

I. Introduction and Review of Proverbs 16

If you have your Bibles this morning, I would like to invite you to turn to the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 16. As we have been coming through the Book of Proverbs here for the last year or so, we have worked our way up to Chapter 16. I think Chapter 16 of the Book of Proverbs has been one of the most practical chapters for us, even though there have been a lot of great practical principles that we have looked at. But I think the last time we were together, you probably got one of the most practical, usable messages that you will ever get and be able to use.

What the chapter is doing for us is contrasting two types of people. In the Bible here, two types of men, two types of Christians, really, for our practical application. One who follows God in His Word, and we see the end result of His life, and then one who claims to in the chapter here, but just uses God to mask his own agenda of what he wants to do or what he wants to accomplish.

Last week, if you will remember, I showed you basically seven or so areas that a child of God should really pay attention to as they grow and mature. We talked about how you should add some things to your faith, that once you get saved, there is a process of adding things to your faith as you grow. We talked about teaching your mouth what to say. We talked about adding learning to your lips out of Proverbs, Chapter 16. I showed you how that simply means learning how to speak about the things of God in the correct way, being able to talk to people intelligently about the things of God. It all comes through a process of your spiritual growth.

We talked about how to build a strong spiritual structure in your life. The Bible talks about the bones of a man, the marrow of his bones. It always illustrates to us the skeleton structure or the strength that holds us up, that really gives us substance in our life and a solid foundation of life.

When I was a kid, and I think they still have it, I have not checked lately, but when I was a kid growing up, all the kids wanted to eat their sandwiches when they went to school. We took our own lunches back then; we did not have cafeterias. But Wonder Bread was the neatest bread on the planet. I think they probably still make it. The slogan back then, this is back in the late 50s and the early 60s, was that Wonder Bread builds strong bodies 12 ways. It talked about all the ingredients that it had. I have often thought about that in a biblical sense.

John 6 tells us that the Word of God is the bread of life. When it comes to the Word of God, the Bible says that it will build you. We know that in John 4, the Bible says that salvation is of the Jews. There are 12 tribes in the nation of Israel. So just like when you went to the grocery store and you bought the Wonder Bread that helped build your body 12 ways, you have in your hand God's Wonder Bread that will build your body 12 ways. I think it was the night I was gone to John Priest on the principles of salvation: 12 basic principles in the Bible on salvation. Build your body 12 ways. Letting God establish you and not you or me establishing ourselves.

Then we looked at one of the greatest verses in all of the Bible, I think, that teaches us to be careful in what we allow in our lives. We find it two times in the book of Proverbs, a double

warning for us: once in Proverbs 14:12, and then last week we saw it in Proverbs 16:25, where it simply says that there is a way that seemeth right unto men, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

The reason for that, and I gave you last week, is because many times what seems right is not always right. You have to be able to understand the difference. The true test, and we talked about this last week also, was in Matthew 7:16: "by their fruit you shall know them." We talked about two kinds of fruit, and we laid that all out.

When it comes to the things of life, I look for the little things that the Lord Jesus gave to the disciples. I think many times those little one-liners that He gave to them, even though He gave it to help them because of the world they were in, really work for me too. I remember one time in Luke 21:8, He simply said this:

Luke 21:8

And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

Now I understand the context of that. We are talking about, it is really a tribulation context in the passage there as He is talking about it. But that is a great practical thing for me. You realize that when somebody wants to deceive you, a couple of things happen. When you get deceived, the next thing that happens once you get deceived, you get disarmed. Once you get disarmed, it is only a matter of time for you to get discouraged.

I have just in my life never allowed anybody to deceive me. I use the principles of the Word of God. I believe what I preach to you. I follow Him myself. I understand that the wisdom and understanding of the Bible was given to us to keep us from being deceived because I realize, and I have seen it all my life and all my ministry, sometimes what seems right is not always right. You have got to be able to understand that. In my life, I will not let that happen. I will stay with the Bible, all of the Bible, as we talked about last week.

II. The Spiritual Riches of God's Word

As we move on today, we want to talk about a few other things that go in line with what we are looking at here. Obviously, the simple key to our Christian life is to stay focused. That is the number one thing we all need to do. I know the Christian life is a list of a thousand things, but it all comes down to one little concept, and that is you and me in my life staying focused. Staying focused on the truth of God's Word, that I might be able to get the most out of my life for Him, that you might be able to get the most out of your life for Him also.

To do that, we have to be able to see and understand with God's wisdom what is going on around us, what is taking place around us in your family, in your life, with the people you associate with. That key to be able to do that is found, we have been talking about it for the last couple of weeks,

it is found in the book of Proverbs. It is you getting understanding and wisdom through the Word of God.

Today, we want to look at the next set of verses here, Proverbs 16:26-28. But I want to add to it the last verse that we looked at last week, verse 25, because it kind of all goes together. If I would preach all the dimensions of these passages all in one week, we would be here all day long. So you kind of have to break them down week by week to make sure you squeeze everything out of it that we get what we need. I want to today look at those verses. Again, we will continue to look at the contrast of these two men, and we will have some great practical principles today that, as last week, we can add to our faith.

Now, it says in Proverbs 16, I am going to go ahead and read verse 25 so it is in context with what we are talking about.

Proverbs 16:25-28

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.

A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

There will be some great practical rules for you and me keeping our focus in these passages, and we want to talk about that today. Before we do that, Nathan, would you stand up and ask God's blessing on my preaching this morning?

I want to do something a little different. I am always looking for ways to try to get you to remember things. Years ago when I started reading the Bible, especially when I got into the Gospels, I found that the Lord Jesus Christ always used little things to provoke people to think that they never forget about things. I think that is a good thing. So I want to kind of put this message in a little context today that we can have a good time with it, but at the same time that you are going to get the overall point I am trying to make and you will see the importance of what I am trying to say today.

I know there have been parents that have given their kids money to learn the Bible. I knew a person one time that had a son or a daughter, I cannot remember which it was. They said, "If you memorize all the books of the Bible, I will give you \$100." Well, they did and they got the \$100. I guarantee you that kid today does not remember those books of the Bible, because when you pay somebody to do something, especially when it comes to the Bible, you have got the wrong motive.

I have known parents that said to their kids, "I will give you a good allowance if you get good grades." That is not a good way of handling things. Kids should want to get good grades because of the fact that he recognizes or she recognizes that to really be used of God and to have an impact on somebody's life, you are going to have to have some kind of intelligence development. It is just that simple. So I do not think that is a good idea. So I am not suggesting by what I am

doing today that you should do that. I am playing a game with you to try to get you to think about some things. But I do hopefully want to give you a little format that will help you remember.

Now I have nine principles in my message today. These are nine things that I want you to remember. I do not care if you remember the wonderful song I sang a little while ago at the inception of their wedding. I do not care if you forget anything else. I want you to go home today with these nine principles firmly ingrained in your mind, because along with last week, there were incredible principles that will help you.

I am going to tell you now that these nine principles are worth \$10 million apiece. You have the potential and the ability today to leave here with \$90 million spiritual dollars in your bank account. If somebody gave you \$90 million today, here is the point I want to, and I am going to keep this reinforced all through this. If somebody gave you \$90 million today, you would be very smart if you would just take it and you would put it in the bank. You know what? You would never have to work again if you did not want to.

I will tell you something else. If you make the right investment with that \$90 million, you will not only never have to work a day of your life, you will never touch the principal of the \$90 million. If you make the right investment and get the right amount of interest off of that much money, that money will do the work for you and you will never have to work again.

Now listen to me. If you will take the spiritual riches that God gives you, if you will take the \$90 million I am going to give you today, add to that in your spiritual bank account, here it comes, you too will never, when it comes to life, you will never have to work at it again. You will live off the principles and the interest of what you have stored spiritually in your life. When it comes to the issues that you are going to face in life, when it comes to the problems you are going to have to deal with in life, instead of you working through it, you just sit back and let your investment and the interest that you have gained on that do the work for you.

That is what the Bible does. The Bible takes, when you apply it in your life, when you look at it as the true riches, I mean, come on, you make an investment or you should in your physical financial, why? Because you know that long term you are going to have to fall back on it. Why do not we do that spiritually? I am going to give you \$90 million and I am going to tell you each one of these. Here is the first one, here is your second \$10 million, here is your third \$10 million, and when you leave here today, you should have some money on the account of your life. I do that because of verse 25 last week, because "there is a way that seemeth right unto men, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Now verse 26, as we look at this, will take us even deeper into our investigating into these two men, and this will be some great stuff here, \$90 million worth in spiritual money, okay?

It has always amazed me with God's people, and I have seen this all my life and all of my ministry, people who read the Bible, who study the Bible, people who actually claim to know the Bible and probably do to some degree, yet when they are faced with something that they want to

do, that clearly is against the principles of the Word of God, they will just turn and walk away and leave the principles that yesterday were the very principles that they claimed to believe.

Last week I told you this, and we have not even got into the \$10 million yet. This is just chump change I am giving you right now. One time when I was in the Army, I am even embarrassed to say this, once they found out I played the trumpet, I got to do all the military funerals, and I traveled all over New England. I went with a bunch of guys one time, and they were the meanest guys you ever met in your life. Afterwards, as always, the American Legion always had all over, and it was free booze for everybody. Well, there was no American Legion in this town, so they found a bar restaurant, and everybody went there. We had the rifle squad, we had the pallbearers, we had a lieutenant who was in charge, and he was not worth anything. These guys were the roughest guys, all paratroopers, we were all the roughest guys on the planet.

So we are sitting in there, and I will never forget this. The waitress comes up and she takes the orders, and these guys, they have no, I mean they are animals, I do not even know what to tell you. After time went on, they had some more beer, and I did not drink, so I was always the designated driver to get us home. We wound up in Turkey someplace. While the drinks were flowing and they were drinking, and some of the old guys came over and were buying everybody drinks, one of the guys got fresh with the waitress. She hauled off and slapped him. He stood up and hit her, knocked her over the table. She had all of her tips that she was getting from all the different people. She had them in one of those little bags that they wear, and money went everywhere.

Now I am looking and going to go help the girl. These guys are grown combat soldiers, all CIBs, every one of them, all adults. Instead of getting on the guy who did that and helping up the lady, they are scrambling all over the floor picking up the money. You know what you ought to be doing today with the tidbits that I am going to throw out before I even get to the \$90 million? You ought to be scrubbing on the floor picking up the tidbits. You ought to be like those guys. You ought to be pocketing every piece of change that falls out of my mouth, out of that book. Because to them it was beer money. To you it is the investment of your life to put it on the account of your heart with God. So I am going to give you nine things, but there is going to be a lot of other change falling on the ground, and I want to see some people scurrying because you pick it up.

You know what was the key to Samuel's success with God? It is back there in 1 Samuel 3. At the end of that chapter, when it is talking about how Samuel grew and everybody knew that he was established as the prophet in Israel, it says, "in Samuel let none of his words fall to the ground." Samuel was like one of those unshaved soldiers getting that change that hit the floor. When you really want the Bible and you really want the Word of God, nothing hits the floor. This will be some good stuff.

Last week we talked about loving the Word of God is taking and applying and submitting yourself to all of the Word of God. We have a tendency, all of us, to want to pick and choose what we want to do. I have seen men and women, girls and guys, I have seen them come and I have seen them get disciplined over the years, not only here but all through my ministry. They

begin to grow, they seem to. They get involved, they learn the truth, they hear the truth. They put notes in their Bible. Oh, it is God. It is God. Well, I am glad that you got your Bible. Along with it then, we show some of the greatest Bible writing pens you ever saw in your life in the bookstore. They put notes in their Bible. They hear all the same stuff that you do.

I get it. They want to have a relationship. Every single girl wants to get married. Every single guy wants to get married. Well, I get it. They have heard all the examples. They have been to all the studies. They have looked at all the verses, all the chapters, all the right ways to find the spot. They have been through 1 Corinthians 7. They understand Genesis 24. They have been through 2 Corinthians 6:14 and those verses. How many times, in many cases, they have already had a bad relationship doing it their way? How many times have they had one marriage failed or two marriages failed by going their own way? Sometimes they have had kids and they have never been married. So the kids have got to get raised up in a bad scenario without a solid father-mother relationship. They have been through those things.

You would think, or at least you would hope, that they would learn that that way of life is a dead end street. But in time, and we have all seen it. I have seen it more times than I want to admit. But in time, they will go right back to the old relationship format and just walk away from the clear truth right back into a mess. I have seen it all my life, and I have never really understood it. I mean, I do, but it puzzles me.

Along with that, I have seen God's people. I have seen them want what they want so badly, they did not even care if God was in it or not. I was having a revival down in Alabama years ago, and the people were so into the Word of God that they wanted to have a Bible study afterwards. So I preached for an hour and 15 minutes and then had a two-hour Bible study after that, and the place was packed. Somebody asked me a question, and I forget where it was, and I answered it, and there was an educated college, Bible college guy in the deal. He took issue with what I said. So for the next 45 minutes, I just went through the scriptures, and he did not have any place to go. He made one of the greatest statements that I have ever heard a man make that proves my point. He looked at his friend after getting his rear end kicked for about 40 minutes. He looked at his friend and he said, "I do not care what the Bible says. I know what I believe."

I thought to myself, that is it right there. You want to believe something. You want to do something so badly that you just do not care what the Bible says about it. We rationalize our situations. We think, I will tell you what our problem is. Every one of us has a tendency, and we all have to watch this. Every one of us has the tendency to think that we are the exception to the rule. And off they go. Here is the funny thing. Do not tell me God does not have a sense of humor. Just look in the mirror. They are not satisfied with where they are at or what God has given them.

In 1 Timothy 6:6, this is chump change again. Get on the floor and get it.

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

They are not satisfied with it. So they think that if they get what they want, that will satisfy them. When they do, it does not. They are still not happy. They are still not satisfied. It just never works out the way you think it should when you try to work it out around the Word of God instead of through the Word of God. I have a headline for you: it will never work out right when you plan it. Here is why. Here is the verse. We are not there yet. This verse shows us great insight into what I just showed you and why it will never work out for you or for me, no matter how we try to rationalize or justify it.

III. Laboring for Self vs. God

Verse 26 says simply this: "He that laboreth laboreth for himself."

Proverbs 16:26

He that laboreth laboreth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

You are not doing it for God. You are doing it for yourself. You are not doing it His way. You are doing it your way. The Bible says in Psalm 127:1:

Psalm 127:1

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

You see, we just bring God into it with our lips and our mouth so we can convince either ourselves or somebody else that we are really legitimate. I am going to tell you, learn this truth: there are people who only view what they do for God as to what they can get out of it for themselves. That is a sad thing to say about God's people, but it is absolutely true. I am speaking to them if they are listening on the Skype today or wherever or here, even here today. People, ministry, your life is not about what God wants. You have manipulated the verses. You have manipulated the principles. You have cut up the teaching. You have taken what you want and left the rest so we could just do whatever we wanted to do, and then we give God the glory for it.

I talked about people ministry. One of the things that we have done, and I told you this last week, and I am looking for a bumper crop this year. Where we are at, we have got the people in the right place. We are going to go over the top of this thing this year. But we came through and I brought them from Genesis all the way up where we are at in 2 Chronicles, 1 Chronicles, and I showed them the examples in the Bible. This example of this is found over there in Genesis 27 with Jacob who deceived his father Isaac over Esau to get the blessing.

You know the story. It is a classic motto of what we do when we want what we want the way we want it and we do not want to do it God's way. He wants the blessing. He wants the birthright. You know what the irony is of that story? He would have gotten it anyhow. But oh no, no. It is a picture of you and me. We do not want to wait on God because we want it our way. So him and his mama, they concoct this story and she says, "Put on this goat skin because your brother is a hairy man. Your daddy likes the venison that he gets. I am such a good cook. I will take goat meat and I will make it taste like venison. While your brother is out there trying to get a deer,

you will bring it in to him, deceive him, tell him that you are Esau. Do not let him know that you are Jacob," and Jacob means schemer by the way. "And you can scheme around the whole thing. You can short circuit everything, get the blessing and the birthright by deception, and I will show you how to do it."

Now a deception is a bad thing. I do not like deceptive people. Neither do you probably. But it is even worse when you bring God into your deception. What you know as a Christian for you to pull off your deception based on Proverbs 16, that is what you have got to do. You ever see our story? Here it is. Here is Jacob putting on a goat skin or whatever it was, all wool and hairy. His mama comes in, she made this stuff, put in enough spices to make this goat meat taste like venison. So he comes in, says, "Daddy? I have got some of that venison you like, Daddy." And he says, "Who are you?" She said, "Daddy, I am Esau." And Daddy, he is not sure. He basically says, "See Daddy, feel me, I am how hairy I am. It is Esau, your son. And I brought you some of your favorite food, venison." That was a lie. One, it was not Esau. Two, it was not venison.

But it gets better because you have got to bring God into it as a Christian when you want to throw out a deception to make it look legit, because most of God's people, do not take this wrong, are so stupid they do not have understanding and wisdom to understand when it is a deception. So he comes in there. Now the old man is not quite sure. The old man, he says, "Well, son, that is wonderful, but I have a question. You just left about 30, 40 minutes ago. How did you find that deer so quickly?" You know what he says? "Daddy, praise the Lord. God brought that deer right to me. I do not know what to tell you. God is so good. God is so great. Boy, Daddy, I was in that, I did not even get to the deer stand, Daddy. That deer came up and stood up and said, 'Shoot me right here.'" You see what he had to do to pull off the deception? He had to put God in it.

I have known people that thought because they put "church" over their name that it was a good place. I have had people that, as long as the word "Christian" is associated with it, it has got to be okay. Oh, man. Let me tell you something. Some of the greatest deceptions I ever saw in my life or ever had to deal with would just have Bible verses all through them because that is what people do. As a Christian, you cannot pull off a deception without putting God into it. You know why? Because if you do not, everybody knows it is a deception.

You know there are no such things as magicians. It is all sleight of hand. I would love to do magic and be a magician. I think it is the coolest thing in the world. I go down to the plaza sometimes and there is that big heavy guy with a weird clown suit with big turned up shoes. He is a great boy. He can do those things. He will take the air and he will pull things out of your ear. The other hand he is pulling and you are walking out. I look at that and I thought, you know what? It looks like it is magic, but it is not. What they do is they get you looking at this so you do not see what they are doing here, and you think it is magic, but it is nothing but misdirection. When a Christian wants to pull off a deception, he will bring God in it to get you to look over here so you do not see what he is doing over here. That is wisdom and understanding based on the Word of God through the principle. That is why I am teaching you people these things in people ministry. You have to learn them. You have to learn them.

I have seen this all my life with pastors and churches and Christians. This is why people today do not trust churches and do not trust pastors. They are not even good magicians. They have lost all the vision of God in their life and their true calling to invest in people one on one, as I said last week in Proverbs 31, planting a vineyard one tree at a time.

Here comes your first \$10 million. I do not know why you are moving now. You should have been all over the floor picking up all this loose change I just knocked out of this Bible. Instead, the vision becomes their own delusion of grandeur, of building their dream, whatever that may be, a monument to them.

➤ 1.) Instead of teaching and training the people and sending them out to the world system to reach them for Christ, they will turn their own churches into a world system and then enslave the people to pay for it.

You have that going on all around this world. Now here is your second \$10 million. These two are close together. They go together, but I want to give you a lot of money today so I am splitting them up.

➤ 2.) You build buildings to the glory of man. You build people to the glory of God.

That is the way it works. When we were home in Canton last week, I do not know if you know this, but Canton, Ohio was the birthplace of William McKinley, the 25th president of the United States. He was first term and just like a year or so into his second term, he went to the New York State Fair, I think it was in Buffalo in 1901, and he was assassinated. As any hometown, he was the hometown child, they built a humongous monument to him. It has got his library right there. You could be driving down the freeway and look over there and sticking up out of those trees is the dome of that humongous great monument. In fact, we were coming up from someplace down south and Danny and Jamie were riding with Sweetie and Benny, Barb's sister, down there and coming up there, and you could see it coming through the trees. Benny, he is always the tour guide. He is saying, "Now there is," because my kids had never really seen it before, he is pointing out over there and saying, "There is McKinley's monument." Jamie says, "Wow, does he still live there?" Yeah, he still lives there. So we went over there a couple days later and I went out to step, he has got about 500 steps to go up, and I am banging on the door to see if he is still there. There he was.

You build buildings to the glory of man, and a lot of churches today are like McKinley's monument. When you go into McKinley's monument or any monument, I do not know why this is. They build them so everything you can say, "Drake, how are you?" and it echoes through the whole thing. It is sound design. So everybody wants to be respectful. So everybody whispers. When they close the door, it sounds like somebody just fell off a 20-story building. Everything is amplified. So it is almost like this is a place, a burial. This is a memorial. Let us be quiet. Why? He is not going to care. But it echoes. I think that is good. How many times do you get John 3:16 out in a place that echoes? But that is the way it is a monument, and people are respectful because there are dead people there. So they want to be quiet. So when you go to these great

churches that are monuments, nothing but dead people there. Everybody talks holy. Everybody talks quiet. Everybody talks the right talk, but it is filled with dead people.

You know what I love about you here? You are alive. You laugh. You have fun. We laugh at ourselves. Nobody gets too uptight about it. We make jokes and fun of ourselves. Everybody says something to somebody and we just laugh about it. Nobody takes it personal. We have fun. You know why? Because that is what God's house is supposed to be. It is supposed to be a place where we laugh. We cry. We praise the Lord. We excite. We love each other. Somebody gets married or gets engaged. We are happy. Somebody dies. We are sad with you. Everywhere in between, we laugh. We have fun things. We do goofy things and we enjoy each other. That is life.

I told you last week, I learned it many, many years ago, two kinds of churches: a work of God that is for God's glory with the emphasis on people, and a work for God that is to man's glory and the emphasis is on things.

IV. Developing a Spiritual Appetite

Now look at the last part of verse 26. The first part says, "He that laboureth laboureth for himself." But then it says, "for his mouth craveth it of him." That is an incredible choice of words. I love looking at words in the Bible the way they are used. I have learned some of the greatest principles of life from the Bible by just looking how the Holy Spirit of God uses words. That is an incredible choice of words because it forces us to stop and think about what is your craving for today? Is your craving for the things of God that God puts you in? Or is your craving for the things of yourself that you put God in? The craving of the mouth, that is appetite. Either developing an appetite for the things of God or developing an appetite for the things of the world or the things that you want.

What do you like to eat? I love to eat. My favorite verse is back there, and I think it is in 1 Kings with Elisha where the angel says, "Elisha, rise and eat." I am in. I mean, I like to know what I am eating ahead of time. We have a party, somebody is having a party or we are having a get together or marriage as you know, and they always have a marriage dinner there. I will ask, "What do we have to eat?" I am not doing that to be rude. My wife thinks I am rude by doing that. But I do not do that to be rude. Honestly, I do not. I do that because I like to eat and I like to think about all day long what I am going to have that night. I crave some things. Man, out there at the few yesterday, those hot dogs were absolutely great. Those hamburgers were great. There is nothing better than a good hot dog on a grill or a hamburger on a grill.

I like going over to Bob and Lorena. Lorena is a great cook, and Lorena never gets mad. She will say, "We are having a get together, why do not you come over?" Lorena, I would always ask you what we are having. She will get mad. She will say, "We are having spaghetti." I love her spaghetti. I can only eat spaghetti once a year because of my health issues. I eat it once a year, but when I eat it, I get over my face and I eat it. I carry it with me for a week. She makes the best spaghetti on the planet. She will say, "I am having spaghetti." You know what, sometimes she does, she says, "What would you want me to do?" I will think about that all day long. Somebody

will call me on the phone and say, "I am leaving the church, I am mad." I do not care. I am having Lorena's spaghetti night. See you later.

What do you like to eat? What is your appetite for? Norbert is a great cook. We have got some great men that can cook in our church. You know that? Norbert is a great cook. I mean, I tell you what, his chili, it will give you so much gas the Arabs will be following you around all day long. But I will tell you what, he is a great cook. Steve Bracken is a great cook. Steve Bracken can take, he takes a dead squirrel out of a tree. Skins it, wraps it up in tin foil, sticks it with barbecue sauce, throws it in the fire for two or three hours, pulls it out. You would think you are at Ruth Chris' steakhouse. I like to eat. I like wings. I like bean dip. I like baked beans, barbecued chicken. I crave some things when it comes to eating.

In life, in a spiritual sense, there are some things you ought to have an appetite for and you ought to crave. You ought to crave the things of God over the things of the world. Bible talks about being a hungry soul, having a hungry soul. Man, I mean when you fall in love with God and the Word of God, that is what you ought to have. You ought to have a hungry soul. I was telling you this morning about the story about those guys that hit that lady and all the change went over the ground. But they were hungry for money. When you are hungry for the Word of God, not one word of it drops to the ground. That is what I am trying to get across to you.

When it comes to the world, the appetite that we develop, and it comes to the Word of God and the appetite we develop, in both cases it is not natural. God's original purpose was for man and God's creating him was for man to have perfect fellowship with God. But you do not just wake up some morning and love the things of God. You realize you have got to develop an appetite for God's things?

At the same time, some of you guys used to drink booze. Some of you guys probably still do. Let me tell you something. You know this is true. I have never been a drinker. I just never did. When I was in the Army, I used to go, they used to go up to the PX, all the guys would drink beer. I went to the Army and I wanted to be one of the guys, but I never drank. I was the only guy that could buy one beer and make it last for three days. I walk around and spit it back in. God, it tastes terrible. Somebody say, "You need another one, Bob?" "No, I am good." "Well, you had that?" "No, this is my third one." "Well, you are still on your feet." "Yeah, I can handle my liquor." I go to the restroom, pour a little bit out, come back. "Yeah, I need another one." "Oh, that is good." You know this is true. Those of you that like to drink beer, you know beer is the worst tasting stuff you ever tasted in your life the first time you tasted it. Some of you guys down the line are gouged too. You really like it after 10 or 20 years of it, but you know what? You had to develop a taste for it.

The first time you took a big old shot of vodka or whiskey, your body was telling you, "This does not fit in here." Your lungs were on fire. Your kidneys were on fire. Your belly was on fire. Your throat was on fire. Your eyes watered. Everybody else is standing around saying, "What is wrong with you?" I will tell you what is wrong with you. They develop a taste for it. The first time you put that godless stuff in your body, your body told you it was not made for this. You had to work at it. You had to develop a taste for it. You think these guys can drink up there and all this stuff

and he has been drinking all that, binge drinking and all this stuff that they drink and all the stuff that they put in there and some of the stuff that they get. I am going to tell you something. It did not start out that way. If they would have spent as many years and months developing an appetite for the things of God as they did for the booze, they would turn the world upside down.

I have never been a smoker. But the same thing. I hung out with an army of smoke. So you had to pretend you did. I have got to be honest with you. This is confession time. I have got to tell you, way back in the day, I thought it was the coolest thing in the world to take in smoke and then blow it out your nose. Oh, that was neat. That was almost as neat to me as a car alongside the road, not starting. A guy pulled up and there is a little girl there saying, "My car will not start." He looks up in the hood and he says, "Got a screwdriver?" She handed him a screwdriver. He sticks it down inside there and says, "Try it now, hon." Off she goes. God, I love that. To me, that is power. I would not confess this to anybody. I tried that one time in my driveway. I burnt the end of that screwdriver off, burnt my elbows. I will tell you what. There is a way you do it. I never figured it out, but I am an envy of you guys who can do that. Oh, I love it too. "Try it now. All right, darling, it is running."

Now watch those guys. I am thinking, oh man, that is cool stuff. Let me tell you something. My first cigarette, I did not want to embarrass myself because I did not like beer. You cannot double sinker it down the toilet. You have got it. It is there burning, man. So I got one of them on my own, got behind the barracks one time. I thought you just took it in and it just came out. I died. I was on my knees, gagging. I am just glad everybody else was someplace else and did not see it. I mean, I took that big one, man. You know, I mean, if I am going to do it out the door, man, and I just... It did not come out my nose. That was 40 years ago. I have not seen it since. Do not you know the first time you did that, your body said, "Hey, God did not..." The only people God ever intended to have smoke in their lungs were people in hell. They have got to work at that. I tried everything. I tried this. And then blow it out slow, but also blow it out through your nose like it is coming up. I choked on doing that.

When it comes to the things of the world, you have to work at it. It is not natural for you because God originally created you to have fellowship with Him. That is not natural either. That is something you have got to work at. You know the grossest thing on the planet to me? And I have never tried this. Never would. It was that stuff they put in there. I know. See, ladies, how would you like to go home from a date and have a guy kiss you goodnight? You coming up? I think inside of his mouth just came into my... And the big cool thing is that can right there. See? Why, you work your jeans when you wash it with an empty can in so you get a kind of a mark around there so everybody knows, oh, he has got one of them cans. And you are out there, you know, you see him. What good is that? You put that goblet stuff in your... Hey. I have watched and studied this for years. I followed these people around. When they spit it out, do you realize that when you put that stuff in your mouth, when you are done with it, do you understand that flies will not land on that? Have you ever seen what flies do land on?

Now, when it comes to the Bible, you have to develop a taste for it. It is not natural. That is why people say, "Oh, the Bible, yeah, it is so boring." Sure it is because you have not developed a taste for it. "Well, you know, the Bible is so dry. I start to read it and fall asleep." Sure you do.

You have no taste for it. "Well, you know, all those these and thous, you know, I just..." Yeah, sure. You never develop... I had a guy one time, he said, "Well, that Bible, you know, I just... It is so archaic and out of touch with time." I said, "What are you talking about?" He said, "My wife was reading it the other day and she asked me a question. She was reading back in the Old Testament and she said, it said in there that this person was to tell the number. And she said, she asked me what that meant." I said, "I do not know." And I said, "Well, it means to count the number." And the old English phrase, "to tell the number" was to count the number, count it up. He says, "Well, see, that is so out of touch with time." I said, "Oh, really?" I said, "You have got a sister, do not you?" He said, "Yeah." I said, "Where does she work?" "She worked down here at First National Bank." I said, "What does she do?" "She is a teller." You see, it is archaic when it is in the Bible, but when you go to the bank, you go to a bank teller. You know what a bank teller does? Thank you very much. People are nuts.

You know what the problem is? They are not bad people. They just never developed an appetite for the things of God. You have got to work at it. Over there in John 2, a great picture of what is coming where Jesus turned the water to wine where every wino and everybody wants to justify drinking. He says, "Well, you see there, Jesus turned the water to wine." When you read the chapter, you realize that when the guy in the wedding drank that wine, he said, "Man, everybody else puts out the good wine first and then there is your taste buds and you get a little wacky, they put out the old wine. You have got the greatest wine. I have never tasted anything like this." You know what Jesus did? That is John 2 at the end of the third day. That is a picture of the second coming of Christ. That wedding there is a picture of the wedding, Mary supper of the lamb and the wedding feast. He gave them a supernatural taste of the wine that you and I are going to drink in that day. The guy said, "I have never tasted anything like this." No, and I will tell you something else. Most of you have never tasted anything like this either, brother. Get your foot off my foot. Great stuff.

That Bible is likened to apples in Proverbs 7. When I was a kid, we used to jump the fence and steal apples. You do not have to steal these apples, and they are the greatest things on the planet. Psalm 119 says the Bible is like honey. You do not have to get stung by the bees or wear a special suit to get it. Hebrews 5:12 says it is like meat. You do not have to be like Jacob and go out and feign it. It is right there. Doctrine. Luke 4:4, it is likened to bread. 1 Peter 2 it is likened to milk. John 4 it is likened to water. Psalm 7 it is likened to vegetables.

God knows that we like to eat, so the focus of the rapture is a marriage and then a banquet. Ladies, you know what heaven is to you? Heaven is a place where you can eat whatever you want, as much as you want, and never gain a pound. No big boned angels in heaven.

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

You have got to work at learning how to enjoy this book. That is what is wrong with you. You do not enjoy it because you never worked at it. You never developed the taste. Oh boy, you have got a good taste of the world in your mouth. You see salvation is simply this. It is not complicated. When you get saved, it takes a while to discipleship one, discipleship two, to prayer group, coming and going, getting out of the world, leaving them all, coming to here, getting involved, getting into it, and you only get out of something what you put into it. But what you are doing is you are getting the taste of the world out of your mouth. It is real simple. Today, which one do you crave? What is your appetite for? In either case, you have to work at developing a taste for them. Honestly, when you get a taste of the heavenly Word of God, the manna from heaven, you will never go back to the crop of this old world again. You say you should not use the word "crop." It is better than the word that I wanted to use.

You see your labor has been for yourself. Now because we have picked and chosen out of the Bible what we want, we have developed the wrong appetite, and oh we want to eat the manna of heaven, but we want a couple of side dishes from the filthiness of the world. So many of God's people, like the early Gnostics of the second and third century, they took the Word of God and added their Greek and Roman philosophy, what they believed, to add it to the Word of God and wound up destroying the Word of God. They wanted to make the Bible say what they really believed while still maintaining the integrity of the Bible. God's people do the same thing today. They just add to it, cut out what they do not like, do not fit their own personal agenda of being a Christian. It is the same exact thing.

V. Digging Up Evil vs. Seeking Scripture

Now look at verse 27 here. "An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire."

Proverbs 16:27

An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.

Now the verse has been used to preach against smoking many, many times over the years, you know, burning fire in a man's lips, all that stuff. But in reality, in the context here, it is talking about what comes out of a man's mouth when he will not get God's wisdom and God's understanding in time, the fire being problems. I like the word "diggeth." There is another one of them words, "diggeth up evil." Boy, we sure do. It is like a dog. Men are like the dogs in the Bible. I want to save people. If you ever had a dog in the backyard, he just digs holes everywhere.

I tried to be nice on a nice day one time and put my two labs out in the backyard, thought they would just walk around and have a good time and enjoy the sun. I am in there watching television, next thing on the TV goes off. I walk around the back, they are sitting, I know something is up, dirt all over their face gives the first indication. I walk up there and I said to Buddy, "What are you?" Dirt all over his paws and I walk around and hold that, that cable, television cable was buried 12 inches down. How he knew it was down there, I do not know. He dug that thing out, chewed that cable in half. Not him in trouble, just like digging a hole in life

will get you in trouble. You dig something out, it is never a good connotation about it. You dig something out of the ground, earth, the world.

Amos 9:2 says somebody dug themselves into hell. Proverbs 26:27 says somebody dug a pit and somebody fell in it. Exodus 21 and Job 3 talk about digging a pit and finding death. Job 6 says you dig a pit for your friend when you want to deceive them. When it comes to the Bible, I want you to know this, and I know how we use words, but when it comes to the Bible from a Bible standpoint, in a biblical sense, you never dig for anything in the Bible.

➤ 3.) You seek and you search the scriptures, you pray over them, you study them, but you never dig anything out of the Bible.

You know why? Because it is laying all around you. In Exodus 16, when God brought the manna to the nation of Israel, typing the Word of God, while they were sleeping, the Bible says it rained down like the hoarfrost and was all over the ground. In the morning when they woke up, they put the tent flap back right where they were. They did not have to dig for anything. Right there all around them was the manna from heaven. All they had to do was pick it up. When God gave you that book, He brought it right to where you are. He put it right in your lap. You do not have to dig a thing. It is right on the surface like walking into a gold field where all the gold is on top. All you have to do is pick it up.

Now here is your fourth \$10 million. This is the greatest verse in the Bible. Bar none. The greatest verse on the Bible of how you are going to learn that book if you are going to get it.

➤ 4.) Luke 24:45

Luke 24:45

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.

I tell you something. Unless God opens up your understanding, you are never going to get a thing out of that book. You will dig and you will dig and you will dig in the Greek. You will dig in the Hebrew. You will dig everywhere there is to go until God opens up your understanding. You will never get a thing out of that book. He has to be the author of your understanding and you have to get it His way, not your way. You have to come to that book as it is. Not as a word of man, but as it is in truth, the Word of God which effectually worketh also in you that believe. It is just that simple.

When a man picks and chooses what he will take out of the Bible, the man in our context here, it will cause two things to happen. Now here is your fifth \$10 million, we are up to \$40 million. You want to remember this. When a man or a woman, anybody wants to pick and choose out of the book what they want to do and do not want to develop the right attitude and appetite for the Word of God, two things will happen.

➤ 5.) First of all, he, the man, has to pretend not to see the truth.

Now I am not talking about somebody who just got, I am talking about somebody who has been around for a while, who has been in the Bible, who wants to do what they want to do and justify

it, and when they step outside the Word of God, that person has to pretend not to see the truth. He has probably heard it preached a hundred times in his life, but now he pretends not to see it. That should bother you.

➤ 6.) Here is the second thing. When people follow him and his ways, they too will have to pretend that he is okay and go along with the Bible he rejects.

That should really bother you. I have seen it time and time again. People who pick and choose what they hold and will gather others around them that do the same thing, and what a mess you have.

VI. The Froward Man and Separation

Now look at verse 28, last verse here, and boy a good one. "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends."

Proverbs 16:28

A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

Now the word "froward" here is another great word. It is an old English word. It comes out of Saxon origin, the old Saxon, Anglo-Saxon concept. It means not to follow the right way. We have the word "forward," which means we go forward. This word is "froward," for, going this way, fro, from. In other words, somebody who is froward is going the wrong way, going from the right way, going the wrong way, going against the established principles of the Word of God in our text here. Remember, what seems right is not always right.

Now here comes our sixth \$10 million, bringing us up to \$50 million. You have a great principle here, and you never want to forget this one.

➤ 7.) When God does something, when God legitimately does something, it is never done in secret.

Let that soak in for a minute. When God does something and He is the author of something, it is never done in secret. It is never done behind closed doors. It is never done behind someone's back. It is never a secret plan that you or a couple of people put together and then tell everybody what God is doing.

Acts 26:26

For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

When Paul was before King Agrippa and Festus, he is defending what he believes. You know what he said about the Gospel? He says, "King Agrippa," he says, "you have heard me talk about the Lord Jesus Christ. You have heard me talk about the Gospel. I have preached it all my life. Is this some secret thing to you, King Agrippa? You know it is not. This thing was not done in a corner."

The greatest principle you will ever learn is when God is in something, God never does it secretly. He never gets a little group together to make it happen.

➤ 8.) Here is your seventh \$10 million, up to \$60 million now. In other words, when God truly moves and does something, it will never cause strife within the body of Christ.

You see that? When God does it, He does it right. He does it openly. He does it simply because that is how God works, always through the body of Christ, never behind the body of Christ, never around the body of Christ. He always does what He does through the body of Christ. It is never a secret plan. It is never a secret little thing that comes to light. It is never somebody coming to the place where they do it behind closed doors. God does what He does through the body and it never causes strife. It is man when he wants to pretend he is right and goes about it in a froward way that causes strife.

VII. God's Work vs. Man's Work

When God does something, it is not done by man's doing. It is done by God doing. God establishes somebody and then works through what that man has done, but never works through the man himself, always through what he does.

I was putting this message together this week and I was thinking of so many of you. I could not stand up here and have a list of 50 people. I thought about it and I came to the conclusion of using the example of one guy who really represents so many of you. This guy everybody will totally understand and agree in a heartbeat. I do not say this to glorify him, but he represents so many of you. I do not want you to miss my point because I am making a point here. The guy I thought about this week that really represents so many of you is old Gary Potter.

Gary, just like so many of you, is an unsung hero of this church. He has a full-time job and yet I do not ever know of a time that he is not doing something for somebody. He buys and sells old cars, new cars, whatever cars he is in, whatever car business deals. He travels all over the place. He has got all the vehicles for towing cars, picking up cars. He has got one of them flat back, break back, broke back, whatever they call him. They pull the car up on it. You are out of someplace at 3 o'clock in the morning and your car breaks down, you can call Gary. Gary has never been a time when Gary said, "I cannot do it." I have never seen a time when your car breaks down, 3 o'clock, you do not call Gary. Restart food, got to get down, call Gary. He goes to Hy-Vee at 4 o'clock in the morning to beat the other people there so they come and take our food. You know what I do? Let him take the food. I go buy two packs of Twinkies and tell the preacher this is all they had. He will get up at 4 o'clock in the morning, go to Hy-Vee down here on the road, get the stuff before the other churches come in and steal our stuff. That is all about. I know where you are from.

He used to go to Panera. When Panera donated his stuff, two Paneras. One on Saturday. What do you do every Saturday night at 9 o'clock? How would you like to be? Go to Panera to load up your stuff with bakery stuff. Then on Wednesday night at 9 o'clock, have to go to the other

Panera. Every time, every week, you have got to be there. Call Gary. His favorite phrase is, "I have got it covered." The skeet shoot yesterday. He had to leave town. I said, "Gary, I am going to work with the gals. We are going to kind of get it." I said, "I have got it covered. I have got it covered." He takes some of you young guys and mentors you and shows you how to hunt and how to shoot. Make sure you are out and do what you like to do. You never know that he is even here. He kind of just moves between the raindrops. He is what every pastor, and I have got so many of you like that. I say, I am not just picking on him. I am using him to illustrate a point about so many of you. He is my go-to guy. And so many of you are.

But do not miss my point. I did not say all that to puff him up because he represents so many of you. But here is where I am confused. I cannot ever remember giving him that job. I cannot ever remember sitting down with Gary, "I want you to do this. You do this, you do this, you do this, you do this." I do not ever remember him coming in and sitting down with me and saying, "Bob, I am going to do this, I am going to do this, I am going to do this, I am going to do this." God just raised him up in the midst of this body. He looked around, and when you had a need, he put what he had to do aside. You call me at 3 o'clock in the morning, I will give you the number for AAA. You call him, he said, "I am on my way." You are sitting out there in the middle of the night, nowhere, and he is nervous, and all of a sudden you see this big thing coming down the road. It is Gary.

But I do not ever remember him coming in and making an appointment and saying, "Bob, I am going to do this, I am going to do this, I am going to do this, I am going to do this." God just raised him up in our midst, and he responded to what he saw. He bought into what we are doing. He saw you, all of you, not as just church people, but as the people that he loves. It is like so many of you do. He looked around and he saw a need and he said to himself, he never came to me. It would have spoiled it if he would have come to me. He just got up one morning through the process of his own spiritual growth, looked around him and he said, "You know what, this needs to be done, I am going to do it." And I woke up one morning and bang, there he was. I am sitting there scratching my head saying, "Who told him that?"

I watched some of you up in Lincoln or some of you when you do your stuff here, or you will go up to Lincoln. Bob was up to Lincoln here for some other thing totally related and an opportunity opened up. He just saw the need and walked into it. Being able to see around you, you know kids, there are some things I cannot teach you about ministry. Do you know that? There are some things that I cannot get from me into you. Oh, I can do some things and do some, but there are some things about the ministry and serving God and loving people and putting your life with them that I simply cannot give you. God has got to give you that. But you do not get that by picking and choosing what and who you want to be friends with. You do not get that by picking and choosing what you want to take out of the Word of God. You just simply say, "God, here I am, I am so stupid, I do not know anything, I am so dumb, I do not even suspect anything, I just take me and use me." And then you just go to work.

You know what happens without God putting a spotlight on you walking into church. Through the dirty little things that nobody else wants to do, God said, "If you are faithful in the little things, I will make you rule over many things." And there you are. There he is. There you are.

There you are. There you are. Woke up some morning, there you are. I say, "What is going on?" "Well, Bob, we decided to do this because this was going this way." "Oh, okay, good. Good. Good deal." You grew up in this body. Through this body, God taught you what I could not teach you. The love for the person sitting next to you and extending yourself to them to say, "You know what, you need something? Here I am."

I am telling you.

➤ 9.) Here is your eighth \$10 million, \$70 million. When God is in something, you do not make it happen. God makes it happen.

He does not tell anybody. He does not prepare the road for the great Bob Alexander. He does not put out press releases ahead of time. You just go in there, boy, and go to work and put your nose to the grindstone and do the work of God. One day, you will wake up and, boy, God has got you right in the middle of what God wants you to do. Everybody around you knows you have been established. That is how He does it.

VIII. The Whisperer and Separation

Here is your ninth \$10 million. Last part of the verse. The last part says, "a whisperer separateth chief friends."

Now this is a great one here because I want to tell you something and I want you to learn this because when you see it, I want you to know it is not real. When God is in something, it will never separate the family of God. It will only pull them together. God does not do things in the body of Christ that separates them. When God is in something and God is doing something in somebody's life within the body, it does not separate people. It pulls them together. When it is of God, it will never put a child of God in a position to have to choose between one or the other. Never will. When it is of God, really it will never cause strife in the body by making you pick one side versus the other. God does not work that way. Man works that way.

When God does it, He pulls everybody together to do it because it has been established in the body and everybody in the body knows what is happening. When man does it, it will always be done behind closed doors and will cause issues because God is not in it. It has never been established through the body, but the guy or the gal just wanted it, manipulated the Bible to be able to get it. Now you are forced into a situation to choose between friendship and the Bible because the verse says, "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends."

In my years of ministry, I have lost a lot of friends over this very principle. It can be tough, let me assure you, because you love them and you were their friend. But I follow my own principles and here is your last one, number nine. It brings us up to the total of \$90 million.

➤ 10.) I never take it personal. I never let my love for my friends separate me from my love for the Word of God.

You cannot either. The mark of you being a strong, established child of God is taking a stand even against somebody that may be or have been your friend when the Bible is clear on where you are at with it. That does not mean you do it nastily. It does not mean you do it mean. It just simply means you take your stand. Life is about the choices we make. You can take what you want. It is fine with me. I will stay with the book. It has got me this far, all of it. It will get me the rest of the way.

You see, it is not me leaving you. It is you leaving the book that you claim to love and believe. The Bible simply says in Amos 3:3:

Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Funniest thing in the world to me, because when you get to this point, you lose your perspective. Funniest thing in the world to me is to have somebody want to do something on their own. Now suddenly they are right, 300 people are wrong. That is the way it goes. But that is the delusion that a man or a woman gets into. That is what happens. If my standing by that book separates us, then let God be true and every man a liar, because I have to stay with the book. I love you very much. I love you more than you probably ever know, but I will never love you more than the book that I love, the Word of God. It is just that simple. I love all of it, not just the part that works for me, because I developed an appetite and I got a hungry soul for it. My appetite has been developed at a place where it is the only thing I want to eat anymore. When it comes to my book, you will go your way and I will go mine. No hard feelings.

IX. Conclusion: Living Off Spiritual Interest

Now there are these practical principles that will keep you in life and keep you focused. Remember, at the beginning, that was the number one thing that we talked about that you and I have to do, keep our focus. What I just gave you, if you would try to buy that kind of wisdom, it would cost you in excess of way over \$90 million. What I would do if I were you, I would take that kind of money and I would put it in the bank, the treasury of my heart. Add these things to your mouth and to your lips by adding them to your faith. The bank of the great principles of God's Word for the rest of your life to live off the interest.

If somebody gave you a million dollars, a million dollars sounds like a lot of money. It really is not a lot of money in the day that we live in today. The fool would spend it all and be gone and have nothing to show for it. The wise man would take it and make good investments and would never touch the principal and figure out a life that would be just living off the interest. That is what you do with the Bible. That is what you do with what I give you today. That is what I do with what I give you on Thursday night and I give you every time we are together. That is not just principles, they are cash coupons. You take them and you take them and you put them in the bank of your heart.

This is what I am talking about that you will never, never, never, never have to work ever again in Christianity. You will never have to work at solving a problem. You will never have to work at

dealing with an issue. You will not wear yourself out beating your head against the wall about some circumstance that you have to deal with. You know why? The principles are already in your heart. They will do the work for you. They will tell you explicitly what you are to do and how you are to deal with it. You just follow the interest that you put in the bank, and it will compound the order that you get. You put that million dollars in the bank, get three or four percent interest on it, in 20 years, you have got all kinds of money. You know what? You take that Word of God week after week, hide it in your heart, after 10 or 15 years, you have got all kinds of spiritual principles. You have got God's wisdom and understanding by which you can make every decision in life by looking at it and seeing it from God's standpoint and never letting it happen to get involved with it ever again. You just sit back, look at the book, look at the principles, allow what you put in your heart to do the work for you. Instead of you getting involved and getting your emotions in it, you just take the principles and follow what they say. Let the Bible do the work for you. That is what the Bible is for. That is what this church is all about. What I try to do, number one in my life and my goal, is to help you get to that point where you look at everything in life and see it.

Proverbs 16 is an incredible chapter. It deals with so many issues that we all face about people who want to pretend to do what God wants them to do, who give the illusion like Jacob of bringing God into their deception. The Bible says there is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death, and not everything that appears to be right is always right. We will hold up there and we will be in Proverbs 16, maybe finish up next week.

Let us have a word of prayer. Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We love you. Thank you for all you do for us. We pray, Father, now your blessings upon us and take these things that we have talked about today. Give us wisdom and insight into all that we endeavor to do for thee. We will thank you and praise you. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Listen, we are running a little late this morning, so I am not going to have the meeting. Everybody knows where they are supposed to be. The team leaders come back to the bookstore. I will get you your tracks. If anybody is going out and wants to be put on a team, come back to my table and see me and I will get you. But everybody be down there, ready to go at 2:30. People that restart at quarter to three and everybody be out by five. Do not forget the mission tonight and I will see you back at my table. God bless you. God bless you.