

Proverbs 19:4-8

Sunday 1/22/2017

Praise the Lord. If you have your Bibles this morning, I would like to invite you to turn back to Proverbs 19. Last week, as we have been in Proverbs 19, we have only been getting through about one verse a week. We will get through a few more today, but there has been some great practical material here in these individual verses.

Last week, you will remember we examined out of Proverbs 19:3 some really good concepts. We talked about, first of all, the foolishness of man and how it will pervert our way in our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. I showed you how many times we make Christianity so complicated. I think we do that because we like to live in the gray area that we like to create. But with God, there really is no gray area. Jesus said, "You are either with Me or against Me. You either love Me or you hate Me."

We like to find that twilight zone of Christianity, which really does not exist. We have a tendency, all of us, to try to make Christianity more than it is. Whether you understand it or not, sitting here this morning, you are either right with God or you are not right with God. You are not kind of right with God. Somebody said one time, I said, "How are you doing?" "Well, I'm kind of in fellowship and kind of out of fellowship." No, no, no, no, no. You are either in fellowship with Him today and everything is right, or you are not. But we like that, don't we? It works for us.

I showed you how real Christianity is simply going our way or going God's way. It is simply doing what I want to do the way I want to do it. Maybe I will give God the credit for it. We saw some good examples like Jonah last week, where God told him to go to Nineveh. He wanted to go to Tarshish, and he went down there and found a ship going to Tarshish. He said, "Praise the Lord, thank the Lord. This is where God wants me to go." But it wasn't. It wasn't.

When we go God's way, we know exactly where God wants us to go, and there is no question about it. Real Christianity is real simple. It is just going our way or going God's way. Then we saw how once a man or a woman loses their way with God, the Bible says that it is now a perverted way. When they begin to go their own way, the Bible says they begin to fret, fret against the Lord.

We talked about the word "fretting," how it is used a couple different ways in the Bible. But in the text that we were looking at, it was not fretting over something; it was fretting against the Lord. I showed you how in that context, fretting is the fact that when you start going your way, quitting God's way, then the things of God are not pleasing to you. You begin to complain, begin to murmur, you begin to get an attitude about things. You have no joy, joy, joy down in your heart.

In time, as you murmur and complain, you get to the point where you become scornful. You start shedding judgment on the things of God. God may be doing some tremendous things; people may be getting saved, and lives may be blessed. But, like we talked about last week, you have that one color out of your crayon box, black, and you shade everything that color.

So far, we have seen, as I said earlier, some of the most practical material you could ever hope to have. Concepts of life through principles, principles that will help us in everyday life and help us to deal with all the issues that we are going to have to face. I am going to tell you right up front, the Christian life is never going to be easy. God never promised that it would be easy, but God promised you that He would give you a way through the principles of the Word of God that you could get through anything in life.

Today I want to begin to read again in Proverbs 19, and we are going to pick it up in verse 4. Believe it or not, we are going to get all the way to verse 8.

Proverbs 19:4

Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

Proverbs 19:5

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

Proverbs 19:6

Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

Proverbs 19:7

All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

Proverbs 19:8

He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

I. Doctrinal Context of Proverbs

Now let me start by setting a context. I think, as I have said many, many times, and you have heard me say this all the time, how important a context is to any passage of scripture, any book of the Bible, any verse. We can begin to see the practical side of the verse once we set a context.

All of these verses in Proverbs, the whole book of Proverbs, doctrinally, will fit right into the Tribulation period. I have told you that many, many times. That should be no surprise to you. All this material we are looking at here is dealing with the Jew going through the Tribulation period, the Antichrist. In the book of Proverbs, you have an evil man and you have a strange woman. The evil man will be the Antichrist. The strange woman will be the religious system that he follows. Those are the sub-themes in the book of Proverbs.

You know that the main theme of Proverbs is a wise man and a foolish man. A wise man gets into the Word of God, he gets God's wisdom, and it keeps him from falling for all the things that the Antichrist wants to put out there. A foolish man, Matthew 25, 10 virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. Five took oil in their lamps and did what was right and made it through the

end. Five got caught and trapped in the thing and got caught in the Tribulation period. So we know that all of this doctrinally is so important to understand what is happening.

I know in my own world, in my own life, and I think this is so true in general, that this is why I am such a stickler on it when I teach you the Bible. If you can figure out what the doctrinal application is, the word doctrine means to teach. In other words, everything in the Bible has a specific doctrinal teaching to it. When you get into the book of Proverbs, the teaching is not about you and me and our walk with God. In the book of Proverbs, as much of the Old Testament, the teaching is directed to the nation of Israel and what they are going through and what they are facing up against this evil man and this strange woman.

Once you get that set, once you understand that, once you realize what the specific teaching of any book of the Bible is, in this case in Proverbs 19, the Antichrist and the nation of Israel, once you see that and you establish that, it is very easy to get to the practical application of it. I have told you many, many times how there are so many parallels between you and me as the church and the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. The things that happened to them, Paul even mentions this in the book he wrote to the Corinthians. He says, "The things that happened to them are for our examples and for our admonition." He says, "You learn by the things that they went through."

Yet, even though all this doctrinal stuff is here, we have learned that all this material will contain some of the greatest practical material for all of us. That is how you figure it out. You do not just start to go in the Bible, put your finger down, and then start to read and try to figure it out. You have to set up the teaching. What is the doctrine? The word doctrine, I will say it again, means to teach. Spend your life when you are learning the Bible, what the Bible is teaching in any given particular situation.

II. Proverbs 19:4-7 - Wealth, False Witness, and the Prince's Favor

Now, let us begin at Proverbs 19:4 and let us show you how this thing works here. It says:

Proverbs 19:4

Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

Let us set the context, as I said, doctrinally first. We saw it in Proverbs 18:16. We saw it again earlier in Proverbs 17:23. When the Antichrist comes, he will use bribery and gifts to get the nations of this world to go along with him. He will get them obligated to him through all of the things that he has in his power to give them. He will be the leader of the whole world when he shows up.

It does not take a rocket scientist to look around and see the world today is in such disarray. There is nobody on planet earth today that can solve the problems within their own country, much less globally solve the problems of the world. This is what the world is waiting for. Donald Trump got sworn in as president, 48th president of the United States on Friday. I do not know if

you watched it or not. It was conflicting with my comics, so I did not get a chance to see it. But it was a thing where, 48th president of the United States. He basically won that election simply because of the fact, what you think of him is immaterial to me, I do not really care. I am just making my point here. He got elected simply because the people of this country are tired and fed up in the way that it is going. They looked at him as somebody maybe who had never been in politics before, certainly not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but they were looking for somebody who in their mind and their expectations would have their back, somebody that would care more about them than their little secret deals in Washington.

Maybe he will or maybe he won't. I do not know. I do not really care. But I understand why people wanted somebody like him in, because they are tired of the status quo. They are tired of what is going on. But I will tell you right now, on the authority of the Word of God, Donald Trump is not going to change much, no matter how good or how bad he is. Do you know why? Because this country is already on its course. No man is going to change that. Nobody is going to step in. He talks about making alliances with, well, I mean, he got clobbered because he talked about Putin over there in Russia, and the ties maybe between him and Putin, or Putin likes him, or he likes Putin, whatever the case may be. He said, "Well, I think we ought to keep our options open to try to pull all the world leaders together." It is not ever going to happen. You can be the best guy on the planet. You can drink beer with Putin and eat pretzels, and it is not going to happen.

But I am telling you, there is one man coming who is going to pull the whole world together. When he comes, he is going to be the most powerful man the world has ever seen because he is going to have control of two areas that will give you absolute power. He is going to be in charge of all the politics and all the religions. You take those two identities and give a man complete power over the world on those things, and he has now the power to do something. When he has that power, because he has an agenda, he is going to want to align all the nations with him. So he is going to do as it says here. He is going to make many friends through his wealth. He is going to do it through secret gifts to pervert judgment, as we saw earlier in Proverbs. He is going to bribe nations and kings and people. He is going to give the world exactly what they want, even though it is going to be a selfless hope, even though it is going to be a false sense of security.

This is what the world wants. We are living in a world where every time you go to a movie theater, you stand a good chance, one in ten, of not coming home. We live in a world where your kids go to school in the morning, there is probably a one in fifty chance that they will not come home. We live in a world where there is no safe place, and people do not like it. When this man shows up, he is going to take all that away in a heartbeat. He is going to put an end to all the strife, he is going to put an end to all the bickering, he is going to put an end to all of the problems in the world, and he is going to seemingly have all the answers and all the issues. Politically and religiously, he is going to pull together everything and bring the nations together. Proverbs 2:16 and Proverbs 7:6-23 are two great passages that give you great insight on when he shows up. The Bible says that with flattering words, flattery words and favor to men are going to be his main tactics that he will use.

Now the second half of that verse, it says:

Proverbs 19:4

...but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

Doctrinally, again, setting a context here, there is no question who the poor is. It will always be the nation of Israel. When you get into Matthew 5 through Matthew 10, which is commonly referred to as the Sermon on the Mount, you are going to find in Matthew 5 where it says, "Blessed is the poor in spirit, for theirs shall be the kingdom of heaven." You are going to find that in the church age, starting with the time of Christ up to where we are at, when you find any reference in the Bible to the poor, it is going to be the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel, until 1948, had no country. They still do not have much of one. They did not have a country. They did not have a leader over them. They were the poorest people on the planet as far as coming to a government and religion.

There is no question about it when you get into here and you see this, how that in Matthew 5:3, it says:

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

He is talking about the nation of Israel. In the Tribulation period, the Antichrist, his main agenda will be to destroy and to wipe out God's people, which we know to be the nation of Israel. The reason for that is three simple concepts.

1. The land itself. Back in Genesis, God gave the land grant to Abraham. That land grant goes all the way from Egypt on the west side to Ur of the Chaldees or Babylon, or what we know today as Iraq, all the way up to southern Turkey. That all was the land grant that was originally given to Abraham. At one time, we know from our Bible studies that that all belonged to the devil. He wants it back. God took it from him and gave it to the nation of Israel. This is why he now hates the nation of Israel.
2. On top of that, they got the land. They also got a city. That city is Jerusalem. It is an interesting study in the Bible to watch how that city develops. Back in Genesis, there was no Jerusalem you could ever find, not the name of Jerusalem. It developed over time as God's people developed over time, as God's plan developed all the time. Many times it is found in the Bible just as Salem. Then later on, Jehovah was added to it, Jerusalem. It comes into being. But God promised them a city. The Bible says that Abraham, when he was journeying and going with God, the Bible says he was looking for a city whose builder and maker was God. That used to be the spot where the devil's throne was way back in Isaiah before he fell in Ezekiel. He wants that city. It would be safe to say this morning that every war, every battle, and everything that you want to study down through history, one way or another, goes back and revolves around that city, Jerusalem. It has been a hot point all down through human history. It will continue to be.
3. And then of course, the third aspect is the crown. God gave Israel the kingdom of heaven. That is a literal, visible kingdom on this earth. He gave them a crown. That crown once belonged to the devil himself before he fell. He wants that crown. So he wants the land back.

He wants the city back. And he wants the crown back. In the Tribulation period, there is going to come a time when he walks into that city. He goes into the Holy of Holies. He sits down on the throne of God. And he claims to be God and claims the crown of being God. That is what he wants. Right now all that goes to Israel. That is why he hates the nation of Israel.

So he will secretly build a false peace with the Jews during the Tribulation period, the first three and a half years. Then he will align all the other nations to his side through the gifts and the wealth, Proverbs 19:4, making many friends. Then at the middle of the three and a half year mark, he will turn against the Jew. All the nations that he has aligned himself with will turn against the Jew and will enter into the time period in the Bible, which is commonly called the Great Tribulation period, the last three and a half years where he wants to wipe out the nation of Israel.

America is included in this. If you want to find America in the prophecies of the Antichrist, go to Daniel 7 and line it up with Daniel 2. See Jeremiah 31. Go over to Zechariah 14:2. All this material can be found in those passages. Go to Daniel 11:24-27. Look at the great aspect and concept of Daniel's 70th week and how he says right in the middle of that week, middle of the Tribulation, the Antichrist goes after the Jew. Go over to Zechariah 11:7-17 where it talks about an idol shepherd who builds a bond between the brotherhood of Judah and Israel and then he breaks that bond. That will be the Antichrist. Go over to 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9 where it talks about in the first three and a half years that he builds a society that gives the illusion of peace and safety. But in Matthew 24, at the middle of the week, he enters in and commits what the Bible calls the abomination of desolation. The Bible says sudden destruction, and he wipes out the nation of Israel, or tries to.

Well, that is the doctrinal concept. It is very important for you to understand, to be able to lay those out in your Bible. My goal is the way I teach the Bible is to try to get anybody who is interested in doing it to be able to do that. But now let me flip over and show the inspirational, and see how easy this is, because again, inspirationally it is so true. The more money you have, the more friends you have. Somebody said one time, "I got all the friends I can afford right now, but thank you very much." If you won \$300 million in the lottery today, by Monday, when the word got out, you would have relatives knocking on your door you did not even know you had. All kinds of friends would suddenly show up. Your next door neighbor who kicked your dog and complained about you did not mow your lawn enough, he would be over on your door bringing a plum pie pudding that his wife made for you in congratulations. Pie in one hand, hand out in the other.

I mean, when you can buy all the rounds of drinks, when you can pick up the tabs for everybody's dinner, when you can host all of the fun parties. I woke up this morning, I got to tell you this little story. Woke up this morning, came down and looked at my phone, and there was a text on my phone. Did not recognize the number, and it simply said, "What's going on?" Well, I texted back, I said, "Who's this?" And they texted back a few minutes later, and he says, "My name is [weird name], who are you?" And I texted back and I said, "My name is Bob, and I got this text on my phone at 5:30 this morning, and it said, 'What's up?' And I said I did not know

who it was, so I was just trying to text back and see who it was and what was up." About 5 minutes later, I got another text on it, he came back and he says, "Oh," he says, "I was trying to get a hold of a girl." I texted back, I said, "Okay, no problem, thank you, I hope you find her." Five minutes later, he texted back and he says, "Hey, I'm really sorry about that, do you know any girls that like to party?" I did not have the heart to text him back and tell him I was 66 years old and my partying days are just about over.

But I mean, when you buy all the rounds of drinks, everybody is your friend. When you pick up the tab, when you host the great parties, the fun parties, which this guy probably does not get invited to. Your friends will be endless right after the part where your money runs off, and then show your friends. The example of this is found in the Bible in Luke 15:11-32 in the great story of the prodigal son. Here is a guy that he was living with his dad, him and his brother. He got discontented with the things of the penderosa, what they had there, probably a nice place to live. He wanted his inheritance, and his dad gave him his inheritance, he left. He thought that the world out there was better than what his father had for him.

Now that is a picture of the nation of Israel. Melzebaka used to have a message that he preached on this where in the title it was, "The grass is greener on the other side of the hill. But wait till you see the water bill." The Bible says down in there that he took his substance and he wasted it on riotous living. You know what he did. We all like to be friends. We all want to have friends. Nobody likes not having friends. We are smart enough to know, or dumb enough, however you want to put it, that if you have an inheritance, which probably was a pretty good sum here, you do not have to be lonely if you play it right. You walk into a nightclub someplace and you do not know anybody, somebody introduces themselves to you, "Let me buy you a drink." Buy the guy a drink, you talk a little bit. Pretty soon you are buying everybody a drink, everybody is your friend. You have bought your way in now. That is the way it works. I guarantee you that is what he did. He did not know anybody out there in the far country. But he did not have to know anybody because he had his substance, he had his inheritance. The Bible says that he wasted his substance on riotous living.

Now what does that suggest to you? He tied off of it and went to church? He wasted it on riotous living. He was right in the middle of it. Then the Bible says God in the next verse, "And when he had spent all that he had," he winds up in a pig bed. He has to go to work for a guy and he is eating the same food that the pigs are eating. What happened to all his friends? What happened to all the riotous living that was going on? His money ran out. His substance ran out. In life, the verse is so true. You better build friendship on something more than what you give people. He lost it all. The passage is so self-explanatory. This guy went in there and he spent all that he had having a great time, and when he did not have anymore. When he lost all that he had, how come his friends that he was hanging out with did not say, "Well, come on over and stay with me. Move into my apartment. I got room." How do you wind up from riotous living, have a great time, to the pig bed? You know why? Because when money was gone, his friends were gone. It is a great principle.

Now look at the second part of the verse:

Proverbs 19:4

...but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

In life, in society, poor people are always looked at as second class. They are looked down upon by those who have a quality life. I noticed again after Trump was inaugurated, he had all the balls that night and the military ball and all the other places they went to. If you could have just collected the money that was spent on those dresses, you could have fed all the poor in the world. But you know what? If you look at that and people are walking in with their gowns and their tuxedos, there were not any poor people there. I have always suspected the people who say, "I got your back," and "I am going to be there for the poor guy and the little guy," but then when you throw a big shindig, there are no little guys there. Things like that just bother me. I mean, I guess you could not get in with holy blue jeans and a sweatshirt on, but come on.

In most churches, rich people rule. The down and out people do not get anything. Most churches, they preach the gospel and they stand for what they think they stand for, but in reality, they are much like the Hindus. They have a caste system. You are put in a position based on how much money you have. I grew up in this system, man. You do not have to tell me. I have been in it since 1972. That is before most of you were born. I have seen how it works. I have seen when they pick up deacons and put deacons on the board, they picked up the ones who gave the most in church. I know that the pastor put him in position and he traded positions for that for what he was going to get back from them. Poor people struggle, rich people rule.

You go to a church that caters to big people, and you are kind of someone who is just a lower middle class or middle class person, and you do not meet up to those high standards everybody else, you would have the hardest time in the world getting to talk to your pastor about any problem you got. There will be rich people in line all over the place. You know what? You do not bring anything to the party. I mean, you do, but he cannot see it. The rich people who have things want to separate themselves from those who do not. "They are not in our social class."

I always have to chuckle and laugh around Christmas, and usually probably more Thanksgiving. I go to the grocery store, to Hy-Vee or one of those places, and there will be a church out there, a large church, will want to be collecting food for all the poor people and the homeless people. They will park this big truck out there in front of the place, and they will have all their people out there, and the ladies are wearing designer jeans and designer boots and designer jackets, and they are picking these little flyers. "When you go get out of your groceries, would you buy a few extra things and give them to us, and we are going to take them down to the poor." They got this big food truck there at Hy-Vee, and they collect all that food, and they are standing around there, and I am not knocking it at all, but when they are done, they take that food down to Harvest or the Salvation Army, which are two great organizations. For one time, did they ever get down on the level where the people are, take the food down to them? Do you know why that verse is true? Because they want to get a good warm feeling, but they want to separate themselves from the poor.

Have you ever noticed how unbiblical most Christians are today? The greatest criticism that Christ faced was the fact that he spent so much time with the poor, the publicans, and the sinners.

His answer to them every time the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees came at him was the fact, "Yeah, really? Well, the whole have no need of a physician, they do." Scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees never one time gave any attention to the poor. There was no value to it, there was no merit to them. Why, even the disciples got to the place where they did not want the Lord associated with a certain crowd. Every time a bunch of little kids came up, little kids cannot give anything, and they were all upset, "Try to keep the kids back," because, "You know, they got their white robes on and little kids get dirty fingers and hands, and you might stain my white garments." "I am an apostle, I am with him, I am the Lord, I am the number one, by the way, do not listen to anybody else." That is how it went, and these little kids came up, and they said, "Let us keep the kids back now, we got to do God's business here, let us really get to where it is at."

Do you know what Jesus said? He said, "Hey, knock it off, let me tell you something. You come to me as a little child, you got no part of me." Jesus was never big on rich people. Do you know what he said one time? He said, "It is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than a rich man to go to heaven." Do you know why? Because riches obscure your faith. I mean, I have met rich people in my life who did good things for the Lord. I am not saying they do not, but I am going to tell you something, it is a dangerous thing. It is a dangerous thing in your life to have so much that you do not have to trust God for much. I am going to tell you something that is good for you, good for all of us. Jesus is with them all the time.

I am not much on the role of a Catholic church, and I understand for what it is, but I got to tell you something, this Pope they have now, this Pope, is it Francis? I cannot keep up with them since they asked me to be it and I turned it down. I like this guy. I really do. I mean, you got to be Pope, boy, you got to be political. You got to be in the pipeline. You got to be in the system. But every once in a while, somebody will get in who is not part of the system. I think many times that he is somewhat of an embarrassment to the Roman Catholic Church because I know the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy, they have their, I mean, he is now considering the fact that if you have been divorced, you can still take communion in the church. Well, that has never happened before. I mean, if you were divorced in a Catholic church, you are done, you are in hell, you are not ever getting out. He is changing things around. No, it does not matter. You can take communion all you want, it is still down to hell. But my point is that he is breaking with the tradition of the old hardline deal. You know, he will not live in a Vatican mansion. I mean, if you ever saw the Vatican in a mansion that they have when the Popes lived it, it is unbelievable. He will not. He lives in just a little flat over there, and he refuses to wear all the holy garments unless he is in a ceremony someplace that he has to. He wears just the robe that he wore when he was out there. He has always been with the poor people. I mean, I feel bad about it. Here is a guy that is probably lost on his way to hell, and yet he takes better care of the poor than most of God's people do.

Believe me, the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees, they did not all die out in 33 A.D. They are alive and well today. Most Christians are not comfortable around poor people. It makes them nervous. Now I know there is a lot of scams going on out there. I know that. You drive down to downtown someplace or wherever you go anymore, there is some homeless guy on

every street corner. That is a big business if you do not know that or not. They rent those corners. I mean, that is a rip off from start to finish. I am not thinking it started that way, but somebody saw a good idea. I am always skeptical of somebody that says, "Help me, I am homeless," when they are talking on their cell phone. I am always skeptical when somebody says, "Help me, I am homeless, I need to eat," but they are smoking on a cigarette. I have not bought a pack of cigarettes for a week or two, but it is a lot of money. Certainly enough to buy a Big Mac and a cheeseburger someplace.

I look at that and I see that, and I know, and I have watched them. One time I just, when nobody was there, the guy was just kind of, I was parked over here preparing binoculars, and I just wanted to watch. I parked over here in the parking lot and was watching, and nobody was coming around, the guy was just kind of standing around. When people come up, then he starts to shiver. "Who is there that?" I had a hundred dollar gift card that I had already spent. And I drove around the block and I said, "Hey, this is for you." So I saw his eyes light up. Not as much as they lit up when they tried to use it. It is a sham.

For years, when we started our church, we never had a sign out front. I told you, "You are the sign," and our church just grew just fine. When we moved over, we had run over to the other place so people could find it. But the moment we put a sign up, the moment we put a sign up, I started getting people coming in wanting a handout. Now I am all for helping people, but I would help the people in my church first. I had a guy call me a couple weeks ago, and he was over here in Independence, and he wanted somebody, he wanted my church to come pick him up, take him to Walmart. He got indignant because I did not have a whole line of people just ready to go into Walmart detail. You know what the second thing would have been when you got into Walmart? He would not have had any money to pay for anything.

Hey, I have had them come in to me. I had them come in to me when they brought their little kids, four or five little kids, they came in with a sad story, and the mom and dad and the kids were dirty and looked like they were hungry. The guy called me, he said, "You know what, we are up here from Georgia, and we are, our car broke down, and my kids have not eaten for two days, and we just thought maybe the church could help out, and we go to a Baptist church down there." I said, "Good, praise the Lord." And I said, "You know what, we will help you, what do you need? Is three, four hundred dollars okay to you?" Oh boy, you thought he died and went to heaven. I said, "I only need one thing. We are Christians, we need to help each other, but obviously, the world we live in, there is a lot of phony stuff out there. You said you go to a Baptist church, you remember that Baptist church, give me your pastor's name. I will not call him, I want to verify that that is where you go to church, that you are in that church, and I will be glad to help you." Well, suddenly he did not remember the name of the church. He had no idea who the pastor was, but just 30 seconds ago he was in this church, it was a good church, and he was a Baptist, and that is why he came to this Baptist church. It was a sham from beginning to end.

Now I helped him, did not give him as much as I said, but I helped him, but he heard a great sermon while he was counting the money, and I told him about he had to be ashamed of himself bringing his kids in here under the guise of a lie. I said, "You know what, if you were true and

you were in a church down there, and you were a good church, and your pastor stood up for you, I would have given you everything, I would have had your car fixed for you, because we are brothers and sisters in Christ, and the fact that you are up here and you are broke down and you do not have the money, if I can do that for you, I would hope that you would do that for one of my people if your pastor was down there." So much phoniness today, but there are real people out there who are hurting. There are real people out there that you need to understand that Jesus, he sifted through them, and if they are legitimately out there, then we need to help them. I mean, lovingly unlovable was the greatest quality that Christ had.

I tell you, and let me say this to you, and here it comes again, our view of the poor in life will always go back and be based on our understanding of how God viewed you and me the first time he saw us. We were about as needy, poor, and destitute as anybody on any street corner. We were worthless. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 8:9:

2 Corinthians 8:9

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

We forget that a lot of times, don't we? I know I do. When you got saved, you were not as good off as you are now. Sometimes the blessings of God can be also the curse of God. Get spoiled. Take things for granted. It is one of the honest things that I struggle with here. I have said this before to you. It is something that people minister. I try to give you everything I know in the Bible. I do not hold anything back from you. I think that is a good thing, and I think it can be a bad thing. Because I think sometimes God's people get so much of the Bible, they take it for granted and they get spoiled. There is a balance in it.

If you have your own kid and you start giving your kid everything he wants and do not hold anything back, you have the potential to have some problem with your kid. Your kids are the same way. I do not know much about anything in life, but I got to be honest, I know a little bit about the Bible, but I have never held anything back of what I know. You have a need, I answer it. I give it to you. You want to come over and go through this book of the Bible? I will do it. You come on Thursday night, you want to ask whatever question you want to ask? Let us do it. I come on a Sunday morning and give you the best I can, best shot I can, to try to give you what you need to get you through life and help you through there. There is never a time that I never did not answer my phone. I do not shut my phone off and say, "Do not call me after 5." It is 5:30. I try to do whatever I can to give everybody what they need, and that is a good thing, but it can also be a bad thing. Because some of God's people take all of that and take all of that and take all of that, and they get spoiled with the knowledge that they have, and they come to the point that it becomes a problem for them.

The Bible says, "The full soul loatheth the honeycomb." Too much of anything without a balance is not good. You can become so spiritual that you are not worth anything to anybody. You can get so much Bible down that if you are not willing, we are all like sponges, and the problem is you take a sponge and you mop the floor with it or you clean something up with it, and it picks up water great, but there comes a point where it gets saturated, and then all you do is push a lot of

water around that will not pick anything up anymore. What you have to do at that point is take that and wring it out so you can pick up some more. The problem with a lot of God's people, you keep sopping it up, but you never let God wring you out. So you are like my sponge just flapping, floating in the top of the water.

The blessings of God need to have a balance, and for me, the balance in life of all that God gives me and all that I have with God and all that he has bestowed upon me and my house and my car and my clothes and all that God gives, that I do not ever get to the point, I think the greatest balance that any child of God can have is the poor. Every time you look at somebody that does not have something, you thank God for what you have and realize that it could be you. I tried to raise my kids that way. I remember both of you wanted a pair of shoes at one time, and I was not going to buy the shoes. You already had more shoes than you needed, and I remember we were out at the mall, the old mall out here at Bannister Mall, and there was a guy there begging that did not have any legs, and I said to my kids, I said, they were very young, six or seven, maybe younger than that, and they were crying because they could not get their shoes they wanted. So I am going to make a spiritual point, and I said, I walked by and I put some money in the guy's hat, and I walked down there and I said, "Now girls, you are crying because you do not have any shoes. He is a man who does not have any feet." Now the answer was classic, "But daddy, he does not need any shoes. We do."

I failed as a father in many ways. We forgot the fact that the first time God saw us, when he was holy, how I was unholy. We can show pompous and show up with what we know about the Bible and all that we have, and we know how that when he first saw us, how clean he was and how filthy I was. We have so much Bible now, we have so much Bible now, we do not have anything going on in life, so we have all the room to complain about how much Bible we have. We are in a place where honestly, and allow me to say this, if you do not like it, tough apples, you are in a place where you can have all of the Bible you want, as much as you want, and you complain about what you do not get.

I remember the time when he first saw you and me that he was light. He was the light that shined us in darkness, but my life and your life was that darkness. There was a time when we were destitute. There was a time when our poverty was much more than any physical poverty, though many of us were at that point in time, but spiritually, we were totally, completely destitute. And now what God? He gave us the Bible, he gave us what we have, what we know, he gave you your wife or your husband or your kids, your family, your good job, and all that we have. And a church that will teach you the Bible inside out, upside down, whatever you want. And yet we complain. I am telling you. We never want to forget how he saw us because that will be exactly how you and I need to see the poor. Never forget the day that God had compassion on you and me, and never let the day come into our lives because of that that we will not have compassion on others.

III. Proverbs 19:5 - False Witness and Accountability

Look at Proverbs 19:5. I feel like I could stop right here and give an invitation and probably get it pretty good.

Proverbs 19:5

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

Here again, doctrinally, get the context. Tribulation again. This will be the judgment of the nations found in Matthew 25:31-46. It says there in Matthew 25 in those passages, "When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, he shall sit upon the throne of his glory," and it says, "he shall gather all nations before him." What he does at that time is he separates, as the Bible says in the passage, the sheep from the goats. The sheep are the ones who helped Israel. The goats are the ones who were a false witness against Israel and spoke lies against them.

Now inspirationally, it is true. It is true. You want to learn some things today. You will not do the work of God without somebody lying about you. You will not get involved and do the things that God wants you to do. Lying about a child, and we get the idea that lying about a child of God that is doing what God has called them to do, that it hurts that woman or that man who is doing it. But I got news for you. It will never hurt that person. Now that may be the agenda of somebody who wants to lie about somebody or a false witness against somebody, but at the end of the day, it will always, it will never hurt the one that was intended to. By the end of the day, it will always come back on the one who did it. You see it all the time.

Proverbs 6:16, the six things that God hates, the main tool that he uses in a church, he is sowing discord among the brethren. What I want you to look at in this passage, and here is a little example of how you unlock a passage of scripture. Two key words. This is how it will come back on somebody. The first word is "be not unpunished." That will be in this life. I am going to talk about that in a minute. The second phrase or the second set of words is "shall not escape." That will be the judgment seat of Christ.

Two concepts to consider here. "Not be unpunished." All my life I have seen Christians lie about other Christians. I think many times they do not want to face whatever they are dealing with or whatever, so it is easier to lie about it, to make themselves look good. There are all kinds of reasons for it, but it happens. You know it does. I have been around it all of my life, been a victim of it many, many times in my life, and so has many of you. You know what? You can get away with lying or slandering someone, most people, right up until the point that you run into the wrong person. The one that knows the Bible and their goal in life is to make sure the record always gets set straight. This will be a man or a woman who views their integrity as something that is very important to them. They will go to any length.

All my life I have been accused of teaching heresy. People accuse me of teaching heresy about everything in the Bible. North of it, I do not mind because it is way out there, but if it is somebody in my general world over the years, I made a thousand phone calls and simply said, "Hey, you said I taught heresy? My integrity as a pastor in the ministry is number one to me, so here is what we are going to do. I am going to get the person that you said it to, I am going to get you, and I am going to get me, and we are going to sit down, and we are going to open up our Bibles, and you show me my heresy." In all the phone calls I have made, that never happened one time. Do you know why it never happened one time? Because I was not teaching heresy. But that is what people do.

I am someone who, in my mind, in my heart, the integrity of the ministry is the number one thing in life of the ministry. I am here to tell you right now, I cannot speak for every other pastor, but I will always set the record straight. A thousand times in my ministry I have made that phone call, "Hey Tim, Bob here, how are you doing?" "Good." "Bob, how are you?" "Fine. Listen, I got a little situation I want to talk to you about. So-and-so said that you told them that I said this about you, or I said this to this person." I said, "I just think we need to sit down with this guy and you and me, because I think you know by now that that is not, I did not say that." You see, you can get away with it until somebody holds you accountable with it. Most Christians will not hold anybody accountable with it.

Now this will be, like I said, it is a thing where you have to come to the place where you realize if it takes calling a meeting, if it takes getting everybody involved, it is shut down. But the Bible says, we talked about it last week, that the number one key of the Word of God, the number one prophet with the Word, was to be the manifestation of truth. I deal with a situation like this, hey, I know I do a lot of stupid things. I do. I tend to sometimes say something that I probably should not say. But when I go into a situation like that, I have one rule that I follow, no quarter asked and no quarter given. If I said something, was that a lie and it was wrong that I should not have said, I will be the first one to say I was dead wrong, I should not have said it, apologize to the next 5,643 people I need to do it. But if you lied and I did not say it, no quarter asked, no quarter given.

There is nothing more important than the integrity of the ministry. This is what is wrong with churches today. This is what is wrong with the ministry today. People look at it and there is no integrity in it. You never know when you are getting the truth. You never know what the truth really is. If God's people would all do that, we would put an end to the lie and the slander. People would know that they are not going to get away with it. It would be that brick wall concept that you know you did not go any farther than here. Nothing like holding someone accountable with what they say to set the record straight. This is why social media is so popular today. The courage behind the keyboard. Being able to say whatever you want to say and nobody can confront you with it. Then it just goes back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. But nothing ever gets accomplished. People get away with slander and lying about whatever they want to do because nobody will challenge them with the truth. I guarantee you when you do that, it ends. It ends.

Now the second thing here, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape. Where the first one is dealing with it in life by manifestation of truth, holding everybody accountable, including yourself. The second one has to do with the judgment seat of Christ. Romans 14:12 says:

Romans 14:12

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

If you know anything about Romans 14 at all, you know the context of Romans 14:10 is, "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." That is one of the two definitive passages. The other would be in 1 Corinthians 3. Luke 16:2 says that we will give an account of our stewardship. The judgment seat of Christ is going to be a great day of accounting. You are going

to give an account of everything that we said, everything that we did, and we are going to give an account of the things that we were to be stewards over that God made us stewards. There are seven of them in the Bible, and the tragedy is that most of God's people do not even know what they are.

Matthew 12:36 says:

Matthew 12:36

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Ecclesiastes 12:14:

Ecclesiastes 12:14

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

I have given it many, many times. There are six questions in Job 26:1-4 that God is going to probably have at the judgment seat of Christ. Three of them are incredible.

- 1.) In Job 26:4, "To whom hast thou uttered words?" What did you say?
- 2.) In Job 26:4, "Whose spirit came from thee?" What was your motive behind what you said?
- 3.) In Job 26:3, "How hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?" Was it the truth?

He that speaketh lies shall not escape. So you see the two aspects to it. You see an aspect in this life where someone who tells lies against somebody, whoever it may be, that they are going to have to give an account for it. I mean, it is just that simple. It will not go unpunished. Well, they should not. Then you see the second aspect of the, they are not going to escape. They are not going to escape the judgment seat of Christ. You see, you may escape everything down here, but you will not escape in the judgment seat of Christ.

IV. Proverbs 19:6-7 - Entreating Favor and the Poor's Brethren

Look at Proverbs 19:6:

Proverbs 19:6

Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

Again, setting the context, doctrinally, very clear this will be our man of sin, the Antichrist. The prince, we know that the Antichrist has a false trinity, just like God has a trinity. God has God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. The devil has the Antichrist, the beast, the image, and the false prophet, Revelation 13. This goes right along with Proverbs 19:4. We already saw it, the man of sin bringing in the people and aligning them through the gifts and the favors and ultimately going against the nation of Israel. The verse shows people coming to the Antichrist to take what he gives them, and then he gets them obligated to him, and he uses it to control them.

Literally in the Tribulation period, these people will sell their souls to him, much like people do today.

Look at Proverbs 19:7. It is all going right along with our context.

Proverbs 19:7

All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

"Wanting" is an old English word. It means of no use. "I do not want you. I do not want anything to do with you." Right now, when it comes to the nation of Israel in a practical sense, only two nations stand for Israel. One of them is the United States, and the other one is England. Yet, before your very eyes, you can watch that erode very slowly. England already, much to their downfall, and of course America right on the way with it. You can see their attitude change toward the people of God. Those are the only two nations left. Every other nation on earth has hated them and is wanting toward them. They want to stay as far from him as they can.

The Roman Catholic Church, the premier religion on the planet, has never acknowledged the nation of Israel as a country. They have never, it was not till Vatican II that they eradicated them from being Christ killers, which was in the 1960s. They have never recognized the state of Israel, but yet they recognized the Palestinians, brought Yasser Arafat over there to the Vatican, kissed him, blessed him, gave him the papal blessing. His wife is a Roman Catholic, by the way. Well, they are both dead, or at least he is. But never recognized the nation of Israel.

The UN was founded after World War I. Back then it was called the League of Nations. It was a war to stop the aggression in all of the world, and it was to stand up for all the little nations that were being beat up by all the big nations. They formed an alliance through NATO that every country would put troops together to form a NATO force, a national alliance that would go into some country and keep the peace. They have done it all over the world. They have never done it with Israel. They stay far from them. In fact, in 1948, when the nation of Israel became a nation, I think it was May the 14th, at midnight when they signed that declaration to declare them a state, the very next hour, the Arab League attacked them. For the next, up to the 1960s, there were four more wars to try to wipe out the nation of Israel. Every time, every time the nation of Israel won those wars, beat the enemies, took their land. Now these are the nations that wanted to wipe them out. They took their land, they defeated them, and moved in all the way down in one of them to the Suez Canal. You know what happened? The United Nations stepped in and said, "You have got to give the land back. You won, but you cannot keep it." They never did nothing to the Palestinians. The whole world is against the nation of Israel.

It goes on and it says, "All the brethren." The brethren here will be the Gentiles. It will be the church, you and me. The Bible says that salvation is of the Jews in John 4:22. Within the family of God, which is laid out in Ephesians 2 and Ephesians 3, you will find that when you go through to Romans 9 and Romans 11, that we as Gentiles are the wild olive trees that were grafted in with the natural branches of Israel. We are brethren in that sense. Yet I look all around

Christianity today. Churches are abandoning the nation of Israel, losing their perspective on who Israel is. Many of them are totally against them.

Proverbs 19:7 says, "How much more do his friends go far from him?" That is the United States and England. England in 1918, 1917, put forth the Balfour Declaration. That was a declaration to give the land back to the Jew. They reneged on it. America had always been a friend of the Jew, recognized her as a state of Israel when she came into being in 1948. Now she is turning her back on. You saw it a couple of, what, a month ago in a political arena. The Jews are moving into the Palestinian territory and building settlements. Obama gets up and makes a speech against it. So Kerry gets up, and you know who Kerry is, the Secretary of Defense, the one who threw his medals over the fence when he came back from Vietnam, that guy. Now he is the Secretary of Defense, but he was not too keen on defending you back then when he got his long hair and threw his medals over the bar, over the White House fence and gave them back because of the war in Vietnam. It is just me. It is just me. They tore him apart. They said some of the most scathing things to them for taking into that, went into that area and building settlements that belonged to the Palestinians.

The Bible says in that verse that they speak with many words. Old Netanyahu got on the thing over there and pleaded with America, pleaded with people to see their need. I am under no illusion about anything in this country. I watched the inauguration the other day when Trump came up and he swore him in, he put his hand on the Bible. It is the same Bible that has been used for, I do not know how many years. Obama put his hand on it. When I look at something like that, I think to myself, that is exactly, exactly, exactly what is wrong with not only this country but with Christianity. They put their hand on a Bible and swear to something, and they do not know one thing that is in that Bible. Obama put his hand on that same Bible four years ago and then four years before that, and he swore that he would uphold everything. I guess the Bible means that God is going to be part of it, and you are going to base it on the Bible, and in that Bible that you put your hands on in Galatians 4, it says that that land belongs to the Jew. When it comes to the Arab, when it comes to the Muslim, when it comes to the Ishmaelites down through Hagar, you know what it says? It says, "Kick them out of the land." Here you are putting your hand on a Bible that states the case for Israel and then denying that case and going against what it says. No man, do not kid me with it. I see God's people doing the same thing. I see God's people getting up and saying, "Oh, I love God and yeah, I am saved and I am going to heaven," and you do not know the first thing about that Bible, nor are you going to. Galatians 4:28-31 says, "Throw out the bondwoman. Get her out of there. That land is not hers." Israel is going in and building settlements over there, and our country says, "You should not do that because that belongs to the Palestinians." Not according to God it does not. That is Gad and Ephraim's land. So when the Lord comes back, if you cannot kick them out, He is going to kick them out. They will be building all the settlements they want then. Maybe you ought to put your hand on a cookbook. Maybe you just ought to get a stack of National Geographics.

V. Proverbs 19:8 - The Value of Wisdom and Understanding

Look at Proverbs 19:8:

Proverbs 19:8

He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

Now that is a great contrast. Proverbs 19:8 says, "He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul." Last week I showed you how the soul and body are used interchangeably. It says, "He that keepeth understanding shall find good." Now let me show you what you got here. This is vital. You cannot get anything else out of what I am about to say and what I have said. Get this. You have got to love the verse. It simply says if you work to get wisdom, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God," you work to get wisdom, and in time when that wisdom turns into understanding, and the Bible says in Proverbs 19:8 you keep it. Now that is the key. The key is not just getting understanding. The key is that once you get it, is to keep it. Hold on to it. Why? Because when you go God's way and walk with him and go to work for him and you get the wisdom and it turns into understanding, it will always in any situation allow you to see the good that is in it. The good. What God is doing in any given situation that helps you see it not as it appears but as it is by what God is doing.

Most of God's people today cannot see the good in anything or anybody. They are so negative in their approach on anything for whatever reason. They cannot look at a person and see the good. They cannot see a situation and see the good. All they see is what they want to see because they do not have understanding. The art of keeping understanding in our lives is to find the good in any situation. You know what? You look at Job's life. How negative was Job's life? Is there anybody here that wants to trade places with Job? Is there anybody here that wants to lose your family, lose all your possessions, get some terminal disease and go through it? We look at that and that is the most negative concept life you could ever find in the Bible. But when you study it through the eyes of the Bible and the principles, there was good in it. He got double back everything he lost, the blessings of God.

You might have to go through some tough time things in life. The reason why you give up and the reason why you falter and the reason why you stumble is this verse right here. You do not have the wisdom and the understanding to see whatever you are going through. There is good in it. We are so selfish and we are so about us and we have so lost our perspective of when I do not have, you cannot see what God is doing in any situation and say, "Ah, there is the good." Abraham went through all kinds of problems. He had one struggle after the other. He did. But you look at his life and you see it. He fails and his failures and his struggles and his insecurities and all the things that he went through, and then you get the wisdom and understanding and you say, "What was the good in it?" Became God's friend.

The death of Christ on the cross. He died. He hung there. He agonized from the sixth to the ninth hour. The devil literally brought hell to him, and he cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" And he goes through the agony. "I thirst." What was the good in it? You and me sitting here this morning. There will be some negative things. Life is about negative things. There will be some negative things in life you go through. You are either going to complain about it, whine about it, or you are going to get the understanding of God and you are going to see the good in it.

VI. The Balance of Negative and Positive in Life and Scripture

Oh, and the great contrast verse. Proverbs 19:5: "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish." In both cases, to Israel and inspiration to you. Doctrine and inspiration is simply saying this. A life of going your way with the things that you love. Like Psalms 1 last week, taking the accounts of the ungodly, standing in the way of sinners, or in time sitting in the seat of the scornful, or walking with God, delighting yourself in the law of the Lord. As Psalm 37 said last week, "Trust in the Lord, delight thyself also in the Lord, commit thy way unto the Lord, and then you rest in the Lord." It is your way or His way.

We live in a Laodicean church period. You find all over the place today. I hear it all the time, all this talk in Christianity about always being positive, not being negative. That is so typical of the book of Proverbs. Did you see those verses I just read? The first half was positive, the second half was negative. Do you realize that that is the reality of life? You are going to have negative and you are going to have positive? Everybody wants to be positive today. Positive preaching, positive teaching. Joe Olstein, I looked at him today as I was getting dressed to come to church. That big old auditorium, 30,000 people showed up. We got a little over 220 here today. What is wrong with you? Why are not we packing out this one and that one and upstairs? Why do not we have TV cameras for the overflow? Why do I not have one of those mics that come around the side of your mouth? Why will we never reach 30,000 people? I will tell you why. I am going to tell you the truth. I am not going to pretend it is all good in life. I am not going to pretend you are always okay. I am not going to get up here and tell you that we do not have problems in our life we have got to work on. I am going to preach to you about there is a hell. I am going to preach to you about that there is a coming judgment. I am not going to tell you that there is no sin, that you can do whatever you want. I am going to tell you over and over again that we are going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. I am going to tell you there are times that you are going to get out of fellowship. I am going to get out of fellowship. And I am going to tell you that Christianity is not some one big campfire of us holding hands and singing kumbaya.

Have you ever noticed how the Bible without a doubt is the most negative book you ever saw in your life? This is why people will not read it. This is why they actually hate it. I mean, I know it has got the positive message of salvation and the blessings of God. I get it. It has got a lot of good things for you if you do what is right. But I want to tell you something. Eighty percent of that Bible is blood, sweat, and tears, brother. That Bible lays out graphically the sins, the failures, the tragedies of thousands of people within its pages.

Did you ever read Deuteronomy 4? Of course you have not. Ever read Deuteronomy 11? You bet you never did. Ever read Deuteronomy 28? When you go to Deuteronomy 28:63 and Matthew 25:41, those are the two most terrible negative statements ever given to mankind by God. The one over there in Matthew 25 is the most terrible words negative that anybody will ever hear. "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire." You know what the other one is? Deuteronomy 28:63? That one is real positive. It simply says when you do not do what is right

and you walk your way and you do it your way, God rejoices in your destruction. Of course you have not.

I was in the people minister a couple of weeks ago. We entered into the book of the prophets. We have been coming through. We finally broke into Isaiah, and I showed them. I said, "You know what? You have 39 books in the Old Testament. 17 of them are the prophets, and in the books of the prophets, 17, there is not one positive thing. There is not one ray of hope, one ray of light. It is nothing but God going to come down and trash you." Now why is that? I will tell you why, because the prophets were a group of people that God sent to a backsliding nation to tell them that the way they were going was the wrong way, and they better get back with God, and here is what is going to happen if you do not. Did they like it? Do you think they liked it? Go to Hebrews 11 and see what they did with the prophets. They put Jeremiah down in a dung pit. Some of them they cut in half. They stoned them. They beat them. They hated them. Why? Because they had the truth to a group of people. They did not want the truth.

One time back in the Old Testament, which of this king Israel ever had? He is sitting around, and the prophet during his time is Micaiah, who is my hero in the Bible. They are talking around, and they said, "Well, king, he is trying to get the answer he wants like a lot of God's people. He says, 'Well, king, we have talked to all the prophets that are here. All the prophets of Baal and your wife Jezebel and all her prophets, did they not satisfy you?'" And he said, "No, no, they did not." He says, "Well, is there any other prophet that is around we have not talked to yet?" And he says, "Yeah, there is Micaiah, but I hate him." "Why, king?" "Because he prophesied no good thing concerning me." You know what he wanted? He wanted what some of you want. He wanted to be told how nice he was. He wanted to be told how important he was. He says, "I hate Micaiah."

My life verse on my preaching Bible, not this one, but the one I used to take when I used to do revival in Bible conferences, I had to put right down there, 1 Kings 22:14, Micaiah's statement. You know what he said?

1 Kings 22:14

As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.

I do not care if it is negative or positive. I told you, I hate the time period I have lived in. I am just like one of the prophets, many preachers out there today, like one of the prophets. You know what? You have got to preach the whole counsel of God. You preach the truth. Sometimes it will be nice, and sometimes it will not. Sometimes you will need it. Good stuff. Sometimes you need to have your hide taken off. I did not ask for the job. God called me to do it. He even made my blood type B negative.

Never see the negativities of Christ in Matthew 23, 39 verses, unadulterated negativity. I read that many times younger, and I thought to myself, "What happened to Jesus, lover of my soul?" I sing my song to my kids when they get their nose bent out of joint and do not like something that I am doing. I sing the song, "Does Jesus care?" He did not care here. Matthew 23 did not care at all. Tore him to pieces. Do you know why he does that? Have you ever seen him in Matthew 15 when this sweet little dear woman comes up to him whose son, his daughter is vexed with the

devil, and all she wants is her daughter restored? Have you ever seen her just slam the door in her face three times? Last time he gets racial and calls her a racial name. Calls her a dog. I do not have to tell you what a female dog is called. I mean, he slammed the door in her face. Does Jesus care? Evidently not.

Have you ever gone to Jeremiah 1 where he set Jeremiah down and gave him his marching orders and says, "I have set you over a nation, Jeremiah. You know what you are going to do? You are going to root out negative. You are going to pull down negative. You are going to destroy negative. You are going to throw down negative. Then you are going to build a plant." You know there are some things in our lives that have got to get rooted out, pulled down, destroyed, and thrown down before you can ever build anything. But we do not want that today. You do not ever learn anything from just getting all the positive. It will pump you up. It will puff you up. It will bring you to the place where I am not saying we all do not need it. But we learn from the negative things in life. The things we grow through. The learning curve of life will be the negative things that we experience and deal with and grow through.

Life is full of negative and positive. Why? When God made the whole universe and made the earth and these chairs you are sitting on, the Bible you are holding, the clothes you are wearing, he made them out of atoms. Atoms are negative and positive. You cannot even have life without negative and positive. Oh, we live in a Christianity, and it is. Oh, we all got to be positive today. Oh, it is such negative preaching. It needs to be. Do you know why? We are living in a day just like Jeremiah did. We are living in a Christianity, whether you like it or not, that has turned its back on God and the Word of God and has gone its own way instead of God's way, and everybody is playing church just like they did back there. God sent the prophets back there just like he sent the preachers today. Nobody wants to hear. They did not want to hear it then.

The learning curve of life will be the negative things we experience when we are forced to deal with them and then grow through them. When you get wisdom and that wisdom translates through the negative things in our lives that we have to deal with, it is when we will not deal with them. It is when we will not recognize them. If we will not look at what we are struggling with, we have a tendency that we all have issues in our lives, and those issues potentially will keep you from ever being everything that God wants you to be. Do you know what we will do? Do you know what we do? Because they are negative and we do not want to face the negativity in our lives, we will work on the positive things, and we will set the negative way over here.

VII. Applying Understanding to See Good in Others

Let me tell you something. You want to grow in the Lord? You have got to find out what is wrong with me, what is wrong with you, and then you have got to go to work on it. As you grow through it, you will get wisdom, and that wisdom will translate into understanding, and you will see the greatest aspect of the Christian life in anything that you are ever going to look at. When you keep understanding, when you make understanding your watchword, when you hold hold of her, when you do not let understanding out of your grasp, when you realize that God is and does everything for the reason he does it, the way he does it, because there is some good in it, and you cannot see it all the time. You cannot see it from a human standpoint.

There are people who come into this church that when you walked in here, somebody said that person will never do anything, that person will never be worthless. You know what? When I look at you, you may have your issues, you may have your problems, but I am going to tell you, in every one of you, I do not care what your social class is, I do not care how much money you got, I do not care how many drugs you have taken, I do not care if you are an alcoholic or were or are, I do not care where you are at in life. I am telling you, if you are saved this morning, God saved you for a reason, and there is good in you. You may never realize it, you may never see it, you may never let anybody with a shovel and a pick or a backhoe dig the gold out of your life, but it is there. When you have understanding, you realize that.

Everything negative you have to face in life, everything negative that we experience. When you have understanding and you hold on to it and you keep it, God shows you the good. God shows you the good because there is good in everything. It is just the fact that we do not see it from God's standpoint because we are going our way instead of God's way. When you go God's way, He will show you through understanding. The greatest job you ever get in your life is once you get understanding, is to hold on to it, to keep it. Do not let anybody take it from you. Do not let anybody that is negative in life take from you what God has given you that is positive in life. Do not allow people to come into your world and complain about this and fret about this and murmur about this. You do not need those kind of people in your life. You do not need people who are going to tear down what God is doing when they have not done anything themselves.

It is like tomorrow, I heard it, the Chiefs lost last week, of course you all know that by now. And we will never be a Super Bowl football team. I wish we would. I am sorry. I do not think it will. Maybe do not be mad at me for saying that. I do not really know anything about football, but I am just thinking I do not think they will. I am going to tell you my little puny reasoning on it. They are really a good football team, but they are not a great football team. I like Alex Smith. He is a wonderful character, a guy. I think he has got character. I think he has got quality. I think he is a man's man. I have a lot of respect for him, and I think he is a really good quarterback. But he is not a great quarterback.

I am going to tell you something. What it takes, what it takes. It takes for you and for me to come to the point in our lives where we realize that there is greatness in all of us, and God wants to unearth it. Even though we will probably never win a Super Bowl, we will probably never go to that place where everybody wears the ring. I want to tell you something. At the judgment seat of Christ, you need to win the crown that God has for you. There will be some failures in this life. You may not win any Super Bowls, but you win that crown.

After, I went to the gym that next morning, and everybody was talking about everybody had their own game plan on how you should have won that game. You should have heard. There were guys that were criticizing, and I never criticized them any. The first thing I said to you, and that is not a criticism. It is just my observation, my humble opinion. But there were guys over there that they never played football in their life. There was one guy there who was criticizing him. He had not seen his toes in 30 years. It is easy to criticize. He would have a different story if he would have been playing out there that day. That he would have tiptoed up to the center and snapped the ball and saw 900 pounds of brute force coming his way. The second play, he would

have probably lined up behind the left tackle, because he was so disarranged he missed the center. It is easy to criticize. Anybody can do that.

I am going to tell you something else. When you criticize, when you become scornful, when you become an attitude against the things of God, you will never see the good in what God is doing. That is the goal for all of us. No church is perfect, no Christian is perfect, no pastor is perfect. None of you are perfect. But I have done one thing fair and honest with you. I have made a lot of mistakes in the ministry. I have made a lot of mistakes in my life. But I will tell you one mistake I have never made with people. Some of you older folks who have been around me for a long time, you know this to be true. There never was a day in my life, ever. The day I got saved and started working with people. That when I met somebody or God brought me somebody, the first thing I did not do was look for the good in them. I can always find the bad. I want to see the good. Because I have the wisdom of God in a small, thimble style form that I know that God saved you for a reason, saved you for a purpose. He did not bring you to this church or any other church that you are going to just to leave you sit. He saw good in you. My job as your job is to not look at the negative things in people. Not look at the negative thing. Look at the good that is in there. That only comes from understanding. You only get understanding once you get it. You keep it. You have got to keep it. You have got to hold on to it.

There are people, they will try to snatch it from you. There are people who come up and say, "Well, I am so fed up with this and that and that and that." And they will snatch it from you. There are people who say, "Well, I do not want to agree with that." They will snatch it from you. You have to be smarter than the problem. Because the greatest thing the devil wants to do, he knows he can never get your soul in hell. He knows that. But he also knows what he can do and what he will try to do. Unfortunately, in most cases, he will do. He will take your understanding from you. Then you will be like everybody else. You will see the situation. Never figure the good in it. Say, "How can you love that guy? How can you love that person? How can you love that girl? How can you love that couple? I mean, they got so many problems. One sign down the other, they got issues all over the place. You know, they are up and they are down. They are in and they are out. They just got all kinds of issues. How do you love somebody like that?" Because you see them. That is the way you and I were when God first saw me. God looked down at Bob Alexander. And I was a mess. Still am. Just a saved mess.

Now, he looked down at Bob Alexander and all of my sin and all of my ungodliness and all my filthiness and all my foolishness and all my stupidity. He peeled all those layers back, and somehow he says, "I see something in him I want. I have the ability to look past his failures and to see the good." That is what we need to do. We need to look past. We all have our issues. You could list everybody else's issues over here that you do not like. And then if you are honest, you could go list your own, and you probably outweigh them. The key is to just forget that. Do not even go down that road. Just look at the good. Just look at what God is doing with them. Look at God saved them. And get that understanding and hold onto it forever. And never let it go.

Well, we will hold up there, and let us have a word of prayer. Father, we do thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We love you so much. Thank you for all you do for us. Thank you for your word and thank you for your strength and thank you for the people that you put in my life,

Lord, that mean so much to me, that have been with me for so many years, and this, Lord, we just held each other up through all the things that we go through. Lord, I love you. I love these people here. Lord, every one of them are valuable to you. And they are valuable to me. I do not look at them as giving units. I do not look at them as family units. I look at them as men and women that God saved, and there is good in them. The job of my job and the job of this church, the job of the men and women that have aligned themselves with me in my heart in this ministry to carry it on till Jesus comes back, it is our job to work and to get understanding and then hold on to it and keep it. And then look at these people, look at the circumstances, and find the good in it. Deal with what we have got to deal with, hold the people accountable that need to be held accountable, but in every situation find the good. We will thank you and praise you. In Jesus' name, for us, thank we ask it. Amen. God bless you, dismissed of all my people who are in the meetings for Rochester of Rochester. Amen.