

## I. The High Tower Concept

So far in Proverbs chapter 22, we have gleaned some great principles. We have only been in it for a couple of three verses, but we have seen some great principles for life. Last week, we looked at where it says, "A prudent man foreseeth evil." This is probably one of the greatest statements and certainly one of the greatest verses in all the Bible on showing us what collecting Bible principles will do for you.

It shows how the devil, the world, and the flesh cannot penetrate into your world when you hide behind the principles. The principles in the Word of God were given to us for just that purpose. Principles will always be the foundation of the Christian life after you get saved.

1 Corinthians 3

*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

Then you build upon that foundation gold, silver, and precious stones. Those are the principles, the building blocks of life, and each one will then interconnect with the other to build a strong Christian life and a strong Christian walk—a defense wall that you can hide behind.

In the Bible, you have what I call the high tower concept. I teach it to people. It is defined in Song of Solomon 4:4 as the tower of David. We know that David had a great relationship with God and the Word of God, probably greater than any other man in the Old Testament.

Over in Psalms 18, it is called a high tower. Over in Psalm 61:3, it is called a strong tower. The illustration is that with the principles of the Word of God, we build ourselves into a tower that is higher above all the things on planet Earth. In other words, when we talk about living above the circumstances, when we talk about living above the issues of life and being bigger than this and bigger than that, and not letting things get to us or affect us, we are talking about the high tower concept. We are talking about a tower that you have, by the principles of the Word of God, built into your life that elevates you to that third-dimensional, fourth-dimensional viewpoint of everything in life.

The tower concept does two things for you. It is all based on the principles that we have been looking at.

1. It gets you up higher than the people around you so nobody can really get to you. It puts you above every issue of life. From a high tower, people can look down at you and scream at you and yell, but they can never get to you. That is what principles do. Principles allow you to live above the circumstances of life. There are a lot of things in life that are going to come your way. A lot of problems are going to come your way. The idea of no problems for a Christian life is just not true. You are going to have a lot of issues that come your way. A lot of times it is going to be connected with people, if not most of the time. The way you deal with it and overcome it is the high tower concept.

2. The second thing that it does is that you are elevated so high, and the good thing about this tower is that the more you add the principles, the higher it gets. It is an ever-expanding upward tower. It does not get to a point where 30 feet or 40 feet or 100 feet stops. The more you keep putting the principles in, the higher you get. For a long time, everybody thought the Earth was flat. A couple of the early scientists, Copernicus and those guys, figured out that it was round. They were severely persecuted for it, but they figured it out. It was not until man got into outer space, it was not until he got up 600 miles high, 800 miles high, that you could actually look out the spacecraft window and see the curvature of the Earth.

Spiritually speaking, when you build your tower that high, you will see and understand everything that happens on Earth. You will see it as it really is. That is the key.

Ephesians 6:16

*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

Faith and the principles of the Word of God will build you a tall tower, a high tower, a strong tower, a tower of David, based on the Word of God, that will keep everything from ever getting to you and allow you to see everything that is out there. You will hide behind those principles by the faith that you have in them.

We just finished deer season, or I guess maybe it is still on this week, I do not know, but you will find that when most guys get their deer, I mean, there are some guys who just luck into it when they are walking through the woods, but that is really not how you hunt deer. They get into a deer stand, and most guys that are just sitting on the ground under a tree, I mean, a dumb deer may walk along and want to commit suicide, you may get that one, but you are not going to be able to see them coming your way. The higher you get, the more dimension you see, and you can see them coming from all angles, and that is the best way to do it.

Christianity is the same way. Most of God's people are one-dimensional. They are sitting under the tree on the ground, and they never see what is coming their way. They never understand because they never have the perspective to see what is coming their way because they are not elevated above the circumstances of life. That happens through the principles, and the Bible said last week, "A prudent man foreseeth evil." He sees it coming because he has built his tower where he can understand it.

We use an illustration in life all the time. We want somebody to do right. We all drive our cars, but on the road, you have the white markers on the side and the yellow marker in the middle, and we are supposed to stay within those lines when you drive. So we use the phrase, "We want to stay between the white lines." In other words, you do not want to get off the road that you are on, and that is exactly what Bible principles do. The road of Christianity is very narrow, but it is lined on both sides, and what principles do is keep you between those white lines. You want to find them, you want to keep them, you want to do them, you want to obey them, you want to catalog them, and you want to hide behind them, and they will build that strong tower.

## II. Aliens in a Strange Land

Today, we are going to look at a couple of more verses, and as always, we will find some great principles to live our lives by. We hear a lot about aliens. When the movie *Alien* came out, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, I do not know how many it was, but everything that comes out in science fiction is about life from outer space that comes down and invades this planet.

I remember back in the 50s, just a little guy, I remember my mom taking me. My mom was big on movies, science fiction movies, and I had seen them all: *Creature from the Black Lagoon*, *Creature from the Black Lagoon 2*, I mean everything. She would go to them. I remember one time her and my dad got in a fight, really a knockdown drag out, and my dad took her glasses and broke them. He was sitting out, she was sitting out, and it was the day we were supposed to go to the movies. I was just a little guy, I did not know any better, so I took two little magnifying glasses and I taped them together, and I took them out to my mom hoping that they would suffice as glasses so we could go to the movies. We did not get to go to the movies that day.

We hear a lot about aliens, and back then, my favorite mainly was *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. How many of you ever saw that movie? Let me give you a run by of that movie then, you are going to love that. Anyway, this foreign force from outer space came down, and people just like you and me, they would go to sleep at night, and they would wake up, and these people, these aliens, would possess their bodies, and they were going to take over the whole Earth. Hence, it is called *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. They were snatching people's bodies by the aliens coming inside them while they slept, and it is a great movie. They made a remake of it; remakes are never as good as the original.

You know what? I thought a lot about that because the Bible says in Exodus 18:3 that Israel in the Old Testament was an alien in a strange land. We hear so much about aliens invading planet Earth and coming down and wanting to take over the Earth, we forget that as Christians, we are aliens in this world. If you are saved here this morning, you have been taken over by a power from outer space that is indwelling your body and wants to take over planet Earth, that is, the Holy Spirit of God.

Just as Israel was alienated from the things in the Old Testament, you and I need to be alienated from the things that are around us in the world because we have been taken over. The day you got saved, the Holy Spirit of God took up residency inside your body. You are a new creature; old things are passed away, now all things become new. We are aliens today in a strange land, and we are alienated from this old Earth.

Next week, we are going to move into verse 6. Verse 6 is the greatest fundamental foundational verse in the Bible on training up children. As I told you, we have in our church young couples that have just had babies; they are having them all the time. We have had young singles who are going to get married, that are going to have children. We have all of the young kids that when we started our church were just little kids, now they are teenagers, and they are facing some real

challenges in their life. I think it is time, as we just naturally come through this, that we camp on this verse. So be prepared for the next six, seven, eight weeks that we just look at verse 6 and take it apart and look at all the different angles of that great verse that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We are going to look at that. We are going to understand that. It is right in the scheme of things; we are going to take the time to do it.

Today, we are in verse 4 and 5, and here is what it says:

Proverbs 22:4-5

*By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.*

*Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.*

### III. The World's View of Happiness

I got invited to a debate one time, years ago, at a college, and they wanted me to come and represent the Bible side of things. I was up against a psychologist who was a woman, and no offense, I mean, she was just a woman. I just wanted to let you know that. She was a psychologist, and she was taking the other viewpoint, and I like that about colleges because I think that is good. It was a good, healthy exchange, and we had a good time.

Whenever I get in a situation like that, or I am going to say something that is going to bump up against the natural thing, I always like to state my position. In doing so, we got to introduce ourselves, and they introduced me who I was, and I got to say what I was going to say first, and I told them, "Look, I just want you to know I am really happy to be here today, and I am looking forward to a good exchange, but I want you to understand something so there is no misunderstanding. I approach everything from the Bible. I am a pastor. To me, the Word of God is the only true truth on planet Earth." I said, "I want you to know that my viewpoint is going to be based on the Bible. I want you to know that my viewpoint and whatever I say is going to come from the Word of God because that is everything I believe. I believe that everything in life and every issue that life has goes back to the Word of God. So, I just wanted you to know before we get started today, my answers are going to come from the book that has changed my life, and that will change your life." The place applauded. I mean, I could not believe it. Now, she is really under the gun. I think I said in there, "Unlike my opponent over here, I am coming from the Word of God."

Well, now she is on, and she got up and she said, "Oh, I want you to know I believe the Word of God too." I thought, "Here we go." We had a great time and a great talk, but I want to tell you that this morning because what I am going to have to say to you this morning is going to go against the grain of the world's viewpoint of life. I want you to know this morning that I approach everything from the Bible. I know that there are people out there that will hear what I am about to say today, and as we go through this today, they are not going to agree with it. That is okay. I do not have any problem with people disagreeing. You do not have to believe one thing

that I say. You know what is only really important to me? That I believe it. You are on your own. I will give it to you, but you can do with it what you want.

Here again, this proverb will go directly against the thinking and the mindset of the world, and unfortunately, also Christianity today. Here are found the three aspects of life that all the world thinks is the key to being successful and being happy. That is really what people want today. That is really all they want. We live in a world that is upside down. We live in a world that has problems. Fundamentally, people just want to be happy. They want to be satisfied with life. They do not want to go through the traumatic problems that they have in life. I do not think anybody ever got themselves into a real mess, ever stopped and thought, "I want to get into a real mess today. Here is how I am going to do it." Those things happen for a reason, but I do not think anybody ever starts out that way.

Here are found three aspects of life that all the world thinks is the key to a successful life and being happy. There are three things:

3. The first one he says here is riches. That is wealth.
4. The second one is honor. That is how you are looked at. That is how you are perceived. Most of the time that comes from wisdom, so we will put that in the wisdom category.
5. The third thing he says is life. That is health, good health, living a long life.

These are the goals of every unsaved man and woman in life, and unfortunately, many times also for saved people. These three areas will be viewed as the key to a good and happy life: having a lot of money, winning the lottery. How many times have you seen on TV, we have all done it, the lottery is up to \$650 million. Who would not like to win that? We get the idea. We dream and we think about, "Well, if I won the lottery or this or that, if I had some great uncle that I did not know and died and left me all this money, I would be happy. I would be rich so I would be happy."

The second thing is to be respected and honored because of what you know, or the fact that you are famous or you are somebody very important. The third thing is to have a long life to enjoy it all. That is what people want.

From a Bible standpoint, and again, I am coming to you from the Bible, from a Bible standpoint, I get it. You have your viewpoint. I get it. You are on your road to prosperity. God bless you. Do not forget the time belongs to the Lord. But anyway, from a Bible standpoint, these three will be, within the world system, the three most disappointing and disastrous aspects of life. They really will. When the Bible talks about a man getting deceived, it will be his self-deception in these three areas.

When the devil came to Eve in Genesis chapter 3, he deceived her by three things.

Genesis 3:1-6

*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

*And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*

*But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

*And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

*For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

You see that? When the devil came, he laid out three things about the very thing that God said, "Do not mess with." The first thing that woman does when she looks at that fruit, she says it was good for food. Then she looked at it and she says it is pleasant to the eyes. Then she said to herself, "But it will, I have a desire to be wise, that it will make me wise."

In 1 John 2:16, the Bible talks about the three things that we are up against: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Those are the same three things that Eve had to face, and she fell. The devil will lay out the three deceptions about the wrong view of life and the very things that we are to stay away from.

You know why people get to the point where they get into problems in their life that they can never get back? Because fundamentally, they are not happy. They are not complete. They are unsaved. They are unsatisfied. They have been told all of their life the lie and the deception that these three things will make you happy. So from a very early age, they see older kids on the road doing things that their very parents told them not to do. But in their mind, they think that that is really where success lies. That is where happiness lies. So, "I go to parties. I go and I smoke. I go and I drink," because that is what the crowd does. "Surely this will make me happy. This will fulfill me."

You want to get a job. You see people driving fast, big, nice cars and buying houses. You want to because surely you think in your mind that if I got all of those things, I too can be happy. That will satisfy me. It will fill that void in my life. Little do we know that the void in your life is the void of the Lord Jesus Christ, and He is the only one who can satisfy.

So what do we do? We start going to the parties. We start smoking this. We start smoking that. We start doing this. We start doing that. It does not satisfy. It takes us to the next level. So we do this. We do that. It does not satisfy. So we take it to the next level. By the time we have been in life 20 or 30 years, the level of sin is so high that we have put into our world that it now has taken completely over our lives. Now we are at a point where many times we cannot make the reverse to get out of it. It all comes back to these three things. It all comes back to us thinking that the world, in some way, shape, or form, will satisfy us, and through the riches and through honor and through life, that getting all of those things, I am finally going to be happy.

You know what? By the time you get 50 or 60 years old, you have lived some life now, some water is under the bridge, and you look back, and your life is a mess. You have had three or four

bad marriages. You have lost your kids. You have lost this. You have lost your health. You have lost almost everything you have. You finally realize that that was never going to satisfy you. You better learn it now. That is my advice to you. When a man ruins his life, it will be in one or all of these things.

#### IV. Riches: The Deception of Wealth

Let us look at these three for just a moment. The first thing he says here is riches. That is wealth. It is amazing to me the deception that happiness and contentment will be based on riches, money, your wealth.

I remember back in the 70s, they started the lottery. I lived in Ohio back then, and Ohio was one of the first states to start a lottery. Back then, the lottery, when you won it, was a million dollars. It is nowhere near compared to what it is now. I was working at the Hoover Company, and it was a vacuum cleaner place, and believe it or not, in the very first lottery, the guy that won a million dollars worked at the Hoover Company. I have to say, I did not know the guy very well, but I knew of him, and I had seen him around, and if anybody needed a lift in life, it was him. He really did not have much. He was a good guy as far as I could tell, but he won a million dollars. I will never forget how that changed him.

Now, I want to tell you something, and you may not agree with this, but a million dollars is not a lot of money today. It really is not. It was not a whole lot of money back then, but he shows up to work the next day, and he wants to buy all of his department lunch, which is fine. That was a good thing. He had a suit and tie on. I had never seen him wear a suit and tie. He took his coat off and put it over the chair there in the cafeteria, and I was up there, and I said to myself, "I want to see where a millionaire buys his suit." Kmart. He announced that morning that he was quitting his job. He went out and bought a brand new car, and I tell you, we all bumped into him about four or five years later. He did not have two nickels to rub together.

He thought that money would make him happy. The more money you have just boosts you up to a higher level of living that you spend ten dollars here, do not think about it. Now you spend a hundred dollars here, do not think about it, and pretty soon, what you thought is going to make you happy will not make you happy. It is gone. It leaves you. You lose it.

I have had people say, "I do not know how many times I would be happy in my life if I just had more money." You know what the problem is? The problem is not the fact that you need more money. The problem is you do not do what is right with the money you have. More money will just exasperate the problem. I do not know what "exasperate" means, but I heard Joe Wolstein use it this morning, and I think it is good.

It has always been amazing to me. The reality is this: six thousand years of human history shows you that that is not true. All you have to do is turn on the TV at seven o'clock, every six thirty every night, and watch lives that are rich and famous. All you have to do is go to the grocery store, and when you check out there, they have all the tabloids, and you see all of the things: who is getting divorced from who, who just committed suicide, who is doing this, who is leaving who, who is hooking up with who now. It is unbelievable. Their lives are a disaster. I mean, all

you have to do is to look at the movie stars, the multi-millionaires, even Christians. Even Christians who were living like kings. They actually think that everything I have is going to make me happy, and in time, their lives will be a disaster.

You see drunkenness and pride, lost kids. You see all of the drug abuse and all of the psychological problems and the psychiatrists and the therapists and the drugs and the recovery treatments. Then the compounding effect, the law of second thermodynamics, their children always turn out worse than they do. Many of them commit suicide. Many of them go through thinking that I found happiness only to have it evaporate through their fingers.

A midlife crisis. The psychologists will tell you that a midlife crisis is... I will tell you what a midlife crisis is. It is a man getting to the middle of his life or a woman getting to the middle of life and realizing, without even knowing it, that what they have been pursuing is not satisfying them, and it leaves them empty.

One time in Matthew 19:24, a young man came to the Lord Jesus, and he wanted to get salvation. He wanted to follow the Lord, and the Bible said he had great possessions. Then Jesus said, "Go sell all that you have, give it to the poor, and then come and follow Me." The kid could not do it. Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to the kingdom of God." I am telling you, riches can obscure your faith many, many times.

It is a thing where you get all that you have when you can buy all that you want. When you do not have to pray about anything other than, "Should I buy this or not?" There is a real danger of not coming to the place in your life where you have so much you do not have to trust God for anything.

I remember, I am probably still out, I have not seen it for years, but there used to be a magazine put out by one of the Bible colleges called Faith Magazine. I used to look at it and laugh. I thought to myself, "Faith Magazine." Here is a magazine put out by an organization and put out by the head organization that has not changed a light bulb in 20 years. He never fixed a broken toilet. He never drives anywhere. Somebody always picks him up. He lives on rent-free property, tax-free property, all of his food paid for, somebody cooks it for him. He has everything. If something breaks, somebody comes, a maintenance crew, and fixes it. What is faith about that?

Why, some of you had to sweat out house payments, sweat out car payments, your baby was sick, and you did not have health care. You understand what faith is. I will read your magazine, but we get the idea. You would be surprised how many Christians just hang on to, "Oh, what a great magazine, Faith Magazine," because they think that being rich makes it...

Back in the 1920s, when the stock market crashed, the Great Depression, multi-millionaires went from riches to rags in 24 hours. They lost everything. Thousands, I mean thousands, committed suicide. They hung themselves. They shot themselves. They jumped off bridges. They jumped off tall buildings because the very thing that they thought and that they trusted in that would bring them happiness got taken from them in less than a day. You know how devastating that is?

Now, I am going to tell you something. For you and me to really be happy, you need something that nobody can take from you. That is what we need. You have 20 million dollars. You know

what the next thing you are going to worry about? Where do you distribute it? Because every bank only insures your money for what, \$250,000? What happens? You are going to invest it. What if it is a bad investment? You are going to lay awake all night worrying about somebody taking your money. Then when you die, you are going to worry about your kids getting it. You want to get all that money? Let me tell you something, you are going to find you had aunts and uncles and nieces that you never heard of.

You and I need something that we have that we can trust in that nobody on this planet can come and take it from us. That is where your happiness is. We need the true riches.

Luke 16:11

*If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will ye commit to your trust the true riches?*

I always thought that was a great thing by the Holy Spirit of God to put the verse on the true riches in Luke 16:11 because that is where the true riches are found. When you get the book, you are rich beyond belief. I know many of you do not see this. I get it. I understand it. I am hoping maybe you will leave today a little richer than you came in.

When you get the Word of God, you are rich beyond belief. I mean, come on, that Bible is likened to gold. That Bible is likened to silver. That Bible is likened to precious stones. That Bible is likened to oil. It is likened to rubies. It is likened to all spices that are very costly. On top of that, it is likened to steak. It is likened to honey. It is likened to water. It is likened to apples. It is likened to vegetables. It is likened to bread. It is likened to milk. When you have the book, you not only live like a king, you eat like a king.

I am telling you, we were in Bible Institute yesterday. You got sirloin steak for lunch. We got into that book, and for two hours, brother, we went down where the whales live. I am a king. You are a king. It is just that my kingdom and your kingdom is not of this world. It is not a physical kingdom. It is a spiritual kingdom. But if you have the book and you have God in your life, you are rich beyond belief.

## V. Honor: The Pursuit of Worldly Wisdom

The second thing he says is honor. The book classifies honor as wisdom. Everybody wants to be somebody. Parents want their kids to be somebody. I never met a parent in my life where their kid was born and started to grow up, they said, "What is your plan for your kid? I want him to be a bum. I want him to be a drug addict. I want him to be a drunk." They may wind up that way, but everybody wants to be somebody.

All the way back to Genesis chapter 3, as we saw, when the devil wanted to stop God's plan, he offered Eve wisdom and knowledge of the world, and the Bible says their eyes were opened, and they knew now good and evil. Ever since that time, man has thought that getting wisdom and knowledge, learning things, getting wisdom, getting facts, amassing knowledge in his own life, would make him happy.

In this life, we look to education to reach our goals. I get accused all the time of being anti-education. I am not. Maybe you will understand my position. When you went to high school, how many hours did you spend studying geometry? How many hours trigonometry? How many hours calculus? Have you ever used it since you got out? No. One man, you do, because you are a rocket scientist. One guy who I would understand and appreciate it, but the rest of us, we did not. That is why I was smart back then. I just took general math. I had to go to summer school because I flunked out, and even I was terribly disenchanted with that. The moment I graduated, the next year they came out with calculators.

I get it. You go off to Bible college someplace, and you know the guy is going to teach you to build a church, and you think that getting that education, that that degree, is going to make you better. There is no degree on this planet that is going to make you closer to God. Do you understand that? I am not fighting it. You go off to Bible college, go ahead. You are going to be taught how to build a church by a guy who never built one. You are going to be taught ministry by a person who has not won a soul to Christ probably ever in their life and has not been ministering forever. That is like, "I am going to go be taught how to be a limpy runner." Who is going to teach you? The one-legged man over here? I get it, but people put too much stock and lose the biblical balance in education.

I told you when I started, I do everything from the Bible, and I have the greatest Christian ever lived in 1 Corinthians 2:5-7. His physical remarks on the wisdom of the world versus the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 2:5-7

*That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

*Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:*

*But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:*

I have to stop there because you notice that he clearly said, "I did not come to you. I was not a good speaker. I did not come to you with enticing words. I did not come to you with a great education and all of the words." He said, "I trembled before you when I stood up and preached." You see, we have reversed the process. He did not need all the acronyms of being a good speaker because he had the power of God in his life, and the power of God will use you no matter where you are. What we have done today is we have thrown that out, and we have educated ourselves. We have fine-tuned ourselves. We have articulated ourselves to the place that we are such good speakers, but we do not have the power of God in our lives.

He said that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit, we speak wisdom among them that are perfect. You are not the wisdom of the world, not of the princes of this world that come to nought, but we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world in our glory. You see, God will give you everything that you need to accomplish whatever He has called you to do. Many times, and I

get it, I think you ought to know things. I think you ought to get educated. I am not against it, but what I am saying is there has to be a balance, and you have to see it from the Bible perspective.

Paul is a great example of that. I mean, he is probably the greatest example in the Bible for all of us. I mean, you want a perspective in learning the world versus God and the Word of God, Paul is your guy. He was highly educated, yet he had a great balance. He said back there in 1 Corinthians 2:2, "For I determined not to know anything save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." That is not true. That is not true. That may be what he said, but that was not true. Paul was taught by the greatest scholar of his day. Paul was taught the Old Testament to the degree that he knew everything about it. He is a Jew, yet he is a Roman citizen. That is an incredible study in itself. You ought to watch how he uses both of those.

Let me tell you something, you are in this world, but you are not of this world. Your citizenship is up in heaven, but at the same time, you are in this world, and if you are smart and learned by Paul, you learn how to use one against the other at the time you need it to get what God wants you to do. He did. He calls himself a Hebrew of the Hebrews in Philippians 3:5. He was a Pharisee. Do you understand what it took to be a Pharisee? He is taught and trained by the greatest mind of his day. Acts 22:3, he goes through it in great detail, and yet he says, "For I have determined not to know anything." I love it. For I have determined. He knew everything. He was taught and trained by the world system, but he said when it came to Christ, "I determined in my life that God's Word was more important than everything else I learned." That has to be your determination.

He was highly educated. He was probably the greatest mind of his day, and I understand that he needed all that for what God called him to do, but he never lost his perspective, and when it came to dealing with people, when it came to building churches, he determined in himself that he knew nothing except Christ and His death on the cross.

Paul's biblical position on his education compared to what he got from God was found in Philippians 3:8-10.

Philippians 3:8-10

*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

*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 I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings; being made conformable unto his death;*

There are the true riches right there. There is the balance in his life. He counted everything that he had learned compared to the Word of God as dung, and he said the real stock of a Christian is simply three things: to know Him, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings. Those are the three things that we do not want.

Here is what I did in my life. I am not telling you to do this. I am just telling you what I did. I saw this many, many years ago. I have never been to Bible college, never a day in my life. I believe what I have always believed, that the New Testament local church is God's program to teach me the Bible. It taught me the Bible, and I am doing the same thing in teaching you the Bible. That is just what we do. I believe that. I told you when we started, I base what I do on the Bible. That is just where I am at.

I want to tell you something, I do not care who you are. I do not care how much education you got. I do not care what you do in life or how far you go. I could sit down with you and probably on a 90% scale talk with you on an educated level about anything you want to talk about. You want to talk about the solar system? You want to talk about the planets? You want to talk about existentialism? You want to talk about pragmatism? You want to talk about hedonism? You want to talk about socialism? You want to talk about fundamentalism? You want to talk about liberalism? You want to talk about all the "ologies" of man? I am right there with you.

Here is what I did. I knew and understood what Paul was talking about, and I never allowed anything in my life after I got saved until I got that book down. I spent the first 10, 12 years of my life devouring that book, and then really devouring it but with a little twist. I wanted to make sure in my life that nothing else crept in. I wanted God to have 10, 12 years of my life where nothing came in, that everything was about that book, that He taught me everything that I needed to believe. Then once I got to that point where I was solid in that book, that nothing, no one on any planet in this universe was going to pull me off of it, I started reading every book that was out there. I started reading everything about psychiatry. I started to read everything about psychology. I started to read everything about science. I digested everything on evolution. I digested everything I could find on anything that had to do with anything. I read everything that I could get my hands on. I devoured and began to read book after book after book.

I would go up to the Staffer Treats in Lawrence, Kansas. I would go over to the bookstore, over the used bookstore on the campus, and I would buy 20 or 30 books that had to deal with all subjects: chemistry, biology. I would deal with everything in history. I would read it all. The difference was, I wanted to educate myself, but I wanted to educate myself on my terms. I did not want the world educating me on their terms. So what I did first was get that book down where nobody could ever pull me off of that book. Nothing, no one argument, nothing, nobody could say. It would just be a joke compared to what God had showed me. Then I digested everything I could, but the difference was, everything else I was now reading, I did not run around the book, I ran it through the book, and God showed me the truth and the fallacy of everything I was reading, and God gave me the understanding and the wisdom to see that the Bible is the only, only aspect. It is the only thing that is true: to know Him, the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His suffering.

Pastors today, when they look for a pastor, they do not care about what he knows about the Bible. The pulpit committee, they want to know where he went to school. They want to know the guy with the most degrees that wins out. "Do you have a BA? Do you have an MA? Or do you have a PhD?" I mean, that is how they look at it. A BA, a bunch of applesauce. MA, more applesauce. PhD, piled higher and deeper applesauce. That is all they look at. Everybody wants a doctor.

I get it. We live in a Laodicean church age that makes God sick. We have more doctors running around Christianity. Back in my day, it was the biggest thing in the world for a preacher to get an honorary doctorate degree, to be called "Doctor." There were Bible colleges that if you would send a bunch of students down there and keep their little game going after about 200, 300 students, four, five, six, seven years, then they would call you down to graduation and have you speak. You would put on that robe. You would wear that hat. You would have that mantle. Oh, you looked educated. You would stand up there and you would speak to that class, and then they would come out and they would reward you an honorary doctor degree, Doctor of Theology. Oh, and you would go home, and your church was so proud, "We have a doctor in the house!"

I am telling you, I watched it. I saw it. There is a church in this town that wanted to link up with and get accreditation with a college so they could bring it into their Bible training thing, that every pastor on that staff could become a doctor. Like you are better now if you are a doctor. You are closer to God if you are a doctor. I understand Jesus Christ is a great physician, but I do not think that is what He was talking about.

I had an idiot guy one time. He was a Christian psychologist, whatever that is, an oxymoron, and he was an oxymoron too. We went out to lunch one time. Now, he was a doctor. He was a doctor in whatever he was a doctor in, but it had to do with psychology. He did not even, he worked for a company. He did not even have an office. He was not seeing patients. We go to lunch one day, and I am standing there, and the way he wants to see this, and we start to go over, and he goes back to the deal, and I am standing from here to the... He goes back and he says, "My name is Dr. So-and-so. If I have any phone calls, would you bring them to my table?" I am thinking, "Was your wife going to call you? You work at a plant." See, he wanted that honor. He wanted them to say, "There is someone with a doctor over there. If I get any calls to call Doctor So-and-so, he is right over here." He just told me this is what we got. I am thinking to myself, "I will tell you what, this is stupid."

You know what he told me one time? We had a disagreement about a lot of things, obviously. He told me one time, he says, "Bobby," he says, "I believe the Bible is truth, but I just do not believe the Bible is all truth." In other words, there is other truth out there that is not found in the Bible, that is, his psychology. I am going to tell you something, there is no truth outside the Word of God. Giving me a doctorate degree is like putting whipped cream on an onion.

I have seen many a young kid that started a church, and maybe he did not do well because he did not know exactly what he was doing, but he could have made it. But after three or four or five years, he decides that he is going to give up his church, and he is going to go back to school to get more education to be a better pastor. You will never be a better pastor by going back to school. School does not make you better anything. You know what makes you good? Getting it in there and doing it. Getting in there and doing it.

You can go to basic training. You can go to AIT. You can take every school they have: jump school, AAT, demolition school, whatever you want, and you can have all those certificates. You will not be a real soldier until the first bullet starts zinging over your head, and you have to act it out, what you have to do. You will throw, you will put the greatest battle plans together, "Here is

what we are going to do," and the moment that ramp goes down and the bullets are flying, you throw the plan away because you have to do what you have to do. Experience.

You know what you guys and gals are getting here? That is invaluable to you. I know you probably do not see it, but you know what you are getting? You are getting experience. You are getting a better education than any pastor ever got in any seminary or Bible college anywhere. They get book learning by guys who do not even understand it. You get thrown to the wolves. You have to get in there and figure it out for yourself. You have to get in there and open that Bible. You are doing it, and God will take that, and God will use that, and God will educate you through that. That is the difference between God's people who really build a tower and they are always on ground level. It is just that simple.

## VI. Life: The Pursuit of Longevity

Then he says through life. That will be good health. Man today is increasingly preoccupied with living a long life. Not only does he want to be happy with riches, not only does he want to be somebody with honor, but he wants to live forever.

Psalms 90:9-10

*For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.*

*The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

Seventy years, and that is God's counting. If you get more than that, He tells you it is going to be blood, sweat, and tears. Man, we talk about it all the time. You are watching on TV, you will see it on the billboard, "Quality of Life." My doctor tells me all the time, "Well, I want you to have a quality of life." I said, "I do." We used to have fitness centers. We used to have gymnasiums. Now they are called wellness centers. Wellness centers. We have a great controversy across America on the health care controversy. Obamacare. Health care costs are going through the roof. It is a money-making deal, man.

I have to tell you, I agree, medicine today is absolutely incredible. I have been told this, I am looking forward to this. I think it is a good thing. It is not a bad thing. When I was growing up, when you were 60, 70 years old, you were an old man. Now I tell my doctor, he says, "How old are you?" And I said, "I am 67." He says, "Oh, you are still a young guy." You know what we have done? We have pushed old age back. I guess now you are not old until you are 90. I like that. I am not fighting that.

But I cannot believe what they can do. Can you imagine that they can take a heart out of one person and put it in another? Now you know that that is not like getting an Erector Set. That takes some... You realize all the stuff you have to hook up? You realize that you just do not have, you know, like a plumber, you just do not hook the pipe together and solder them and see you later, man. Can you imagine what it must be to do a heart transplant?

I will tell you a little joke. I remember the first heart transplant took place. I was at a church. I was just a staff guy, so nobody had gotten my honor yet. The first heart transplant took place, I think it was in South Africa. They called a meeting of all the deacons, and we now had to face this dilemma, and I... I cannot believe we are having this conversation. You know what the conversation was? The conversation was, "How do we deal with the fact now that we are doing heart transplants? What if the man who was saved and got a heart transplant got the heart of an unsaved man?" I have a better one. They do heart valves with pigs. Most men are pigs anyhow. Amen, ladies. Are you a bigger pig after you get the heart valve from the pig?

I could not believe they were having this conversation. "What are we going to do theologically wise now that we can do a heart transplant? What if a saved man, they take his heart out and put the heart in of an unsaved man, is he still saved?" I could not believe it. I thought it was back in the Dark Ages when the Roman Catholic Church had the Holy Eucharist. It was eternal life, and they had to deal with the theology, "What happens if a rat breaks in and eats the Holy Eucharist? Does he have eternal life forever?" I could not believe we were having that conversation. That is where it was at.

Heart transplant. How about this? Kidney transplants. I mean, knee transplants. I mean, elbows, hips. I mean, you realize that they just peel you like a banana, pull out your hip, and put in another one. It is just like, you know, when your car runs dead, and you drive in up there, you know, when they open the hood and they pull out this section and put another one, now it is fine. That is complicated. There are guys who invest their whole life, but it is all to give you quality of life. I am not fighting it. I am really not. You are looking at a guy that a year ago I could not walk. I saw my X-rays with all the bolts and screws in it and with the fusion that he made and all the things that he did, six or seven hours doing my back. I get it. I mean, it is incredible what we have even come so far now that we have the ability through medicine to change men into women and women into men. Man, baby, we have come a long way, and all to make us happy.

"I am not happy being a man because I am really a woman. I am not happy being a woman because I am really a man. God made a mistake when you went down the assembly line. You went the wrong way." We want to be happy, and we think that if we have health and what we view as health...

Right now, as I am speaking, I looked at this the other day. I keep tabs on it because I may want to go here. They have a place out in Colorado where they have a cryo chamber that if you die of some disease right now that there is no cure for, they will fast freeze you, put you in there, and then 20, 30 years from now, when they get a cure for it, they will thaw you out like a TV dinner and fix you. Do you believe that? It is incredible. They wrap you in tin foil like a piece of chicken. Chicken freeze-fry you when you are in there, man. They pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for that.

Yet the Bible says that life and the quality of life in this life are not always going to be good things that come our way. The quality of life that we have, a long life with God, and how long we live, is given to us for the purpose that God has given us. In the Bible, it says in Romans 8:28, He saved us according to His purpose, not our purpose. Do not ever want to forget, well, we

forget this, this life is temporary. You are talking about long term and short term. You have to look ahead to the next one that is eternal.

A guy asked me one time, and he was very philosophical, and he says, just like this, he said, "May I ask you a question?" I said, "Sure." He said, "Should I be preparing to live or should I be preparing to die?" That was a great philosophical question. I said, "Look, Plato, you will never be prepared to live until you are first prepared to die." You have to have something nobody can take from you.

In a general sense, long life comes from loving God in the book, doing the work that God has called you and me to do, and in most cases, you will have a long, productive life. I look at Dr. Ruckman, 96 years old. He was still playing ice hockey when he was 80. He is the goalie. Two weeks before, or two weeks before he had his fall, whatever, he is out there with his cane, street preaching, holding up, telling people how to get to heaven. He lived his whole life. He had a long life. Melso Baca had a long life.

But in some cases, now get this, that is the general rule, but in some cases, if God allows you and me the privilege of going home early so He can get more honor and glory out of our death than He can our life, praise the Lord. I want to tell you something, that is a hard concept for God's people to get today. You know why? Because heaven is not real to us. That is why. You see, God's purpose is okay in my life as long as it is what I want.

You know what? I am going to tell you something, and I mean this. If I had a terminal disease or I had some disability disease that I was born with, that the statistics say that, you know, I probably will not live past 40 or maybe 50, that most people die, and I see it all the time, and I am sure you do too. You know what I would do, and I am telling you the truth? I would get in that book. I would get into ministry, and I would make myself so valuable to God that He looked down over the banners of the heaven and says, "I have to give that guy an extension. He is too valuable. He is doing something nobody else is doing. I need him to stay around a little longer and tack on some more time. I need him."

There is a... and I know you look at that and you think that is goofy. I am going to tell you something, that is exactly the way. If you are not, in fact, God saved you for a purpose. If you are not invaluable to Him, and that is what every Christian ought to do. Your goal every morning when you get up should be to make yourself absolutely unreplaceable, invaluable to God. Now I know that God can replace any of us in 10 seconds or less, but in my mind, I want Him to say, "I need that gal and I need that guy."

If you do not believe that, you better go over to Ezekiel 22:30 because the Bible says over there that God is looking for a few good men. He is looking for somebody to stand in the gap, to make up the hedge. When He finds somebody making yourself invaluable... No, no, no, not us. Uh-uh. You kidding me? We get mad at God. We blame God. We whine about our problems. We say, "God, why me?" And my answer is, "Why not you? Why not me?"

God told me one time, he was going through a terrible suffering time, and I said, "I am really sorry." He says, "I am not." He says, "You know what my Lord suffered for me on the cross, and

this is just a little taste of what He must have went through. It makes me appreciate what He did for me more." That is a tough place to get to, but that is not New Testament Christian. We get mad at God. We blame God. We quit going to church. We dump the Bible. We want to walk around and whine all the time about how we feel and how we this and that. I am going to tell you something, quality of life does not always come because you are always healthy and you get to do everything.

The Bible says, "By humility and fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life." As Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 12:13:

Ecclesiastes 12:13

*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

God will give you everything that you need.

## VII. Thorns and Snares: The Perils of the Froward

Now look at verse 5:

Proverbs 22:5

*Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.*

You find that word "froward" a lot in the Bible, especially in Proverbs. "Froward" means perverse. It means not willing to yield or comply with what is required of somebody. It means to be disobedient. Someone who is completely out of control of any discipline or instruction in life. That would be most of God's people.

Thorns in the Bible are connected with man's sin. The first time you find it in the Bible is in Genesis 3:18, and it is a direct result of the curse through Adam's sin.

Genesis 3:18

*Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

In the Bible, it will always be a reference to man's sin when you find it.

Proverbs 15:19

*The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.*

Joshua 23:13

*Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.*

See, it is a type of sin. Thorns will stop you. Anybody who has ever been out hunting and you start going through the brush and you hit some big old spike thorns, I will tell you what, man, they will stop you. They will stop you in your tracks. Some of those suckers are that long, and they are like a dagger. I ran one into my elbow one time when I was out hunting and turned around. It was a big old spike tree there. It put that thing right into that crazy part where you go crazy. I ruined the deer hunting for anybody within 10 miles around. I will tell you what, I was doing a Chickasaw war dance, believe me.

Thorns in your eyes. See that thing? What you look at, that will stop you. Thorns, if you try to go through it, it will get you all tangled up.

2 Timothy 2:4

*No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

The key word there is "entangle." That is what thorns do. They entangle you in your forward progress, and then they stop you. You cannot go forward. In the military, if you want to stop an infantry attack, just put about five layers of concertina wire, barbed wire, around the perimeter. Have a good support of base of fire. You will kill them. They will be hanging on the wire like chickens on Thanksgiving Day. They cannot get past it. The Japanese on Guadalcanal, they just hung up on that wire. They could not get past the wire. They got caught in the wire, and they just slaughtered them. You know why? The snares, the thorns, stopped their forward progress, and that is what sin will do for all of us. Of course, the list is endless of God's people that just get caught up in the thorn bushes of life. Boy, they do not go anywhere.

Now he talks about snares, and that is the trap that the devil will lay out for you and for me that we will fall into. If you want to study it, look at:

- Proverbs 7:23
- Proverbs 18:7
- Proverbs 20:25
- Proverbs 29:6
- Proverbs 29:25
- Isaiah 24:17
- Isaiah 29:21
- Jeremiah 48:43
- Jeremiah 50:24

Over 71 times in the Old Testament alone, all of them are dealing doctrinally with the antichrist setting up the snares for the nation of Israel in the tribulation period. But in a practical sense for you and for me, it is a picture of what you and I go through.

Here is how it works. The Bible tells us very clear that this world is in darkness.

1 Thessalonians 5:5

*Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

You are children of the day, children of the light, that would be you. Children of the night, children of the darkness, that is unsaved people. We as saved people, we have to walk in this world that is in darkness. We do. Everywhere we go, we are in this world. Well, we are not of this world. The world is total darkness. So, in that darkness, the devil will put out his snares, and this is how every child of God who ever got a long way from God, got out of fellowship with God, this is how it happened. They are in darkness trying to walk through the darkness. The devil sees them coming. He lays out the traps and the snares, and they step right into them, and they get snagged. They walk right into the thorn bush, and they get stopped. This trap will trap you. It will hold you, and it will disable you from going forward. Now that is a fact.

Here is the good news. The Bible says that the Word of God is light.

Psalms 119:105

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

In fact, if you want to go through the Bible and look at the Bible, the Bible is five basic lamps or lights. This is a good devotion if you ever want to use it.

6. The Bible, first of all, is a reading light. When you start reading the Bible, you never figure it out until the Holy Spirit of God will illuminate what you are reading, and the Holy Spirit of God will turn the lights on, so to speak, and show you what He wants you to see.
7. The Bible is likened to a heat lamp. It not only gives light, but it gives heat. The world will be very cold and indifferent to you sometimes. People will be cold and indifferent to you sometimes. Your friend will be cold and indifferent to you sometimes. Life in general will just be very cold and indifferent, and you do not like that. I do not like that. You want to get warmed up? Get warmed up with the Holy Spirit of God inside you.
8. The Word of God is a night light. Little kids, what is the last thing they say when you kiss them goodnight and they have their devotion and you start to close the door? They will say, "Leave the light on." We like to sleep with a little night light that kind of breaks up the darkness. I go to sleep every night with my night light right here.
9. It is a traveler's light. We journey through life. We go where God wants us to go. It is a light that lights the travel way that we go.
10. It is a safety lamp. It shows us where the snares are. The Bible said that it is a light that shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. It illuminates the night and shows me all the snares so I can sidestep them through the principles. I have to go through my journey in life. They are all over the place. He has laid land mines and snares all over me. I just turn it on. Oh, oh, oh, I like this one. That is what you do. It illuminates everywhere you go.

The U.S. military has developed some of the most sophisticated night vision equipment that you could ever imagine. I mean, every soldier gets them. You see them on their helmets, little clips up there. They put it on there. When they are out there, they put that thing down and turn it on. It

turns total darkness into total daylight. Darkness into total daylight. It got to be such a deal that they came up with a motto that "We own the night." I want to tell you something, as a child of God, through the principles of the Word of God, you own the night. You ought to be able to see everything that is out there.

1 Thessalonians 5:5 said that we are children of the light and the day.

Psalms 139:12

*Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

You probably never thought about this. I think about things like this a lot. This is an amazing thing. We talk about death and dying. You realize there was never any death in the presence of the Lord Jesus? If somebody were dead when He showed up, they came back to life. Lazarus did. The woman with her boy there on the way to the funeral. The little 12-year-old girl. There was never death. Death could never stand in His presence. Whenever the Lord showed up, death fled, and a person came back to life. I want to tell you something, it is the same way with light and darkness. When He is light, and you get that light inside you through the principles of the Word of God, the darkness will always flee from you. The darkness, just like death, will never stand in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ inside of you. That is a great truth, and that will illuminate and show you everything you need to see and everything you need to understand.

When the book shows up in our dark world, the darkness cannot comprehend it, and it flees. There is no darkness in the presence of God. The light of God is by the principles.

I will tell you something else I have noticed. I just think of things like this. We have lights on in here. I have lights on in my house. A couple of weeks ago, I put a shirt on, and when I was in my house, it looked black, but when I walked out on the front porch to take the dog out, it was blue. One time I went out, and I thought I had two black socks on. One was blue and one was black. In the house, they looked like they were black, but when you get out in the sunlight, it showed you the difference. My point is simply this: the light of this world will always show you things like... it can show you things off-color that make you think it is real, but if you want to get the real true color, you have to get the sunlight. It will always show you the true color of things. The world will color it for you.

Man-made lights, they project different things. I have this, it has nothing to do with my message, but I have to tell you the story. When I take my dog out, and I get a light, and I have a headlight so I do not mess with it, and I have had all kinds of headlights. I bought a headlight a couple of weeks ago, a couple of springs, and it goes on your head, and it is a different light than I have ever had before, and I will tell you why. I do not know what the difference is, but when you turn the light on and you stand in the backyard, you see the little eyes of a hundred thousand spiders in your yard. I know, I am not kidding you. I turned it off, put my other light on, nothing. Turn this light on, little eyes. I mean, everybody, everybody should look. Little eyes looking at you, and they are not looking up or around, they are looking at me. Those little spiders, and the bigger the eyes, the bigger the spider. I walked over, there was a big pair of eyes up there in the back,

and I walked up, and I looked down, there is a big wolf spider. I mean, that sucker was that big. But I look around, man, there are eyes everywhere looking at me. I am thinking to myself, "Man, if I come out here to take the dogs out, I never come back in the house. You are going to know what happened. The spiders got me."

Now that has nothing to do... I wanted to tell that story for six, seven months now. I never had a place to tell it. Since we are talking about true light, I may have just found the headlamp. It will always identify the spiders for you. Sunlight is the only true light. The world will color everything in its own perspective to give you a false view or a false color, but you want to see what the true color is? Take it out, look at it in sunlight. You want to see how the world will color things for you? You want to see the true color of what it is? Take it out in the light of the Word of God. It will always give you the true color.

Verse 5 says, "He that keepeth his soul shall be far from them." You see, the snares and the thorns and the pitfalls are all illuminated by the light of God's Word. Then you hide behind the principles, and you stay close to God. You realize how much simpler could it get in the Christian life? It is not complicated. It is not hard. It takes no degree to get. It takes no higher learning to get. It is just simply God, in this dark world that we live in, has given us the book that illuminates the path to see the snares and the pitfalls and the thorns. God's simple plan to stay close to God and to keep that fellowship.

1 John 1:7

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

You see, you have to have the same light that He has. Most Christians come to God trying to get His light with the false light of the world, and it will never work. The key to the victorious Christian life, ladies and gentlemen, is the principles: building your high tower, building your walls up that nobody can ever get to you because you live above the circumstances, and you come to the point in your life where you can see everything 360 around you. You see what is coming, and it comes. You see it long before it gets there, and you have the principles to hide behind. Everything you need to live the victorious Christian life is in that book.

This is why I said when I started my sermon like I did so many years ago at that college, the Bible is the only truth in life. Everything else there that you think is going to make you happy—your riches, your honor, your longevity of life, and living a long life to enjoy it all—are going to leave you empty at the end of life. Six thousand years of man's history has never proven me wrong, and I am telling you right now, Solomon was right. You want to hear the conclusion of the whole matter? "Fear God and keep His commandments, for it is the whole duty of man." We will hold up there. Next week, we will be into verse 6.