

Proverbs 17

Sunday 9/25/2016

One of our young people came up and presented the devotion that they are doing up there, laying out and trying to help those kids. It is an incredible thing. Kids get down here from Lincoln. As they come down on a regular basis, we will have one of those kids get up and do it also. It is just a great thing. It is something that you, as parents, really want to get your kids involved in. Everything will help them be what they need to be more than helping them get in a real comfortable mode with teaching and laying out the Word of God. That was a great job. Thank you very much.

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want you to turn to Proverbs 17. As you know, we have been in the Book of Proverbs for quite a while now, working our way through it. Last week, we saw how the Book of Proverbs fits doctrinally and to us inspirationally. We are kind of going back and forth showing you. I have told you many, many times, and most people really go through their whole lives and never understand this one crucial aspect of the Bible. That is that the Bible will fill three gaps for you. It will provide three things for you.

When God made time, He made time in a three-point process: past, present, and future. He gave us the Bible that follows that same three-point process. Your Bible is going to have a historical application to it; that is something that actually took place in history. It is going to have what we call a doctrinal application that will relate to something in prophecy in the future. Much of your Bible is that. Then, of course, the Bible is going to have an application for now, your everyday living. We know that to be the practical application.

I told you this Thursday night when we were looking at some other things: many of the principles that are found in the Old Testament for the nation of Israel are principles that fit in your life and my life. I know that there are hundreds and hundreds of years between the two, but the principles for us are the same. I told you Thursday night that in Exodus 4, the Bible calls the nation of Israel His son, and yet He calls you and me in 1 John 3 as individuals His son. So the principles are going to apply, many of them, across the board. Not always the direct application of what tells them to do, but the overall principles of life will always be the same. That is because God's principles of life will fit any dispensation. It never changes because human nature never changes. Human nature is the same in 4004 B.C. as it is in 2016 A.D. Human nature never changes.

It is a profile of human nature that we try to get you to understand in dealing with people. There are set patterns by which people do things, and they are all laid out in the Bible. If you learn those patterns, you can sit down in any scenario with any person with any problem and deal with it in an understandable, logical way simply based on the fact that you are following the patterns.

When we talk about the people ministry on Saturday when we meet, that is really what it was designed to do. We started in Genesis and are working our way through, simply laying out every pattern of human nature through every example in the Bible that actually gives us a workable, understandable cause and effect of why this person went through what they went through, how

they got into it, why they got into it, the things to look for to see them into it, and then obviously the process to get someone out of it.

The FBI, as other great law enforcement organizations, puts a lot of stock in what they call profilers. They will have whole sections of people who are just nothing more than FBI profilers. If a kid gets abducted, or somebody gets murdered, or some heinous crime that is outside the ordinary, a profiler goes to work on it. He looks at the crime scene. He looks, and he knows from past data what kind of people do these kinds of crimes the way they do it. Without ever knowing who did it, without ever knowing the person's name, they begin to put a profile together that will tell them what they are dealing with and what they should be looking for.

The Bible is the same way. When you sit down to work with somebody and their problems, whether it is their marriage, their individual life, or whatever it may be, they are following a profile. That profile is very clearly laid out in the Bible. If you and I spend the time to learn the patterns of human nature in the profile, that is how you really help and work with people. That has been my goal with so many of you, to really help you try to get to that point in your life.

Now, today we are going to look at our next set of verses here, and it will be Proverbs 17. We will pick it up in verse 8 and come down through verse 11. Let me read it for you.

Proverbs 17:8-11

A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

Now we will get many, many principles out of here that you can add to your list, and again we will begin to be able to put together some of the profiles. Joe Christensen, if you would stand up and ask God's blessing on the service this morning, I sure would appreciate it. Amen.

Now, let us look at these verses one at a time and kind of take them apart, and I am going to show you how they all work. Let us look at verse 8 first here.

Proverbs 17:8

A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

Now this is a great verse, and there are three fundamental aspects to it that I want to kind of show you this morning.

1. First of all, we have a precious stone. We know that that would be likened to a diamond or a ruby or an emerald, something that is very expensive, something that is very precious. In our text here, where it says, "a gift is as a precious stone," this will be the Lord Jesus Christ, if you do not have that in your Bible already. We know that from Daniel 2:45, Isaiah 8:14, Matthew 21:42, and many other places in the Bible, that the Bible says that Christ was the

stone cut without hands. What does that mean? It means that He is a rock and a stone that was cut without hand, the virgin birth. There were no human hands involved in His coming into the world. The Bible makes it very clear that He was God's stone, His precious stone, who became the chief cornerstone of the nation of Israel and in time everything that existed. So that is the first thing I want you to put in there if you do not have that in there.

2. The second thing it says, "in the eyes of him that hath it." Now that will be somebody who recognizes and understands what they have. Most of God's people today, the reason very simply they have the problems they have, they have the issues they have in life, is because they have failed to understand and recognize what they have sitting in your lap this morning in the Word of God. That would be the wise men of Proverbs, somebody understanding and realizing what they have.
3. Then the third thing, it says this, "whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth." Like a precious stone, whether a diamond or an emerald or a ruby, this gift that God has given us never loses its value. In fact, you can carry it with you all the rest of your life, and its value will never diminish. If you do anything, the value will get bigger. But wherever you go in life, whatever your needs are in life, you will never run out of what you need to get you through what you are going through. You can have \$1,000, \$1,000,000, \$10,000,000 in your pocket. Sooner or later, you are going to run out of money. But when it comes to the precious gift that God has given us, likened to a diamond, likened to a ruby, a precious stone, it only gets better. Wherever you go in life, you carry that with you, and your life is never out of gas, and you have everything you need to get through it. That is the concept of what He is saying here.

I. God's Four Fundamental Gifts

Now, I want to talk to you about four gifts that God has given us. I kind of laid out that verse. Now I want to go back and I want to talk about four fundamental gifts that God has given us and how those gifts not only have impacted the world, I think that is very important, but also how it impacts your life and my life. Now I want to talk about the value of them based on what I just said and having them in your life, in the life of your family.

I know as a Christian, we have the concept of spiritual gifts, which is laid out in 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14. Those are the three great chapters on it. But I am not talking about that today. I am not talking about gifts that you get after you got saved. Ephesians 4 and 2 talk about the gifts that God gave to men. I am not even talking about that today. I am talking about the gifts that God gave us that got us saved and gave us and put us right where we are at, and then the other gifts will come in once you understand and have these four fundamental gifts in your life.

Our job is simply this: when it comes to these four fundamental gifts that I want to talk about,

4. First of all, we need to find the gifts.
5. Second of all, we need to understand those gifts.
6. Thirdly, we need to apply those gifts to everything that we do.

In life, it is so true, especially when you get married, or on your birthday, people will give you gifts that you never use. You will say, "Why in the world did they get me that?" We have a

neighbor lady down the street who is one of the nicest people on the planet, and she gave us as a gift a set of wind chimes. Do I look like a wind chime person to you? Everything out in the dark and hearing tinkling glass is not what I am looking for in life. She meant everything by it, but it never got hung up, I guarantee you. I played with Barb a little bit and said, "I want to put this right on the front door so people can see it," and that did not go over very well. I had no intentions to.

But there are things that people will give you that you just never use. Some of you guys have gotten ties that you just looked at and wanted to throw up when you saw them. You got shirts that did not fit. You got cologne that smelled like it was on the backside of the planet someplace. When you get married, you get nine toasters; you only need one. You get all kinds of things in life that you wonder why in the world somebody got this for you, and you never use it. But that is exactly the way a lot of God's people are with the gifts that God gave them. They never fully understand and appreciate the value of this.

Now I want to talk about, as I said, not only how these gifts impacted you, but I want to talk to you how they impacted the world. I want to give you a panoramic view today because God was not, even though God came down and He saved me and He saved you, God's larger picture was "God so loved the world." I do not know of anything, anytime, anywhere, any place that changed the course and the direction of the world more than these four gifts. After it changed the world, it changed you and me.

- His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
- Salvation
- The Holy Spirit of God
- The Word of God

II. Fixing Problems, Not Making Them Worse (Proverbs 17:9)

Look at verse 9.

Proverbs 17:9

He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

Now we are going to switch gears just a little bit here. This verse is a great one with a powerful practical application. Doctrinally, obviously this will be the tribulation, and people are turning in their friends to the Antichrist crowd and the CIA and the FBI and all that crowd. But inspirationally it is really important. The goal of any church, the goal of Christianity, and the goal of each and every one of us should be fixing problems instead of making them worse. One of restitution.

Nobody has the ability, I have never understood that, well I do, nobody has the ability to fix a problem better than a Christian does. But why do they not do that? Why are we so bent on destroying things that we could fix? When someone makes a mistake, like we all do, and they go through a tough time in life, why is it that we have to play Friday night football where the guy just got tackled and everybody piles on? Why is nobody lifting that person up? It does not mean you do not hold them accountable. It does not mean that you do not deal with the issue, but it means that you understand that everybody makes mistakes. The person who holds something against somebody that made a mistake here has many mistakes in their own life, I can guarantee you, that they got away with.

Now I get, sometimes you cannot fix things. I get it. When I deal with marital couples and marital problems and situations, or I deal with problems between two Christians, or maybe just a Christian that has got himself into a mess, I always tell them. I say, "Look, there should be nothing that two Christians cannot work out together." The only reason they will not work it out together is because one or the other does not want to work it out. But there should be nothing that two Christians cannot work out. If we have a problem together, there should be nothing that you and I cannot work out because the love of God that we have in us should supersede any problem we have. We ought to be willing, because we love God more and we love the Word of God more, to put aside our little private differences for the cause of Christ that it can go forward, not us going forward. But you just do not find that today. You just do not find it today.

I realize that in many cases you cannot fix things. Time, anger, bitterness, all that creeps in, and pretty soon you have a situation that could be fixed, but the people will not let it get fixed. As a Christian, we should always be on the side of restitution and not making a situation worse by spreading it around. Now I know that there are things that need to be dealt with and there need to be discussed. Let me tell you something. I have had situations, we have had situations in this church with a family or a situation that had to be dealt with, and I would call the deacons in, 40 of them or so, and their wives, or the finance committee or whoever. I would bring the leadership in, and I would explain to them, "Here is the situation we are facing. This is what it is. This is what we are dealing. This is the way we are going to handle it. Now I am telling you this for one reason: that if you hear something, you have the right answer to give people. I am not telling you this so you can go out and tell somebody else what is happening." You know what? In every case that I have had in this church, not one man, and sometimes it was just a man and I said, "You do not even tell your wife this." In not one case has any man or woman ever went out of there and said something against what I told them to do. You know why? Because for the bulk of this church, it is about restitution. It is about making things right, not making things worse. That is what it is all about.

A child of God who loves God and the Word of God will overlook and cover something with the blood of Christ to keep the cause of Christ from undue suffering. It does not mean that you do not deal with it. It means that you do not tell the world about it. Things have changed in the last 50 years, have they not? It used to be that gossip was just from person to person. One old lady telling another old lady. One guy telling another guy. But now social media, Facebook, brought slamming people and slandering gossip to a whole new level. It is just rife with it from one end

to the other. It seems like people are so stupid that they think that when they put something on there that nobody else is going to see it. The whole world sees it. That is on there forever. But social media today with the Facebooks and MySpace and In Your Face and all those other things, they have destroyed more people than all the bullets in the history of the world.

But you see, a strong Christian, a strong Christian has a higher value system than that. They do not get caught into that. He has wisdom or she has wisdom and understanding. He is only interested in fixing a mess, not making a bigger one. In dealing with problems, I follow a simple rule. I follow a simple rule in dealing with critical situations. My rule is this: Keep the circle of information as tight as possible. Never let it get outside a perimeter. Allowing sensitive information to get outside that perimeter will always make the situation worse.

My job, your job. The job of this church is one of restitution, not distribution. We are to restore, not destroy. We are to take situations where people are hurting, whether they were the cause of it or not, whether they did something stupid or not. I will look for the first hand to buy a lunch if anybody here has never done anything stupid. Knowing that I do not have any money in my pocket today to buy a lunch and knowing I would not have to anyhow. But in every church there seems to be the ministers of information. People that have a corner on everything. And people who will cause more issues with people than they ever fix.

Look at the last part of verse 9. "But he that repeateth a matter, separateth very friends." I say all of this to my shame in Christianity. I am a pastor. I am a pastor of a church, and I represent other pastors in churches. We are all kind of like a union type thing. People have a tendency. But I am telling you, I am embarrassed today. In most churches today there exists a real aspect of just destroying people. People who have the ability to help people, they are always at odds. You will have a church that has people that want to help people. They do not have a crowd over here that all they look is for the dirt to destroy people. And it is a divide and conquer thing.

I know in my own world of dealing with people, I deal with them all the time. I have for 40 some years. How many of God's people over the years have gotten burned and trashed by the crowd that will always make things worse instead of just covering the ground? And covering them with praying and love and the principles of the Word of God. These will be the people that we looked a couple of weeks ago in Proverbs 16:28.

Proverbs 16:28

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

In Proverbs 6:16, that great passage that most of you are familiar with, it is the seven things that God hates.

Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

And the last thing the Bible says, the number seven makes it an abomination. You know what it is? It is the number one sin of God's people. You talk about the sins of the saints. The number one sin is the one sin that makes the six an abomination: showing discord among the brethren. That is the man of Proverbs 17:9 that we are talking about.

Now I want to be clear on something. Last week I said this, on occasions I made this statement, that here in this church, if you want to do right, nobody here will hurt you. I say that because people get burned, and then they tend to think that all churches are just like the church that just burned them. I get that. And maybe most of them are. But come on, you go out to eat at a restaurant and you get food poisoning, get violently sick. You never not go out to another restaurant again? No, it just proves the point that there are some really bad restaurants. I am going to tell you today, there are some really bad churches out there. And there are churches that will take whatever mistakes you make and hold it against you, use it against you. And that just should not be. It just should not be.

Now, I want to say that our church is no different than any other church. We are certainly not perfect. No church is. I had a guy ask me one time, we were out with a group of pastors, and this guy was, I did not trust this guy for anything. He was a fulfillment of my favorite verse: "Never accept a shirt off of a naked man." You think that went through a lot of impact in that one. A naked man does not have a shirt. So if he says he is going to give you a shirt, better look closely. He has not got a shirt.

We were sitting there talking, and he was kind of guiding the discussion. I was just, and he looks over at some of us and he says, "Brother Bob," he said, "let me ask a question." He said, "We are all pastors here." He said, "What would you say is your greatest weakness?" Well, that is it. I can see right now, whatever I just said is going to be in the Baptist Bible Fellowship newspaper the next week. I know, and I am smarter than those things because I know how that thing goes. I looked right at him and I say, "You know what? That is a great question. Here is the answer to that: If I do not stay in the Word of God and stay in that book every day, I am susceptible to everything. I am not going to be any different than any other man is." That is a good answer. He did not like it, but it was a good answer.

This church is no different than any other church. You are not all super pious spiritual people. You are human beings with flesh and frailty just like every other church out there. We have the ability to do any damage to anybody, to hurt anybody, just like the other churches do if we get out of that book. The day you get some liberal preacher up here that gets you out of the book that keeps tearing a hide off of you and starts to giving you the mamsy-pamsy, you are in trouble.

I enforce two prime directives here.

7. We have a Bible, we believe it, and we follow it. My job is to see that issues do not get out of control. I do not know why a pastor cannot understand that. My job, the buck stops here. My job is to make sure that issues do not get out of control. You deal with it. It is not about, "Well, I do not want to offend you." Deal with it. If the Bible is what it is and you believe it,

then you have got to follow it. What good is it if you say you have it and you believe it, if you are not willing to follow it when you need to follow it? Following the Bible and dealing with people by there is not always going to be pretty. You are trying to make it pretty.

8. The second directive here: we are here to help you, not hurt you. A New Testament Bible-based church should be the safest place on earth for you. It should be your sanctuary from the world. It should be your seclusion when you are hurting. It ought to be your place of comfort when you find it nowhere else. You ought to walk in that door no matter what your day is. The moment you come through those doors, you ought to feel the love of God. You ought to know that no matter what my day is, no matter what it is going to be this morning, no matter what it is going to be this afternoon, right now, I am okay. And it is the pastor's job, it is the job of leadership in any church to make it so. Any pastor, any pastor should be the champion of his people in protecting them. You come to this church, you get an automatic bonafide insurance policy. Nobody will hurt you. If somebody tries to, you do not have to worry about it. I will deal with it.

You look around you today and you see a well-oiled, when I say well-oiled, Holy Spirit-oiled, Holy Spirit of God functioning New Testament Bible-based church. For 13 years now, and that is how long we have been together, I have been building people to make our church different from all the other churches out there. I have said it many, many times. I have never, never, never tried to not pretend that I wanted to be like everybody else. I want this church and the people in it, I want it to be everything that God is. You have to, you can look all day long, all night long, and you can scope it out all you want. It would be hard to find something we do not do Bible-based on the Word of God.

But we went through a maturing process. We went through a building process, just like other churches. The difference is here is we have a book that we believe, we operate by the Word of God. As we grew and got, we had, we had, we had, we faced the same issues. We had individuals in our church who tried to cause strife. We had families that tried to divide other families. No church is, is, does not have to deal with that. We most definitely from time to time had satanic implants dropped in for the purpose of just trying to destroy what God was doing. We had women that tried to start a gossip train, stirring up strife, lying about folks. We had a group of ladies that went out to lunch, and their whole purpose was to get together and, instead of eating their lunch, just digested everybody in the church, including the preacher.

But it never lasted long, you know why? Because they hit a brick wall. They may have found three or four people that were sensitive to them that were in the same boat that we were. But boy, when they stepped outside that small type perimeter, they hit a brick wall. Nothing like a church filled with people who follow the Bible to shut them down and shut them up. That is the kind of stuff that today our church is where it is at.

I accomplished this a couple of ways.

9. First of all, by confronting issues when they need to be confronted. I learned a long time ago, the longer you let something go, the worse it is going to get. Something here today that is just

a little ball will have legs and be all over the floor by tomorrow. So the first thing I did is I fix it when I see it.

10. Second thing I did is the one-on-one we have so many times together in the Bible. You get to see and get firsthand principles. Like you should have seen all the singles ministry yesterday. It was absolutely the question they are asking. They are getting it. They are getting it.
11. The third thing was Bible study and Sunday morning preaching the principles to live by. Enforcing the things and letting you see the actual examples.
12. The fourth thing that I think was probably the greatest aspect that pulled it all together was the people ministry.

Now, I have got to tell you, a lot of you people that want to get caught up in the people ministry, you got the tapes. You are going to go back. Those first two tapes scared the fire out of you. You have not heard them already. I put the fear of God in them. They had to sign a contract. See, these people were going to go places with me, "to whom much is given, much is required." Now, you do not have to do it because we are already in it, and they are solidified. I am trying to get it moving now. But when they first got in, those first 80 people, they had to sign a contract. The first two weeks, all I did was tell them what was going to happen to them if they did not follow the rules. I put fear of God in them, brother. I will tell you what, fear of God is still in them. They took it to heart. They understood that if you are going to give somebody sensitive information that they are going to use, to whom much is given, much is required. This was not something for your average Christian that just wanted to have a token relationship with the Bible. This was for men and women who actually wanted to dedicate their lives working with people to get the problems. And I was going to give them every human profile that they could have at their disposal. But boy, I will tell you what, they realized that there was some accountability that came along with it.

A church needs to be a family. It needs to have fun. Like this morning. That was fun. It needs to laugh. We have already looked at it. Normally our YouTube hits are about 60, 70, 80. We have got 6,440 on it. We are not even done yet this morning. Word is spreading about you and Futs all across the world. We have a lot of fun here. We get our work done. We are serious about stuff. But we have fun. I cannot stand a church where everybody looks like they were baptized in dill pickle juice. We are here to have a good time. The Spirit of God. We are a family. We love each other. We kid each other. We laugh at each other. We make fun of each other and laugh. We talk, and we just love each other. Nothing gets between us. That family spirit.

Romans 15:1

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

That is where the ministry needs to be built on. So I say, nobody here will ever hurt you. You may hurt yourself, but nobody here will. I can personally guarantee that. But know this, I deal with issues by the Bible. I do not know any other way. We are here to help people, not hurt them. We do it by the book. Baptist churches today are famous for shooting their own wounded. We will not do that here.

I have told my people when you start to work with people, I grade dealing with people's problems in three categories. I said, some people I call them band-aids and mercurochrome. They just got little ouchies on their knees, elbows where they fell down. It does not take a lot of work. Just a little band-aid and some mercurochrome. Second level is broken legs and appendectomies. That is a little more serious. Nothing fatal. But you have got to know how to go in and take out the appendix and set a broken arm. Some people's problems are a little higher than that. And the third level is brain transplants and heart transplants. That is the third level where you really get into it. People come in in those different modes. We have got to be able to be here for them, to give them what they need.

I think back there in 1 Samuel 22:1 when David was running from Saul, the Bible says he went down to the cave of Adullam. And there in that cave, the Bible says that God brought all the people that were distressed, all the people that were hurting, all the people that were broken, all the people that were in debt, all the people that were struggling down to David in that cave. And he ministered to them. That is what a church needs to be. It needs to be a place for you to heal if you need to heal. It needs to be a place for you to help others to heal. It needs to be a place that it is the safest place in your world that when you go out all day long, all week long, it is some of the worst stuff you have ever been in your life. But when you come to church, brother, it is everything, the safest place that you could ever be in.

I have seen this in all churches. People who stay friends with that crowd that try to disrupt churches, and they try to walk the middle of the road and be friends with both. You just cannot, I mean, they lack the moral courage to stand. Somebody does something that is very bonafidely wrong, and they just walk the middle. They still stay friends with them, still stay buddies with them, still do things with them. I have seen it all my life. You know what God does? God puts you on the shelf just like He does them. "How can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me." There are some things in Christianity in the church that you have to take your stand for. You have to find the moral courage, the moral fiber to take your stand. And yes, it will cost you some relationships. It better cost a new relationship with them than it is with costing a relationship with God in His book.

III. Reproof and Understanding (Proverbs 17:10)

Now verse 10 says, moving through here,

Proverbs 17:10

A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

You reprove a wise man. That is because he will take it. He will grow. He will grow through it, grow from it, change and make himself better. Reprove a fool. You can say it to him a thousand times, and he will never hear it. You can beat him half to death, and he will just go back to his own slop like 2 Peter 2:22. "The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." I have seen it. I have seen it. Having meeting after meeting, going over the same stuff. Sometimes I feel like I should make a tape and just play it. But when a man or a woman loves God and has the conviction based on principles and they get

off track, one sermon, one remark gets them back. The Word of God working in your life. A fool just never gets it. He has no understanding or he has no wisdom.

Within that verse, here is the key to it all. Verse 10 says, "reproof entereth." For you to fix problems, the Word of God has got to get on the inside of you. You will never fix your problem by dealing with the outside of you. You fix your problem by getting on the inside of you. You have got to let that reproof sink in. It has got to get into your heart, into your conscience, into your mind. That is the only way it is going to change it. I will tell you something else. Do not spend so much time trying to fix others without trying to fix yourself. A foolish man or woman will never get it fixed. Whether it be his marriage, his family, or his personal life, he will just never let the rebuke sink in. His conscience will not allow it to happen.

IV. Rebellion and God's Judgment (Proverbs 17:11)

Well, verse 11, this is our last verse. We have got a few minutes here. We want to get this one in here.

Proverbs 17:11

An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

Now that is an incredible verse. Doctrinally again, we know it is the reference to the Antichrist. It is dealing with rebellion. The first real type of the Antichrist in the Bible was in Genesis 10 with Nimrod. His name means "son of rebellion." Now this great verse that goes along with verse 10, we just looked at. It says that the root of all, you want to see this. It says that the root of all sin starts with rebellion. You want to go back to Isaiah 14:13-14 in the original sin where the devil said, "I will be like the Most High God," and he rebelled against God's authority.

In society, when a man commits a crime, goes to prison for it, or at least commits it, he does it because he has no respect for authority, and he rebels against it. When a child in your family gets in a mess and gives the parents trouble, it is because they are rebellious against that parent's authority. When a Christian gets out of fellowship with God, it is because of the rebellion against what the Bible says, the authority.

Now do you see what we have been talking about the last couple of weeks, why it is absolutely so important for you to have an absolute final authority in your life in the Word of God? If you do not have an authority, you have got anarchy. I am going to tell you, you can have 20 different authorities, but you can only have one final authority. I have said it many, many times, I believe the King James Bible 1611 is the final authority for all things in faith and practice. Faith, what you believe, and practice, what you do.

You see it in the book of Judges, Judges 21:25:

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

The most messed up book in the Bible. There was no king in Israel, and every man did what was right in his own life. They had no final authority. Our country today, we are facing the judgment of God because of our rebellion against Him and His Word. Nobody even gets it. We think the problem is ISIS today. The problem is not ISIS. We think the problem is radical Muslims. No, it is not. We think it is Jihad. No, it is not. We think it is Al-Qaeda. No, it is not.

Back in the 40s and the 50s, we faced two empires, Germany, three really, Germany, Italy, and Japan. Three quarters of the world was against one nation, and we whipped them fair. What is the difference between then and now? The difference is back then, we still had a Bible and a God we trusted in and believed. Today, we do not. So now, thank God we are only up against what, 30,000 people? ISIS has got the greatest country in the world on its heels. When we defeated Japan, Germany, Mussolini, and Italy, nobody sees that. Nobody asks himself, "Wow, how could just 50, 60, 70 years ago we take on three quarters of the world, one nation, and whip them? Now 30,000, 40,000, 50,000 people. One small group has got America on the run." I will tell you why, because we have got a much bigger problem than those guys. Our problem is not ISIS or Al-Qaeda or radical Muslims. Our problem is we have got God against us. Because of our rebellion against His authority and His Word.

There is a great verse in Proverbs 28:5.

Proverbs 28:5

Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

One of the greatest verses in all the Bible for the times that you and I live in. We as a country are so far from God today, we have no understanding of why we are dealing with and going through the things that we are going through. But I do. Why? Because "they that seek the LORD understand all things." You have got the mind of Christ. You have got a book that lays it out for you.

One of the greatest verses in all the Bible that shows God's wrath on this country is found in the book of Isaiah. It is stuck back there in Isaiah 28, and nobody has ever seen it. I have never heard a message preached on it. Do you want understanding of God in America? Do you? Do you really want to understand what is going on in America and how God figures into it? Do you? Well, I will tell you something. Joel Osteen cannot figure it out. Billy Graham missed it. Pope Francis could not find it with a laser beam and a flashlight. All the evangelicals who are as lost to this truth as could be. And the Baptist churches today are so broke and totally busted when it comes to anything in the Bible. And you look across this country to our national leaders, Obama, O'Reilly, the Five on the Fox News, Trump, Clinton, Rush Limbaugh. They do not have a clue.

No, it takes some little guy like you. It takes some little gal like you who is a nobody down here, but you are everything up there with that book. It takes somebody like you who just loves God and His Word and simply believes every word of it. He knows and understands God's judgment. He is understanding. He sees it. He has got an absolute. And here it comes. You heard it first right here, Isaiah 28:63. Here it comes. You want the verse? You want insight? You want understanding? Here it is.

Isaiah 28:63

And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Historically, that is Israel. Inspirationally, it is any nation that has that book the way we had it and rejects it. "God bless America. Land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her with a light, through the night, with a life from above." Are you kidding me? What planet do you live on? That verse said God is rejoicing in the demise of America. We have lost our perspective. We are like the Athenians in Acts 17:23, where he saw a sign to the great unknown God. We do not have a clue.

They do not want to hear it. A preacher gets on there and says, "9/11 was the judgment of God on this America." Boy, they go crazy. Every time there is a hurricane or a tornado or a tsunami, any preacher gets up and says, "God's judgment on this world and this country." Oh, they do not want to hear it. The terrorist attacks all around America and all around the world, and the government will not even deal with it.

Let me tell you a headline, folks. All through that Bible, God has used Muslim nations to chastise His people when they got out of fellowship and left Him. You take the book of Judges. Just take the book of Judges. In the first three chapters, He lays out the apostasy of the nation of Israel, how desperately wicked they are. And then the favorite phrase through the rest of that book, "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord," over and over and over again. You know what He did? In Judges 3, He put them into the hands of the king of Mesopotamia. You know what He did in Judges 3? At the end of the chapter, He gave them over to Moab. You know what He did in Judges 4 and 5? He gave them over to Canaan. Do you know what He did in Judges 6, 7, and 8? He gave them to the Midianites. You know what He did in Judges 9? He gave them to the Shechemites. You know what He did in Judges 10? He gave them to the Amorites. You know what He did in Judges 10? At the end of the chapter, He gave them to Syria. And Judges 11 and 12, and Judges 12:8, He gave them to Ammon, in those groups. He gave them in Judges 12 to the Kassimites. Then He gave them to the Philistines in Judges 13. Twelve times in one book, just 225 years, 12 times, He turned them over to pre-Muslim nations to be judged. We are not even into Ezekiel and Isaiah and Jeremiah and Hosea and Obadiah and Zephaniah and the rest of the books of the prophets of Israel.

Listen, this country is in rebellion against God. Last Thursday night, somebody asked a question in Matthew 5 about the salt, where it says, "here are the salt of the earth," but if the salt has lost its savor, and I laid that out for you, and then they asked the question about the second part of the verse, and I said I would answer it today because they want to ruin the message. The second part of that verse says this:

Matthew 5:13

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

America, which was the greatest nation, with the greatest preachers, with the greatest Bible, with the greatest soul-winning endeavor the world has ever seen, has now come to be an apostate nation who denies God, wants to take God off the money, kick God out of the schools, and do everything against God in the Bible, recognize gay and same-sex marriages, go against every principle in that Bible, and then still has got the guts to stand down there and sing, "God bless America." God, this nation is in rebellion against Almighty God, and listen to me, He has sent a cruel messenger against us, and they are going to trample us under the feet of men. Right. And there is no election, no political party, no religion, no ecumenical movement, no bumper stickers, "Pray for peace," "Honk if you love Jesus," are going to stay the hand of God. Amen. The judgment of God is upon this country, and man has no clue.

V. Conclusion and Call to Action

You and me who have these four gifts that God has provided for us, through those gifts, get God's mind, and we get wisdom and understanding, we understand all things. We face today looking at it and knowing exactly what we are up against. I do not say that to make you afraid, nothing to be afraid of, "greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." "Perfect love casteth out fear." This is not a doomsday message. This is not a, "Oh, go out of here with your tail between your leg, woe, woe, it is me. There is no hope." Hey, the hope is coming, folks, the hope is coming. It is the Lord Jesus Christ. You are just putting your hope in the wrong things.

No, for us it is to use, once we have the understanding and wisdom, for us it is to use the time God has given us to effectively reach the world around us. The book never changes. The message never changes. But the method by which you take it changes. Sensitivity to the times that we are in in relationship to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Understanding as Colossians, that great book that mirrors the Laodicean church period, understanding the issues that we face in Colossians 1, 2, 3, and 4. Making this church what God intended it to be in a world of danger, in a world of fear, in a world of absolute chaos, in a world of uncertainty, in a world of despair, in a world of fear, in a world of everybody wondering what is going to happen next. Making this church the safest, most secure place on earth for a person to find not only the love of God, but the love of God's people because they have experienced the love of God. Reaching out in these dark times for people who are looking for a light. Helping them, caring not where they have been, what they have done. Taking them the way God took you and me.

Then realizing that our job through the love of God is one of restitution and understanding that we are each other's protector today. We are each other's champion. We are each other's standing for the other. There will be times when you are weak. There will be times when you have medical issues, emotional issues, and you will be weak. And the person sitting right next to you or behind you or in front of you will have to be your strength. There will be times when they are weak and they are fragile, and you will have to be their strength.

I tell people all the time this illustration. I tell it to husbands and wives having problems. I say, "You know how you get out of the problem you are in? Here is what you do. Imagine that you and your wife are up on a mountain top, hiking. And you are up there climbing up on the mountains, and he falls and he breaks his leg. You go to help him, and you fall and you break this

leg. Now you are way up on a mountain, getting nightfall, going to get cold, nothing to eat. How do you get off that mountain? You both have two broken legs." Here is how you do it. You stand side by side, you put the two broken legs together. You strap those two broken legs individually, then you strap them together. And then you put your arms around each other and hold on to each other, and you use your two good legs on the outside, and you get off that mountain. You know how you get out of the problem you are in? You let somebody strap themselves to you with the Word of God, put their arms around you, tie whatever is broken to what they have got that is strong, and get out of that mess. That is what a church should be.

Every head bowed, every eye closed.