

Proverbs 20

Sunday 6/4/2017

Well, if you have your Bibles this morning, I want to invite you to turn back to Proverbs chapter 20. We are going to be back in the book of Proverbs today. We have been in Proverbs for a while, and we have taken a few little breaks from it, especially for the little things we wanted to do. But we have seen how vital Proverbs really is. The book of Proverbs is one of the key books in all of the Bible.

We have learned that the theme of Proverbs is a pretty simple concept. It talks about a wise man versus a foolish man, and that covers the men. Then it talks about a strange woman versus a virtuous woman, and that covers the women. We know that as you lay it out through the Word of God, you find that the strange women and the virtuous women are connected with Solomon's wives. Not only that, but it is a picture of the church, which is a virgin.

We know that the wise man or the foolish man is a picture of the nation of Israel in type, but it is also a picture of men today that are wise and some that are foolish.

I. The Church in the Wilderness: An Old Testament Model

The last month, as I told you earlier, we have taken a study of the New Testament church based on the Old Testament model that is found in the church in the wilderness, which is the nation of Israel, also called a congregation, much like churches today. We saw the balance last week of every church. There are going to be three types of people in any church, no matter where you go. We saw that that balance is crucial within any church.

We talked about the most important were the three families that we talked about last week and how their job was completely around the Ark. They never got away from the central thing that was Israel's whole relationship with God. Those three families represent the families of churches today that are really dialed into the ministry. They are the focus as they understand their own role within the church, they understand the church's role within their lives, and they understand what God has called them to do. They are the key people in any church. No matter where you go, whether it is our church or any church in the world, you are going to find these three people groups.

These people will be key people. I mentioned the fact that these are the kind of people you want to build in your church. Most pastors do not know how to build them. They do not understand the concept of these three. But these three families are dealing with families because that is what makes any church strong: families that are dialed in and doing what God called them to do in the Bible.

Then the second group was the twelve tribes themselves. They were a little bit farther out, and they circled the Ark every time they camped. I gave you last week Bullinger's Companion Bible. He has a great little layout of that if you want to look it up and see it. He has some great illustrations. They make up the bulk of what you find in most churches: good people, but they are

not really grounded. They struggle with a lot of things, and I went through all of those things last week.

Then you have the third group that was on the outer fringes of everything that was going on, and that was called the mixed multitude. I told you that the mixed multitude was the source of all of Israel's problems. The mixed multitude caused problems for the twelve tribes all through the nation of Israel's history. They never penetrated into the three families. There is never a time listed anywhere in the Bible where those three families ever stopped doing what God wanted them to do and had called them to do and doing their job. The mixed multitude just never penetrated where they were.

We talked about that. We talked about the pastor's job is to keep the balance in any church, that you want to have the majority of the people like the three families. You are always going to have the twelve tribes people, and you are always going to have the mixed multitude. I gave you seven or eight ways that a pastor keeps that mixed multitude to an absolute minimum, and it is crucial to see that.

The mixed multitude will always look at the three families. You need to know, people who do not do anything for God will always resent those of you who do. It is just that simple. I have seen it all my life. People say, "Your church has a clique in it." Somebody says, "There is a hierarchy in your church." They are absolutely right. I cannot argue with that. But the clique here and the hierarchy here are the people that are involved in ministry. I cannot help that when you get into the Word of God and you get a relationship going with God, it just clicks. That is where that word comes from. You have to not use words you do not know where they come from.

We learned two great truths last week. If you went out of here with nothing but these two, you learned something last week. I have seen it in my life, all my ministry, wherever I have been:

1. Those who do the least will always complain the most.
2. Those who invest nothing will always cause the most problems because there is no investment.

So many people, the church that they go to does not mean anything to them. When the church does something for them, it is irrelevant. Pastor Dollar, I worked for Truman Dollar for many, many years, and I learned a lot from him. We did not see eye to eye on a lot of things, but he taught me a great bunch of things, and he was good to me. He said something to me one time that I never forgot. He was great for all these little clichés that are so true in Christianity. He said to me one time, and I can hear him standing now, "Bob, let me tell you something. People will never be thankful for what you did for them yesterday. All they want to know is what you are going to do for them today."

That is so true of so many of God's people. They forget what the church has done for them, and all they care about is what can I get out of it today? What are you going to do for me today? Of course, that is a sad commentary on Christianity, but that is just the way it is. I laid that out for four weeks because where we are going and what we are doing, I want you to better understand and see how this all comes together. It better explains to you who want to be in the know, who

want to learn and want to get everything together, why things are the way they are in churches today and why things are the way they are wherever you go in Christianity.

A wise man out of the book of Proverbs, and this is how it goes together, a wise man will take what he gets and he will apply what he learns, and in time he will fulfill what God has saved him for to accomplish. In the Old Testament, we saw it in the three families in the Church of the Wilderness. They were dialed in. They never got outside the calling that God wanted for them, and neither did their families. In the New Testament, it will be the New Testament local church that is based on the Bible, that teaches the Bible, that follows the principles, the models, and the patterns of the Bible and how it all works.

The makeup of any church will be based on how the pastor will lay out the Word of God to his people that helps keep the balance and will keep the mixed multitude to an absolute minimum. When you make these principles your life and you make the Word of God and Proverbs your opinion, which is God's opinion, then you become a wise man. The women in the church become virtuous women. We have wise men in this church, and we have women who are very virtuous in what they do for the Lord. If you do not do it, then the men become fools and the women become strange women. They destroy whatever God is doing by their mouth, just like the strange woman does in Proverbs chapter 5 and Proverbs chapter 7. The model is set.

This is why Proverbs is so vital to the Christian life. Proverbs, as I have said many, many times, is the mind of God. Philippians chapter 2 verse 5 says that we are to let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

II. Introduction to God's Coming Judgment

I always like to start my sermon for this week or next week by just recapping what I said last week because I try to tie everything together. Today I want to look at our next set of verses. As I said earlier, we are going to get into a little preaching today. I think it will be good for you. We will look at one of the greatest upcoming events that is on God's calendar. God has some things that are down the road here that are coming our way pretty quick, and it is good to talk about them. It is good to preach about them.

I want you to take your Bible and turn to Proverbs chapter 20 if you have not already. I want you to begin in verse 8, 9, and 10. I am going to start reading 6 and 7. We talked about that last time we were in Proverbs, but I want to add it in here just to give context to what I am saying here so wherever I go you can see this thing.

Proverbs 20:6-10

Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.

Thank you, Bryce.

This passage will deal and tie into an event that is coming up where every unsaved man and every unsaved woman that ever lived or is living today is going to have a chance to stand before God and do what Proverbs chapter 20:6-10 say. They are going to have a chance to stand there and argue with God and prove to God that they did not need Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior, that they could cover their own sin, that they made themselves clean. There is a day coming where unsaved men and women are going to be able to try to do that, and I want to talk about that this morning based on Proverbs chapter 20.

This passage will deal with man's self-righteousness up against God's righteousness. I want you to know, you may be here this morning and you do not know for sure you are going to heaven when you die. You may be here this morning and you are not sure where you are at in your own relationship with the Lord, but I want to tell you something. The number one problem that man is going to have is simply his unrighteousness up against God's righteousness. That rubs people the wrong way sometimes. You find people get proud in their self-righteousness, and they reject the things of God, and they reject His righteousness.

There is coming a day when you are going to get your day in court, so to speak. There is coming a day when you are going to get to vocalize verbally that you think that your righteousness is as good as God's righteousness. We are going to talk about that today as we come down through here.

Verse 6 and verse 9 say that a man proclaims his own goodness. You see it all the time. Verse 9 says a man who says, "I have made my heart clean. I am pure from my sin." I want you to know that verse 9 is in the form of a question. It says, "Who can say that I have made my heart clean, that I am pure from my sin?" The answer to that is nobody can, but people think they can.

This passage is dealing with the great coming judgment of God. I want to preach to you this morning on the Great White Throne Judgment that is found in Revelation chapter 20.

III. God's Systematic Theology: The Number Seven

The last couple of weeks we learned how God will balance through the patterns of the number three, how the number three in the Bible will always be the completeness of something. Along with that, there is another number that I want you to see and understand, and I know that most of you know this already, and that will be the number seven. Where number three will always represent the completion of something, number seven will always represent the perfection of something.

In the Bible, it is not a hard deal. We are going through Bible Institute right now, the third Sunday of the month, and I am taking a bunch of people through it and giving you a three-year program of really laying out the Word of God for you. This year we are going through the seventeen sections of the Bible so you can get the Bible down in a concise, complete way that once you learn each section and put it back together, you have got the Bible.

By next year, we are going to start what I call God's systematic theology, and that is coming through a system that God has put into His own Bible that is going to absolutely give you the theological teaching of the Word of God in a correct position of understanding how it all lays out, and it will all be built on the seven series of God in the Bible. God's theology is built on a system of sevens, and I am going to begin to bring you through.

Years ago, there was a guy by the name of Shafer, and he wrote what in Bible colleges and in most churches has become the standard for theological studies, and it was called Shafer's Systematic Theology. I had a set years ago. I bought it because when I first got into ministry, everybody said you had to get this. It was the most worthless money I ever spent in my life. There was not one thing in it that was ever related to any truth in the Word of God. There was a bunch of stuff that this guy had put together that the scholarly world all held up and revealed as something really great, but in truth it had nothing to do with the Bible.

Then through the process of time, I found God's systematic theology, and it is based on a series of sevens. Let me give you a few of them.

- When you go through God's systematic theology, you want to learn your Bible, you find there are seven aspects to the Word of God. You need to learn what those seven are.
- You will go through your Bible and God's systematic theology. You are told that God tells you there are seven things you are not to be ignorant of as a Christian. Those are the exact seven things that most of God's people are ignorant of.
- You want to commit suicide? I will tell you how to do it right. There are seven suicides in the Bible. You do not want to mess that up. If you are going to go to those great lengths to do that, you want to get it right. Get it biblical. There are seven in the Bible. That is God's systematic theology.
- There are seven things after you get saved. You do not get saved and just stay there. The Bible says in God's systematic theology, there are seven things that you add to your faith. Most of God's people do not even know what they are. You know why? Because they are wasting time with Shafer's systematic theology than getting into God's.
- God's perfect systematic theology will be on a system of sevens. It is just that simple. When you got saved, you start to add these seven things to your walk with God.
- There are seven stages of your spiritual growth found in the Bible. Very clearly. You ought to be able to measure your spiritual growth by understanding these things. It is an incredible thing.
- You are going to find that you want to get married someday. There are seven marriages in the Bible. You have to look at them. You have to see them. You have to understand it. God's people today just think they are going to get married and it is going to be happily ever after, and it turns into Freddy Krueger on the terror of Elm Street.
- It is a book of Revelation. I think it is a hard deal, is it not? It is not. There are seven sections in the book of Revelation. Just break the sections down.
- There are seven periods in church history. You want to study the history of the church? It is not hard. God broke it down systematically for you.
- There are seven days of the week.

- Many of you have been going through this right now, have been taught it. Today you got saved. There are seven things that changed about you today you got saved. You know why you struggle with the things you struggle with now that you are saved? You do not even know what changed about you today you got saved. The whole aspect of Christianity has lost its meaning because nobody knows what it means. It is incredible.
- There are seven years in the tribulation period.
- When God took Noah and had him take all the animals into the ark, He took the unclean animals by two. He took the clean animals by seven. Most of God's people do not even know why.
- On and on it goes all the way through the Bible. You go through the Old Testament, the Feast of the Old Testament, Nation of Israel, laid out in a pattern of seven months. Why?
- You go through the Bible and you want to build a relationship with God? There are seven things that God hates. There are also seven things that God loves. There are also seven things that they rejoice over in heaven. There are also seven things that please God. How in the world do you have a relationship with God that means anything without God's systematic theology? Francis Schaeffer never touched on any of those. I do not know what he was doing, but he never got into the Bible when it came down to it.
- There are twelve apostles to the Nation of Israel. When it came to the church, He gave them seven apostles. Most of God's people do not even know who they are.
- There are seven great awakenings that God brought across America from the time that America started when the Pilgrims got here to Plymouth.

Your whole Bible, if you want a perfect rendition of learning your Bible, it is perfect, you can get it. The whole Bible is built on the seven series. When we get into next year, I am going to talk about the seven mysteries. I am going to walk you through and lay out the seven mysteries for you. Then I am going to bring you through the seven resurrections in the Bible. Then I am going to bring you through the seven baptisms in the Bible. Then I am going to bring you through the system of seven sevens in the Bible that shows you the time of Christ's coming. Then I am going to bring you to the last one, which is the seven judgments in the Bible.

You are going to find that when you study the seven judgments in the Bible, you have the judgment of you and me as a sinner at Calvary's cross. Then you have to, after you get saved, you have the judgment of you and me as a child of God, as God's son. Then when you get to the Judgment Seat of Christ, you are going to have the judgment of God on you and me as a servant. The Christian life is just like this. There are three things that make it complete: sinner, son, and servant. When you got saved, you were judged as a sinner. Once you got saved, now God judges you as a son. When you get to the Judgment Seat of Christ, He is going to judge you as a servant. How easy does it get? Well, it does when you get God's systematic theology to it.

Then you have Israel's judgment going through the Tribulation Period. You have over there that someday we are going to judge angels at some point. Then you have the judgment of the nations at the Second Coming of Christ. Then you have the final judgment that we are going to talk about this morning based on Proverbs chapter 20 and other places in the Bible. Our text today

will be based on Revelation chapter 20:11 and Daniel chapter 7:9-10. We are going to talk about the Great White Throne Judgment.

IV. The Great White Throne Judgment

Look at Proverbs chapter 20:8 before you turn there.

Proverbs 20:8

A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

One of the greatest studies that you will ever take in the Bible will be the eyes of God. When you break God down, He breaks down into a number of incredible studies. After you study the eyes of God, I suggest you go back and study the eyelids of God. Then go back and study the wink of God. They are incredible. One of the greatest studies in the Bible will be the eyes of 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.

The eyes of God are the greatest study in the Bible, and one day when the Great White Throne comes and He is just on that throne, and we are going to look at Him in it, His eyes are going to scatter all evil. That is going to be someday.

Proverbs 5:21

For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

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

Job 34:22

There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

Job 28:24

For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;

He scatters evil with His eyes in that day. The day God sits on the throne and His eyes scatter away all the evil before Him.

Now let us look at Revelation chapter 20, get that in one hand, and Daniel chapter 7:9 in the other.

Revelation 20:11-15

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Now look over to Daniel chapter 7. Daniel chapter 7, if you do not have it marked, will be the companion passage to Revelation chapter 20 that I just read and vice versa.

Daniel 7:9-10

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

There it is. This is the most terrible judgment that an unsaved man or an unsaved woman is ever going to be up against. I know that this goes against what you are normally taught because I know that you and I are not going to be judged at this judgment, but I want to say this too. In one respect, this is also going to be the most terrible judgment for God's people, and I will explain why here in a little bit. But for unsaved people, it is incredible.

Most religions, most people I talk with, some way, some shape or form, they believe there is going to be some final accounting of things, some final judgment. They do not get it like the Bible, but everybody knows that sometime, some place, you are going to have to give an account of something, and the fact that someday you are going to give an account to a higher power.

Proverbs 20:10 says, "Divers weights and divers measures, both are like abomination to the Lord." So people read that and get the idea that the final judgment is going to be like a big set of scales. You are going to come up there and God is going to put all of your life, He is going to put all your good works on this side and all your bad works on this side. You know how it goes. If your good works outweigh your bad, then you go to heaven. If your bad works outweigh, you go to hell. That is how most people think of it. But that is not how it is going to work.

I am going to tell you how it is going to work. I do not believe there is a set of scales up there, but let us just say for a moment there was. If there was a set of scales up there, here is how it is

going to work. He is going to put you on this side and Jesus Christ on this side, and He is going to weigh it out. You are going to come up short. You are going to come up short.

Then you have the folks that just laugh at the whole idea of a final judgment. You see folks go through life and they are lost. They seemingly have great lives. That bothers a lot of God's people. They see somebody that they know is unsaved, and seemingly they are happy. Seemingly they have all they want. They have all the money they want. They could do whatever they want. They buy a lot. They are happy. They have all of the things. It appears on the outside that they are just going along through life fine. God's people look at that and see that, and it bothers them because they think that because you are unsaved that you have to be unhappy.

You can master unhappiness with a lot of things temporarily. You can master unhappiness by buying yourself stuff. There are God's people that get the press and they have tough times and things in life, and what they do, they never go to the Bible. When they want to feel better, they go buy something new. For a while it makes them feel good. "I got a new car. I got a new this. I got a new that." For a while it makes you feel better, but it is only temporary. What you need is something in your life that will, once you get it, never let you go. That is what you need.

One time an old evangelist was preaching across the Midwest about a hundred years ago or so. He was in this little town somewhere in the Midwest, and he was just preaching his heart out every night. He was just putting that thing out and laying out the Word of God. He was preaching on God's judgment. He was preaching on heaven. He was preaching on hell. He was just getting to it. People were getting saved, and a real revival came.

There was a man in this town who basically, every town has one of them, who owned the town. He was the richest man in the town. He had more acres. He had a big old farm. He had thousands and thousands of cattle. He had hundreds of thousands of acres. He had everything he could want, and he was as lost as could be. But to keep up the social status, he went to that preaching service every night. He sat right in the front row. That old preacher just preached his heart out all week long, and he preached about God's judgment and heaven and hell and love of God and salvation.

That old boy just sat there. After a seven-night revival campaign with all kinds of people getting saved, the last night he preached, and the old boy at the end of that service came up, lost his heart, and he said, "Preacher," he says, "I have got a question for you. I have been here every night. I have heard you preach the sermons every night." He said, "I want you to know I do not believe one thing that you have said. I want you to know that I have got a question for you. You are talking about God's judgment and the travesty of life and all the problems and the sin of this world." He says, "I am not a believer, and I am not going to become a believer. But I want to tell you, I listened to everything you said all week long, and here it is in September, harvest time. I have got more cattle that I am going to make a boatload of money off of next month when I sell them. I have got sheep. I have got everything. My barns are full of grain and wheat, and I am going to sell it, and I have got everything I could want. Here it is in September, and I heard what you preached. How do you explain, based on what you preach, why I have what I have?"

That old preacher never missed a second. He just looked at him and he said, "You know what, pal? It is because God does not settle accounts in September." He will take care of it. Sometimes you see people go through life that are lost, and they seemingly are happy, and they have everything. I think George Bernard Shaw, when he died, they found a Bible that somebody had given him, and he had wrote in the flyleaf of that Bible that this is the most undesirable book that I have ever had. Someday I simply must get rid of it. He was an atheist all his life, and yet that old boy lived to be like 95, 96 years old. You see, it always does not catch up with you in this life. That is something you need to remember. God does not always settle accounts in September. He will take care of it.

Oh, what a judgment that is going to be. If you are unsaved here, if you are unsaved and you are lost here this morning, this is as close to heaven in this earth as you are ever going to get. So you might as well enjoy it. If you are saved this morning and you are on your way to heaven, this is as close to hell as you are ever going to get. So do not enjoy it. Never enjoy it. I am telling you, oh, what a judgment that is going to be today. God with His eyes scattereth all the evil.

Revelation 20:11 says, "And I saw a great white throne." When I look at that and think about that, I see a throne so big that it covers the whole present size of the universe. There He sits on the throne. There is the Ancient of Days. There are the eyes of a burning fire. There is the one that men and women have laughed at and scoffed about all of their lives and set their own goodness up and their own self-righteousness up. Now they are going to stand before a holy God.

The Bible says that heaven and earth flee away. You are standing in space, nothing under your feet, nothing over your head, held up by the almighty power of God that you rejected all your life. Now God's eyes scattereth away all evil. Heaven and earth flee away, and there is no place for you to hide. That is going to be someday.

The Bible says, "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God and the books were opened. And another book was opened which is the book of life and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books." God says, "I saw the dead, small and great." You are going to have the people down there on the street today that you are passing hot dogs and tracts out to who reject you that have nothing in life. You are going to have every president, every king, every queen, every monarch down through history that rejected Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior. You are going to have every religious leader. You are going to have every great political leader. You are going to have every great philosopher standing there, all with almighty God.

The Bible says, "And the books were opened." All 66 of them. Daniel chapter 7:10 says, "Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The judgment was set and the books were opened." The same book God has given you to judge your sins and yourself right now, to see yourself as a sinner and then cleanse yourself every day by God's Son to keep yourself right with Him. That same book that has all of the judgments in it that God has given you and me now to judge ourselves today. God is going to take and judge an unsaved man and an unsaved woman with, and they will stand before God, and His eyes will scatter away all evil. His eyes will scatter away all evil.

2 Corinthians 2:15-16

For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

*To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.
And who is sufficient for these things?*

In other words, that book is a two-edged sword, Hebrews chapter 4. It will cut you either way. It will either cut you loose from your sins or it will cut you loose from God and send you to the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:13 says, "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them and they were judged every man according to their works." The sea gave up the dead. How many times in the Navy prayer book when they are burying somebody at sea, they use this as the sea someday will give up their dead. Let me tell you something, that sea there is not anything in the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean. That sea is defined for you in Isaiah chapter 27:1, Genesis chapter 1, and many other places, and this is all the demonic activity, the unclean spirit, the devil, the fallen angels that are in that great deep that someday will come along with every unsaved man, and they too will stand before God and they too will be judged.

1 Corinthians 6:3

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

It tells you and me that someday we have to use the Bible now. We have to use the Bible to deal with every problem in life that we have. You know why? Because He says, "Why do you not deal with the issues in your church now with the Bible? Do you not know that someday you as Christians are going to judge angels?" We are going to be there. We are going to take the same principles of the Word of God that God has, and we are going to judge the unsaved world, and we are going to judge the unsaved angels and all of that crowd. The same book that you would have taken your life right now and deal with every matter that you have to make a judgment in.

One time in Matthew chapter 8:29, Jesus cast out a demonic spirit out of somebody, and the demon said to Christ, "We know who you are. Why do you come to torment us before our time?" There is a time coming they are going to get it, Revelation chapter 20.

People say "death and hell." That will be all the unsaved people. Death will be the fact that people died, and hell will be the holding place for them. Most people do not understand the difference between hell and the lake of fire. I will try to give you an easy explanation for it as I have to understand it in an easy way. Right now, if you are lost and you are without Christ and you die, you go to hell. You stay in hell until you get to the Great White Throne Judgment, and then God will bring you up at that judgment, and you are going to stand before Him. I am going to tell you how it is going to go here in just a moment. I am going to play it out for you.

What is going to take place is you are going to stand there before God, and then you are going to be judged. When you are judged, then you are going to be dumped into the lake of fire for all of eternity. Here is how you put it together. Look at hell like the county jail. Look at the lake of fire

like the state or federal penitentiary. Here is how it works. Right now, if you commit a crime and they put you in the county jail downtown where we drive by with the hot dogs and wave them up there in the little windows. You go to the county jail. You stay there until you get your court date. When you go before the judge, he passes a sentence on you, and in most cases, you go to the penitentiary to serve your service. That is how it is. Hell is like the county jail. You go there until you get your trial date. When you go to trial, you get your sentencing. You go to the penitentiary, the lake of fire, for all of eternity. That is how you remember it. Not hard. Not a hard concept at all.

When I look at that, I think about that, death and hell delivering up the dead which are in them. Some of those people have been in hell for four, five, six thousand years. They are brought up to this thing with a moment of respite out of the torment of hell, Luke chapter 16, and they are standing there before Almighty God, and His eyes coming down as a burning fire scanning away all evil. They are shooting the thoughts and intents of the heart, and they are standing there. They are standing there with the filth of their unrighteousness. They have been in hell for a hundred years, a thousand years, with a burning smell and a smoke of brimstone off their body, standing before a holy God looking up into Him. My God, what a day that is going to be.

Those eyes as a burning fire scattering all the wickedness looking right down into your eyes, into your very soul. That is going to be a day. I have had people that I witnessed to and talked to, or people who did not care anything about God, and I have a burden for them wanting to get saved. But there comes a time when you quit feeling sorry for people like that when you really understand what God has all done for you. I am going to be very honest with you. I get tired of people using my God's name in vain. I will witness to you. I will try to help you. But I want to tell you something. It makes me mad. He has never done anything wrong to me. Only done good in my life, and I do not appreciate somebody dragging His name through the mud. I have to hold myself back sometimes from saying stuff. Sometimes I do not do a very good job of holding myself back.

One time Mel and I were preaching down in Bridgeport, Ohio, and a guy by the name of Bill Eakin went with us. Bill was an incredible guy. Big, long, lanky guy. He would break in half. But just the nicest guy on the planet. We stopped at a little restaurant cafe down there to get something to eat before we went to preach. Mel, Bill, and I were sitting there, and over here were about four or five farmers and truck drivers and everything. They were just cussing up a storm. They were using God's name in vain. They were laughing and all that stuff. Just rowdy guys. Bridgeport is a river town. It is a tough place.

So we got ready to leave to go to church to preach. Bill said, "Here, Mel, here is my money." He says, "Go ahead out, guys. I am going to take care of some business here." So he walks over to these guys. He says, "Guys," he says, "I just wanted you to know, I heard you talk about a friend of mine." He says, "You got some bad information someplace. I just want to tell you," they are looking up at each other, and they say, "Well, we do not even know you. What friend do you have that we know?" He says, "The Lord Jesus Christ. I heard you talking bad about Him. I want you to know He is the greatest friend I ever had, and He will be your friend." He gave each one of them a tract.

I am over here, just a young Christian. I think we are all going to be martyred and killed. I will be in Fox's Book of Martyrs in the next chapter. Not one of those guys said a word. They thanked him for those tracts, and they apologized for talking bad about the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to tell you something. That is the kind of courage we need in Christianity today. Bill Eakins are not found today. They really are not. That is going to be a day when some of those guys come up there that have shot their mouth off. There are guys who went through their whole life asking God to damn everything. That day God is going to bring their wish true. God is going to damn them. Another guy said one time, "I will be damned." Yes, you will. You will. God will look right down. Those eyes will scatter your sin, and you will be damned. No question about it.

I go through the Bible. Can you imagine what it would be like when old Judas comes up there and sold Him out? Judas thought it was really neat when he got the thirty pieces of silver. Even though he repented a little later and threw it away. But he wanted to sell Him out. Can you imagine him standing there and looking at the eyes of God now faced with that judgment? It is incredible. I think old Caiaphas. Old Caiaphas, he had Him slapped. He had Him beaten. Can you imagine old Caiaphas looking up there and looking at those eyes, and about that time he stands up there, and he is looking up there, and God is looking down at him, and all the hosts of the ten thousand that are ministering, all the Christians from the church age. There will be some old Walt Denzian over there saying out of the crowd, "Hey, Caiaphas. Hey, back in the day you had Him spit on. Back in the day you had Him whipped. Back in the day you slapped Him. Why do you not run up and slap Him now? Hey, where are you going?" I will tell you where he is going. He is running off saying, "Rocks, fall on us, mountains, cover us from the face of the Lamb, for the day of His wrath has come, and who shall be able to stand?" Nobody. Nobody. Why? The King sitting on the throne of His judgment. Incredible.

V. Man's Self-Righteousness vs. God's Righteousness

Proverbs 20:9 says, "In that day who can say I have made my heart clean, I am pure for my sin." Who will be able to say I can stand on my own before Almighty God at the Great White Throne Judgment? I know you do not know what I am about to tell you. Most of you, maybe some of you older guys do. But it is not called a judgment for no reason at all. It is a courtroom. If you go through your Bible, you are going to figure out and find out that Romans chapter 3:4 and Zechariah chapter 3:1, and other places in the Bible, give the indication that you are going to get to stand before Almighty God and put your righteousness up against His Son.

Zechariah chapter 3:1 puts it into a courtroom scenario where the unsaved man is standing before God making his case. The Bible says the devil is standing at the right hand as a prosecuting attorney. You are going to try to tell God what it was, and the devil is going to step up because the devil knows he is damned, and he wants to take you with him. He is going to stand there at your right hand, and everything you are going to say, he is going to tear it apart. Everything you try to justify, everything you ever did, every good work, everything you ever did you thought was going to make you clean before God, he is going to destroy just like some prosecutor in a courtroom before the judge. You are going to have to be your own defense.

I am not going to the Great White Throne Judgment to be judged. I will be there, but I will be judging. So let me put a little scenario for you why you need to get saved. If I would go to the Great White Throne Judgment and I would come up there, I would not say a word. You know what they always tell you, Darren, you know this is true, do not say anything. Let the lawyer get what you are paying him for, right? That is right. So I stand up there, and the devil starts to just rail on me before God Almighty. God is looking down. "Did you do that? You said that?" He is just going to town on me. I am not saying a word. About when he is all done, and the Lord says, "Well, what do you have to say for yourself?" My lawyer stands up. The Lord Jesus Christ. He says, "Father, he may have done all those things, but I took care of it for him, and there is no case here at all. I put it under the blood." God looked down at me, looked at the devil, looked at my attorney, slapped that gavel down, and says, "Case dismissed." You know what happened when I got saved? My case got dismissed! I will tell you what you need today. You need your case dismissed.

That is going to be a day. You have to stand up there and justify yourself before God? No, you cannot. I will tell you something else, your priests cannot either. I will tell you something else, your religion cannot either. Your good works cannot do it either. There is only one thing that you can do. Get Him covered by the blood.

Over the years, and this is one of the things I feel that some of you all are amiss to some degree or the other, growing up in the time that you did. I got to hear, and I wrote them down. I have about 30 or 40 of them. I wrote them down, the great testimonies of how some of the last of the Philadelphia preachers got saved and what God did in their life. You do not hear it anymore today. You just do not. It is so effeminate today. It is unbelievable.

We had a guy back there that, I never knew him. He died before I got saved, but Mel used to talk about it at the time. His name was Phil Ward, and Phil Ward was a great preacher. Back in the 20s, Phil Ward in Canton, Ohio. Canton, Ohio was a big underground mafia town. Phil Ward was a gangster. You know how gangsters have rabble wards back and forth? Somebody had witnessed to him, and somebody had told him this story, and he rejected it. One day he got in a shootout, and he got about four or five machine gun bullets in his stomach, laying in a street in Canton, Ohio. He told this story. He says, "I am laying there," and he says, "I know I am going to die." He says, "I can hear the sirens coming." He says, "All my buddies around me are dead." He says, "Laying there, all I could think about was that tract that somebody gave me and a witness they gave me that I needed to be saved." God spared his life. He got saved, and he turned into one of the greatest preachers you ever saw. Gave his whole life to the things of God.

I think old Bill Denton. Who knows who Bill Denton is? Bill Denton was one of the great preachers up in Akron, Ohio. I remember when he died. I heard him give his testimony of how he got saved. He was in World War I, and he was lost as could be. His mama used to witness to him and take him to church, and he wanted nothing to do with it. But his mama prayed for him every day. He used to say the last thing I would see at night, and the first thing I got here in the morning was my mama on her knees, praying for my soul. He says, "I went away in World War I and joined the army." He says, "I was over there in one of those battles." He says, "We were making a charge of making an advancement, and a shell went off, and it just knocked me

unconscious." He said, "I was fully conscious, and I was fully aware." He said, "I was laying there." He said, "I laid there for seven or eight hours." He says, "Pretty soon I heard people coming. I could not move. I could not move my eyes. I was just in the sunshine to shock, trauma." He said, "The next thing I know, they are picking me up, and they put me on a pile of dead bodies to be picked up." He said, "I was on that pile of bodies for two days, just waiting for somebody to come. I could not cry out. I could not move." He said, "For those two days, I remembered every prayer my mama prayed. I remembered my indifference to God and God's salvation." He said, "For two days I laid there, and I cried out to God the best way I could. 'Oh, God, help me.'" He said, "On the second day, a bunch of corpsmen came by to pick up the dead bodies, and we are going to put them in a hole and bury them." As he walked over, he was laying on his back down on that pile with his arms stretched out, could not move. One of those corpsmen were picking up the bodies and looked over, and he saw a tear running out of his eye. He went over there, and he was alive. He got him to a hospital. He survived. It became a great preacher for God. You see, those are the real things of salvation, not your hangnail. When I fell on the steps, getting to the wild willies on a Friday night, and God worked that through me. Only one thing is going to get you through, just the blood.

Back in World War II in the Pacific, the Japanese could mimic Americans' talk and fool Americans all the time. They would call out, "Hey, help me, help me." Somebody would go out to help them, and they would kill them. They were very good at it. They were very good at mimicking the passwords. So in the military, they picked passwords that the Japanese could not say clearly. There are certain words that a Japanese accent would always be on. You could tell. You could not pronounce it cleanly.

There was an old boy that was in the army, and again, like Bill Denton, he was a long way from God, not saved. His mama, oh, he was saved, and he was out of fellowship with God. He was terribly out of fellowship with God. His mama and daddy prayed for him. He went away in the army, got sent over there. He got separated one night in a battle, and he was out there for a couple of days, and he was filthy. He was mud from head to toe. You could not tell him from Japanese. It was about dusk, and he started coming back to his lines, and he had been out for two days, and the sentries yelled for him to halt. He said, "Give me the password." Well, he did not know what the password was. He did not know what the password was. So he tried to explain to them. He said, "Pal," and he heard nine safeties go off them, M1 Garand, which you can hear very clearly. He said, "You do not get the password, you are dead."

Well, he did not know what to do. He had been under great, great, great burden because he knows he is out of fellowship, and he knows God is doing this in his life because of mama and daddy's prayer. So he asked the guy, he says, "Oh," he says, "I am an American. I am an American." He said, "You do not have the password, you are dead." He fell on his knees, and he got right with God, not 50 yards from where they were going to kill him. He says, "Oh, God, you know I am out of fellowship with God. I know I am out of fellowship. You know I am out of fellowship. God, I am sorry. I did not. I took your salvation free." He said, "Now here I am, and I deserve what I am about to get. They do not believe me, and I know they are going to kill me. God, all I can say," he is getting louder, "all I can say, Lord, is when this happens and I die,

remember, I am under the blood." Heard nine safeties go on. The guy yelled, "Come on in. That is the password."

When you get to that judgment, and we all walk up there, Christ remembers the password. You are under the blood. It is the blood. The only thing that will get you through is the blood. "What shall wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." Oh, what a day that is going to be.

Revelation 20:14-15

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

You see, you die the first time physically. The second death is you die in hell eternally, spiritually. Whosoever is not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. You get a second birth that puts you into heaven, and then you get a second death to put you into hell. You get to choose. Believe me, the most terrible word, the most terrible word in the English language, that a man will hear. The most terrible word will be Matthew 25:41.

Matthew 25:41

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

The day God on His throne scattereth all wickedness with His eyes. You know the most terrible part about hell, honestly, the most terrible part about hell and going to hell is you do not have to go there. That verse in Matthew chapter 25 tells you that hell was never prepared for you. It was prepared for the devil and his angels, but there are some folks that just have to go there. They are going to choose to go there. All your life you have turned your back on Him. Now on this day He turns His back on you.

VI. The Laughter of God

People say that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But I will tell you something, the most terrible aspect to this great judgment you never hear preached on, nobody even knows it. In the world of Christianity we live in today, God's people could not even deal with it. We think of God as some big old cushy marshmallow up in the sky, some grandfather long beard that just is on his knees waiting for you to come to Christ. You have got the wrong picture of God. He is a righteous God sitting on the throne of righteousness. He gave you His love through His Son Jesus Christ. When you reject it and put your own righteousness above His Son's, you are in trouble.

You know what the most terrible aspect of the judgment of God is? It is the laughter of God. It is the laughter of God. We live in a Christian world today that cannot even fathom the fact that God is going to send somebody to hell and laugh at them as they drop down into the lake of fire. That is so foreign to us because God is so foreign to us.

Psalm 2:4-5

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Proverbs 1:24-32

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

We say, "He that laughs last, laughs best." We say, "Oh, I got the last laugh." Well, I want to tell you something. If this Great White Throne Judgment, God gets the last laugh. You laughed and made fun of Him all of your life. Now He will return the favor in that most terrible moment. As you stand before God and you try, here is where the laughter comes from. I want you to get this. You are going to stand before God, and you are going to try to justify your own self, tell Him you are good, tell Him that you have taken care of your own sin. Jesus Christ is going to be standing right there by that throne, and you are going to try to convince the whole universe that you are as good as Jesus Christ, and when you do that, all the assembled universe, God Himself, is going to break into laughter because there is nothing funnier than you and me saying, "I am as good as Jesus Christ." What a day that is going to be.

You do not hear messages on this anymore. You will not. You go wherever you want to go. I do not care. You are saying you are being negative. That is me. I may be negative, but I am telling you the truth. You will not find it anywhere. Nobody will preach it. Nobody will tell you about the laughter of God that is coming. Yet I am telling you, my friend, it is coming. It is coming.

You stand there before Almighty God, and you stand there, for that power holding you up, nothing under your feet, nothing holding you up, and all of a sudden God takes away that power, and down you fall. The last thing you hear, the last thing you hear as you drop into that lake of fire, is a universe rolling with laughter that you thought you and your righteousness could be as good as Jesus Christ.

In the silent midnight watches,

*Heart bowed by the bosom door,
One knocking, knocking, knocking,
Knocking evermore.
Say not, 'Tis thy heart by Paul's beating,
For it is thy heart of sin,
And thy Savior knocking, crying,
Soul, arise and let me in.
Death comes on with reckless footsteps
To palace, home, or hut.
Think you death will tarry knocking
Where your door is shut?
Jesus standing, waiting, knocking,
But your sinful heart stands fast,
Grieved away, your Savior leaveth.
Then death comes in at last.
Then you will be standing, begging Christ to let you in,
Beating at the gate of heaven covered with your sin.
God forbid you, guilty sinner,
Heaven is not your lot.
Jesus waited long to know thee,
But now He knows thee not.*

That is going to be a day. Someday it is all going to be over for an unsaved man, an unsaved woman, spending an eternity in a lake of fire. For some of your unsaved friends.

VII. The Burden of Witnessing

I said earlier that this is terrible for an unsaved person, but also for God's people. You know why? Because this is why you are going to have to stand there judging with Christ and send some of your friends to hell that you never witnessed to. There are going to be parents. They are going to have to condemn their own kids to the lake of fire because they never told them one time about the Christ. There are going to be wives, have to stand there and condemn their husbands, husbands, condemning their wives, the people you work with, the people you hang out

with, your friends that you never took one moment of time. Now you will stand there, they will look at you and they will say, "Why? Why, Bob? Why did you not tell me? Why? Why did you not tell me? I would have listened if you would have told me. You were supposed to be my friend. We did everything together. Why? Why? Why did you not tell me?"

Years ago, I had a guy, we had a Bible study that ran probably four or five hundred people, if you all would remember. The guy would come in the Bible study. He would sit in the back. I watched him for about six months. Every time I would start to give the invitation, he would break down and weep, and he would cry and get up and he got out. He would leave. After about six or seven months, he came every, was that Monday night or Thursday night? Every night we had it. So one night I had somebody else come up and close out, and I beat around the back. I caught him as he was going out the door. His name was Ralph. I said, "Ralph," I said, "I have watched you now for months. I watched you get right up in the invitation," and he says, "Then you run out, and you are always crying." I said, "Ralph, God will save you." He said, "Preacher, you do not understand." I said, "Well, I want to understand. I want to help you. Come on into my office."

He told me the saddest story I ever heard in my life. He said, "You know what, preacher?" He said, "Ten years ago," he says, "I met this little gal, and we dated, and she was a wonderful little gal. We got married. After we got married, she got witnessed to at work, and she wanted to go to church. She wanted to find out about God." He said, "I would not go." He said, "I made fun of it." He said, "I would not take her. She did not go because I did not go." He said, "I just never, never, never, never took her to church or went to church." He said, "Three years ago, she died." He said, "Preacher, she is in hell. I am going to go to church right now because of me." Tears began to run down his face. He says, "I come here and hear the gospel." He says, "I want to get saved." He says, "I am not going to." He said, "Preacher, if you think I am going to go to heaven when I sent my wife to hell, I am not going to do it." He got up and he left. Never came back. What is going to be a rough day, folks? It is going to be rough for you. It is going to be rough for me.

When I was growing up, I was just a little kid. My next door neighbor, his name was Mr. Anthony. He was an old German guy. He was married. His wife's name was, I cannot even remember what it was now, but they were good to me. I used to go over and sit on his porch. When I was a little guy, he used to have a collie. His name was Dutchess. He would drink beer over there and smoke cigars. I grew up with him. I grew up sitting on the porch. He made me my first little cart that raced down the hill. I used to go spend hours with him in his garage. I would play with the dog, and we would sit there and talk. He would tell me about the old country. He would tell me about our neighborhood when it was still farms and everything. I grew up, we would fix him dinner and take it over to him, and things like that.

His wife died, and he was all by himself. He did not have anybody. The Dutchess died. The dog died. He had a little beagle. That little beagle, he loved that little dog. I would get up to go to work in the morning, and I would let the dog out. He gave me a key to a side door. I would go over and let the dog out. That dog would run upstairs and jump in bed with him. He loved that little dog. He bought his food. He had his toys. That dog was as much as it was mine. Well, he got to be old. He was old, but he was still going around. He had a boy who really did not care

much for him. That boy one day came by and said, "Dad, I am going to put you in a rest home. We are going to get you out of here. Going to put you in a rest home." He says, "I am going to be back in four or five hours. We are going to get up everything. We are going to take you down there. I got it all done."

That morning I was leaving to go down to the place where I used to hunt turtles and all that stuff, go down there to that swamp area. I told you to tell me about them. I remember driving around the corner, and I saw Mr. Anthony walking around the side of the thing there, and I honked at him, and he waved at me, and I waved back at him, and I went on down there. I came back about three or four hours later, and a little neighbor girl came down the street running. She said, "Mr. Anthony is dead." I said, "What do you mean Mr. Anthony is dead?" She says, "He is dead. He took him away in an ambulance. He is covered up. He is dead." She was crying.

I immediately panicked, and I called his boy. His boy would not tell me anything. He said, "I just cannot talk right now. I just cannot talk right now." I went into the house, and I had a key to a side door. I went down to the back steps, and there was all of his tools, all of the dog food, the water pans, with a little note that said, "Please take care of my little dog for me." I went over to the side door and went in. I walked upstairs, and he had all of his clothes, dress clothes, laid on the bed. I walked downstairs, and almost then I saw the bullet hole in the wall with the blood stain coming down all over the couch. You see, he was not going to let his boy send him there. So he took his pistol and he shot himself. He laid his clothes out to be buried in. He put all the little things for the dog on my back step with the tools that he wanted me to have. I have most of those tools today.

But I realized that never in all my life did I ever witness to Mr. Anthony. I never told him the story of Christ, a man who was in my life, all my life, who did everything for me, and yet I did not have the courage to tell him about Jesus Christ. I sat there on that couch picking up the pieces of his skull, holding him in my hand, crying my heart out for his soul. But it was too late.

There will come a time in your life with the people that you work with, your own family. Maybe he would have never gotten saved. He had a very bad experience with a Catholic church years and years before that turned him completely off toward God. He probably would not have. But it was my responsibility. He is going to stand there with that judgment. The guy who took care of my little dog, the guy who built me my first cart, the guy who taught me so much about little things in life. I am going to have to point my finger and say, "Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire and brimstone." He is going to ask me why. I am not going to have a very good answer.

I make a lot of dumb mistakes in life, but I usually only make them once. I made my goal from that point on, there is never a man or woman that I ever come across that God ever puts in my path that I do not, one way or the other, get them the gospel story. I learned my lesson, but it was a hard lesson. I am afraid we are all going to have people just like that in our lives. It is tough. That judgment is going to be hard for unsaved people, but it is going to be hard for God's people. It really is. I am just telling you, there is going to be a day coming that God looks down on those eyes, and God scatters all the wickedness. You and I need to be prepared for it. I know we are not

going to be judged there. I get it. Our judgment is the Judgment Seat of Christ. I understand it. But we are going to stand there judging with Christ, and the people there that God has put in your world that you refuse to be a witness to. They are going to look at you and point their fingers at you and ask you why you did not tell them.

I looked on my left and I found no man.

I looked on my right and no man cared for my soul.

The caring of the souls of others based on what Jesus Christ has done for you. Every head bowed and every eye closed.