

Proverbs 15:20-23

Sunday 4/10/2016

We have been systematically walking through the Book of Proverbs from where our church is at today and where we have grown to. We decided a while back that that was probably a book that we needed to go through and really help us. It has been such a great book on so many different levels. This week we will be in Proverbs 15:20-23.

You will remember that last week, in those preceding verses, we talked about the principle of the simplicity of God and His Word. Man will always try to frustrate the things of God and complicate them when, in reality, the things of God are very simple. It is such an easy concept that man wants to make the Bible such a hard book, and such a book that is almost, in many people's minds and hearts, unattainable. Of course, that is not true. The idea that God would write a book and give it to man, and then tell man that He was going to judge man by what he found out in that book or what he did with that book, and then give man a book that was so hard that man could never figure it out on his own, is just inconceivable. But that is what man does. He will take the simple Bible that God gave to you in a fifth-grade language and then try to make it so hard and keep you from ever attaining what God wants you to be and what He wants you to do with your life.

We saw last week how in our economic world, in our societies, all societies are built on giving us our flesh more and more when less is really better. We come away with the idea that the more we have, the better off we are. Of course, we saw last week that that is not necessarily true. I gave you a great principle in 1 Timothy 6:6 where it says:

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

That is such a great verse. We also saw for those who go their own way, that the Bible says that it will be a hedge of thorns, a very hard time. Trying to go through a bramble bush is one of the most unpleasant things that you will ever do in your life. They just stick you everywhere and cut you bloody, and you will never get through it. That is a man's life or a woman's life without the blessings of God. You are not going anywhere. At the end of your life, all you are going to be is cut up and bloody because it is like going through a hedge of thorns.

When we ended last week, we were talking about the great concept of trying to keep our lives as uncomplicated as possible. I told you last week, and I say again today, I know how hard that is. In the world that we live in, there is so much complexity. There are so many things that happen, and we have to be a part of it. You cannot become a monk and live on a mountaintop someplace. You have to be part of the system. The Bible says that we are to occupy till the Lord comes. So there are things that we have to do in this world that are very complex. But yet we need to try to stay and understand that God's approach to things is simplicity.

Now today I want to begin reading in Proverbs 15:20. I want to begin looking at these things and coming down through it. It says here:

Proverbs 15:20-23

A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

We are going to talk today, and we are going to look at each verse, and we are going to glean from that many principles that are going to really help you in life. But before we do that, let us go to the Lord in prayer.

I. A Wise Son Versus A Foolish Son

First off, let us draw our attention to Proverbs 15:20. It says, "A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother." From a practical standpoint, if you are in the ministry or just deal with people, you are going to see this all the time. Unfortunately, many kids will grow up today, and these children will not only have problems in their own lives, but they will bring problems into the family. They will bring shame into the family. In time, they will actually turn on their parents.

I love the way he uses the words here, and as I have told you many, many times, you always have to look at the verses and how he uses the words. He chose to use the phrase "despiseth his mother." He said the father is made glad, but he despises the mother. That illustrates, when you understand how he is using the word, how bad some situations can get.

I grew up, and my dad and I did not always see eye to eye. Many of you, when you hit your teenage years, you think you know more than your dad does, more than your parents do. I was one of those guys. When I was eighteen years old, I thought my dad was the dumbest man in the world, but when I turned twenty-one, I could not figure out how my dad got smart so fast. The matter is, he was smart all along. Many times you will have issues with your father, but hardly ever with your mother. Mom has always been the one who tries to pull all things together. Even on my worst day, when my dad and I—and I can think back to some things that were not very good times when I was an idiot back then—I was never disrespectful to my mom. The idea here is that some situations really get bad. You talk about a really bad scenario when a child, son or a daughter, despises their mother. I can understand how you can get upset with your father, but I am telling you something, mom is always the most important person in a person's life. They really are. For a child to come to the place where they despise the mother, you have some serious, serious problems there.

Parents always like to be proud of their kids, and I think that is very important. I always was proud of my kids. We have one hundred million pictures of my kids growing up, and they were playing ball or doing this or doing that, and we were always proud of them. I have grandkids now, and we are always excited about seeing them succeed and do things, and you want to

encourage them, and you want to make a big deal about it. I make a big deal about it here with your kids when they do something well or win a little league contest or run the marathon for you big kids. I think it is important. Parents always like to be proud of their kids and take pride in the things that they do. It makes the parents glad.

In this case, when a child becomes a fool and causes chaos in the house and later on in society, then it is a different story. Over the years, I have seen it many times in the children of preachers, deacons' kids, Sunday school teachers, men and women, families who in churches were supposed to be spiritual leaders, and how embarrassing that is to them who supposedly have it all together enough that they teach a Sunday school class or they are a deacon or even a pastor. I know of so many pastors who were really good pastors, they really were, but they all lost their kids, which negates the fact that they never were a really good pastor. They seemed to be on the outside, and many times pastors have come to the point where they give themselves to their people so much that they let their own families fend for themselves, and that is a tragedy, and that should never be. No matter how good you are as a pastor, your first ministry, your first church, your first pastoring is your own family, and then it has to go from there.

I never forget my first year talking about camp. My first year I came to Kansas City in 1976. I was a high school director, and we had our first camp, and we must have had ninety, one hundred, maybe one hundred twenty kids go. Some of you were there. Steve Bracken was there back then. Penny Hinesinger, she is not here today, but she was here back then, and they went to camp. I had Mel Sobaka come in. He was my father in the Lord. He was in New York at that time, and I figured I could not find anybody to do a better camp, and I knew that it was my first year there, and I knew that this camp was going to be very instrumental in me getting myself established with these kids. Nothing like a camp to really get them where you can get one on one with them. I think that we had like forty kids saved that week, and I know that sounds like a great thing, and praise the Lord, but it really was not. Most of those forty kids saved were the sons of deacons, Sunday school teachers. It was not a very happy time when we went back. The fact that you were a Sunday school teacher or a pastor or a deacon and your child was lost and had to go to camp with me to get saved. The baptismal service and those things are usually a joyous time. They are here. They were not very joyous back then. We had a lot of pious people back then who really resented the fact. It was amazing to me. They resented the fact. I guess they would have rather allowed their kid to go through the facade and die and go to hell. But they were upset with me because their child got saved. I was even accused of talking their kid out of their salvation. I did not talk anybody out of anything. We just got up and preached the Word of God and gave them the truth, which is what they were not getting at home, and then God did the rest.

This is what the Bible says in 1 Timothy 3:5:

1 Timothy 3:5

For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?

So we see the practical side to it. But in the doctrinal context, as it relates to a specific teaching in a future reference, it will give us some great insight into our own Christian life again. You have four elements here in this verse.

1. First of all, you have the father. In a doctrinal sense, that will be God the Father.
2. Then you have the second identity, a wise son.
3. The third identity is a foolish son. That will be you or me as it is defined in the book of Proverbs.
4. The fourth element we have here is the mother. Contrary to most people's ideas, that is not Mary. That will be Galatians 4:26:Galatians 4:26

But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

We know that in the Bible you have what the Bible calls the family of God. I have laid it out to you before. Sometimes it is called the household of God in John 14 and Ephesians 2:19. It is called the family of God in Ephesians 3:15. I have laid it out to you many, many times how throughout the span of the Bible you have different people who live in different time periods. The Bible calls them dispensations. Each one of those time periods represents a different part of the overall family of God. We are in the church age. We are a different part of the family than the people in the Old Testament before the law. We are different from the people in the Old Testament during the law. So when you understand the family concept, we as part of this family will be exactly what the verse says, one way or the other. We, as the body of Christ, will either make our Father glad, or if we turn from the Word of God and turn from the things of God, we will wind up despising our mother, which is New Jerusalem, which really represents, we will see it in a moment, everything that we have in our own salvation.

You have to remember, and I know this is foreign today, but for you and for me as believers, there are no halfway measures with God. You do not kind of love Him this morning. Christ is much more definitive now. He says this morning, you either love Me or you hate Me. You are either for Me or you are against Me. We like the little fantasy world of the illusion in our minds that there is some twilight zone where I am kind of really not with Him, but I am really not away from Him. That is not true when it comes to the way God looks at things. Giving our Father glad or despising our mother.

Now, you do not get off track so you do not get off track and get contaminated with a lot of man's garbage that he puts out there. In Christianity, Proverbs makes the wise man and the foolish man real plain. Last week we saw in Proverbs 15:19 that a man that has understanding, everything is real plain to him. The Bible is real plain, and when you want to understand what a wise man is, then you go to the book of Proverbs. The book of Proverbs is about the wisdom of Solomon, the wisdom of God being imparted to you and me as God's son. Solomon historically was giving it to his own son. It did not work out very good for his son, and unfortunately, it does not work out very good for some time for God's people either.

You are going to find that in the book of Proverbs, it does not leave anything to the imagination. The Bible is plain. The book of Proverbs defines what a wise man is. He gives you nine characteristics of a wise man.

- In Proverbs 1:5, he says a wise man will hear and increase in learning.
- In Proverbs 3:35, he says a wise man will inherit glory.
- In Proverbs 10:8, he says a wise man receives commandments.

- In Proverbs 11:30, he says that a wise man wins souls.
- In Proverbs 12:15, he says a wise man will hearken to counsel.
- In Proverbs 14:16, he says a wise man fears and departs from evil.
- In Proverbs 15:7, he says a wise man dispenses knowledge.
- In Proverbs 18:15, he says a wise man seeks knowledge.
- In Proverbs 29:11, he says that a wise man guards his tongue.

When you take these nine things, and nine in the Bible represents fruit bearing, what you have is these nine things in your life and my life becoming a wise person makes our Father glad.

Not only is a wise man defined for you in Proverbs, but you find that a fool is also defined for you, and there are eight things in Proverbs that define a fool.

- Where a wise man increases knowledge in learning, in Proverbs 1:7, a fool will despise wisdom.
- Where a wise man will depart from evil, Proverbs 14:9 says that a fool will mock sin.
- Where a wise man will guard his tongue, Proverbs 10:18 says that a fool will slander other people.
- In the book of Proverbs, it says that a wise man will hearken to counsel, but in Proverbs 17:10, the fool resists punishment and correction.
- Where in the book of Proverbs, the wise man is content with what he has, the fool in Proverbs 17:24, his eyes are always to the ends of the earth.
- In Proverbs, where a wise man dispenses knowledge, in Proverbs 20:3, a fool is always meddling in somebody else's business.
- Then the Bible says that a wise man receives commandments, but in Proverbs 26:11, a fool is always returning to his sin. The Bible likens it to a dog always going back to his vomit.
- Where the Bible says that a wise man seeks knowledge, Proverbs 28:26 says that the fool will trust in his own heart, and he winds up despising his mother, everything that she stands for.

Based on these two contrasts, and that is really what they are, it becomes real plain, sometimes it becomes too plain. We do what is right. When we do what is right, we make our Father glad by bringing honor and glory to Him, our Heavenly Father. When we do not become a fool, then in time we make our mother, New Jerusalem, our enemy.

I want to talk about this New Jerusalem concept for a second. It says in Galatians 4 that New Jerusalem is the mother of us all, which is above and free. The Bible says in Revelation 21:23-24, and really Revelation 21 is the definitive passage in your Bible on New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:23-24

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

It comes down out of heaven. It seems a satellite over the earth when the Lord comes back and gets everything set up the way He wants. The Bible talks about somebody bringing their honor and glory into it. The Bible talks about the fact that the light of the New Jerusalem gives light to all the nations. The Bible says that even though it is a city, it is called a bride. New Jerusalem represents everything that your salvation and my salvation is. We are the New Jerusalem.

Just where, when you got saved, your salvation and all of the concepts of everything about your salvation started with God, started with the concept of the body of Christ in God's heart, in God's mind, the spiritual New Jerusalem, you and me, the abode for us in eternity for whatever God's plan is for us. It stands and represents for you and me everything that we are and everything that we believe. Your salvation, your new birth, came about from the concept of God, Christ, and the New Jerusalem. So she is likened to our mother because our birth, our spiritual new birth, goes all the way back to everything that she stands for. Of course, when we forsake her, when we forsake the things of God, when you take God's salvation and your life and my life and completely walk the other way, then you despise everything that God has given you. It means nothing to you. Your value system is completely gone as far as spiritual things. Where a wise son makes his father glad, a fool will despise his mother. That is what happens to God's people when they go so far back into the world. All the things of God that originate and will be for all of eternity with the New Jerusalem, what it represents, what it stands for, we now look at those things and have no use for them. It is an incredible concept.

II. Folly Is Joy To The Destitute Of Wisdom

Here is another great principle. This is the end result of despising our mother and all that she stands for. Look at Proverbs 15:21. It says, "Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly."

Now he says, "destitute of wisdom." That is one of the hardest things that I think you could ever say to anybody. That is a hard saying. The word "destitute" is kin to the word "desert." It is kin to the word "despicable." It means emptiness, lonely, with absolutely no friends, completely barren, no substance. It means abandonment. It means a total spiritual poverty. In a family, in a spiritual sense, I have seen moms and dads that were absolutely destitute of wisdom when it came to their own kids.

Now I know that most of you here, if not all of you, you are in this church, you are in the Word of God, you are moving, you are growing, you are learning, you are doing everything you know how to do. Many of you have made some mistakes with your kids in life, and now you are turning that around and correcting that. Many of you have young kids, and you have made a plan that you are going to do everything right with them. So I am not necessarily talking about you because you are here. But in my life and in my ministry, I have seen parents in a spiritual sense that were absolutely destitute of wisdom. They could not even disciple their own kids. I have seen fathers that have no ability to disciple their son or their own daughter. I have seen parents come to the point where they could not even win their own child to Christ when it came to that point when that child was ready to do that. I have seen parents so destitute that they could never pray with their children. They had no idea how to take a child through those stages of spiritual

growth and build them the way that God wants them to be built based on the Word of God. I say it again, I am not talking about you guys necessarily. I am talking about the ones that I have seen in my life that were absolutely destitute. You are here. You want to learn. You want to make the corrections. You want to be able to give your child everything that God wants them to be.

Now this verse, and you want to get this, this verse is saying that when a child of God is destitute of wisdom, and boy, we have seen it. I have seen it with parents. I have seen it with just Christians in general. I have seen it all my life. God's people who claim to be saved, who as far as God and the Word of God were absolutely destitute of wisdom. They make some of the dumbest mistakes and decisions that you are ever going to see in your life. The Bible says that when a man is destitute of wisdom, his joy, which should be in the things of the Lord, now becomes the things of the world. All the filth, all the garbage, all the things in the world. When we are destitute of wisdom, the devil will blind us. What happens now is the real joy of your life should be the things of God, but the real joy now becomes the folly in our lives.

Where a wise son rejoices in souls being saved, a fool without wisdom will rejoice in the twenty dollars he won over a wager, over a ballgame. Where a wise son will rejoice over good preaching that hits right in the heart and bull's eye in his heart and his soul, a fool will rejoice over the opportunity to fornicate last night. Where a wise man will rejoice with other saved, godly people over the things of God, a fool will rejoice in the beer parties and the drunken bashes when all of his friends get together to have a good time. His folly, because he is destitute of wisdom, his folly now becomes his joy.

Do not take my word for it, just look on Facebook. What absolute idiots most of the kids are today. They post some of the god-awfulest stuff. "Look at me, I am proud of my sin, I am proud of my drinking, I am proud of this, I am proud of that, I am proud of the way I look." It is absolutely unbelievable. Posting pictures of yourself in your sin and your folly. Having joy in your folly and proud of it. The real goofy thing is the parents. I have had parents that have defended some of the stupidest stuff their kids have posted on Facebook. If some of my kids ever posted some of the stuff that some kids have posted, I would put a chain around their ankles and drag them around the parking lot for a day and a half.

Listen, Job 41:22, you better get it down. It tells us that the devil can imitate and blind a man or a woman to the point that the devil will make you think that your sorrow is really your joy. He will deceive you. He says in that verse:

Job 41:22

In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him.

The devil! You know how? Because you are destitute of wisdom, that is how. In Proverbs 11:10, I was thinking this, you kidding me? In the tribulation period, the Bible says that they are rejoicing over the bodies of Moses and Elijah who have had their heads cut off and they are dead laying in the streets. The Bible says they are rejoicing over the saints of God and their death.

Revelation 11:10

And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

I wonder where they got that concept to make that their joy. But I also want to say this based on that verse in Revelation 11. Your joy will not be for long. Listen, when you make your folly your joy, it is never going to be long term. It is only going to be short term. You can smoke cigarettes and go with the world and think that is part of it and think that is what a man does. Short term it is great, but when you die of lung cancer like my father did, that is long term. High people drink, and the kids in high school drink, everybody drinks, everybody thinks it is okay to social drink. Why, there are even churches now that put out the idea that as long as you do not do it in excess that it is okay to drink in moderation. Where did you ever learn that you can ever give your flesh that chance? I have never met an alcoholic in my life that was not down in the street, rolling over in the gutter, that ever admitted and thought he had a drinking problem. You know why? Because in his mind, as in your mind, as in my mind, there is never any satisfying the flesh. You give the flesh a license to do something like that, it will take it and run a mile with it.

Drugs. It starts out with marijuana, the gateway drug. It moves into other things because society demands it, your peer pressure demands it. Then you come and you lose everything you have. When I see this verse about joy, your joy being your folly, in my mind, it was always a tragedy. I never said anything about this, but I watched him for many, many years. It was one of those things I just put on a side burner and watched his life because when I first saw and was introduced to him through a movie, I thought to myself, this kid is going to have some problems. It is the story of a boxer by the name of Tommy Morrison. Tommy Morrison was in the Rocky V. He was Tommy Gunn back then. I remember first seeing that, and they did a great job with it. He was an up and coming fighter, and he was a fighter. He was a great fighter. He fought fifty-two fights. He won forty-eight of them by knockout. He was an incredible fighter. His trainers and everybody said that he was one of the most natural fighters. He had a tenacity about him, and he was incredible. But you know what? He had to have the world and all that it offered. At forty-four years of age, in the prime of his life, where most other guys are coming off a boxing career and a notoriety and a fame of being able to help others, he died of AIDS. Because all across this country, he was promiscuous with all of the things. All he wanted was a wild life of sex and booze and the women and all that goes with it. He put no restrictions on himself. He was a great fighter. He was nationally known. Everybody wanted to be around him. Every woman wanted to be with him. Because he was destitute of wisdom, because he saw no limit on his flesh, nothing that he would deny himself. Short term it looked great. But he died at forty-four, full blown AIDS. One more tragedy.

Now Proverbs 15:21 says the last part, "but a man of understanding walketh uprightly." He walks uprightly and rejoices in the right things. The Bible is so simple and plain. Why, in that book, not only as I already gave you, will it define for you what a wise man is and what a fool is so you can plainly find yourself. I did not have to pass out any other stuff. When I went through those, everybody in here put yourself in one category or the other. It is so easy, nothing hard about it. Not only does the Bible do that, but the Bible even tells you what you and I are to rejoice in.

Because it tells you in the Word of God the seven things up in heaven they rejoice on. How much easier can it get? The Bible is such a simple diagram of life with God, but man complicates it.

Now the Bible says that we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:6.

Ephesians 2:6

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Because we are seated up there with Him in heaven, these seven things that they are rejoicing about up in heaven, paying attention to, should be our joy. It should be our rejoicing. Most of God's people do not even know what they are. We just finished a couple of weeks ago laying out what really transpired the day you got saved. What changed about your body, your soul, and your spirit? So everybody plainly and clearly could go out of here and have an understanding of it. The truth of the matter is, most of God's people have no clue. Oh, I believe they are saved, but now you put a gun to their head and try to get them to explain what happened, they could never do it. You know what? Ninety-nine percent of God's people could not tell you the seven things they are rejoicing over in heaven if their life depended on it. Christianity today, in most cases, may I say this? It is a joke. It is a joke because God's people are destitute. They have no wisdom. Like the little rat in a maze trying to find the magical cheese at the end, which for us is heaven. So we go down through the little maze of life, bumping our nose here, dead end street here, dead end street here. If a little mouse was really smart, he would just go get himself a chainsaw and just cut him a direct path to the cheese. I am a smart little mouse. So I am going to take the Word of God, my chainsaw, and I am going to cut me a direct path to the kingdom of heaven. That is where I am going.

They rejoice up in heaven over specific things. In that Bible, it tells you what they are. In heaven, there are seven things they rejoice in and make merry over. Now I have to tell you this, it is not touchdowns in football games. You see it all the time where somebody makes a touchdown and they are pointing up to God or they are blessing themselves. Like God is standing in the bleachers up there and wearing whatever shirt their team is. That is the idea that we get today. Or that when somebody hits a home run, he points up to God like God gave him the power and the ability to hit that ball out of the ballpark. I had a guy one time, I did an interview on him after he won the ball game, and he thanked God for giving him the victory. That God is up in heaven, rooting the teams on. You are destitute. Those are not the things in heaven they are rejoicing over this morning.

But I will give you the seven things they are because I want you to be on track with it.

5. The first one is found in Luke 15:7. It is a soul saved. Luke 15:7

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. The Bible says there is rejoicing in heaven when a soul gets saved. Win anybody to Christ? You know what? You know who is going to be popular in heaven? The ones who made them rejoice the most while you are down here. We get the idea they are sitting around there saying, "Okay, the Royals are playing today, let us get it all lined up." Some of the other angels will say, "Oh, I am for

Cincinnati or somebody else." They could care less. But oh, you put some old sinner down there on his knees with some shot of God opening up that Bible. That man asks Jesus Christ into his heart. And heaven goes ballistic. What rejoicing over the wrong.

6. I will tell you the second thing they get rejoiced over, Psalms 126. That is the restoration of the nation of Israel. Now this is how off we are. This is how destitute we are. We look at the Middle East and we look at what is going on over there. We are all afraid of terrorism and ISIS and all of the Al Qaeda and all of the radical Muslims and all the people that want to kill us. We forget the fact that all that is part of God's plan to restore and bring back the nation of Israel. While you and I are afraid of it, they are rejoicing in heaven because every day, every day, every day brings us one step closer to God bringing that Jew back and setting it all up the way He wants it. The second greatest doctrine in the Bible was the restoration of the nation of Israel. They are rejoicing in heaven this morning. We are bemoaning the fact.
7. I will tell you the third thing, Luke 15:24, and that is when a backsliding child of God gets restored. Luke 15:24

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. Have you helped anybody get back? Put your arm around anybody that is out there in the wilderness, out there that you know is where they should not be, and try to lead them back?

8. I will tell you something else, John 16:20. This is the second coming of Christ, the greatest doctrine in the Bible, the theme of the Bible.
9. I will tell you the fifth one is Revelation 17:18 and Revelation 19:7. This is the destruction of Babylon the Great, Mr. Religion, and all that she represents. The mother of harlots, all the false religions of the world come from her. Boy, you get a great insight when you get the idea how God looks at false religions on this planet. You want to be tolerant. When they get destroyed, they are going to be rejoicing.
10. Now number six is my favorite because number six is they are rejoicing up in heaven in Luke 10:21 at the confusion of Bible scholars. Luke 10:21

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. Well, that keeps me laughing in heaven, will it not? You know this morning while we are here across this city, about this week, ninety-nine percent of the Bible studies at church services are nothing much but a bunch of rejoicing when a guy gets up there and says, "Now that in your original Greek is not what that word means," and then tries to confuse everybody because he is confused himself, and up in heaven, they just go at it, man. They are rejoicing. They are rejoicing. I mean, it is incredible.

11. And then the seventh one, the marriage of the Lamb, Revelation 19:7. That is for you and for me. Revelation 19:7

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. Yet God's people who are saved are going to, when the Lord comes back, we are going to the marriage of the Lamb and then the marriage supper. They do not even know what it is. I know over there in the Bibles, there is somebody that shows up at that wedding with, does not have a wedding garment on, he is asked to

leave. Now, doctrinally, I know that is the devil and the antichrist, but sometimes inspiration, I think it is some of God's people that miss the wedding.

You see, you want to set your affections on these things, things that are above. You want to rejoice in them. They should be the joy of your life because they are rejoicing about them in heaven, and heaven is where we are going. Colossians 3:2 says:

Colossians 3:2

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Now, let me give you this. Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, in that great book:

Ecclesiastes 1:9

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Yet have you ever noticed how man is always coming up with something new? He says, "This is new. Look at this, this is new." Everybody goes, "Wow, it is new." It is not new. That which is called new is not true. But that which is true is not new. The book of Ecclesiastes is the book about him going through everything that is under the sun on earth. He goes through everything, every philosophy, every structure of government, every idea that man has under the sun on earth. You know what he says? He says it is all vanity. Everything under the sun on this planet will get you nothing but heartache, brokenness, and a dead end street in life. Everything down here is an illusion of newness.

You and I should rejoice as they do in heaven. The reason they rejoice up in heaven above is because if you know your Bible, you know that there are twelve new things that are above in heaven. Now, you want to rejoice in these seven things, and then you want to realize that I do not want the old things. I do not want the old things of this world. I do not want to think down on earth level. I want to think up. Somebody said to me one time, "Well, you do not ever seem to be down, Bob. You always seem to be on top of things." Well, I appreciate that, but that is not always true. I have my bad times like everybody else, but I do not try to let my life go there because I always try to think up, not down. Too many of God's people are always thinking down. If you are a child of God, you need to focus on what is above, not what is below.

I get it. I just try to focus it all the time. I will be walking around with somebody saying, "Hey, Bob, what is up?" Heaven, it is up there. "Hey, Bob, what is new?" Jerusalem, Revelation 21. Oh, I do not miss it. I do not want to think down here. I want to think up there. I know what is down here. God's people are destitute today, for they have no real joy. You should rejoice. I should rejoice and set our affections on the things above. They have treasure in Heaven, the Bible says. Twelve new things, the Bible says, that are above. God's people do not even know what they are. They are destitute. No wonder you are always thinking down.

I will tell you the first one. The first one is over there in Hebrews 9:16-17. God gave me a new testament.

Hebrews 9:16-17

For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

The old one would not cut it for me because in the old one they had to bring their sacrifices, and the Bible says that the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin. So what I got that I focus on is not the Old Testament, though I read it and study it, but my focus is what is above on the New Testament because you know what I found in the New Testament in John 3? I found a new birth. And I got saved. This old birth, I mean, I am glad I got born the first time, but I will be honest, all it did was give me a heartache and trouble. That is the old birth. That is under the sun. I needed one that was above the sun that was new.

Once I got the New Testament that gave me the new birth, then I realized, 2 Corinthians 5:17, that I am a new creature in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

All things are passed away. All things become new. You know what that did for me? Once I got a New Testament, I got a new birth, and I became a new creature in Christ Jesus. I got a new heart. I do not think the way I used to think anymore. Ezekiel 36:26.

Ezekiel 36:26

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

The next thing, once I got a new birth, it gave me a new testament that gave me a new creation, and it gave me a new heart in Psalms 40:3. Then I got a new song in my heart.

Psalms 40:3

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

Even praise unto our God, many shall see it in fear and trust in the Lord. You focus on too many things down here. Not only get a new creature in Christ Jesus and a new heart and a new song, the Bible says in Revelation 2:17, I got a new name written down in glory.

Revelation 2:17

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

I do not know what it is yet. But I know this, when the Lord comes back and calls my name, He is not going to call Bob. He is going to call my new name, and I will know exactly what that name is, and I am gone.

Now because we got a New Testament that gave us a new birth, that made us a new creature in Christ Jesus, that gave us a new heart, to put a new song in my heart, that gave me a new name. When we take communion, we do it with new wine. Some people do it with the old wine that is under the sun, the fermented hooch. Because of all of that, one of these days, Revelation 21:1 and Isaiah 66:22, I am going to get a new heaven and a new earth and a New Jerusalem, mother of us all.

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Isaiah 66:22

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

I told you about the seven things they rejoiced of. One of them was the restoration of the nation of Israel. They get some new things too. In Hebrews 8:9, when the Lord comes back and deals with Israel, they get a new covenant and they get a new spirit in Ezekiel 36 and Hebrews 8. It is all new, twelve things, twelve things that are new and above. That is where our focus needs to be. That verse says that for an unsaved man or a worldly Christian, that his rejoicing is in his folly. But a child of God who walks uprightly, his rejoicing will be in the things that are above and the things that are new. Why? Because he has understanding. When you do not have understanding, you are destitute. I think that is a great word. I am going to add that to my vocabulary.

III. The Importance Of Counsel

Now look at the next verse, Proverbs 15:22. "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."

First off, this is one of these verses that many churches today, the Roman Catholic Church in particular, uses to justify the church council down through history. If you went through church history, you would find that there are many church councils. Some of the major ones are listed on our chart over there: the Council of Nicaea, the Council of Constantinople, Carthage, Ephesus, Chalcedon, Constantinople II, Nicaea II, the Council of Trent in 1545, and all down through history. We have what we call the Ecumenical Council today, a bunch of churches together. We have the World Council of Churches. We have the National Council of Churches. We have had Vatican II, Vatican I. Those are all church councils. So this verse is used to prove that those are okay.

Now first off, somebody cannot read. The word here in Proverbs 15:22 is the word "counsel," C-O-U-N-S-E-L. The word for a church council is C-O-U-N-C-I-L. The words are not the same

word, they do not have the same meaning. They are not spelled the same. You are confused. And they are rejoicing in heaven over it. Now "counsel" (C-O-U-N-S-E-L) is getting advice from somebody. "Council" (C-O-U-N-C-I-L) is a body of people with an agenda. For the record, every council, every church council in the Bible and down through history, has been against the Lord Jesus Christ and never for anybody in the New Testament, just so you got that, every one of them. Never held in any way, shape, or form by the true line out of Antioch.

The second thing here in this verse that you always hear this, and it just drives me nuts. You are told before you make a decision, something you have to make that may affect the rest of your life, you are supposed to talk to people and get their advice. Presumably wise people, people with common sense, but as you well know, common sense is not too common anymore. Now that can be really dangerous. I have seen parents give their kids the worst advice on the planet. I mean it was riddled with the problem that is going to lead to a life of destruction, all because they are destitute. Destitute people will give destitute advice.

Now there are two reasons why this is really dangerous. The first one is that, as I said, personal opinions will sell you to hell many times, factored in salvation by baptism. You go to somebody that you trust, and they give you the wrong advice, or advice in their own life is upside down and destitute. Why do you think going to a person's life who is absolutely outside anything to do with the Bible, they would give you good advice?

The second reason is, a lot of people like to shop around, and this is why they do it. They shop around to find what they want to hear. So you can go ahead and do it and justify yourself. That happens all the time. So you have a decision to make. You really want to make the decision, but you want to appear to be spiritual. So you will shop around, and you will find somebody that tells you exactly what you want to hear. A lot of people find churches that way. They will shop around and find a church that tells them what they want to hear so they feel comfortable. People do not shop for a church like that. You are all mission bums. You just come in and eat whatever we have. Most churches have a smorgasbord. You do not like this service. I guess this would be a traditional service. If you do not like this one, some churches will have a progressive service. If you do not like that, some churches will have a modern service. You can go to whatever service you want, and they will dial down the preaching. You go to the traditional, you will get a little heavy-handed. You go to the modern, everything is light and bouncy. You go to the contemporary, it is just like the world. So the pastor who preaches the same message, I guess, in his service, he has to switch them all around. So he just dials it down. "Oh, this is the, dial this one up. This is the traditional. All right, you are going to get it." Next one. "Oh, you are not going to get it." Third one. Get what? It is like a Christian smorgasbord. You just go and pick whatever you want to eat. We do not, we only serve one thing here today. I love you all, and you are all valuable. You are all worth a million dollars, but let us just be honest. We are all just mission bums. We are just one beggar trying to tell another beggar where there is bread.

Talking to somebody can be good. Let me show you how. When I give counsel to people, they come to me in our counseling ministry. I never tell them what to do. I have trained you many, many times, you know, you lay out what their options are. You say, "All right, here is where you are at. Here is where you want to get. Here are your options. Plan one, plan two, plan three. Plan

one is the best. Plan two is not very good. Plan three is a disaster, but you have to choose." I am not going to tell you what to do because I am not the one who has to live with the decision that you make. That is what you do. You lay out their options.

Now when God saved you, when He saved me, you know this, He saved us for a purpose. You find that purpose through good counsel. Romans 8:28 says:

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

That is the purpose He saved you and me for, the purpose of our life for Him. I must tell you, finding out what God's purpose is for your life will be the greatest thing you ever learn to do. Consequently, it is the thing that most of God's people never do.

Now the verse here says, "multitude of counsellors." As I said, that could be really dangerous. So if you are going to get a multitude of counsellors, you have to get a multitude of them, men who are all in the same mindset, same spirit. This is really easy because in your Bible you have sixty-six of the greatest counseling books anywhere on earth, put together by thirty-eight or so men who wrote those sixty-six books in the Bible. When the Bible says in a multitude of counsellors, those are the multitude of counsellors you go to. You go to the Word of God. They all follow the same line of reasoning, and they all will always give you the right counsel. They will never fail you because they are all from the same spirit.

If somebody is helping you like in Discipleship One in our church or Discipleship Two or in your personal counsel, I can guarantee you, you can rest assured. Nobody works with people in this church unless they understand what the Bible says about doing it. We have a people ministry, and when the original people that committed that people ministry and opened it up to everybody in the church, it was designed to take people up to those levels to help them understand the work with me. They had to sign a contract. That contract is on file because I know how it works with God's people. You teach them something, you say, "This is how I want you to do it," then you go freelancing and do your own thing, and then I call you on the carpet on it, and you say, "Well, no, no, no." Now we have a piece of paper that says, "What part of this did you understand when you signed it?" There is a whole list to think. You know why? That is for your protection. That is so that everybody stays on the same page. Everybody follows the same rules because when you try to find God's purpose in your life outside the Word of God through the worldly system or even Christianity, it is going to lead to disappointment. You are never going to find it.

The verse says when you find your purpose in life that God wants for you, for you to do through the counsel of the Word of God and its principles, and you make your decision in life based on those, then the Bible says in the rest of that verse, you are going to be established. In our church, many of you have established yourself. You really have. I have no qualms putting you in just about any scenario that I may come up against myself. You have established yourself. Honestly, my goal, my final objective for all that we do, is to bring men and women to that end, that you

are established in the Word of God. When you are established in the Word of God, then you are ready to be established in the ministry.

Now we have twenty or thirty people that are coming. I gave you the challenge a number of weeks ago about going through the website, and then we got the idea of getting the written outlines of going through each book of the Bible. Some of you guys are burning that thing up, man. I am just, when you bring it over and I look at it, it absolutely impresses me. But on any level, you need to get to the place where when it comes to the Bible and the things of God, you are well established. Well established simply means you know what you believe. Well established simply means you know why you believe it. So you know what you are talking about when you say something. You have an ability to use the sixty-six counsellors in your life first and in the lives of others. You have credibility. You follow the simple protocol of using the Scriptures in any situation. Then the Bible unfolds itself and lays itself out. You know what is right and you know what is wrong, and you make good judgment calls in your own life first and then help people in theirs.

You fight your spiritual warfare, oh boy. You fight your spiritual warfare from a fixed position. You know, in warfare there are all kinds of positions and situations you find yourself in in combat. Some are offensive, some are defensible. The hardest objective to take and the easiest one to defend is a fixed position where you are entrenched, you are embedded, you are grounded in, and they have to come to you to root you out. But they cannot because you are fixed in a position. When you know what you know about the Bible, when you are established in the Word of God, no one is ever going to take from you what you have. You are going to understand what they rejoice about in heaven. Your mindset is going to be on the twelve new things up there. When it comes to what you believe and what you know about the Bible, you are fixed. All the attacks of the devil and the world and other people can come at you to try to uproot you, but you are not going anywhere. You know why? Because you are fighting your warfare from a fixed position. You are not going anywhere.

IV. The Joy Of Speaking God's Word In Due Season

Look at Proverbs 15:23. "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!"

Couple of things here. First of all, Romans 10:8 says:

Romans 10:8

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

Proverbs 16:1 says:

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

The joy of your life, because it is certainly been the joy of my life, the real value system for you and me will be found in the things that we tell other people about God. There is the value of life. All kinds of commercials talk about buying gold and silver. They talk about all the things that you want to make investments. You want to buy gold and silver is going to come up again. So buy gold and silver. They are always talking about investments, and they will always end their commercials by making you think, by asking a question, "What is in your wallet?" I ask you the same question today except not about your wallet. I ask you this question, "What is in your heart today? What are you preparing for?" He said the word is nigh even in our mouth and in our heart. The Bible says that the preparation of the heart in man, that is you. Right now, so many of you are preparing your heart. The great thing about it is I have people at a time who say, "Bob, I want to get in this and I want to do something. Man, I am afraid that I will get in there and somebody will ask me something or I will not know the answer." You got it wrong. You do not have to worry about the answer. When you prepare the heart, the Lord prepares the tongue. That is all you have to do. Just prepare your heart.

You studied to show yourself approved, 2 Timothy 2:15.

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

You be ready to answer any man who asks us the reason to hope within you, 1 Peter 3:15.

1 Peter 3:15

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:

In time you get established, and God can take you and drop you in any scenario, in any circumstance, in any situation. He knows that you are going to tell them exactly what He would tell them if He was here. Think about that. You know what makes you invaluable to God? Makes you invaluable to me too, but I am a nobody. But you know what makes you invaluable to God? Your ability to translate the Word of God to another. You know the Bible is its own language. That is why most people cannot understand it. What you do, and so many of you do well, you translate. When I used to preach in a foreign country and I did not know the language, I had a translator. That translator would do what I would, say what I would say, and he would put it back in the same language, or many times she would, and it would translate out, and they would get the message. You see, the Bible is its own language. It is a heavenly language. It is a language that the natural man cannot get. It is a language that even a young Christian cannot always understand. What you and I are supposed to do, who are established, who have our affections set on things above, who are rejoicing in heaven, who have the new things in our life. You take the language of God and then translate it down to the common people so they can understand. You know what preaching is? You know what I have done today? I have taken three or four verses that most of you read, and you would say, "Boy, I did not get that out of there." You know why? Because I have learned to translate. I am just translating it for you. I am taking it and showing

you what God would say. That makes you invaluable to God. You are able to take the Word of God and break it down and give it to somebody else.

Then the last part of that verse, "and a word spoken in due season, how good is it?" I love the phrase "due season." You know the book of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther are three great books. We talked about them a couple of Thursday nights ago. It lays out one of the greatest examples of how God uses us if we are just willing to be used. When you look at those three books, you understand that the whole purpose of those books is to get the Jew back to where God wanted him to be. At the end of the seventy years captivity, God is going to bring a remnant back and get him there, but He had to have a man to do it. When I look at those three books and I look at Nehemiah and how God used him, I think of many of you. I look at many of your lives, of how God, what God has done with you, with people, and the people that God has put you with. Because this idea of due season, hey, when you prepare your heart, when you get yourself ready, when you work at establishing yourself, this lays out one of the greatest examples of how God uses us if you are just willing to be used.

Nehemiah was just like you and me, but Nehemiah had a heart for God. He had a burden for his people, just like you and I should have a heart for God and a burden for our people. You know what, Nehemiah just allowed God to use him. He was established, and Nehemiah is such a great picture of so many of you. He was the right man in the right place at the right time with the right circumstances set up by God. He had the ability to recognize it. You see, when you are established in that book, God will put you, you will be the right man, that woman, puts you in the right place at the right time with the right circumstances that He orchestrated, but you will have the ability to recognize that He has done that for you and then do something with it. That is the key.

The Bible says in Psalms 37:23:

Psalms 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

What a great verse. God wants to order our steps in everything we do every day of our lives. God wants to establish you within the New Testament local church, you, your family, your ability to be used of God in any scenario. You speak English so well because you live in an English speaking country. You learn to speak the Bible so well because you live in the Bible all your life and you learn the language. When you do not, then you are destitute.

The last part of that Proverbs 15:23 says, "how good is it?" The man who has prepared the Word of God in his mouth and allowed God in due season to use him to teach others, how good is it? Ask the people in Lincoln. You guys drive up there three hours one way. Got twenty, thirty, probably forty people up there. Got them all together. All started with just a couple of families. How good is it? Pretty good. When you so unselfishly let God use you and take what you know and give it and bless others with it. How good is it? Ask our people in Wichita. Four hours away. No Bible believing church down there. Cold, dry land. Yet four hours one way. Every month some of you haul water, spiritual water down to them. They are up here today as our Lincoln

crowd is today. How good is it? Ask them. Ask them. How good is it? Ask Wendy and Mark down there in Clinton who drive up an hour and a half one way to come to church here almost every Sunday. Who have such a burden for their family that ask, "Would we ever consider sending somebody down to have a little Bible study with their family and their friends?" And my, my, you jumped all over it. How good is it?

This little church down here in the basement of an old antique mall. You would not even know it was a church. Should have a civil defense sign out front that says, "Bomb shelter. Four hundred capacity." This little church down here in the basement of an old antique mall. God has taken people who have established themselves and reaching out all over this state and in time all over this country to give others what He has given us through you. Our website goes from the East Coast to the West Coast and everywhere in between. Ask the people in our own church that scores of you have spent hours every week giving them what God has given you. I know what you do. I know what goes on. I know you are Skyping people over the phone, discipling them, meeting people here, going to their home, working with them, helping them, giving them what God has given you. You have been established by God, and now you take all that God has given you and you help establish others.

I must tell you this. You will never be able to make the things of God real in somebody else's life until they first become real in your life. Established in the things of God or destitute of them.

Years ago there was a man that made a profound impact in my life. He is dead now. I look around here, many of you knew Harold Massey. Harold Massey was a pastor when I first came to Kansas City. He kind of took me under his wing. Harold Massey had been blind since he was a teenager. When I met him he was in his seventies. He passed away several years ago. Harold Massey was one of the great men that God allowed me to come into contact with in my life. Harold Massey, I always loved to spend time with Harold. He had been around a long time. He had seen a lot of things. He had a lot of wisdom. He had a little tract that he wrote that he used to pass out. I used to take him to the hospitals to make hospital visits. He had a little tract he wrote that had his picture on the front of it and said, "Some things a blind man can see." It was the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is an incredible guy. I used to pick him up, and on foggy days I would say, "Harold, you want to drive today? I cannot see either." He was not ashamed that he was blind. We would laugh about it and joke about it. I would always kid him. One time I took him to the hospital and went to the restroom, and he went into the women's instead of the guys. I always kid him that he really was not blind. I loved Harold to death.

One time I went to pick him up. His wife had passed away, Ernie. I had picked him up at his house, and I got there a little early, and I had honked the horn. The garage door would open up, and I would go on up and go on inside. He said, "I will be with you a minute. I am not quite ready yet." He asked me if I wanted some coffee, and I said, "Sure." So he walked over to the sink, got his cup out, and poured me some coffee, brought it over and put it down. He was standing in front of a mirror. I am thinking, I said, "Well, you can stand in front of a mirror for it. You are tying your tie. I mean, you cannot see." But he was tying his tie and all, and he got his coat out. He moved around that house, never tripped, never stumbled, never fell, never bumped into anything. He was laying a coffee table down. He just circumvented it, navigated it just fine. I

sat there, and I was amazed. I thought to myself, "Now, here is a guy who is blind." I just watched him open the garage door for me, get me coffee, get dressed, move through this house, never knocked over anything, never bumped over anything, never did anything.

I went home that afternoon, and I tied a blindfold around my eyes. I never told anybody this. I feel foolish even saying this. I had a blindfold around my eyes to see if I could do it. I broke my knee. I fell down. I kicked the dog. It was terrible. I sat there, and I was amazed at what he could do. Then suddenly, God, like He has done so many times in my life, He took that illustration of what I saw, and He brought it right home. He said, "You know why he can navigate through his house so much?" He says, "Because he has lived there for twenty years." Now you are trying to learn the Bible, Bob. You are trying to teach other people how to learn the Bible. You know, the easiest way to learn the Bible and the simplest way to learn the Bible is just like Harold Massey found his way through his house. Just lived there for twenty years. You will find where everything is at. You will never stumble over a verse. You will never get hung up on a concept. You will never trip over a principle. You see, when you live in the Bible, you are established in that book like Harold was in his home. He was blind to the things of this world, but he knew his way around the house that he lived in. You and I should be blind to the things of this world, but we have to find our way around the book that we live in.

A wise man is going to make his father glad. A foolish man is going to despise his mother. A wise man is going to have all the wisdom. A fool is going to be destitute. A wise man is going to set his affections and learn what is above and what is new and all the things that rejoice in heaven. The fool will take his sin, his folly, her sin, her folly, and that will become their joy.