. They teach you like a bunch of mushrooms, keep you in the dark, and pack you with crap. Think about it for a while; you will get it later on.

They have joined hands with pseudo-liberals, or this and that, and they want to make it better. There is only one thing that makes this country better, and that is a man getting in a pulpit every Sunday, on Thursday night, or whenever he meets with his people, and putting out the truth of the Word of God. Amen. What they have done is they have linked hands with the devil's church. On the world stage today, 80% of the nations of this world are under the control of the Roman Catholic Church through a church-state setup. America is not yet. England is in a kind of way,

but you go to Canada, you go to Mexico, you go to Central America, you go to South America, all of Europe. Obviously, all the Middle East countries are under Islam. What the devil could not do and accomplish through nations and armies in the Old Testament, he has now accomplished by getting the whole world in the 21st century by his church and his religion. God's people, because they have been out of the book, lost the book, he took the book from them, they have no wisdom and understanding. They just think it is apple pie in the sky, and we are all working together to make this country better, to make the world better, and it is all a concerted plan to set up the coming of the Antichrist. God's people were oblivious to it.

It was Constantine. All down through history, she has been the one behind the scenes, deal-making with bribery, payoffs, secret alliances that she uses to keep herself in world control without anybody ever noticing it, unless you have wisdom and understanding. But that is not many today. It was Constantine who, in a deal in 325 AD to consolidate his empire and maintain control, formed the Roman Catholic Church. He was out there fighting a battle, and he saw a cross in the sky and heard a voice, "By this sign thou shalt conquer," and immediately he was not a Christian, and he started his new church. Right at that point is the number one garment change, the garment change of all garment changes. That point in 313 AD at the Milvian Bridge, October 17th, was an incredible day from history in the Bible. Of all the other garment changes that the devil had done, that one was a master stroke. He starts that morning being pagan Roman, and he ends that night by being Roman Catholic, in a sense. And off it goes. Now you have the symbol of the cross coming into Christianity. This cross has never been a symbol of Christianity. Galatians 3:13 says, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

Constantine brings it in. His mother, Helena, goes down there, and you go over to the Middle East today in Jerusalem, and the Arab tour guides and the Jewish tour guides, they just rip these young Christians off royally. They get them on their tour, take them around, and they will show them the two places that Christ could have been crucified. They will take them down to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre inside Jerusalem. They will take them outside the city where Gordon's Calvary is, and everybody says, "Oh, it is just so wonderful. Oh, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Oh, there is the cave where Jesus was." You know how that thing got going? Constantine's mother, Helena, took a pilgrimage down to Jerusalem. He just started the Roman Catholic Church that is on its way. She goes down to Jerusalem, and she finds a piece of the original cross that Christ was crucified on. She runs back, tells her son, "I found the cross, a piece of the cross." "Mama, where did you find it?" "Right here in this rubbish pile." Constantine goes back, buys the property, and on that spot, built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

By the time you get to the 15th and 16th century, there are so many pieces of the cross in the Roman Catholic churches in Europe, you have enough to build Fort Apache. Along with breast milk from Mary, fingernails from Jesus Christ. One church actually claimed to have the blood of Christ in a bottle. You have the Shroud of Turin. I told you before, I was not even right with God. I do not even know that I say that. I was in Europe, and they were taking us through these Catholic churches, and all these things in the wall. Here and there was a skull, and I asked the monk, "Whose skull was that?" He said, "That is the head of John the Baptist." I said, "Oh yeah, that is okay. I remember that." Two weeks later, we were someplace else in southern France, or I

forget where it was, Lyons, France, or someplace, and we saw another one. There was another skull, and I asked this monk, "Whose skull was that?" He says, "Oh, that is the head of John the Baptist." I said, "Well, we were just at the other place two weeks ago, and there was a skull there, and he said, 'That is the head of John the Baptist.' How can he have two heads of John the Baptist?" He thought for a moment and says, "Oh, I know, this one is when he was a boy." That is what he told me.

Constantine's was the greatest garment change the devil ever pulled. He threw off the pagan Roman garments and put on the miter hat. He put on the golden robe in purple and scarlet. He picked up the cup as a symbol of his church. In one fell swoop, he went from pagan Rome; the pagan gods became saints; the pagan temples became churches. In just one swoop, he did it.

## V. Historical Examples of Roman Catholic Influence and Bribery

It was the popes who used bribery and secret alliances and favors to get the armies of Europe then to wage war on Bible-believing Christians, financially granting them favors. It was the Pope, on Christmas Day, 800 AD, who performed the crowning act of combining the Roman Catholic Church with the state, the city, and the country of Rome and Italy, by crowning Charlemagne. Charlemagne had been kicked off the throne. The Pope had been kicked off the throne. He runs to Charlemagne, his buddy, and says, "They have dethroned me. They are calling me the Antichrist. They have kicked me off the throne." His buddy, Big Chuck, says, "No problem." He takes an army down, wiped out the opposition, sets the Pope down on his throne, and puts him back in power. You know what the Pope did? They had a big coronation day with Charles the Great, Charlemagne, Big Chuck to his friends. He sat down there, and he put a golden crown on Charlemagne's head. He said, "Charles the Great, King of all France, on this day, crowned by God to be the emperor." In that moment, on Christmas Day in 800 AD, the Roman Catholic Church and the whole country of Rome and all of the country of Italy became one. That is why the Vatican today is a country. It is not just a religion; it is a country. It has ambassadors to all the other nations. We have an ambassador to it. It is a country. At that point right there, the Pope got the best deal. Charles got to be king, crowned by God, but the Pope got to be God. From that point on, when the Pope speaks, you cannot deny what he is saying. He speaks for God. Incredible deal-making, it all goes on.

It was the Pope in 1095 who bribed the nations of Europe to fight in his Holy War, the Crusades. It was the Pope in 1588 that bribed Spain and said, "I will give you all the possessions and let you have England as a Roman Catholic state if you go in and bring that Protestant nation back to me." You remember, England did not have a navy. The Spanish Armada was the greatest navy in the world. That Spanish Armada in 1588 sailed down to take that little country where your King James Bible came from and put them under Roman domination because the Pope had made a deal through bribery. "They let you have this if you give me this." All England was on her knees praying for the deliverance of God from that church. They sailed into the English Channel, and the worst typhoon in 200 years showed up and sunk the whole Spanish Armada. They did not need a navy; they had a book. When you have the Word of God, you do not need what this world

offers you to protect yourself. God Himself will take care of His people. We have lost that concept.

It was the Roman Catholic Church who made a deal with King Ferdinand of Spain that all the land that was discovered with Columbus in 1492 and then passed that, all of them Catholics—Cortés, Vasco da Gama, Ponce de Leon, Magellan—all of them from the Roman Catholic Church. Every place they went, from Mexico to South America to Central America, wherever they touched, is today a Roman Catholic church-state because when they came ashore, based on the Pope's dealings, "You can keep the gold. You can keep this. Make this land ours because we want to control the world." They are all Roman Catholic today. They are all church-state setups. You are born in Venezuela, you are born a Catholic. You are born in Rio de Janeiro, you are born a Catholic. You are born in Mexico, you are born a Catholic. You are born in Central America, Guatemala, El Salvador, you are born a Catholic.

God's hand in America is an incredible thing. If you study Columbus's logbooks, he was the first one. He is given credit for discovering America. He really did. He discovered a little island, San Salvador, a little island off the Caribbean down there off of Central America. If you look at his logs, he was gone for weeks and weeks, months, without seeing land. His provisions were almost gone. His crew was ready to throw him overboard and turn around in a mutiny. He was in dire straits. If you look at his course, he was heading right for the Georgia coastline. They were without food, without water for so long, and all kinds of problems. One day they saw some land-based birds that only live on land, flying in a direction. So they changed course to follow those birds. Where they landed, and they touched down following those birds, everything around them became Roman Catholic in the next 400 years. God wanted America for the pilgrims. He wanted America for you. He wanted America as a nation that was not going to be under Roman Catholic domination. He wanted America saved. So He got those ships, the Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria, to go where everything is Catholic today. He preserved America. If I were a Bible believer and I were in politics, the first thing I would do is rewrite the words of the Star-Spangled Banner. I would put it in a context that the only reason you have what you have today is because God's hand of providence kept them from getting in. But when you dump the book, they got in. And they are here.

It was Rome that made a deal with France in our early years of our country, 1754 to 1763. We fought in history, the French and Indian War. The French and Indian War was nothing more than the Pope making an alliance with France to get some Indians on their side to take back the Americas from the British so it could become Roman Catholic again. Their base today is down in New Orleans, the Jesuit headquarters in America. New Orleans is named after New Orleans, France, where their headquarters was. You will find two of the great figures were a guy by the name of Lord Baltimore, who was Roman Catholic, who did everything he could do. They named the state after him, Maryland. That is wisdom and understanding. The deals and the bribery are endless. This verse is absolutely, doctrinally, talking about the wicked man pulling gift after gift after gift out of his bosom to pervert judgment.

It was Rome who tried to kill James I in the famous Gunpowder Plot over there in England in 1605, called the Jesuit Treason in Europe. It was Rome who was behind the assassination of

Abraham Lincoln. Get the book, \*Fifty Years of Roman Imperialism\*. Find out how every one of those conspirators was a Roman Catholic. Find out that the ones that got away, when they got smuggled back into France from Europe, they made them Vatican guards in the Vatican. Yet everybody, on Abraham Lincoln's assassination day, everybody knew that the Roman Catholic Church was involved. How did that get covered up?

It was the Roman Catholic Church that was behind the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria that started World War I because in 1914 in Fatima, Portugal, the Virgin Mary had appeared to three or four little girls down there in Portugal and gave them three secret messages. The secret messages all came down to the fact that God was going to defeat communism. Three years later, the Bolshevik Revolution came on, Lenin, Trotsky, and all communism came into being, and the Roman Catholic Church, to this day, has used her bribery and her power to get our nations to stop communism so Roman Catholicism would carry on, and nobody even knows it. Nobody even understands it. You could go to the public library and find everything I am telling you right now.

It was the Roman Catholic Church that backed Adolf Hitler in 1933 so he could have the Sudetenland. The deal was, "You can have the Roman Catholic Sudetenland and annex it into Germany, but you fight the Russians and the communists for us." Adolf Hitler was a Roman Catholic. He killed six million Jews, was responsible for about 19 million Russians, 250,000 Americans, God knows how many civilians. Roman Catholic, on his belt buckle, "Gott mit uns," God is with us. Never excommunicated from the Church. Heinrich Himmler, Hermann Göring, all of his henchmen, all Roman Catholic. Himmler set the SS guards up in the SS order of the SS troopers after the order of the Vatican guards in the Vatican. They were so against the Russians that they actually brought in Muslim SS from the Mideast countries and formed a Handschar division, or the Croatian division, that were actual Muslims that wore SS uniforms and fought to defeat Russia. There has always been a tie there. You have to get the material sometime on the book \*The Day Mary Married Allah\*. In the Six-Day War, they actually found on the Egyptian soldiers who would try to defeat Jerusalem, they actually found in Arabic copies of \*Mein Kampf\*. Saddam Hussein was the great-grandson of the guy who was over those SS Muslim divisions under Adolf Hitler. After the war was over and they butchered six million Jews, it was the Roman Catholic Church that smuggled the concentration camp guys—Eichmann, Klaus Barbie, Mengele—all of those guys, and they smuggled them through the Roman Catholic monastery with forged papers into Roman Catholic South America where they all lived happily ever after.

It was Rome who bribed her way into the United States to get all the government seats held by Roman Catholics to get America into Vietnam so she could stop the worldwide movement of communism. By the time 1960 rolls around, you have to read the book by Avro Manhattan, \*U.S. Vatican Alliance\*. You had:

- McCarthy, Catholic
- Attorney General McGrath, Catholic
- Secretary of Defense, James Forrestal, Catholic
- James Matthews, Catholic

- Secretary of the Navy, Mark Clark, Catholic
- The head general of all the ground forces in the United States and Europe, Catholic
- George Craig, head of the American Legion, Catholic
- John Foster Dulles, Catholic
- The Kennedy family
- Allen Dulles, head of the CIA, Catholic, whose sons were Jesuits

All they needed was a Catholic president. That is how we got into Vietnam. We were paying for the Vietnam War when the French were still in it before we ever got in it. The French got defeated. Cardinal Spellman out of New York pulled the strings with the political movement. They made their deals, and we went to Vietnam. When we got to Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem was the president. The CIA went in with Diem, who was a Roman Catholic trained in Georgetown University by the Jesuits, groomed by the CIA, who was in connection with the Roman Catholic Church, pulled a coup, got this guy out, put Diem in the presidency, and then Diem immediately started to persecute everybody that was not Roman Catholic. Remember those stories? Some of you were not even born yet. Those Buddhist monks sitting in the street, pouring gasoline on themselves, setting themselves on fire? They were doing that because they were being persecuted by the Roman Catholic Church, Diem, who was put in by the CIA, who was connected with the United States, and the whole thing was set up by bribery and everything so she could run the world. I am going to be careful taking the dog out tonight.

Read the book sometime. We have it in our bookstore: *\*Vietnam: Why Did We Go?\** by Avro Manhattan. His book *\*Washington, Moscow, Vatican Alliance\**. Avro Manhattan lived 1914, died in 1990. The world's foremost authority on the Roman Catholic Church in modern times, he laid out all the deceit, all the bribery, all the black ops, all the things that were going on. In his book, *\*Vatican Billions\**, he lays out the net worth of the Roman Catholic Church. He shows you that she is the richest, most powerful nation on this planet. Her riches and her wealth outstrip any five nations you put together. Yet they go around with the poor sisters and poor brothers of various orders. Every priest takes a vow of poverty. Well, somebody is living high on the hog.

Rome is behind the assassination of President Kennedy. Get the material back there: *\*Who Killed JFK?\** Our country was totally dominated by the Roman Catholics. All we needed was a Roman Catholic president. A Roman Catholic president had never been in this country. Nobody ever thought a Catholic would get elected because Catholics were so badly thought of. In 1962, whenever it was, he became President of the United States, the first Roman Catholic. Everybody thought, "Now we have it made." We were already in Vietnam. It is an incredible thing. But Jack Kennedy, with all of his problems, was not Rome's puppet. He really was not. He realized that the war in Vietnam was not a good deal, and he realized that we should not get into it. He had already been through the Bay of Pigs, and he saw how the CIA had set him up. The Bay of Pigs, Cuba, trying to overthrow Castro, was a fiasco. He got hit for it. This is where the famous line comes from that I use all the time; I learned it through history. As President, he had to take responsibility for what the CIA did. He started to demand accountability from the CIA. He made this famous line with the disaster in the Bay of Pigs: "Success has many fathers, but failure is an orphan." That is so true.

He saw what was going on in Vietnam. Some say that Billy Graham won him to Christ. I hope he did; I do not know. But on October 11, 1963, he issued Executive Order 263. Sometimes you Google it, you will find NSAM 263, which stands for National Security Action Memorandum. In that executive order, he said that we were going to pull out of Vietnam. The Roman Catholic Church could not let that happen. The CIA could not let that happen. Nobody could let it happen. This whole country was being run by Rome. Rome was firmly in control. On October 11, 1963, he said we were going to pull them out. On November 23, 1963, just a few short weeks later, he was assassinated in Dallas. Lyndon Johnson became President of the United States. The first thing he did was rescind that executive order, putting us back in Vietnam for the next 10 or 15 years. Wisdom and understanding. You want it? It is in the book.

Today, it is everywhere around us. The wicked man has invaded Bible Christianity in this country completely through secret gifts out of the bosom. This can be seen in America, the news media, and all the political garbage that goes on. The Jesuit movement was started way back in Europe. She has now come to the place where, through many things she has done, she has completely taken over America from behind the scenes. Most people do not know that there are two Popes. There is Pope Francis, who is really a figurehead. The real guy that gets it done is the Black Pope, who is a general of the Jesuit movement. He just elected a new one, Arturo Sosa Abascal.

When you stop and look at it, over the last 50 years, the Jesuit movement has completely taken over America from behind the scenes. She has taken over your education program so you do not get any history. She has taken away the love for veterans and the love for people who have served their country, and now veterans are often portrayed as warmongers. You saw the thing in the news that the California National Guard went over there when they were so desperate for troops to go over and fight in the Middle East. They offered these National Guard guys bonus checks if they would reenlist: \$15,000, \$10,000 if they would reenlist. So all these guys took the money, and all these guys went over. Some of them fought five more tours over there. Now today, our own government, our own military, is saying they want that money back, and they are suing them, putting liens and levies on their money to get it back after they told them they could go and they gave it to them, and they fought for this country. What is wrong with this country? Hillary is not going to fix it, and Trump is not going to fix it either.

The last 400 years, every dictator of any part of the world that ever challenged the world:

- Charlemagne
- Napoleon
- King Wilhelm
- The Southern generals in the Civil War
- Tito
- Mussolini
- Karl Marx
- Lenin
- Stalin
- Trotsky

- Adolf Hitler
- Rudolf Hess
- Hermann Göring
- Heinrich Himmler
- Castro
- The dictators in Central and South America, like Archbishop Óscar Romero in El Salvador where the liberation theology started
- The dictators of Europe
- The war in Northern Ireland

Every one of them was a Roman Catholic. Every one of them. Proverbs says the way they did it is by having a secret gift in the bosom.

## VI. The Fool's Eyes and the Devil's Success

Here is the reason they got away with it. The Bible says, "Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth." All the great dictators and leaders of the world constantly had no wisdom, no understanding of history, who God was, or what He was doing. So instead of having their eyes on God and His Word, they had the eyes of a fool and looked to the ends of the earth. They always thought that having all the power and having big nations and having all this stuff could really satisfy them. Look at their lives; they all end in disaster. Adolf Hitler promised a thousand-year Reich. He had plans to redo Munich. He had plans to put a building in Munich that was so big that they were afraid that it was so big, with the air conditioning and getting crowds of people in there, that the hot air and the warm air mixing at the top would actually cause rainstorms in the building. He had planned for a thousand years to reshape Europe after his way of thinking. You know how he ended up? He ended up in a pit soaked with gasoline, and now he is in a Russian shoebox someplace in a locked cabinet. They all end that way.

Having eyes to the end of the earth will never solve your problems. You have to have your eyes on the One who made the earth. Otherwise, you will easily fall prey to the wicked man who will bring the world under his own religious control. Today, his church stands as the number one religion in the world. I do not care if it is Fox News, CNN, ABC, NBC, wherever you want to go. When the Pope comes to this country, it is a media fiasco. It is the Roman Catholic Church in every aspect of everything in this world as the number one presence. That is what the devil wanted. You and I, in a bomb shelter basement, we are nothing. The world looks at us and thinks we are just a cult. We are a bunch of goofy people that are all messed up; they do not understand. Yet you are the ones that have the truth. He has painted the picture for that garment change. It is incredible. That was the sixth garment change, by the way. There is only one garment change left, and it is right around the corner. The whole world thinks his church is the greatest church in the world, and the whole world thinks his Bible is the greatest Bible in the world. He did his work well, did he not?

## VII. Practical Application: Keeping Our Eyes on Christ

In the last few moments here, let me give you the smaller version of this same exact thing that is practical for you and me. What we can learn from it is that God's people do the exact same thing, just on a smaller scale. When we get our eyes off of God and His Word, and then we put our eyes and focus on the world and not God anymore, when a nation does that, it falls into apostasy and gets deceived and gets destroyed. So will the church of God. When you get your eyes off the Lord and the Word of God and you start putting them to the ends of the earth, it is always going to wind up bad for you.

As I thought about this, I thought about the term "the ends of the earth." I love the Bible the way it puts things in a common, general way that we talk, but yet when you stop and think about it, it brings up a whole concept. The ends of the earth. There is no end to the earth; the earth is a sphere. You just keep going around in a circle. Is that not the true way life is when you do not do what God wants you to do and you go after the world? Your life is just one big circle. One big mess. Just one revolution after another of more problems, more heartache, more trouble. You will go through the same scenarios, same problems, same people, same circumstances, same things. It is just one big endless circle.

That Bible is an incredible book, and all down through history, the devil wants to rule the world. In the Old Testament, he did it by nations, and he brought those nations in, and he got those nations together where he could control them to wipe out God's nation. But he knew there was a time coming when those nations would not be able to get it done, so he had to get a church because God got a church. It was not the kingdom of heaven; it was the kingdom of God. Now it is God's church up against his church.

The great key to the Bible in Christianity is for you and me to keep our eyes fixed on two fundamental things:

1. The coming of Christ.
2. The establishment of His kingdom.

If you keep your eyes focused on those two things in everything you do, you will not get too far out of line. That puts all history in perspective. It puts all of our life in perspective. Thursday night, I showed you a book, \*Who's Who in Church History\*, and it was a good little book, non-biblical church history, but it is a good little book. A better one than that is the Bible itself because the Bible itself will show you who is who in God's plan. When we couple that with history, you know who the good guys are and who the bad guys are.

Job 41:12-13 says, through wisdom and understanding, "I will not conceal his parts." That is God's men versus the devil's men. You will know who is who. It says back there that "I will not conceal his power." That is God's nation versus the devil's nation, so you never get them messed up. And "I will not conceal his comely proportion." That is God's church versus the devil's church. That is God's Bible versus the devil's Bible. It is just that simple.

These are great lessons in history for us. Some great practical lessons on why things are the way they are around us today, and why in the world that we live in, in America, things are the way they are. It has been planned out a long time. Every unsaved man, every unsaved woman, every

politician, every Christian, every church leader, in many cases, has fallen into that trap, and now they are part of the system, and it is bringing everything to a final climax. Most of God's people are walking around with their heads in the air, not even knowing what is going on around them. They think it is all fine. "Oh, you are saved. You are a Christian. Oh, you are a Christian." They do not have any doctrine in their life whatsoever to know what his church is and what Christ's church is. How could you ever figure out whose Bible is whose?

I do not want you here uninformed. I want you to know what is going on here. I want you to know what God is doing. I want you to know who the good guys are, who the bad guys are. I want you to know how the thing has been set up down through history. I want you to know history. I want you to see how it works. I want you to see how the devil has changed his garments all down through history. Seven times in history he has done it six times. There is only one left. When you see those things, he may put on different clothes. He may put on a robe here or a suit here or this here. The face will always be the same. Focus on the face, not what he is wearing. The Bible says in the Word of God that you know what the Word of God is and how you understand who Christ is. The Bible says the glory of God is revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. You get in that book, you see His face. You get in the devil's book, you do not see His face. You see somebody else's face.