

Proverbs 21

Sunday 10/15/2017

Last week, we focused on Proverbs 21:18, one of the greatest verses in all of the Bible on the death of the Lord Jesus Christ and His becoming our ransom, taking our transgressions, and all being laid upon Him. This is something that we really need to stop and consider from time to time so we never lose sight of it: Him becoming our wickedness, our sacrifice for our sins, so we could, as the verse says, walk upright with God in His righteousness.

We looked, if you remember, at six Old Testament passages, six places in the Old Testament that really give us not just the facts. We talked about how the Gospels just lay out the facts of Christ's crucifixion, and for most people, that is all the farther they ever go with it. They just get the facts that are found in those Gospels. But to make it personal, to make it real to us, we have to go back and become one with it, really understand what He was feeling, because what He was feeling was all for you.

Christians today, and I am sure it has been true all through Christianity to some degree, but it is certainly very prevalent today, become saved. Well, they say they are; I believe they probably are. They become saved, they claim to be born again, but we live in a world where we detach ourselves from true Christianity. We do not really allow it to impact us the way that it really did. It is hard for me to even understand a Christian who says, "I am saved but will not go to church." You will find in the book of Acts that every time somebody got saved, the first thing they did was get baptized, and the second thing they did was join a church.

We talk about being a Christian, we talk about being saved, we talk about having the right Bible and all those things, but Christianity today, its biggest flaw, is the fact that God's people, even though they may be saved and they may have the right Bible, want to detach themselves from the real personal responsibility of being a child of God. That goes back to not understanding the price that was paid. When you and I really understand the price that was paid for you and for me, there will be nothing standing in your way. There will be no obstacle that will stop you. There will be nothing that will keep you from being everything that God wants you to be and doing what God wants you to do.

I was reading an article a couple of weeks ago, and it was written by a group of people who observe things in life, and they say that America has moved into the post-Christian era. That is so true in so many ways. Yet, you would find it, you would ask anybody if they were a Christian, everybody is a Christian. I have not met a sinner in 20 years. Everybody is a Christian, no matter what you do with your life. Truly, we have moved as a country into a post-Christian era, and we have lost the value of Christ's death on the cross in a personal way. You will still celebrate it on Easter. You will still celebrate it on special days, or somebody will talk about it and all of those things. But as a personal relationship, we have moved past all of that now, and it really does not mean anything to us. We want to be a Christian. We want to have the Bible, but we do not want to get out of our comfort zone to be everything that God wants us to be. We just get the facts about His death. But the personal account of that day is what we need.

Understanding the price that was paid for you and for me, His very thoughts, we saw Him last week, His very fears. We saw the terror that had to strike His heart as He faced what He had to go through and what He felt, and how everything in our own Christian life should go back to that day. Every morning of our lives, we should start at the cross of Calvary, at what He did for us. It changed our whole perspective, the day He became my ransom. If we really understood that, and we really understood the ransom that He paid was mine, we would be a little cleaner and a little clearer of not letting ourselves become hostage to the world, because somebody else paid the ransom for us.

I. Proverbs 21:19-21: The Wilderness, Treasure, and Righteousness

Today, we are going to move a little farther into the book of Proverbs, chapter 21. Not very far, but a little bit. I want to look at three verses today and talk about them. We are going to come through it and look at it.

Proverbs 21:19-21 It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up. He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

Drake, would you stand up and ask God's blessing on the message today?

[Prayer offered by Drake]

Now we are going to learn a little Bible today. We are going to get some practical principles. Last week we hit it hard and talked about the crucifixion of Christ. Today I want to come back. The Bible talks about over there in Isaiah when you learn the Word of God line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little. Well, that is what today is. Today is getting a little bit here and a little bit there. In time, it puts your whole Bible together. I cannot speak for you, but if I was sitting in your seat this morning and I got some of the things we are going to talk about, I would be as happy as a pig in mud because these are little things that help your Bible go together. For us, that should be the key. Let us look at these. As I said, we are going to learn a little Bible today. We are going to look at some great practical applications. There will be some things that you can apply to your own life, but a lot of it is going to be just getting little pieces of your Bible to come into a little clearer focus.

II. Doctrinal Context of Proverbs 21:19

Now let us look at Proverbs 21:19. It says, "It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman." Now doctrinally, this verse, and we know now that Proverbs fundamentally is about the nation of Israel and a wise man and a foolish man faced with all the things that the Antichrist is going to throw at them. We know in the book of Proverbs from a doctrinal standpoint there is an evil man and a good man. There is an evil woman, a virtuous woman. We know how it all plays out in a doctrinal scenario.

Doctrinally, this verse is a tribulation verse. It goes right along, and this is where I want to connect some things for you. It goes right along with what we talked about a couple of weeks ago in Proverbs 21:9. Remember that verse that said, "It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house?" Remember how I took that and I showed you and I gave you the cross references in Isaiah 22 and Matthew 24? I showed you that this was a picture of what actually happens in the tribulation. It is centered around Jerusalem, and the word spreads that the Antichrist and his army, remember now for the first three and a half years of the tribulation period, he puts out a ploy that everything is fine. He makes an alliance with the Jew, the world talks about peace and safety, and then he turns on the nation of Israel at that mid-tribulation point, three and a half years. This is what these verses are talking about.

We talked about a couple of weeks ago how that he begins to come down and attack Jerusalem. He is going to wipe it out, going to take the nation of Israel and wipe them out. They hear he is coming. Of course, there is great excitement and great turmoil and great anxiety, and the verse is talking about everybody going up on the rooftops to look and see, "Here he comes! He is coming down to the nation of Israel, coming into Jerusalem. He is coming to destroy the Jews." They hear the news. They run up on the housetop, and then the Bible says, and I gave you the verses and went through it, they flee from it.

Now Proverbs 21:19, where we are at today, is the same context. Same woman, but the difference is the first verse we looked at a couple of weeks ago, we are up on a housetop looking out and seeing him coming. This verse now deals with what happens after they come down off of that roof, and we are going to look at it in a moment. Now we see them fleeing into the wilderness, and it shows exactly what happens. The same concept, just two different aspects of it.

III. The Tribulation and Cities of Refuge

Now I want you to turn over to Matthew chapter 24 for a moment. Matthew chapter 24, and if you have been around here, you know this. Matthew chapter 24 is your definitive passage in the Bible on the tribulation period. There is more information in Matthew chapter 24 on the tribulation period than any other place in the Bible. I would say that all the other places in the Bible will feed their way back to Matthew chapter 24. It is your baseline. It is the definitive passage or chapter on the tribulation period in your Bible.

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Then let them which be in Judæa flee into the mountains:

Now let me stop there a moment and kind of put it into a context for you. There are great parallels between the Old Testament and the New Testament dealing in a doctrinal sense with the nation of Israel. Everything that happens in the Old Testament to the nation of Israel is a picture of something that is going to happen later on down the line. When you go back into Numbers 35, down around verse 11, you are going to find when God gave Moses the law, He set up some parameters that if a person accidentally killed somebody, not premeditated murder, not malice in the heart—you are out hunting someplace and a dove goes up and you go to shoot it and

somebody walks out in front of it and you shoot them and you kill them. Accidental, manslaughter in the Bible. You are driving down the road someplace in your car and somebody runs out in front of you and you hit them, no malice in your heart. The Bible says that you are not to be put to death for that, no capital punishment. But it does say in the Old Testament law that a relative of that person can take your life.

So what God has done in Moses in Numbers 35 is what we call the cities of refuge. The cities of refuge were six cities that are on six mountains, and they are all within 30, 40 miles of any place where somebody could get to. Those six cities on those six mountains are found in Joshua 20:7-9. They are actually listed for you there. So what happens is in the Old Testament when somebody was involved in killing somebody through a manslaughter issue, he had to get to one of these cities. They are called cities of refuge. When he got to one of these cities, he had to stay there. If he went out that night, if there was a McDonald's down the road and he wanted something to eat and get a Big Mac and he walked out of the city and the relative found him, he could kill him. His only refuge was in that city. He had to stay in that city until the death of the high priest, and then he was free to go.

In the tribulation period, when they flee into the mountains, that is exactly where they go. The cities of refuge in the Old Testament become the cities of refuge for Israel in the tribulation period. One place that says, they are told up there in Matthew 24:15-16, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place," he says, "let them which be in Judæa flee into the mountains." That is where they go.

Of course, he says, "Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house." You just get out of town. That is exactly what happens. They look and see him coming. They know now that they have been betrayed, and they come down off the housetop. Do not bother to pack a bag, and they head for those mountains.

Now turn over to Revelation chapter 12. Let me show you the companion verse to this.

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Now let me break this down for you. It is very simple. The woman here is the nation of Israel. The twelve stars are obviously the twelve tribes. Now you have people out there that want to teach that this woman is the church. Of course, that is not true. The woman is not the church. This is the tribulation period, not the church. We know from the Bible very clearly that the church does not go through the tribulation period. The twelve stars are the twelve tribes. The red dragon is the devil himself. In Revelation 12:5, it says the man child. That will be the first coming of Christ. Then it says the woman here, look at it, Revelation 12:6, "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." That one thousand two hundred and sixty days, that is three and a half years. That is the last half of the tribulation period. So this is the verse that goes along with Matthew 24, where Matthew 24 says she flees to the mountain. Here we see in the wilderness, and those mountains are right in the wilderness by which they came through when they took their wilderness journey back into the book of Exodus.

For the record, just so you know and understand and you will want to get this sorted out in your Bible: Proverbs 21:9 deals with the Antichrist coming to Jerusalem as the Jews see him coming. They go up on the housetop, they watch him literally come toward Jerusalem, they flee.

Proverbs 21:19 deals with the fleeing of them into the wilderness where God will take care of them.

When they get into the wilderness, just so you have the complete picture, you are going to find that God supernaturally provides for them just like He did in the wilderness journey. The wilderness journey that the nation of Israel goes through, 40 years of wandering, of coming into the land, is the exact same route of the second coming of Christ when the Lord comes back at the second coming. He comes back to Sinai where He met Moses, and then the trail is given to you clearly in the Bible. We laid it out here in Institute not too long ago, maybe it was people ministry, I cannot remember, but we laid it out as we come through and you find every step of the way exactly where they go. When they have the Ark of the Covenant, the Ark of the Covenant led the way. It was put in the forefront, and of course it was put in the forefront because it is a type of Christ and it is a picture of them following Christ.

When they were in the wilderness, nothing sustained them, they could not find any water. Moses smote the rock, the water came out. A little bit later on, they did not have any food, the manna came down from heaven, and they had all they could want to eat. God, in the tribulation, when they run into the wilderness, is going to feed them supernaturally just like He did. This is why the two witnesses in Revelation 11, they come back and lead them. One is Moses, the other one is Elijah. Moses represents the law, Elijah represents the prophet, two of the greatest leaders that Israel ever had, and God takes care of them just like He did in the Old Testament. This is why it is so important to get your Bible together to understand how the Old Testament images what is going to happen in the future, and when you see that and understand it, it makes the Bible come alive for you.

IV. Doctrinal Context of Proverbs 21:20: Treasure and Oil

Now look at Proverbs 21:20: "There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up." I am sorry, we are back in Proverbs now. Here again, we are going to look at the doctrinal context first, and this is very important to be able to see this, and it is again dealing with the tribulation period. The two key words here, that is one of the things you want to do when you get into the study in the Bible, you want to look at a passage, you want to look at a verse, you want to look for key words. The two key words here will be oil and treasure. Those are our two key words. What we are going to do is we are going to find out what they represent and what they mean. The way we are going to do that is by establishing a context.

I tell you guys all the time, over and over and over and over again, the number one rule in Bible study, before you do anything else with whatever you find, the number one rule you have to do is establish a context. Every heresy on this planet—the heresy that you can lose your salvation, the heresy that you have got to be baptized to go to heaven, the heresy that there is no such thing as a rapture, the heresy that the church is going to go through the tribulation period—every heresy on this planet got started because somebody took something out of context. You have to stay with the context. I would tell you the most important thing if you ever want to get into the Bible. What we do here, what we do here and everything we do, and you will hear me say it all the time, we do it in people ministry, we do it in the Bible Institute, we do it on Thursday night Bible study. Before anybody asks, when somebody asks me a question, what is the first thing I will say? "Let us get the context." Many times people will ask a question on Thursday night Bible study that looks like it could be a problem, only until you put it in the context.

You have to be able to ask yourself about everything you read in the Bible. When you find a verse in the Bible, you have got to ask yourself, "What is the context of that verse in this chapter?" When you read a chapter in the Bible, you have got to ask yourself, "What is the context of this chapter within the book of this Bible?" When you look in a book in the Bible, you have got to ask yourself, "What is the context of this book in the scope of the whole Bible?" Otherwise, you are going to get screwed up. It is just that simple. It is one of the most basic fundamental rules of the Bible. Of course, it is the way it works. The Bible says that when you want to figure something out in the Word of God, you compare Scripture with Scripture.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

You and I never have a right to read something in God's book and say, "This is what it means." But it happens all the time. The only right you and I have is to read something and then ask the question, "What is the context?" You have got to stay within the context. A text without a context is a pretext. You have got to stay within the context. By treasure and oil, by association of Scriptures of what we already know about Proverbs, about a wise man and a foolish man, this will begin to give us the keys to understanding what is really going on here and establishing the context. I am going to say it again: establishing the right context is absolutely essential. You will never learn your Bible. You will never know your Bible. And you will be screwed up in the Bible the rest of your life until you come to the point where you can distinguish the context.

All right, now we have got treasure and we have got oil. Let us go find out what we have here, doctrinally. Let us turn to Matthew chapter 25. I do not know of any other passage of Scripture that is taken out of context more than this one, but that is all right. We are going to put it back in context for you.

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Now before I explain this passage to you of what it is, let me first tell you what it is not. This has nothing to do with the church, not a thing. This is one of the famous passages that the Charis Maniacs used to prove that you can lose your salvation. They will go here because they do not have a context, because they could not find a context about anything in the Bible. They will come to Matthew chapter 25, which the church is not even in effect yet. The Holy Spirit of God has not come into the day of Pentecost yet, but that seems not to bother them. They read a verse, they see a verse, they want to make it fit what they want to believe so they do not even consider the context.

Now if I was, just to give you an example here, if I was reading this passage for the first time and I knew a little bit about the Bible, here is how I would get the context. It is real simple. Just follow along with me. We do not have to go very far. The first thing in Matthew 25:1, "Then shall the kingdom of heaven." That would be my first clue right there. Kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God are not the same. You say, "Well, I think they are the same." That is because you know nothing about the Bible. They are not the same. You say, "How do you know that?" They are not spelled the same. They are not the same. The kingdom of heaven deals with the nation of Israel. The kingdom of God deals with the body of Christ, the church. Read Romans 7, read Romans 14. They are not the same. The kingdom of heaven is the literal visible kingdom to the nation of Israel. So when I read in Matthew 25:1, it is about the kingdom of heaven. That helped me establish a context.

Now I am going to read on. "Like unto ten virgins." That would be my, hey, I do not even get through the first verse and I got just about everything I need to set the context. My next word is "virgins," plural. Because I know now from the scriptures, Revelation 7, Revelation 14, and other places in the Bible, I know now that the virgins will always be a reference to the tribulation saints. You say, "Well, the church is called a virgin." Yeah, but there is a difference between a virgin and virgins. You say, "It is just a little S." You take the S off of Superman, he is just a man. You put an S on virgin and it is a whole different dispensation. But that is why you deal with it, see. You have got to understand that the words in the Bible will form the context for you. So when you get to that passage, you do not have to read through the first verse that you know now that it has nothing to do with the church. It has something to do with the tribulation period. And then you go from there. "Five were wise and five were foolish." By Matthew 25:2, I got it all. That is Proverbs, a wise man and a foolish man. See how that works? I did not interpret anything for you. I just told you how the Bible interpreted the words within its own context to give you the context. And you do not have to do a thing.

"They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them." Now we know from the Bible that oil is the type of the Holy Spirit of God. In the Old Testament, when they anointed a king, they took a vial of oil. They stood there. They put it on his head. They put it down all over his body. That was a picture symbolically that he was going to lead the nation of Israel, and the oil was symbolic in the fact that he was going to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God from his head to his toe to lead the nation of Israel. Oil in the Bible is the type of the Holy Spirit of God. In the tabernacle, when they had the candlesticks and all those things, they burned by oil that was in that. That is a picture of the light that you have in you and in me that shines has to come from the Holy Spirit of God, the oil.

So here are 10 virgins, tribulation, in the kingdom of heaven, five were wise and five were foolish. Five find the oil, Proverbs. Five do not. "But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. All those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out."

Now you can see how if you do not know anything about the Bible and you cannot establish a context, hey, I get it. You could take that verse, lift it right out of the context, put it right in your lap this morning and say, "We have got people here, some of you are wise and some of you are foolish, some of you got the oil, the Holy Spirit of God, some of you do not, some of you lost it." I get it, I get it. It is heresy, but I get it. Anytime you want to step outside the Bible, you can make the Bible teach whatever you want to teach. I have told you before, if you like motorcycles, go back to the Old Testament. What do you mean? David's triumph was heard throughout the land. He had the mufflers off of it. You want to smoke dope? All right. Get over there in Matthew where Jesus was high on a mountain. What do I want to work for you? You want a drink? Go over there where Paul stopped off at the three taverns. You can make it say whatever you want to say. You have got to have a context. The only thing that will keep you from getting screwed up in

your life in the Bible is always establishing the context for what you are reading. That is what we are doing. That is how you learn the Bible. That is what we teach you here.

This is not the church age. It looks like somebody, whoa, it looks like somebody is losing their salvation. Well, it is not the church age. The oil in the Bible is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God. What you have going on here in Proverbs 21 and Matthew 24 is the form of salvation that God is using in the Old Testament to do with the Tribulation saints. This is based on Revelation 14:6, which is the everlasting gospel. That is not your gospel. That is the Tribulation gospel. Your gospel is found in 1 Corinthians 15:1-5. The gospel of the grace of God. Paul said it is my gospel because it was given to him. Back there in Matthew 10, there is a gospel of the kingdom. So right there you have got three different gospels, and none of them are the same. So you will find people who want to make them the same. You know why? They do not know the context. You say, "Well, Matthew 10, the gospel of the kingdom, that is for us." Well then you are in trouble because in Matthew 10, they were specifically told not to go to the Gentiles, and you are Gentiles. So you are somewhere where you should not even be. That was for Israel. The everlasting gospel is for the Tribulation saints. The gospel of the grace of God in 1 Corinthians 15. Now that is yours and mine. That is for ours. You have got to get the context.

A couple of weeks ago, I showed you the difference between salvation in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Probably one of the greatest single pieces of the Bible you will ever get. Some of you took it home and you have got it in your Bible today. Others you cannot even find your notes on it. But that is the way it is. Wise man and a foolish man. I showed you how that in the Old Testament, salvation was completely different than the New Testament. I gave you Ezekiel 18, I gave you Ezekiel 3, and Habakkuk 2. I showed you how that in the Old Testament, a man could have righteousness and then walk away from God and God take that righteousness from him. But when you do not understand the context between how God is dealing with man in the Old Testament and the New Testament and you cannot separate it out, I get where you get it. I understand. I understand. I realize where people come up with it is because they do not get a context.

Now the key verse here, I want to show you some things here. I want to put some things together for you. I want to show you, I did not give you this the other week but I am going to give it to you now. Now I am going to show you the difference between your salvation now and a tribulation salvation and why Matthew 25 and Matthew 24, when they go together, you see how it works. There are five of ten virgins, five are wise, five are foolish, five get oil, five lose the oil. If I want to go body oil, I cannot get it. Now watch.

Look at Revelation 14:6. When 145,000 preach, they are preaching the everlasting gospel. As I have already told you, that is not your gospel. That is a gospel to the nation of Israel that is going to run into the millennium that is going to carry on out into eternity. That is not your gospel. Now your salvation is based, as I said, 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, the finished work of Christ and nothing else. But that is not true for the tribulation Jew.

Look at Revelation 14, moving on down a little bit, into Revelation 14:12.

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

You know there was a group over there in the New Testament and Paul dealt with them in the book of Galatians. He dealt with them in the book of Galatians. Here it was a base of Judaizers. They had come into the New Testament church and tried to tell them, the Christian that had been saved by grace through faith plus nothing, that they had to have salvation, they had to keep the Old Testament law and also believe in Jesus Christ. Paul wrote the whole book saying that is heresy. That is not the way it works. He says if any other man comes and preaches another gospel to you, let him be accursed. If an angel comes and preaches another gospel to you. He is talking about the gospel of 1 Corinthians 15.

Now look at this. What do you do with that? Here is a place where he is saying, "You want to hear the patience of the saints? Here are they that keep the commandments of God and faith in Jesus." Only what the Judaizers were saying in the church age that was wrong. Now it is right. You want to go and explain that? I will tell you how to explain it. It is easy. Context. One is the church age under one gospel. The other one is the tribulation period under an everlasting gospel. In the tribulation, they have a system that is based on law and based on faith in Jesus Christ.

Now everybody thinks that in the tribulation period when it talks about faith in Jesus Christ that that means that they are trusting Him as their own personal Savior. At the tribulation period at the second coming of Christ, He does not come to them as their Savior like He does to you and me. He comes to them as their Messiah. You find the word Messiah four times in the Bible, two in Daniel and two in John. Never one time does Paul refer to Christ for you and for you. He is not my Messiah. He is Israel's Messiah. You only find it four times, two in Daniel dealing with the Jew, two in John dealing with the Jew, never dealing with the church. But when you do not get a context for that, when you do not understand how that fits into your Bible, I get it. I get it. You will be with Jesus high on a mountain before long. I get it. I get it. I understand. Context. Context. You have got to establish a context.

Now I want to show you something. Quote me to Revelation 1:5. I want to show you the difference. Clear and plain as day once you get a context.

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth; unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

You see that? That verse is the clearest verse in the Bible that the reason how you got saved is Jesus Christ loved us and then He washed us from our sins in His blood. He washed me. Do you see that? I am going to wait. Do you see that? Thank you. All four of you. Do you see that? He washed me. Then the Bible says in Revelation 19 when I get there that He gives me a robe of righteousness, fine linen, a white robe. He washed me for my salvation. It is my faith in Jesus Christ plus nothing.

Now here we go. Now turn to Revelation 14:12. I want to show you the difference. Revelation chapter 1 is the church age, you and me. Revelation chapter 14 is the tribulation period. You say, "How do you get that?" You get the context of the book. I have told you before. Revelation chapters 1, 2, and 3 are the church age. Revelation chapter 4, a door is open in heaven, somebody goes up. That starts the tribulation in chapters 5 through 18. Chapter 19 is the second coming of Christ. Chapter 20 is the millennium. Chapter 21 is new heaven to the new earth. Chapter 22 is eternity. That is the context of the book. So in chapter 1 of Revelation, we are in the church age. We get to Revelation chapter 14, we are in the tribulation period by the book's own context. I meet people all the time. They could not find out Revelation one way or the other. They have no clue where they are at in Revelation. Revelation, as every book in the Bible, establishes its own context. You do not get the context, you get heresy.

Now I just showed you Revelation 1:5 that Jesus washed me. He washed you in His own blood. Now watch. You notice there is no Greek or Hebrew needed here? I have not opened up crack one lexicon. I have not opened up any New Testament Greek to get the answer. This is all clear fourth grade English. And anybody could get it who is not educated out of their intelligence.

Now look at Revelation 14:12. Now Revelation 7:14 will go along with this. I want you to see the difference.

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

And I said unto him, "Sir, thou knowest." And he said unto me, "These are they which came out of the great tribulation." There is the context. Let us go back here to Revelation 1:5. John to the what? Seven what? Churches. So one is the church. This one in chapter 14 is the tribulation. Who could not get that? And I did not go to the Greek one time. Did not need any nuggets. Did not need a lexicon. Did not need New Testament Greek text. I just go to the English Bible that God gave me where everything is laid out because that is all you need and there it is.

Now let me show you something. Revelation 1:5 says that He washed us. Okay, let us see this. In the tribulation period, it is different. You say, "How is it different?" Just sit tight for a moment. You are awful antsy today. Revelation 7:14 says, "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." You see the difference? One place He washed me, here they had to wash their own. Do you see that? In the church age, Revelation 1:5, I got washed. In the tribulation period, they have to wash their own. That is context. Did not need the Greek, did not need the Hebrew, did not need a Bible scholar. You got that from a guy today who had a tough time getting out of the eighth grade. You got that from a guy today that had the brightest civics teacher to graduate in high school. You got that from a guy today that was in his sixth grade so long the kids brought me an apple they thought I was the teacher. No Greek, no Hebrew, no great understanding, just a context. And there it is.

Revelation 1:5 says that Christ washed me and gave me a white robe. Revelation 7:14 says that in Revelation 14:12 says that they in the tribulation washed their own robes to get them clean. So the oil here in Proverbs 21:20 in a doctrinal concept is God's system of getting the Holy Spirit of

God in the Old Testament with the commandments of God and faith in Jesus Christ. It is not the same. So Matthew 25 is different than the church age. Salvation in the Old Testament is different than salvation in the church age. Salvation in the tribulation day. It is all faith and grace. There is no question about it. But it is based, as I taught you the other weekend, on the object by which God tells them that they have to focus on. There are two verses as clean as day. One of them in the church age. You and I got washed by Christ. In the tribulation, they have to wash their own. And that is the system.

Now the treasure. It says the treasure to be desired. Now that treasure to be desired doctrinally will be Jerusalem. You say, "Now how do you know that?" It is called context.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

That field doctrinally is Jerusalem. The city that the treasure is the nation of Israel. If that was not clear enough for you, let us make it real clear.

For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.

There it is. Nothing like a Bible to clear up a seminary education. Nothing like a Bible with just a pure fourth, fifth grade English to understand what the Bible says. I will tell you what, that sounds like a great thing, and it is a great thing, and praise the Lord for it. But brother, does that put tremendous responsibility on you? No more now can you duck out from the fact, "Well, I am not educated enough to figure it out." No more can you duck out, "Well, I have never had the training, the professional." No, that Bible is put together in such a way that anybody with a third grade education can get it if you want it.

Now look at the last part of the verse. "But a foolish man spendeth it up." Now we are staying with the doctrinal; we will get to the inspirational here in a minute. The fool will not see the value of what he has. So he squanders it away and then has nothing. The nation of Israel, they did not see the value of God's city. They did not see the value of God's word. They allowed Baal worship to come in. They traded it for everything else that was out there, and that is where the Jew is at today. Yet he is still God's people. God made an unconditional promise to Abraham that He was going to take care of that Jew no matter what that Jew did, and He has. He has taken care of that. And He is going to restore the Jew. All history in the Old Testament revolves around the Jew. All history in the New Testament revolves around the church, and then the Jew slides in there as we get close to that restoration.

Now that is the Jew today. Once they rejected Christ as their king and their Messiah, which they did. That in Matthew 12 and 13, the Bible makes it very clear that God hid Himself from them and puts the kingdom now into parables that they cannot get it. So the Jew now does exactly what the Gentile does. It is amazing if you can see it. I cannot speak for you, but if I were sitting here, the place where I am just about to give you, I would go home. I would have everything I need. It would be worth my... some people are going home. I have not given it yet. It is a thing where it would be that is exactly. This is what I am talking about. When the Jew rejected the Bible, when the Jew rejected Christ, they had to make it up. Because God slammed the door of

Revelation in Matthew 12 and 13. He took the kingdom, put it into parables. He told them that in Isaiah, and now they cannot get anything out of the Bible. Nothing. So you know what they have got to do? They have got to come up with their other books. They come up with a Midrash. The Midrash is the book of interpretations on the books of the Bible made up by the rabbis to get around because they cannot get anything from the Bible. They come up with a Midrash because when you go to a synagogue today, they do not teach you out of the Old Testament. They will teach you out of this book that is an interpretation of the Old Testament that the rabbi sat down and said, "This is what this really means," because they wanted to get around all of the verses that kept pointing to Christ in the Old Testament. So that is what they did. Then they got the Talmud. The Talmud is a commentary on the law made up by the rabbis to get around Christ, get around the Bible. They can make it say whatever they want to say. They do not use the Bible anymore. They refabricated their own books. And they have the Mishnah, or the Mishio. It is legal codes and interpretations also made up by the rabbis to get around the Bible. Hey, they did the same thing that the Bible scholars do when they rejected the King James Bible, the door of revelation was shut. So what do they have to do? They have got to come up with an NIV and RSV and ASV. They are going to come up with their own books that will say what they wanted to say because they cannot get nothing out of the book that God gave them. The Jews and us are in the same boat. Read Romans 1 and Romans 2. Totally in apostasy today just like us. When you decide you have got to go to the Greek and the Hebrew to figure out the Bible, you are dead in the water. You are going nowhere. You will get nothing, or you will have your Greek little nugget that you will puff yourself up and think it is a great little thing. You are so stupid you do not even know where it is at. That book is everything that God gave you just the way He gave it to you. Somebody said one time, "You think the King James Bible is the absolute perfect word of God and in English and everybody has to read it in English?" So that is exactly right. He said, "What about all the people that do not speak English?" And I said, "Well, you think they have got to learn Greek and Hebrew? What about all the people who do not speak Greek and Hebrew?" I will tell you something standing here right now, there are a lot more people in this world who speak English than there are who speak Greek and Hebrew. Some people embrace stupidity like it is a virtue.

V. Inspirational Application of Proverbs 21:20

Now let us look at the inspirational application. It says, "There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise." Now let us look at it from an inspirational application. Treasure will be the Word of God. It is called the true riches in Luke 16:11. Just a wild coincidence that the one verse in the Bible that talks about the true riches has to be 1611. The oil will be, as we know, the Holy Spirit of God. That in connection with that treasure will lead and guide you into all truth. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit. The Bible says the dwelling of the wise. That is a saved man. It says the fact that there is treasure to be desired in oil in the dwelling of the wise.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

It is inside you. Your body, your house, your temple, the dwelling that God lives in, the oil. It says the oil in the dwelling of the wise. If you are saved here this morning, you are wise. You have the Holy Spirit of God. You have got the answers to every issue, problem in life. Every secret in the universe inside you this morning. You just have not tapped into it.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

There it is. Inside you this morning. Treasure of God's light, His word in us. And we desire that more than anything else. And we have the oil of the Holy Spirit of God, and we become wise. God will take that oil and He will illuminate the treasure of the Word of God, and you will have every answer in life you need. I know you have got problems today. I have got problems today. You are going to have problems tomorrow. I am going to have problems tomorrow. You will not go through life problem free, but I want to tell you something. You could if you really wanted to. You see, problems only become problems, and I do not know if you know this or not. Problems are not really problems. We say, "Well, I have got a problem." No, problems are only problems because you do not have a context for your problem. You have got a problem in your life. You do not have a context of how you got that problem. You do not have a context of what you do with that problem. You do not have a context from the Bible how you get out of that problem. When you are a child of God and you have the Bible, you do not have any problems. You know why? Because your problems are always in context. And the better you get into the Bible and the sharper you get with the Bible, the more you can avoid the problems. You know why? Because you can see them coming before they get there.

I do not mean this in a wrong way. I do not mean this in a bad way. If you ever get into ministry and you spend about 30, 40 years in it, you will get it. But there is a certain kind of person today who a pastor, if he has got any sense at all, he sees somebody coming, they are going to join his church, he knows he has got problems. He cannot come up and say, "No thanks," but he would like to. Because there is a certain kind of person that they go to a church for one reason, and that is to cause a problem. They dress right, and if they were sitting in amongst you this morning, you could not tell them from somebody else. They will amen. They will sing loud. They have the right Bible. That is not the case. You learn with experience that there are certain things and certain characteristics that people have that they have one object in mind, and that is to destroy whatever God is doing. And you can see it coming. Now you cannot maybe see it coming, but you get into work for a while and you see the characteristics and you see it coming. The reason why we have problems in our life is because we do not put those problems in a context. We do not see why the problem got caused. We do not see where we are at with it now. We do not see how to figure it out. And many times when we do, we still do not want to do it. Come on, deep down inside it. We like the problem. We are friends with the problem. We know it is not right.

We know it is not the thing we should do, but we are friends with the problem. It is an old friend, known him for years. That is where we go.

So when he talks about a foolish man spendeth it up, all of this stuff. In a practical way, we see this. That the Holy Spirit of God will, the treasure will take the Word of God and it will illuminate. That is why the book of Proverbs, doctrinally and inspirationally, is just about two men. But a wise man or a foolish man. One finds out the Word of God and what it is in his life and does it. He is wise. The other one does not find out and will not do it, and he is a fool. And you go back in the Old Testament and walk through the nation of Israel, you will find wise men and fools. You go through every church in this country today, you will find wise people and fools. It is all the same. Nothing changes. And the Bible just tells you to do it. And the Bible just lays out their pedigree just like you were walking through a pet shop and the guy says, "This is the German Shepherd, this is the Beagle, this is the Lab, this is the Golden Retriever." It is just that clear. Nobody ever saw a poodle and said, "That is some German Shepherd you got. I like that little white fluffy tail." Nobody ever walked over to the cage with a German Shepherd and said, "Oh, look at that little poodle." You know the difference of the pedigrees because you have learned how different they are. You get a context in the Bible, you learn the pedigrees of problems. You know where they come from. A foolish man who will not follow God's word and he becomes a fool. And then he wastes his entire substance on things that do not matter.

Look at the last part of the verse. "But a foolish man spendeth it up." Now the great concept of spending it up is found in the story of the prodigal son. That will be Luke 15:12-14 in particular. You do not have to turn to it. I am just going to make a few mentions here. But its story goes, a man had two sons, and here again, doctrinally it is Israel. Inspirationally it is me and you. A man had two sons, one was wise and one was foolish. That wise and foolish man is the theme of the whole Bible. One gets the context, one does not. The younger one, he says, "Give me mine substance. Give me my inheritance. I want it now."

Now I want to tell you something. He was a fool to do that. You know why he was a fool to do that? And I do not even know this kid, but I have known a lot like him. You know why he was a fool to do that? He had everything he needed with his father. He lived good. He ate good. He had servants. He had everything he needed to have with his father. You know, when we get into trouble, I will tell you when we get into trouble, I will tell you what that kid's problem was. It is the same problem. I have got the same problem you have got. That man, the father, was a picture of God the Father. He is a picture of you and me. That father had given that kid everything he needed. He provided a house, servants, everything, food, clothes, everything, but it was not enough. You know what? We get into trouble when we forget what God has given us and when all that He has given us someday is not enough anymore. He had it all. He had it all. And yet he says, "I want more." What do you need more for? I mean, you get up in the morning, they bring you your breakfast, your clothes are dirty, they wash them for you. They, you get in need of a bath. They wash you. They give you everything. They bring your clothes to you in the morning. You do not like them. Say, "I do not want that, I want the other." They will bring it to you. You walk down, breakfast is laid out. Lunch, lunch is laid out. Supper, supper is laid out. How much better could a father be to that boy? And that boy says, "That is not enough for me. I want my

inheritance." I am going to tell you something. Listen to me very carefully. You want your millennial inheritance today, God will give it to you. You want to be like that kid. And after everything that God has done for you, always provided for you, always given you, you have got the audacity to say, "I want what I want. Give me my millennial inheritance." He was a fool. He was a fool. He could have lived like a king, but happy. And when his daddy died, he would have had everything and he lived forever. Taken care of. Now that is you and me.

The younger one said, "Give me my inheritance. Give me my substance. I want it now. Give me my goods. Give me what is coming to me right now. I want it now." So the father does, and Luke 15:13, the Bible says that his son takes all of that. Takes all of his money, all of his treasure and all of his substance. And the Bible says that he spends it on riotous living. I will tell you another principle about you and me. When you get so much attitude toward God that you cannot appreciate what God does for you. And you cannot recognize all that is put in your life and you want more. It is always going to wind up being riotous living in a disaster. You know why? It is a simple principle. You will never appreciate the inheritance that God gives you if you first cannot appreciate all the things that He has done for you.

You know what happens when you have a kid that is probably a single boy or girl, family is very rich, and they just lavish on that kid everything he wants. You know what happens to a kid like that? He becomes spoiled rotten. He becomes worthless. He comes growing up thinking everybody owes him something. And that is exactly what happens with a lot of God's people. God blesses them. God takes care of them. God does that. But because of their rotten heart attitude, they come to the place where they take all those things for granted. They will not look at all the good things they have, but they are going to complain about all the little things that do not really matter. They are going to focus on all the things that just rub them the wrong way. All the things that they do not like. They do not see the fact that what God has given them, they do not see all that God has provided for them. They do not see the big picture of everything they have. They are so shallow and have such a tunnel vision effect. You will never appreciate the treasure that God has for you over there if He gives it to you now because you will just squander it on riotous living. It will be gone. It will be gone.

God has all the treasures for us in His mind. He has everything He wants to give you and me. When you got saved, I know most of you do not understand this. I hear it all the time when I have to preach a funeral of a baby. Half my time is spent on dealing with idiots who say, "I do not know how God will let this happen." You know, I met one guy said, "I am just really angry with God, preacher. There is this little just little girl died. I am just really angry at God that He took her." I, you do not say anything. Number one, a funeral is not a place to get into a fistfight. You want to slap the guy. I would like to walk him over to the casket when he bends over, shut the lid on his head. I am sitting in myself, "This is the world that I live in." There is a little three-year-old girl there, a little four-year-old girl there, somebody dying, and everybody is mad at God for God taking her. Let me tell you something. God did not take her. God's original plan, there would be no death. There would be no sin. God's original plan would be no little four-year-old girls in a casket or five-year-old boys in a casket. God's original plan, it would never be any death. He had it set up perfect. It is us, you and me, that screwed up the program. We brought

death in. We brought sin in. We put that little girl in a casket because when sin came in, death came in. Do not you blame God for it. You idiot. All ever God wanted was to give you what was best in your life.

The moment you got saved, the moment you got saved, He has the treasures for you. That He wants to just dole them out. You need them. He is not going to lavish it all on you at one time. I mean, God may own the cattle on a thousand hills, but He is only going to give it to you one hamburger at a time. He gives you a little here, a little there. He takes care of you. He looks ahead when something is coming your way, He prepares. He covers every aspect of your life, and He wants you to have the very best. You say, "I got a bozo husband." Not because God gave him to you. "Well, I got a bozo wife." Not because God gave her to you. "Well, I got problems with my kid." Not because God made him that way. God has the best for us. The best, very best for us.

Now I need to clarify something because I know some of you got saved late in life. After already being in a situation, some of you got right with God. I get that. Then God has a way to take whatever you are in and make it great. I have got to clarify things today. I do not want nobody going out here and saying, "Well, I am really messed up because I did not know." There are times that people get into things and then they get right with God or they get saved and they have got baggage. You have got to deal with. I am telling you, no matter what state you are in, God will make it great unless you want your inheritance now. And that is you say to Him, "No, I want to live like a king now."

The father did not argue with him in that chapter. He did not say, "Oh, come on, son, you know better than that." You know why God will not argue with you, with a child of God? You know why He will not? Oh, He may send this two-horned preacher to preach to you, but He knows you will not like what I have got to say. But you know why He will not come down and talk you out of it? You know why He will not? Because He already gave you a book you refused to read. He knows if you refuse to read that book and follow it, you will never listen to what He says to you. Go. He says, "Son, here it is." How about it? Boy, do not you know, as he walked down that road to go to the big town, the big city, he had all kinds of things in his mind he was going to do. Places he was going to go, women he was going to find, all the things, all the great lifestyle he desired to have. I wonder how it was six months later when he is in a pig pen. That is right. And the only kisses he gets then is... I am sure that is the only kind he got before, but I do not get into that right now. You put lipstick on a pig and you know what you have got. Lipstick on a pig. Oh, how this is a picture of you and me.

God has all the treasure for us. God gave you your health. That is a treasure. Do you know that? That is a treasure. You know how you know it is not a treasure? The moment you lose it. God gave you eternal life. God gave you arms. God gave you legs. And I do not mean this in a bad way. I watch you guys play volleyball and I watch you guys play ball and I watch you guys do this. And some of you guys run great and you do all kinds of athletic stuff. Wonderful. And I think you should, that is good. I mean, I am not just not against that at all, but I wonder sometimes. Do you understand that God gave you legs and arms more than just to play ball? All for His glory. Our substance. God gave us this treasure to be used wisely. This the Word of God,

the oil for me to be used wisely to make good investments, to make good choices that I take what He gives me and do something with it. God gave me the Holy Spirit of God to lead and to guide us in all the right things. But instead of taking them riches and making good investments, we spend it on riotous living. Spend it up.

Now, I am going to tell you something. A little insight. This is why so many of God's people living in the world up to 10, 15, 20, 25 years, cannot ever get back to God. It has nothing to do with God. It has to do with you go through a life of 20, 25 years, 15, 20 years. And it is not true of everybody, but not many can turn it around. You go through that long in your life and riotous living with the world. You know why you cannot get back to God? Because you spent everything He gave you. You gave your mind to the world. You gave your eyes to the world. You gave your spirit to the world. You gave your hands to the world. You gave your feet to the world. You gave your body to the world. And suddenly here you are and you say, "God now use me." And God looked down and said, "I would love to. What do you have left?" What do you have left? Bad choices.

The Bible says he spent his substance on riotous living. Better than whatever we have. It is a great question over in Isaiah 55:2.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

We spend so much of our time, so much of our money, spend all that we do on things that will not satisfy us. And when God gave you something absolutely free, it will not cost you a dime. That will satisfy the thirst of your soul. What I am about to tell you, better take home with you. What I am about to tell you, you better listen to me. One of these things tucked away way back in the Bible. You need to see this. We see the nation of Israel in the parallels to you. We see the nation of Israel in the parallels to you and me in my life. They find another God, they get another Bible, they get all the things that they do. And they are headed for a road of destruction, much like many of God's people. But I do not think probably most people ever saw the final act that brought down the curtain on the house of Israel. And when you see it and you understand it, I will tell you something this morning. It will be the final act that brings the curtain down on your life as a Christian.

The final act that brought about Israel's destruction was that they had gotten far away from God, and they took the holy things. They took the dedicated things that God wanted separated from everything else. And there was a little room and a little chamber where they put the holy things and the dedicated things. It was God's place, and these are the things that He wanted, the hallowed things. It was the treasure room for God's treasure in His temple. And they put the holy things and the dedicated things and the hallowed things, and they were locked away and nobody could touch them, nobody could mess with it. It was simply given to God and it was His. And the thing that brought their final end and their final destruction, we have got to see it in 2 Chronicles 24:7, 2 Kings 12:18. When the kings had gotten so far from God that they took the holy things and the dedicated things that God wanted for Himself and they gave them to the pagan kings of

the world. The holy things in your life and my life is what the treasure that is in you. You want to fast track the destruction in your life, you just take those holy things and give it to the world. Israel suffered, as the church today, as God's people today, a complete and total breakdown of any value system that meant anything. And the final chapter in their life was them taking the holy things that God said, "This is mine," and giving it to the world.

VI. Inspirational Application of Proverbs 21:21: Life, Righteousness, and Honor

Now, I do not want to end on that doom and gloom so with a few minutes I have left, let me give the alternative verse. I love the Bible. The Bible says you are going to go to hell but then you can go to heaven. The Bible says I am going to beat you up but then I am going to love you. I love the alternative, the guy, He never clobbers me without making it good.

He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

Now the verse is very simple within the context of trying to get the word out. It is easy to see. Doctrinally here, this will be Israel getting three things when the Lord comes back at the second coming of Christ as their Messiah.

1.)Life:Israel does not get born again as individuals. Israel gets born again as a nation. Acts 2. Now we see when the Lord comes back that they get life. That life is the salvation of that nation. Talked about in Zechariah 14, Romans 9, Romans 11, lays it out for us. "Then shall all Israel be saved." So the life that Israel gets is the millennium. The spiritual life of a nation. The salvation of a nation. Coming alive under God.

2.)Righteousness:They will finally have the city of God that is rightfully theirs. You say, "Well, the Jews are in Jerusalem today." Yes they are. But they only have about not even 1% of the city. They have nothing on the land grant that was given to Abraham. The rest of Jerusalem, they are hanging on by their fingernails. But in that day they will get the righteous city, the treasure. And it will be theirs. And finally they will have the city of God. That His righteousness will flow from the temple to the whole world. And you will want to see that read Ezekiel 40 through 48.

3.)Honor:Israel will finally now be the single most honored nation in the history of the world. God told Abraham, as we remember back in Genesis 12, that there was a coming of time when all families would be blessed through one nation, the nation of Israel. He told Abraham in Genesis 18:18, that there would be a time when all nations would be blessed through one nation, the nation of Israel. And we are told in John 4:22, that in His spiritual aspect, that your salvation and my salvation, that salvation is of the Jews. You start with a nation of Israel, even though rejected, God brought their Messiah, they rejected the Messiah, God took their Messiah and turned around into my Savior. And salvation comes from a Jew.

Now let us look at it for you and for me. Here is the alternative to the bad stuff. When you become wise and follow after Christ's righteousness, then we can claim three things.

1.)Life:And life filled with satisfaction. A life filled with blessings. The blessings of God. A life filled that you grow up with your kids, your grandkids, serving God together. And I want to tell you something, it does not get any better than that. You can have all the money in the world and all the corporations and be whatever you are all over the world. But if you do not have your family by your side ministering the Word of God and going down through that third and fourth generation, you have missed it along the line someplace. A life of joy. A life of peace. A life of constant fellowship with God. That never has to be broken. I am not saying you will not do something to break it. I am saying, praise God, that I broke it at 9:04. I can be right with God at 9:05. I will do better than that. I broke it at 9:04 and 10 seconds. I can be right with God at 9:04 and 30 seconds. All you have got to do is confess it. You stay that close to God. Do not ever get it. Do not ever get far away from God. If you have something in your life that you love so much as you love God, the key to it is never get far from it. Stay close to it.

2.)Righteousness:That is my salvation. We talked about it last week, did not we? My understanding of the sin debt that He paid. Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God that I got after salvation. Proverbs 21:18.

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

That is my salvation. God's great gift to man. It is the fact that God loved me. The fact that God came down and He gave me what He gave me. If I had to buy it, I would be in hell this morning because I could never afford it. If I had to pay my own, wash my own robe, I would be in deep trouble this morning. That is why it is called the tribulation. Oh, I am so glad that God just looked down at me. You know, I hate being born in the years I have been born in. I like being born back when it meant something. But I am glad I was not born in the Old Testament or tribulation period. I am glad that I got it free as easy as I did. And I know I take it for granted. I know I do. I know I do. God help me not to, but I know I do. I am human like anybody else. I want to tell you something. I thank God every day of my life that I got it free. I do not understand preachers. I do not understand churches. And they are all over the world. They are all over the place. And I always used to say it makes you want to be a... How would that thing go? Makes you want to be a... I do not know. I cannot remember what I said. Something but a maggot and a gut wagon. I cannot remember what it was, but it is fine. If I want to tell you something, I do not get it. God gave it to us free and we are going to charge you to get it. You do not have problems. We have got a counseling ministry, but it is \$25 an hour. We have got a Bible Institute. We all want you to come and learn the Bible, but it costs you all \$100 a piece. Where do you get off doing that? Do you think that what you have is greater than the book? When God gave you the book, never charged you a dime for it. What would you say if God walked up and down and says, "Here is the book that will give you every answer to problems in life. It will help your kids. It will help your marriage. It will help you. It is everything you want. You want the magic formula for a perfect life? Here it is." Who wants it? Everybody had raised their hand. "We have got a whole bunch of copies out in the truck that will let you have for a billion dollars a piece." You would walk away disappointed saying, "I would really like to have it, but I cannot

afford it." You are right. You cannot. So you know what He did? He gave it to you free. He gave it to you free. But that brings up its own problem, does not it?

When I was 14 years old, I had a bike that was a little bit different. For my birthday, I wanted a Schwinn Racer. It is a bicycle. It was not like your normal bicycles back then. They had real skinny tires on it. Hand brakes. It took me a week and a half just to figure out that the brakes were on the hands and forgot they were on there. I almost hit a car because I was going out there and I am going on the old bike, you just backpedaled. Well, this one, you just went around with your backpedal. I thought I was going to throw you over the handlebars. But there it was on my 14th birthday. A beautiful white one. Beautiful. I mean, just gorgeous. Did not care for the seat. I have never been able to sit on those little bicycle seats. Bubba, can you sit on them? No, you could. In six months time, that bike was a wreck. I destroyed it. I think my dad probably paid back that time, probably paid \$30 or \$40 for it. It was back in 1970, no, 1960 or 64 would have been a lot of money, 62 somewhere now. I sold it for 75 cents. It was trashed. I repainted it green. This metallic green, like it will be a race car. The brakes did not work on it. I crumpled the bumper. Handlebars were bent. And I look back on that now, and my dad never said anything. My mom, she said all kinds of things. We cannot tell you what she said. But my dad worked really hard for that bike. He worked in a steel mill all of his life. Worked a second job at a gas station. Just to do things for me that I would have to do. I never understood it as a kid. But I look back on that time, and I never tried to forget the lessons of the stupid things that I did in life, because they always helped me quit making stupid choices. You know why I wrecked that bike? Because I got it free, and it did not cost me anything to have it. And sometimes when you get something free, you do not appreciate it, the value that somebody else paid for you to have it. It took me years, but I got to be a man. Kind of a man, but I got to be where I am at now to look back and see and understand. But they paid a price for me to have that, and I did not understand that price, so I did not take care of it. And I want to tell you something. We do not understand the price that God paid for you and I to have the book. That is why we do not take care of it.

3.)Honor:The third thing is honor. Judgment seat of Christ. The day you stand before God and get your inheritance, your substance, that you refuse to take down here because you wanted to be His servant. But now you rightly get over there because you are the faithful servant.

I will tell you, Proverbs chapter 21, these verses are just incredible. As you can see by now, it is an incredible book. The mind of God. Throughout the book, a wise man and a foolish man. Details each and everything in our lives that we have to be faced with. We will hold up there. Let us have a word of prayer.