

## I. Introduction and Welcome

Thank you, guys. If you have your Bibles, I would like to invite you to turn again to Proverbs chapter 19. As we are turning there, I was told by Aaron back there that we have over 24 people watching on the Internet this morning. We would like to welcome you here and hope you get a blessing out of it. Every week, we get a text or a phone call from somebody literally all over the country and all over the world that is just following what we are doing here. We want you to know that we love you very much. I love you very much. We are here for you. We are not just somebody that puts this out so we can talk about it or raise money from it. We just put it out because we want to get the Word of God out.

I want to appreciate all of the people out there who are working with us from all over the world: South Africa, London, or in England, and of course, the Netherlands, and the places that are actually taking the material and putting it out, and across the country too. We thank you for all that you do for us. We just want to try to help you, as we do our people here, get everything you can out of the Bible. Thank you for tuning in this morning. As I said, I love you very much. I hope that wherever you are and whatever you are doing, that this is a blessing to you.

## II. Review of God's Chastisement and Child Training

Last week, we talked about the chastisement of God from Proverbs chapter 19. In particular, I talked about not sparing the chastisement in our children's life. I showed you how that, from a doctrinal context, it is dealing with God dealing with His Son, the nation of Israel, and the chastisement that they have been going through because of their rejection of Him. Israel made two great mistakes. In the Old Testament, they made the mistake of selling out God for Baal worship, and in the New Testament, they made the mistake of selling out Christ for Rome, and we talked about that last week: God dealing with His people down through history.

Then I showed you the practical application of it, and how that it is also a picture of how God deals with us as His children. No child of God, out of Hebrews, we saw, will go without chastisement. The Bible says we are all partakers. We looked at that, and then we took it down to the practical application of chastising and dealing with your own children, the importance of understanding a biblical form of discipline in their lives. There was so much information on how to train up your child. We looked at how our children are God's heritage. We think they are our kids, and in a Christian sense, they are not. They are God's children. He gave them to us to be the caretakers of them, and He wants some things that He wants us to do to them. God wants us to do with our children what He has done with us, and that is recognize that they are God's heritage and bring them along.

It was some great material on it. I talked about the five crucial stages of training your child, and it is based on God's dealing with the nation of Israel. We started looking at the discipline stage, and we talked about how vitally important that aspect of a child's life is. Discipline has to be

number one. It has to start with that. That has to be the foundation by which everything else is built on. Then we talked about the relationship stage. We talked about the fellowship stage, the responsibility stage, and of course, the ministry stage. These are all five things that you find in Israel's life as God was dealing with them and developing them. It is the exact same thing that we find in your life as a Christian.

When you got saved, you get disciplined. The word disciple and the word discipline are two words that go together. That is where it starts. Through that discipline or that disciple, then you build a relationship. After you build a relationship with God, you build your fellowship with God. Once you get to that point in your life, then you take responsibility for God. When you get to that point in your life, then you do ministry for God. It is the same thing. It is an incredible five stages that we need to put our children through as we help them grow and develop, and how absolutely vital it is to lay a foundation of discipline for them.

We talked about providing a vision of God in their life, that they see it through their family and themselves as part of the ministry team that God has forged together through the family, moms and dads leading the way. How through the example of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament and God not holding back His hand of chastisement, and I showed you last week, He has been chastising them for almost 2,600 years. Never one time has He backed off of it. Yet at the same time, He is going to restore them and He is going to bring them back. Lying within all the concept of God's chastisement and His love for Israel is the picture of really what should be behind our dealing with our children, and chastising them or taking them wherever we have to go to keep them focused and disciplined. That is the fact that you love them. You love them enough that you do not want them to turn out and go the way of the world. You love them enough to say no. You love them enough to hold the line with them. You love them enough, and I know many times kids do not understand it. Many times God's people do not understand it when God is dealing with them. But yet the reason for it is the fact that God loves us.

Now today, I want to begin again in reading in Proverbs chapter 19, and I want to pick it up in verse 19. We are going to look at just three verses today, but there are three important verses.

*Proverbs 19:19-21*

*A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.*

*Hear counsel, and receive instruction; that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.*

*There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*

Nick, would you ask God's blessing? Stand up and ask God's blessing on the service this morning for me.

[Prayer offered by Nick]

Amen. Amen.

### III. The Danger of Uncontrolled Wrath

Now I want to start with Proverbs 19:19 here, and I want to kind of glean the principles out of here that can help us and look at them. You remember, I told you that much of Proverbs will be like two-thought verses. The verse will be cut in half. They will have a positive part of the verse, and then a negative part. I have told you many, many times it is much like life. Life will have good times and bad times. And Proverbs is a book that deals with the issues of life. So you are going to find in Proverbs what I call those two-thought verses where you have one that is positive and then one is negative. Sometimes they will both be positive. Sometimes they will both be negative, but it will complete the thought. It is two principles that will go hand in hand with each other that will give you a complete truth. That is the way much of Proverbs is laid out. You want to remember that much of Proverbs or most of Proverbs, once you get past chapter seven, is a negative and a positive put together. It shows you how the issues of life, some will be negative and some will be positive in life, but we have to deal with them all.

Proverbs 19:19 says, "A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment." We want to look at that first part first. Now the verse as it stands is a simple enough verse, but as all of our verses in Proverbs, it is very profound and carries with it a lot of material. People who are angry all the time and display wrath toward everything will always be an issue in life. I do not care where you go in life. If you go out into the workforce, you are going to find people just like this. You are going to find people in school. If you go to college, wherever it may be, you are going to find people who go through life with a cloud over their head and everything they do, they are angry about, or it is many times displayed as wrath, and they are just some of the meanest people that you are ever going to find in your life. You are going to find them all the time.

In the Bible, we look at negative people or somebody who is angry or somebody has wrath, and we get the idea that sometimes those are bad words. They are not necessarily bad words. Bob Jones Sr. said one time that every bad thing in this world is a good thing that somebody has twisted. In the Bible, anger and wrath are two legitimate emotions. They are God-given emotions to us. There is a time for us to be angry and there is a time for us to display wrath. There really is.

The Bible says in Matthew chapter 5 verse 22 that, "whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment." Of course, it says there has to be a cause to your anger. Now, if you have an NIV or anything else that you have there, they will take out the word "without a cause." It simply says in your NIV or your ASV, "if any man is angry with his brother, he is guilty of the judgment." It takes out "without a cause." That is a subtle attempt of discrediting the Lord Jesus Christ because you know as well as I do that Jesus was angry in the Bible. Over there in John chapter 2 verse 16, when He went into the temple and all the money changers were there and they were selling all of the animals and all that for the sacrifices and all that stuff, you know what He did. He got angry. He overturned the tables. He threw everybody out. I mean, I would have loved to have seen that. I mean, here is the sweet Jesus of Galilee kicking over tables, throwing people out by the scruff of their neck. I thought that would have been a good thing. He must not have been having a good day. I do not know, but He sure cleaned them out. Then again in Luke chapter 19 verse 46, three years later, He goes into the temple again. They are doing the exact same thing and He throws them out. The Bible says He

overturned the tables. I mean, it was not just, "You guys get out of here now." It was not like that. He threw over the tables, threw people out the door. I mean, it was an incredible thing to see.

I will just throw this out to you, some little thought for the week. In John chapter 2 verse 16, when He throws them out, He says, "You made my Father's house a den of thieves." Three years later in Luke chapter 19, when He throws them out the second time, He says, "You made my house a den of thieves." Find out why the first one was His Father's house. Now it is His house. Be a little thing for you to work on this week. But my point being, the Bible says He is angry with His brother without a cause. See? So when the NIV takes out "without a cause," they make Jesus Christ a guilty sinner there when He threw them out because they take out "without a cause." That is what they do. Cheap shot at the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So you are going to find that there is a place for anger. You are going to find that at the second coming of Christ, you have the wrath of God poured out on men. Revelation chapter 19:15, Revelation chapter 16:19. Over there in Revelation 16:19, it is called the cup of God's wrath. So we find that there is, in the Bible, a place for anger and there is a place for wrath. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, the Bible says in Mark chapter 14 verse 36 that He drank that cup of God's wrath for you and for me. So there is a time in the Bible for anger and there is a time in the Bible for wrath. I do not want you to get that you see so much anger misdirected and so much wrath misdirected that you think it is always a bad concept. It is not. It is only a bad concept when it is out of control. It is only a bad concept as the Bible says the key to anger and wrath will be your cause behind the way you are. Is there a legitimate biblical cause for it? There is a time and a place for both.

When your anger is not based on a doctrinal principle or in the Bible or a just cause, then it is going to be an issue. It is always going to be an issue. Of course, you do not want it to ever become a personal thing. That has nothing to do with the Bible. Then you are in trouble, as the verse says, and it will apply. You will see this all the time in dealing with people, and people who are angry, people who get angry, they are not really in control of things. When I deal with somebody in a cult, you will see it if you carefully see it on Thursday night. I remember four or five years ago, we invited, remember we invited all the Church of Christ people in here, and Zach was working with them down at UPS, and they were trying to hit him up to become a Church of Christ guy. Those ones are baptized. You are crazy people, man. So we invited them over and their pastors over and the whole church came over, and we had a kind of a good fun fest knockdown drag out. It was for two weeks. I think two or three weeks. It was a fun time.

When you deal with a cult, this is where you see the principle that when somebody gets angry, they lose control. When your anger is not based on something biblical, then when that anger overtakes you, you are going to not be in control of yourself and control your situation. I always doubt it when I deal with cults that way, I always use that. That is a great tool because number one, they do not have the truth anyhow. Number two, they are in a defensive position where they are trying to put out the stuff that they have learned and been taught that absolutely has nothing to do with the Bible. They are really on thin ice and they have to focus on what they have been taught and what they do. You will notice that night that the pastors, I mean, many of you were here, my people were jumping in all over the place. Remember how that the pastors would not

let their people speak? Every time they began to talk, they would shut them up and only the pastors could speak. That is because they did not want to lose control because they knew that if they got into a knockdown drag out with somebody and somebody was smart enough to know to get them angry, and that is the key. When you start to deal with a cult, if you can get that person angry, you won because he has no defense at that point. He loses his focus and you stay cool. There is no reason for you to get angry. You have the truth. You do not have to get angry. You are not intimidated by them. You are not worried about it. You just put out the truth, but you know they do not have the truth. If you can shake them, if you can get them to the point where they lose their temper and get angry, you won because anger will control you. When anger without a cause is in our lives, we do not have control of our lives.

The Bible says, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, and without walls." You will go to it. I mean, you want to, and a lot of people, I remember that night afterwards, and it was amazing to me, there were people in our own church that felt sorry for them. They said, "Well, you know what? I think Bob was a little too hard on them." Oh yeah, they send a hundred billion people to hell and we are too hard on them. You know what your problem is? You have not won anybody to Christ in your life. Here is a cult out there that is sending people to hell faster than a bullet, and you are worried about their feelings getting hurt. But that is where God's people are today.

I remember the guy, he was, I had him on a thing there and he was, I just would not let him go. He was the guy there and we could begin to see him sweating. I just kept nailing him. He did not have an answer. Then I pushed the anger button on him. I knew now I am going to put him over the top in front of all his people, in front of all the other pastors. He is struggling with an answer. I just stopped and I said, "Maybe there is somebody else here in your group that knows more about this than you do, because you are really having a tough time with this tonight." He went ballistic. But it was over. He could not put two thoughts together after that to save his soul. Baptism will not save your soul, by the way.

In the military, when you want to ambush somebody, the most deadliest ambush on the planet that nobody ever survives is what they call an X ambush, where you set one group up here, one group down here. This group is going to fire this way. This group is going to fire that way. If somebody, a column is going to come through this way or come through that way, when they get right in the middle of the X, everybody opens up. This group will cover anybody going this side on the left flank. This group will cover anybody on the right flank. You catch them in the X crossfire. There is no surviving it. When you are dealing with a cult member, if you want to put him in an X ambush where he does not survive, just get him to lose his cool. Because when people get mad, they lose control of things. When they lose control of things, you have them. That is the beauty about the Bible. That is why the Bible says, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." How do you get offended when you have the truth? How do you get angry at somebody who wants to, I mean, who wants to argue with you over the baptism for salvation or tongues or losing your salvation? How in the world, I mean, to me, I guess to any Christian, that is like some of you guys, kids sitting down and playing video games.

You do not take it serious, but it is fun. I do not take them serious, but I would be lying if I said it was not fun. You just have to know what button to push.

You never lose control when you have the Bible in any circumstance or any situation. That Bible is the absolute final authority for everything on life on planet Earth. When you know it and you understand it, whatever situation you are in, never yield and give up the control of the situation. They are one of the ways that you will give it up when somebody makes you angry, because anger will always get you off your game. It is the difference between getting angry over something legitimate that violates the scriptures versus getting mad over something else.

1 Corinthians chapter 14 verse 32, a great verse that says, "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." Most people read that verse and do not know what it means. It says the spirit of the prophets are subject to the prophets. You know what that verse means? It means that you and I control our own emotions. We control our own spirit. We control our anger. We control our emotions. It is the spirits of the prophets that are subject to the prophets. In all my ministry, I have seen people who could not find issues. Some of you will remember, some of you ladies, anyhow, remember, it has been about five, six, seven years ago now. Remember the couple we had that came in here? I had known them for quite a while. This woman had a lot of problems. Honestly, she was the meanest woman I ever met in my life. I mean, she was not happy about anything. I do not care where we went, what we tried to do. She was not happy. She found fault with everything that we did.

I remember putting, somebody comes in like that, the husband, he was a weak guy. He was a nice guy, but he was weak. He could not lead her. She was, I mean, it was just a bad situation to get go, but she was mean. I put her with one of you guys. I will not even say who it is, but she is sitting here on the edge of the thing here, about halfway back, three points way back. I put her with one of the gals back here. You probably remember this, Nick. I put her with, let me ask her, who cannot get along with Nikki Bracken? Nikki Bracken is not some foul-mouthed person who just looks out to try to insult somebody. She is very, very professional with what she does. I put her with Nikki. It was not two weeks this woman called me on the phone. "I do not like this person you put me with." I said, "Okay." I said, "I realized that I did not understand it, but I want to give people the best shot I can." I understand sometimes in dealing with little personality clashes, we get that. I mean, you did not like me the first time you met me and I get it. It is a thing where, so I put her, I forget who the second person was, but I put her with somebody. I talked to Nikki. I said, "Hey, look, it is no big deal. Do not take it personal. But you know, we are going to, I am going to put this with this person over here." She said, "Fine, there is no fine." At two weeks, she calls again. "I do not like this person. This person just is not what I am looking for. This person is not telling me." I said, "Okay, okay, okay." I got her third. I think I went through seven ladies. Every one of them, she did not like. Every one of them, she found something wrong with.

Then I made the stupid mistake. You know, sometimes I just, I do not think for, I speak sometimes usually on Sunday morning when I am preaching, but you know, her and her husband came over. I got the phone call, the dreaded phone call, "Can we call and talk with you?" "Oh, sure." Evidently we are not going to have anything to eat. So just come on over because I know

there is something going on here. I love when you get the, "Brother, can we come over and talk to you?" All the other time, "Hey, Bob, how are you doing? Man, it is good to see you." "Oh, yeah. How are you?" Just stop. "Because we want to talk with you." I knew there was a problem. So they come in. Now the husband, he stands up and he begins to speak for her behalf. I know what happened. She beat him up at home and now he has got to do this. So he starts saying, "Well, you know, we are not happy here. You know, we thought we would come here and you would put, you would help my wife and she is not getting the help that she needs." I am sitting here and I am ticking off from Nikki to the next person to the next person to the next person. I mean, seven or eight ladies. I think Courtney was one of them. I think Pam was one of them. I just, everybody just ticking them off in my mind. I am thinking of my, and I, you know, I am so stupid. Instead of just standing there and sitting there and saying, "Well, I am really sorry. You know, what can I do?" You know, I put my foot in my mouth and it was the end of the story. Maybe that is what God wanted. He went on and on and on about how his wife, she is just sitting there. She is just boiling mad. He says, "And I just want you to know these women have not helped my wife at all." I said, "Well, I do not know what to tell you. I am out of women." Oh, that did not go over. I was out of women. I did not have anybody else. She ran through the whole muster sheet, man. I mean, I am out of, I am out of women. I do not have anybody else to put with you. Well, I had one, but I save her for people that want to run off. So, you know, but I did not have anybody else. They got mad and left.

You know, that was probably six or seven years ago. This woman was never happy about anything. People are angry all the time and display wrath toward everything that goes on. I do not know where they are at today. It has been seven years ago, but she was always blaming everybody else. It was always somebody else's fault. I said, "I put the very best women I had with her." Now I have not seen her for six or seven years, but I guarantee you this, nothing has gotten any better. Nothing has probably changed. Her anger and wrath has only gotten worse and it is still everybody else's fault. You see, anger and wrath start in our hearts. It is not something that we pick up like a cold. It starts in our hearts when things are not right between us and God. When you do not take care of those things and deal with those things, and when your anger and wrath is not based on a biblical principle, but rather your own personal issues that you are not willing to deal with.

I will tell you, the only thing that will keep our anger right and our wrath in check, that it does not get out of control, will be when it is based on the Bible and it falls into a set of biblical principles that we all follow to keep it the checks and balance system. That is why I put the emphasis on the principles here. The Word of God is our checks and balance system. It keeps everything between the white lines of where it needs to be. We are all going to struggle with that. Every one of us, everybody is going to have an issue with this. There will not be anybody that says, "Oh, I do not have a problem." We all do. That is why it is the importance of the principles to make sure that what we get upset about, what we are dealing with, is a legitimate cause. You see them wherever you go in life, they will have problems wherever they go.

The verse says, "A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment." Let me talk about suffering punishment for a moment. That means they will be beat up all their life. They are going to be in

conflict all their lives. They are not going to just have a problem with this here. They have a problem wherever they go. Where they want to blame it on this and when they blame it on that, it is never what they blame it on. It all goes back to the source in their heart where they are not dealing with the things the way they should. Many times they will get beat up all their life. They are at odds with everybody and they do not agree with their life. We use the phrase, we say, "Man, I got beat up in that deal." We talk about it all the time. We say, "Man, did you ever throw me under the bus?" See, we say, "Man, you know, boy, I got beat up. Oh man, I got clobbered. Or I got bloodied or I got busted. I got this, I got that." When a person cannot control their temper or their anger and it leads to wrath, it is always going to come back on them. They are going to suffer the punishment of going through life in conflict with everybody. There is not going to be anybody that they do not have a problem with or very few anyhow.

Along with that, a woman or a man who cannot control their anger will never be able to control their mouth. That is why it just keeps them getting in problems.

*Ecclesiastes 7:9*

*Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*

*Proverbs 16:32*

*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

It is all dealing with you keeping control of everything in every situation in life. I know this is not possible. I know it is not, but it ought to be. It ought to be pretty close in our life, your life, and my life and everything that we do because we have the Bible, because we have the principles, because we have all that God has given us. There should be very few times, as I said a little earlier, that we lose control of a circumstance. The principles will always dictate that you stay in charge. People may not like that. They may not agree with that. But it does not matter. At the end of the day, let God be true and every man a liar. At the end of the day, it is the principles that will stand. You will see that here in just a moment.

You are going to find that if you want some really good advice from the wisest man that ever lived, and that would be Solomon, sound advice, he said in Proverbs 22:24, "Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go." The reason is, is because whatever negativity they have is going to brush off on you. It is just that simple.

Now look at the last part of that verse. When a man or a woman cannot control their anger and their tongue, look what happens. Here is what it says: "For if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again." It is going to be a constant endless source of problems. After time, after time, after time. It says there, "for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again." I might add in my own commentary, and again, and again, and again, and again. It is going to go on and on and on. They just go from one issue to another, and they never deal with the real issue, which is their anger. I have seen people that just go from church to church to church, and they find a problem in any church they are in. It does not matter if there is a problem or there is not. They will find one, they will make one up, they will get one going for themselves. It is just the way it is.

## IV. The Importance of Hearing and Receiving Counsel

Proverbs 19:20 says, "Hear counsel, and receive instruction; that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end." Oh, what a great principle this is. Now, doctrinally, just so you put this note in your Bible, you do not have it, the key word there is "latter end." So we know that this is given to Israel, God's son, that they are there to hear counsel and receive instruction, that it is going to be what it is going to be good for them in the latter end. The latter end of your Bible will always be the second coming of Christ. So that is what you are dealing with. You will find that latter end in:

- Joel 2:23
- Job 37:6
- Psalm 68:8-9
- Revelation 1:6
- James 5:7
- Jeremiah 14:22

It will always be a reference to the second coming of Christ and the end of the tribulation period.

Now, inspirationally, you and me getting the counsel and receiving God's instructions in life. It says, "hearing counsel and receiving instruction." Now, the verse is a great one, because it does no good to hear counsel if you are not going to receive what you hear. That is exactly what most of God's people do. They hear it, they just never do anything with it. I mean, what good is truth in our lives if we do not do something with it? It was given to us to apply it.

I grew up in the era where pastors, and I used to hear them say this all the time from the pulpit, it used to just drive me nuts. They would talk about how that reading the Bible will solve your problems. That sounds really good, because the Bible is a really good book. The Bible has within it the ability to solve any problem that you have. So it is one of those shallow, Laodicean mindset concepts that pastors put out that really did not know much about anything about the Bible. But it is not true, because just reading the Bible will not solve your problems. If you want to solve your problems, you have to apply what you read in the Bible to your problems to solve it. Reading it, pastors will not solve. Hey, the Jehovah Witnesses read it all the time, and they do not solve theirs. Church of Christ read it all the time, they do not solve. Calvinists read it up one side and down the other, they still got their issues. It is not about reading it.

Somebody said one time, "I read the Bible through 300 times." I said to him, because we had a discussion about something that he was completely messed up on, it was just completely out of whack. I said, "You read the Bible that many times?" I said, "You have got to be the most dishonest person I ever met in my life." "What do you mean by that?" I said, "You read the Bible through 300 times, and you are still screwed up on the thing that is wrong in the Bible. You would think that 300 times in there, God might show you something that you are wrong." Bottom line is this, reading through the Bible 300 times will not do anything for you.

One time, Mel Sabaka, my father in the Lord, he read through the Bible once every 33 days. Now, you have got to do 50 chapters a day to get through it in 33 days, 50 chapters a day. That is a lot of Bible reading. He did it. I remember being a young guy back then, I thought, "Well, that

was the key to the Bible." I have tried everything in the world to learn the Bible. I was young, stupid, and impressionable. I remember reading one time that if you put, if you listen to something while you sleep, you memorize it. So I remember, I thought that was the greatest thing in the world. I am kind of like that guy that read about a steak diet. "If you just eat steak, you will lose weight." The guy says, "How is your steak diet going?" "It is going great." "How much you lose?" "I lost \$40 the first week." That was my stupidity.

I remember, I got this guy who could read the Bible, Alexander Scourby. Oh, what a great, and I put his cassette in there, and I went to sleep every night. I thought, "I am going to know Romans by," I put on Romans. I went to sleep with Romans. He would just put me to sleep. I woke up in the morning, ready to, I remember woke up in the middle of the night and I said, "Not there yet. I have got to go back to sleep." It probably kicked in after 5:30 or something like that. I never learned a thing that way. I never did. I played it and played it and played it and played it. I never learned a thing. Never did. I realized that, you know, I realized that that was not the way to do things.

So when old Mel Sabaka was doing that, I was young and impressionable. I thought, "You know what, that is what I will do." So I read through the Bible. I did it for probably a year, maybe a year and a half. I read through the Bible over 33 days. I was the biggest mess that you ever saw after going through that time of reading the Bible over 33 days. Because you know what happened? Boy, this is human nature. I was more interested and more worried about getting my 50 chapters in a day than I was what God was giving me. That is what human nature does. You become a slave to the system instead of becoming a slave to the book. But I realized the great truth out of that. I realized that it was not how many times that you and I go through the Bible, but rather how many times the Bible goes through us. That was the key for me. I realized that, you know, it is a great concept to understand and get in your heart and your mind about learning the Word of God. Because what good is truth in our lives if we are not going to do something with it? You have to read the Bible, you have to get the instructions, and then you have to do something with it. You have to apply it.

You will see people around here all the time with little three by five cards and all the little stuff that they are doing. They are actively trying to learn and memorize the Word of God. Memorization is harder the older you get. But you memorize things by doing things. It is a thing where I remember one time, I could just about name everybody as close to me, I could just about rattle off your cell phone number. Because I call you all the time. I know Gary's. I remember when I went to the thing one time and she said, "What is your cell phone number?" I did not know what it was. I never called myself. You see, when you associate yourself with something all the time, it is just through the natural process you learn it. When you associate yourself with the Word of God all the time, and that becomes the number one thing in your life, you just learn it. I am not sure there is any program or precise way for you just to learn all the principles in the Bible other than just living them and letting them just absorb themselves into you.

*Proverbs 11:14*

*Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

We take that verse to mean that whenever I have a problem, I will talk to Nick, I will talk to Bob, I will talk to AJ, I will talk to Josh, I will go around to everybody and think what they think about it. Then the one I like the best, the fifth one I want to do, that is the advice I will take. That is not what it is saying. It says, "in a multitude of counsellors there is safety." God gave you a book, a Bible with 66 counselors in it that covers every issue in life. You want to find out what you have to do with your issue? Go to one of those counselors. Hear what they say and then receive the instructions of it and do something with it.

Now the word counsel, I think is a good word today. We talk about a counseling ministry. People say, "Well, I am a counselor." That is a big deal today. Most big churches, they have a full-time state-certified counselor on staff. You know, that you can go, if you have some real issues, you can go get some professional help and all that stuff. Yet I found it from the Bible that there is only two kinds of counsel that we have to give. It is not really hard. We have a tendency all the time to make things much more complicated than they are.

Now, if you are here today and you are saved or lost, and there is probably a lot of saved people here, yet there is probably some people who, if you died right now, you do not know for sure you go to heaven. I get it. But let me tell you this. There are no other different people in the world today. You are either saved or you are lost. You are not this or you are not that. You are sitting here this morning and we can take this across planet Earth. You are either in a saved condition or a lost condition. You have problems for one of two reasons. Only one of two. If you are an unsaved person, you have problems in your life for one reason. If you are a saved person, you have issues in your life for one reason. It is not two, it is not three. It does not require a psychiatrist, it does not require a medical therapist. You are saved or lost. If you are lost, you have your issues for one reason. If you are saved, you have your issues for only one reason. I will walk you through them.

If you are unsaved here this morning and you have issues in your life, your issues are based on the fact that because you are not saved, you are incomplete. You want to be complete. Your whole life is to be complete. You have done everything you know how to do to be complete except the one thing you needed to do to be complete and that was trust Christ as your own personal Savior. Because there is no completeness outside of Christ. So what do you do? Here you are. You are 20 years old, 19 years old, 17, 18 years old. You want to be complete. You look at the world and what the world says and the world tells you, "You will really be happy if you do this." You drive down the freeway. You see the billboards. You are not happy. You are a woman and you are a brunette and you see the billboard, "Blondes have more fun." You dye your hair. You are down there and you are a guy and you see the billboard, "Friends drink Lowenbrau." So you buy Lowenbrau beer. You see the smoking commercials. Some guy on a horse out there in Montana, millions of cattle and he is walking, riding along in his horse and he has a big old cigarette out of his mouth and underneath there, "Come to where the flavor is." So you think if you get cigarettes and smoke you are going to in your mind be like that cowboy in a big old ranch, free in the sunset. You ever smell 10,000 cattle? "Come to where the flavor is." All your life. You have tried to fill that empty void in your life by putting things in it that will never fix your life. Now you have been doing it how long? 10 years, 15 years, 20 years, 30 years, 40 years.

Now you are just as empty but your life is much more complicated. Now you have no peace in your heart. All the things and the mistakes you have made that you thought would satisfy you have still left you empty yet they have complicated themselves now. Now maybe you have two or three bad marriages, five or six kids out there running around. Maybe you have been through a lot of jobs. Maybe this, maybe that. Maybe you are an alcoholic. Maybe you are hooked on drugs. Sin never leaves a man any better than it finds him. Now you are at the place where you are 30, 40, 50 years old and you are so despondent because you made all the wrong choices in life.

You know what my counsel is to you? Trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. Shed off the things of the world. Leave behind you all the weight that the world has put on you. Become a new creature in Christ Jesus. The old things will be passed away. All things will become new. Get a fresh start in life. How hard was that? You can leave your \$200 an hour on the table when you go out. That is why an unsaved man has problems. An unsaved woman has problems. Those problems that they thought would make them happy and satisfied will never do it. My counsel to you is to get saved.

Now some of you are saved here tonight and your life is just as miserable as everybody else's. You are not happy either. You are not fulfilled. You come to the place where you, you maybe sometimes you have been questioned. "Am I really saved?" Or you question, "I mean how come the Bible does not work for me? How come I cannot this?" You see other people out here who are happy. They are satisfied. They are complete. And you are not. I understand. You know what my counsel is to you? Start doing with your life what God saved you to do. Give up ownership of your own spirit or your own life or your own plans. Quit trying to buck God every which way you go. God saved you for a purpose and your number one task after you get saved. It may take a little while just to find out what that task is. Some of you want to be a great career. I think that is, I think I commend you for that. But you know what? A great career does not take the place of living for God to do what He wants you to do. Some of you want to go to college. I think that is great. I got all the education. But I am like sixth grade man. I knew it. I got it. I had it. People think I am against education. I am really not against education. I am just against you putting your education ahead of the Word of God. That is all. What is wrong with that? I mean that is what I am supposed to do. Put the Word of God first. Why you get mad at me about things like, "Well, he is against education." I am against you putting anything ahead of God's Word in your life. So go ahead and get mad. Make sure you have a cause.

You know what I counsel you to do? Get God in your life the way He wants to be. You will never be satisfied as a Christian till you come to the place where you find out what God wants you to do with your life and then you do it. You never will. I have seen women come to the place where, "I just want a husband so bad I cannot. I cannot." And I said, "Be patient. Be patient." "But I am so lonely. I want a husband. I want a husband." And I have seen guys say, "I want a wife." And I say, "Be patient. I want a wife." You know what? Because you cannot be patient and you actually think that that is going to make you happy. You short circuit the system. Go find the guy or the gal that you think is Mr. Wonderful. Then two years after you could not live without him, now

you cannot live with him. Happens all the time. As you can well testimony back there, brother. Thank you. You have got to hear the instructions but then you have got to do something with it.

I tell you, you do not need any psychology. You do not need any therapy. You do not need a psychologist. You do not need your monthly therapist appointment. You simply need to understand how simple our issues really are. The Bible says the wisest man that ever lived when he came down in the book of Ecclesiastes which lays out everything in life under the sun. You know what he said?

*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.*

My counsel, do not misunderstand. My counsel is a saved person. You want to solve every problem in your life? Just start doing what God wants you to do. A person says, "Well, I am depressed." You know what a great cure for depression is? It is understanding the reality whatever problem you have, there is always somebody that has a worse problem. I have had people, I said, "Well, I am just depressed about my life." "Okay, here is what I want you to do. Go down to Children's Mercy Hospital, walk through the cancer ward, look at all those little kids in there that are bald-headed from their chemotherapy that are probably going to die. And then tell me what your problems are again." You see, you have got to get outside that world you live in that is not the most important thing you think it is because the most important thing for you is His world. What you do for Him.

I have never been depressed in my life. I have had struggles with things in my life. It does not last very long. It is hard for me to see how anybody can get down in the dumps in life when you are walking the streets of gold through the Word of God. Somebody asked me one time, "Bob, do not you ever get down in the dumps?" I said, "Nah, I do not go there anymore." "Why not?" "Well, people do not throw things away like they used to. You used to find some good stuff down there, not anymore." How do you live in the dumps as a Christian when you should be walking the streets of gold with a book that God gave you? I do not understand it. Somebody says, "Well, there is a lot of, you ever look at the guys in the Bible, you ever look at Paul what he went through and yet he never got discouraged, he never quit, he never stopped?" You know why? Because he knew that at the end of that yellow brick road was the rainbow.

Counsel is not hard. If you are unsaved here this morning and despondent in life, get saved. If you are unsaved here this morning, you say, "Well, I am a happy guy," you still need to get saved because that is a false happiness and you are going to find out when you die. Saved person, just start doing what God wants you to do. Quit focusing on what you want and for the first time you will focus on what God wants from you. What does He want you to give Him? Really stop and evaluate your life. How much of what you are doing right now is really of God or of you? Well, I think it is sober, man.

I put a lot of emphasis on Bible principles and the reason for that is Bible principles will always form good counsel. You will never go wrong. You will never go wrong. I try, I do not always do

it, but I try to have a biblical principle for everything I do. There is not a problem and I deal with it. I do not have a stack of principles based on what I am doing, what I am doing. Now somebody may not give you the opportunity to talk about it or may never find out if you do or not, but that is beside the point. You have to. Good Bible principles will always form good counsel and you use the Word of God, all 66 counselors, to get that right counsel.

For instance, a young man wants to go into the ministry. What a noble thing. That is a great thing. A guy comes to me and says, "Hey Bob, I think God has called me into the ministry. I want to do this. I want to do that. What is your counsel for me?" My counsel is to get in 1 Samuel chapter 3. That is a definitive chapter for every young man or every young lady who wants to go into the ministry. You know what 1 Samuel chapter 3 is. That is good counsel. I have had guys read that and never apply it. Not my fault. That is a definitive chapter in the Old Testament of God putting a man in the ministry. The definitive chapter in the New Testament is 1st and 2nd Timothy.

A couple wants to get married. "Bob, what is your counsel?" In the Bible, there are seven fundamental concepts that your marriage has to be built on. You know what that is. That is good counsel. Here are the instructions. Do what it says. Last week, you want to train up your child right. Last week, you saw the book of Proverbs was the foundation of that. You know what you got last week on training up your children from the book of Proverbs and in the Bible. We spent most of the time in Proverbs. That is good counsel. You have an issue with somebody in the church. Yet the Bible principles will always be the good counsel that you need on how to handle it. Romans chapter 14 and Romans chapter 15. In any issue, if you want to get the truth in the heart of the matter, just sit down and examine it and find out if what is being done, what is being said, and how things are being played out, that there are principles behind it. That is all. Cut it down just like that.

You know, we as God's people, this is human nature. We like to put out a lot of smoke. During World War II, every battleship had a big generator on the back that put out smoke. It could cover the whole ship. When they got in a jam and they wanted to, did not want the enemy to be able to see where they are at to shoot at them, they just put on these generators and just filled the whole thing with smoke and you could not find them. That is what a lot of God's people do. They fill their lives with a lot of smoke. Then the enemy came up with infrared and they could see right through the smoke and see where the ships were. So that did not work very well. For a child of God or whoever that wants to fill their life with smoke, God has got the biblical principles and it cuts right through the smoke and gives you the real issue. So that does not work anymore either. But that is the key. That is the key.

The verse says, "Hear counsel, and receive instruction." Hear what the Bible says and then do what the Bible says. The verse will cut right through all the garbage that people try to mask their actions with. Simply, did they follow the good counsel of the Word of God? You know, this is the reason why honestly people do not like the book of Proverbs. If you wrote a commentary on Proverbs, it would be the least bought book of anything that you would write about. Revelation, everybody would buy it. Daniel, stand in line to get Daniel. Daniel's 70th week, find out whether he had a Christ got that word on his nose the left side or right side. Oh, get Daniel. Get

Revelation. Oh yeah, Revelation. Proverbs. You know what the reason for that is? Proverbs is too plain. Proverbs is so simple, it is a negative positive verse. It just lays it right down. Proverbs is too open. Proverbs is too revealing. Proverbs makes life so simple. Proverbs takes us down to the lowest common denominator of our life with God.

*Hebrews 4:12-13*

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

God sees. God does not see all the things we kind of mask it behind. God sees right where it is at. That is what Proverbs does. I mean Proverbs says you are either a wise man who hears and receives commandments or you are a fool who will not. How much simpler is life than that? What would we like to do? Fire up the smoke generator. Mask ourselves. Get the right Bible. Get the right church. Get this. Get that. Talk about God. Talk about how much you love God. Just do not ever do anything with it. Proverbs cuts right to that. Proverbs gives you nine things that a wise man is and eight things that a fool is. You and I cannot, we cannot reveal ourselves. If you want to, you see a God's people that write the eight things a fool is and walking around all day long. Do not do that. They will know I am a fool. Do not say that. Do not do that one. Do not do that one. That is what you have to do. You cannot do that because they are inside out of the abundance of heart the mouth speaks. It is not your body that is a fool. It is your heart that is a fool and your heart will reveal what is in it. Your body cannot stop it. That is how it works. See Proverbs is too clear. Too plain.

## V. Man's Devices Versus God's Unchanging Counsel

Right along with that is this great passage will be in our next verse, Proverbs 19:21. What a verse. You see, when you do not want to follow the principles, you always come up with a fake issue to justify yourself. Bible calls this devices. Let us look at our next verse.

*Proverbs 19:21*

*There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*

What a great verse. Now, as the verse stands, it will be applied to the world system first. The devices here will be everything that man has come up with to get him around the Word of God. Higher education. There is no form of higher education that does not exalt itself over the Word of God. End of story. I am not saying you should not get it. I am not saying you cannot learn some things from it. I am just saying know what you are dealing with when you get into it. There is nothing on this planet in higher education that does not exalt itself or try to over the very things of God. It just does. It was designed that way. So the devices will be education. It will be philosophy. It will be science. It will be politics. It will be Popes and religions and ministers and

psychiatrists and therapists, philosophies, all theologies of man, everything that man has come up with to try to portray this is the way life really is versus the way life really is.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, one of the wisdom books in your Bible, probably one of the most unique books in the Bible that nobody ever gets and understands. The theme of understanding in the book of Ecclesiastes is just two simple things. First of all, it says "under the sun" and that means everything that goes on this earth by a worldly way is what he is talking about. What Solomon does is he investigates every philosophy that man ever comes up with. I think he goes through 34, 35 of them. We have got lists back there in the bookstore. You can get a copy of them if you want. I have 34, 35 of the philosophies that man has come up with to get him around, the devices. The book of Ecclesiastes says "under the sun." Then the book of Ecclesiastes also says there is "nothing new under the sun." It shows you that all this stuff is just a cycle, a recycling.

You know when man goes through 6,000 years of doing this and doing this and putting this all together and coming up with this-ology and existentialism and pragmatism and altruism and all of these great things that they come up with that all the philosophers sit around and say, "Yeah, this is really life. You know, if it feels good, do it, do this, do that, do it." This is the way we are when they go through their whole 6,000 years of history. I mean Kant, Nietzsche, Spinoza, Hegel, Thomas Aquinas, Aristotle, Socrates, and Plato, when they go through their whole life, whatever they did, they will hit that book face to face at the great white throne judgment and the Bible says that the books will be open because the counsel of the Lord stands. They are not going anywhere. It is fixed. It is absolute. It does not matter what he thinks about it, saved or lost.

There is a little song that used to be out back in the 60s and the 70s. Everybody used to sing it. I do not know how to sing it, so I will not sing it, but it went like this. "God said it. I believe it. That settles it for me." People will walk around. "God said it. God said it. God said it. I believe it. That settles it for me. God said it. I believe it. Oh, God said it for me." The truth of the matter is God said it. That settles it. May you believe it or not. Amen. He said it. "And the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand." That is why the Bible says we hear instructions and we do something with it. It is incredible. Incredible.

A practical application to you and me. When we do not want to do what is right anymore with the Bible, God or church or whatever, we invent devices. My whole life of 40 plus years in the ministry has been identifying devices. You have got guys who are bomb experts and they can look at a bomb and they can just walk around it and say, "Oh, it is a two-wire pole wire trip wire here. We have got a false thing over here. We have got a false thing over here. You try to cut that red wire. It is really the white wire." Why? Because they have been around bombs all their life. I have seen them get down and smell that thing and said, "Oh, C4. Nothing to mess with." They know what it smells like. You know what? You cannot be in a ministry and do the work of the Lord for 40 some years, not see every device that anybody ever threw up. Sometimes they make you throw up. You can sniff it out. You can see it. Human nature is easier than bombs because a bomb maker can always come up with a new way to make a bomb, but human nature only follows a certain pattern and then there is nothing more added to it. Just learn the pattern. Just learn the pattern.

Device means divisive. When we put a device in our heart to get around the things of the Lord, no matter what we do, the Bible principles, then we get divisive. What was once okay is not okay anymore. I mean, you take the issue with the Bible. In 1900, everybody believed the King James Bible was the word of God. You believe a pre-millennial return of Christ. In the 1850s, 1890s, everybody believed it. What happened now that nobody believes it anymore? You have got Baptist churches that do not believe the rapture of the church anymore. Hey, for 2,500 years or 2,000 years of Christianity, they believed it. What happened to it? Did it just run out of steam? Was it wrong all that time? Were all those people for 2,000 years or 1,900 years that believed one book, they were all wrong? Because in the last part of the 20th and 21st century, somebody says it is not real anymore? Come on.

What was okay at one time? What was really good? What really was great five, six, seven years in a row, maybe 10 years now, it is not good anymore. People say, "Well, you know, I go to church, but it is too loud." Somebody says, "Well, he preaches too hard." Somebody said, "Well, he does not preach hard enough." Somebody said, "Well, it is really cold in there." Somebody else says, "Well, it is really hot in here." Somebody says, "Well, he is just too negative." Somebody says, "Oh, he is always just positive." Somebody says, "Well, so and so is not my friend anymore, so I am not going there anymore." "Things just are not the same anymore." Somebody else says, "Things are the same and they are getting better every day." You cannot please everybody.

You know, the ministry is like, I heard old Oliver B. Green one time, he told this story and this is the ministry. If you want a ministry in a nutshell, here it is. A dad and a boy and a mule were going to town. So they left the house, the dad and the boy got on the mule and they are riding the mule. They went about a quarter of a mile and some guy came out on a gate and said, "Well, that is the stupidest thing I ever saw. Two grown men, a boy and a man trying to break that poor mule's back. Why do not you let that mule rest?" So they got off. So they walked along a little bit over there, another quarter of a mile. A guy came out the gate and said, "Boy, you are looking the stupidest people. You are walking when you have a brand good mule you can ride on." The dad said, "Well, we are not going down that road." He put the boy on the mule. He is walking along, boy riding the mule and leading him along about another quarter of a mile. A guy comes out the gate and says, "Boy, look at that punk son. Makes his old daddy walk while the little young boy rides the mule." So the dad took the boy off, got on the mule and made the boy walk. There was another quarter of a mile and somebody came out and said, "Yeah, there it is. There is an unthankful generation. They can him walk while you ride the mule." Yeah. So when he got to town, the boy and the dad were carrying the mule.

But in spite of it all, my dear friends, in the end, "the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand." The counsel of the Lord will stand. The principles will stand whether anybody reads it, understands it, believes it, obeys it, remembers it, interprets it correctly, it does not matter. "The counsel of the LORD, that shall stand" no matter who opposes it, no matter how many have tried to alter it, no matter how many try to replace it, and no matter how many times it is buried, forsaken, forgotten, lied about, ignored, reevaluated or disbelieved. At the end of it all, no matter what they say or do, listen to me, as an unsaved man, when you do not get that great white throne judgment

after all the devices that you put in your heart, you are going to meet Him face to face. As a child of God, with all the devices that we put in that we are going to have our life to ourselves, that we are not going to serve God, we are not going to do this, we are not going to do that, we are going to play it safe as far as Christianity is concerned, put myself first and get everything I want and then we will give God what is left over. Let me tell you something, that counsel will stand and you will hit Him right at that judgment seat of Christ. The reason why is because "there are many devices in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand."

The book of Proverbs is a powerful book. I waited, it was one of the books that I wanted to teach early on, but it is a book that the people in the church have to be at a certain place to do it. Otherwise, they cannot grasp all the weight of it. It is a simple book revealing our attitude of heart that makes us a foolish man or a wise man. I mean, it is point blank. The mind of God in a book, how inconceivable is that? The fact that we think about God and God being eternal and God being omnipresent and omniscient, God being all those great things that He is and yet God had the ability in the Bible itself, but in the book of Proverbs in particular, to write one book that gave you what His mind was. The mind of God in a book shows how simple God's mind really is about life and how much we always try to make it complicated.

When you get into theology, get into religion, their number one goal is to make God unreachable. Their number one goal is to try to get you to believe how hard the Bible really is to understand how a life with God is something that you have got to just, you know, dedicate years to before and then never get it. How you have got to stand here studying dead languages to find the secrets of God. They take everything that is the most simplistic form of God away because God is none of those things. God wrote you a book that is so simple that it is written in fourth grade English. God wrote you a book that any dirt farmer in Kansas that never got past the fourth grade could read and understand. Today the Laodicean Christianity, most people cannot stand truth. That is why they get rid of the Bible. That is why preachers do not preach the truth anymore. That is why they tell people what they want to hear, not what they ought to hear. I mean today the very thing that God stands for and the things that He hates are the things that we will not stand for and the things that we hold dear. People do not like a book that simply speaks God's mind.

None of us like conflict. In the ministry you are forced to deal with conflict but nobody really likes it I do not think. Maybe there is some weird guy out there who likes it or some lady but most people do not. We like to go along in life and get along with everybody for the most part. I know there are some people you cannot but even then you feel bad. But you know when it comes to that Bible, when it comes to the Word of God, when God speaks His mind, He speaks His mind. It is not a negotiable thing. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, they were not the ten suggestions. They were ten things that God said this is the way it is going to be. This is My mind on these ten things. My generation is in the 50s. I grew up in the 60s and the 70s with hippies. You kids do not even know what a hippie is anymore. Some of you do. My generation back there would always run around saying, "Tell it like it is, tell it like it is, tell it like it is." Then when you open up the Bible and tell it like it was, nobody wanted to hear it. To me it became very quick that that was just a slogan on a t-shirt. Nobody wanted the truth. That is why so many people today have a problem with the Bible, and in particular the book of Proverbs. It is

God's mind. A book where God just speaks His mind. Where He does not allow you and me to start the smoke generator. He does not allow me and you to get lost in the twilight zone of Christianity. Where He does not allow people like you and me to put up false fronts and to pretend that we are something when deep down inside we are really not. He cuts it right to the bone and He says you are either a wise man or you are a fool. If you are a wise man here are the nine things you do and if you are a fool here are the eight things you do. It is getting simpler than that.

We like to live in that thing. "Well, you know what, how are you doing today?" "Well, I am all right. I am not really in fellowship with God but I am just not out of fellowship with God." That does not exist. The worst day of your life and the worst day of your life with everything going wrong, your fellowship with God ought to be just perfect. You know why? Because at the end of the day none of that other stuff matters. God forbid that you should ever get cancer. God forbid you have some disease that takes your life and you are laying in a hospital bed there. Out of your rack with pain up one side down. God forbid. I pray that never happened to anybody. I pray we all go into rapture of the church. But I want to tell you something, God forbid the child of God, I would hope that we get to the place in their life with the Word of God no matter what they are going through life, how bad it hurts, no matter what it is, then you know you are going to die and you know there is nowhere that you can come to that place where you just roll up in a ball and put your arms around yourself and hold the Lord tight to you and just go home to glory with you and Him just with everything right the way it needs to be. That is tough today. It is one of those things where it all comes down to where we are at with the Lord. His mind. A book where God just speaks His mind.

Today right now we are forced to examine ourselves. We are forced to look inside ourselves. I mean the Holy Spirit of God walking, I mean it does not matter what your facial expression is, it does not matter what you say or what you are thinking, you know as well as I do the Holy Spirit of God is walking up down these aisles right now and He is tapping everybody on the shoulder and He is doing one thing, everybody is looking inward today. You are saying to yourself, "I am either a wise man or I am a fool." I will either hear counsel and receive instructions from the Bible principles or I am a fool who finds fault with all that God does because you know I want to reject the truth and the principles of the Word of God. The very principles that can change my life. There is no middle of the road. There is no Greek needed with Proverbs. There is no Hebrew needed. There is nothing that needs to be defined. It is just simple promises given down in a negative form and a positive form just like life. Plain simple truth from the mind of an Almighty God.

You know the church at Corinth was I think one of the great models of what the Laodicean church really is today. In 1 Corinthians chapter 2 verses 14 through 16, Paul was dealing with this church almost in every chapter on some issue and he tells them, "You are a bunch of babies." He tells you, "You are arguing about this, fighting about this." They are just about as messed up as screwed up as the church is today. He says in verse 13:

*1 Corinthians 2:13*

*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.*

Now that is a great verse. In your Christian life you compare scripture with scripture. Spiritual things with spiritual things. You know what happens when you go through life and you compare true spiritual things with other true spiritual things? Do you know what happens in your life? You see what is not spiritual. Some people do not want to know that. They do not want to know what is not spiritual. But if you do and you want the wisdom of God then you compare spiritual things with spiritual and it will show you what is not spiritual in life.

*1 Corinthians 2:14*

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

You see what happens when you begin to compare spiritual with spiritual as the child of God and you use the Bible and you believe the Bible and that Bible becomes everything for you. God gives you the spiritual discernment to be able to see it. Now here it comes.

*1 Corinthians 2:15*

*But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

You notice how it did not do, it did not say about judging people. People always throw the verse, "Do not judge me." "Judge not, lest ye be judged." That is not even in Paul's writings. Paul says, "he that is spiritual judgeth all things." I am not going to judge you. But I will judge the things you do if I want to be associated with it or not. I will judge the things you do if it is going to help me or going to hurt me in my walk with God. I will not judge you. You have a right to do whatever you want to do. You have a right to be whatever you want to be. That is between you and the Lord. But I have a right to judge the things that are people's lives or things that are out there that you know what that is going to help me. Most people do not have that ability to discern the things that will hurt them. So they get hooked up with somebody, get hooked up with this, that person this or that person that and pretty soon it destroys them and you do not even understand why.

*1 Corinthians 2:15*

*But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

Here it comes.

*1 Corinthians 2:16*

*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

Oh there you go. You want the instructions of God in your life. If you want to do what God wants you to do you have got to get some instructions. God just did not put you down here and say, "All right, do the best you can, go after it, figure it out for yourself." He gave you some

instructions. If there is anything that we as human beings do not like to follow, it is instructions. Just stick around with Dad at Christmas time when the kid gets something that needs to be put together. Be over at my house sometime when I buy something that has lengthy instructions and I just do not need them. But I always think the extra parts were just stuff they put in there in case I wanted to do something else. As human nature, as human beings, we do not like to take instruction. As a child of God, it is something you have got to condition yourself to do. Because the number one thing you have got to come to in your Christian life before you go anywhere with God is simply this: He knows more about it than you do. He knows more about it than you do. His instructions are better than anything you are going to get from anybody else.

The Bible says, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" That is a question. Then he answers the question, "but we have the mind of Christ." You have the mind of Christ inside you in the Holy Spirit of God. You have the mind of Christ in your lap this morning in the Word of God. The mind of Christ, the mind of God in a book. The mind of God written with ink on pages. The mind of God given to man.

*Philippians 2:5*

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*

You see you have to hear the instructions then you have to receive it. You have to hear what is being said then you have to do something with it. You have to hear what the Bible says and then you have to apply it to the particular problem that you are dealing with. Proverbs is an incredible. Proverbs is a plain book. You can go to some other books in the Bible like Daniel, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers. Although you can work them all out and you can get through them in time and I would help you with that. They are incredibly complex books. When you get into Leviticus, man, you are into some stuff there. They are incredibly compact but they can be worked out. You get into the book of Romans. The book of Romans is one of the most fascinating books in all the New Testament. All the Bible. But he writes that like he is a Philadelphian lawyer. He writes it in a script that you have to really study it. I probably went through Romans 10 or 12 times before I ever got a handle on it. You still probably do not have it the way I need to. There are some tough books in the Bible. Not saying you cannot get them down. The book of Acts is another one. The book of Revelation is another one. The easiest book in the Bible, bar none, is the book of Proverbs. There is bar none. The book of Proverbs leaves nothing to the imagination. It just comes right down and tells you where you are at. In simple third grade English that you are either a wise man or you are a fool and here is the way you either are. Wise or foolish. We will hold up there.