

# Proverbs 22:7-8

Sunday 1/28/2018

Well, if you have your Bibles this morning, let's turn over to Proverbs chapter 22, and we'll be back into the book of Proverbs today. As you know, we have been dealing with Proverbs 22:6 that deals with the child training aspect: "Train up a child in the way he should go." We took about six or seven, maybe even eight weeks, and went through every aspect of that. I wanted to be able to give you that as something where our church is at with so many young couples with young kids, and so many babies being born, and some of you having teenagers. Now we can take that and use that, and I'll help you with it.

I said last week about kind of getting a ready, quick guide, and Kristen over here got me—she did hers this week, and very, very, very, very good. So if some of you ladies or guys, it doesn't matter, want to do that, we'll take the best of all of them and put them together, and we'll have kind of a ready guide that keeps all of the main principles before you that you can kind of flip through on a regular basis without going through the whole thing. Kristen, you did a great job on that. Thank you very much, I appreciate it. So if you'd like to do that, get them into me next week or two, and we'll take a look at them, and we'll try to go from there.

## I. Keys to the Book of Proverbs

We'll be back in the Book of Proverbs today, moving on with the rest of the chapter. Just to bring it back up, since we've been kind of out of it for a couple of months here, you should remember that a couple of the keys to the Book of Proverbs if you want to study it. I've told you many, many times, and just want to refresh your memory this morning, that the Book of Proverbs fundamentally is about two men: a wise man and a foolish man. From a historical application, the wise man or the foolish man that he's writing to is his own son, Rehoboam, who winds up being a foolish man. Doctrinally, Exodus chapter 4 calls the nation of Israel God's son, so it's talking about Israel. Of course, inspirationally, you and I, through a new birth, are in the family of God, and we're His children, and we're His sons, and it's talking to us. You're going to find that the book says that you're even going to wind up in life being a wise man or a foolish man. There's not really any other choices than that. A wise man is someone who is going to do what God wants him to do in his life; a foolish man is not going to.

Then you'll find that there are two women in the book: a strange woman and a virtuous woman. You're going to find that the strange woman is always connected with an evil man, and the virtuous woman is always connected with God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Historically, again, the strange woman will be Babylon in the Old Testament and all of the stuff that was going on there. Doctrinally, it will be the Antichrist and his crown. Of course, inspirationally, it will be the world and religion and all the things that go along with that. The virtuous woman will historically be Solomon's wife. It will be the nation of Israel in a doctrinal application, or it will be you and I as the church, having the virtues of Christ.

You remember the Book of Proverbs fundamentally will be a collection of sayings, a collection of what we call proverbs, and "proverbs" literally means "sayings." These proverbs provide all

the knowledge and the wisdom and understanding on everything in life that you and I are going to find. Solomon, without a doubt, is the wisest man that ever lived. He lives around 1000 B.C. His 40-year reign is a picture of the Millennial reign of Christ. Yesterday in Bible Institute, we covered the first half of the millennium, a lot of material there. But I told you then it's probably one of the milestones in the Bible that you have to understand, and certainly, as you saw yesterday, one of the most misunderstood concepts in all the Bible.

Solomon, when he reigns, he reigns for 40 years, and during his 40-year reign, Israel is at rest. They are not fighting any other nations. In fact, one of the great studies in the Bible is the study, the contrast, between David and Solomon. Many people wonder why David was not allowed to build the temple, though it was in his heart to build it. I know the logistical reasons why and all those, but it's bigger than that. Most things are in the Bible. It's the picture of what they represent. Both Solomon and David represent Christ; they're types of Christ. What David did was that he wiped out the last of the enemies that are in the land, all up through Joshua when they go into the land, and Joshua fights those nations and they subdue those nations. But they never got rid of them all. At the time when David came to the throne, the enemies of Israel were still within the land. Now that land is the land grant that was given to Abraham by God; that is the Jews' land today, which is going to be where they reign in their millennium. David, what he does is he wipes out the last of those enemies. When David is done, there are no more wars to be fought because all of the enemies of Israel within the land have been subdued and wiped out. Then Solomon comes in. No more wars to be fought. No more enemies. Solomon reigns for 40 years as David does. Solomon reigns for 40 years in a land that is without war, totally at peace.

By understanding what the picture is here, you have David as a type of Christ at the second coming of Christ who wipes out the enemies of God. Then Solomon's a type of Christ when He comes in and establishes His 40 years without any war, which is a picture of the millennial reign of Christ. Solomon on the throne, the reason why he is the wisest man that ever lived, and God chose him to be that and sustained him in doing that, is because he pictures during that time when Christ is going to be on the throne, and all the world is going to come in to hear the wisdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, just as it says back in the Old Testament that all the nations were coming into Jerusalem to see the glory of God. The queen of Sheba came in. She was overwhelmed with everything that she saw.

You don't get that in history. The devil made sure that in a lot of things that history has been rewritten, that you lose sight of what really took place. You've got to be careful with it. Of course, if you would go to high school or you'd go to college and you take a world history course or an ancient history course, you wouldn't hear anything about Solomon's reign, nothing about the nation of Israel. You'd hear all about the Greeks and the Carthaginians and all of these groups and the Babylonians and the Hittites, but nothing would be mentioned about the nation of Israel. Or if it was, it would be just in passing as a by-thought or a by-word. The truth of the matter is that around 1000 B.C., the nation of Israel was the focal point of everything on planet earth. For those 40 years, every nation on earth knew who God was and where Jerusalem was and what it represented. The fact that you're not told that truth today, or the fact that that has been covered up with all of the garbage in history, doesn't change the fact that it is true. Solomon is the wisest

man that ever lived because during that reign, he pictures the time that the Lord Jesus Christ will reign on this earth, and His wisdom is superior to all the other wisdom of the earth, just as Christ will be.

One of the things, and I've always been a student of history, and I've always studied the "why" of history. I realized that when you study history, you've got to be careful because when a man writes a book on history, he's writing it from his interpretation of it. He sees a lot of things from his angle, and you cannot help but putting those in there. That's okay. You've got to be able to stand back and look at it with a baseline that keeps everything straight, and of course, that will be the Word of God.

You'll find that we hear a lot about the proverbs in our preaching and our teaching. If you go to a Chinese restaurant and you get a Chinese fortune cookie at the end, you won't have one of Solomon's proverbs in it. It'll have some Chinese saying in it that is supposed to be wisdom. You'll get a fortune cookie that you break open and open it up, but it won't have anything to do with what Solomon said. After Solomon's reign, this shows you how the devil rewrites history. After Solomon's reign of 40 years, after 1000 BC, as the nation of Israel begins to retrograde and go into sin, and by 606, 400 years later, goes into captivity, this is when all of your Eastern religions form. This is when Hinduism comes into being. This is when Confucius comes into being. This is when the Greeks with Plato and Aristotle and Socrates and Aesop—he was really hard to swallow. But this is when all of these copycat wisdoms come up. The devil brought them into being because of the fact that the wisest man that ever lived had left his DNA on planet Earth so deeply that everybody on planet Earth knew who God was, who God's nation was. They were coming in from all over the world to see God's glory and the wisdom of Solomon.

The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts chapter 8, when Philip meets him there in the backside of the desert and wins him to Christ, he's not looking for Jesus. He's coming to go to Jerusalem to worship the God of Jerusalem. This is some 900 years after the event took place. In his land, they were still talking about the glory of God in Jerusalem. That's where he was headed when God intercepted him with Philip and showed him that the new way now is to trust Christ as your own personal Savior. That's a great example of soul winning for us. But all of the copycats come after him: the Greeks, the Romans, the Far East, Buddha, all of the copycat religions that want to pretend they have wisdom. So when you go to a Chinese restaurant, you get a Chinese fortune cookie with a saying in it that won't do anything in life for you. You want a real fortune cookie? It's the book of Proverbs. Taking the Word of God in Solomon. He has all the wisdom of God, and he writes the sum of that wisdom basically in three wisdom books: Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. Three out of the five wisdom books found in your Bible, the other two being Job and the book of Psalms.

Proverbs, written by the wisest man that ever lived, will be your book that will give you insight. We talked about the high tower concept of living above the circumstances, building by biblical principles in your life, the ability to see a 360 around you over the obstacles of life that's found in the book of Proverbs. Proverbs will be your high tower concept. It will start and end with the book of Proverbs. Proverbs will represent every key principle, an example in truth that will be

found in the Word of God. I always thought that Proverbs was the central core of the Bible. Everything else in the Bible will filter its way back to the book of Proverbs.

It's been said one time of the five wisdom books that Job, when you read it, represents the sufferings of God, and that's true. The Song of Solomon, when you read it, represents the mind of Christ, and that's true. Ecclesiastes represents the mind of the Spirit. Somebody said that Psalms represents the heart of God, and it does. But Proverbs represents the mind of God. When the Bible talks about "Let this mind be in you" in Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus," He's fundamentally talking about the book of Proverbs. The book of Proverbs will be your core baseline of truth in the Word of God. Proverbs will be your high tower to show you what's coming your way long before any situation hits you. It will show you how to be wise. It will show you if you're not wise that you're going to be a fool. It will show you the strange women of life, and I'm not talking about literally, but maybe I am. But it will also talk to you about the virtuous women and what they represent. Proverbs will keep you from the entanglement of the world and the flesh and the devil.

I've given you the breakdown when we started, but since we're moving through here, kind of recapping everything, I'll give it to you again. When you look at Proverbs chapter 1 through Proverbs chapter 8, every one of those chapters starts with the opening "My son" or some variant of that. It shows you in the first 8 chapters what exactly Proverbs is going to do for us. It's probably the 8 greatest chapters in the Bible for you and for me that if you want to find out what getting God's mind will do for you, there it is. Then we have chapter 9 through chapter 30, and we have the Proverbs themselves. The Bible says that Solomon wrote, I think it was, 3,000 Proverbs. You don't have all of them. That even makes it more special to me because out of everything that he did, God handpicked what He wanted me to have. It's a lot like the Bible. The Bible says over there in the New Testament, many of the things that Jesus did and said, that if they were all written down, it says that the world itself couldn't contain all the books. I like that verse. You know why? Because that tells me in my Bible what I've got, what you've got, out of everything that He did and He said, He handpicked what He wanted me to have. That makes the Bible special. You will never read the Bible like any other book again once you understand what I just told you. Then of course, we get into chapter 31, which is the end result of everything in Proverbs, and that will be the virtuous woman, and that represents in inspiration you and me. All of those things. Boy, where do we get the Proverbs? You thought we were in a long time in Proverbs chapter 22, verse 6. Where do we get the Proverbs chapter 31?

## II. Proverbs 22:7-8

Now today, we'll pick it up in our study in chapter 22, and we'll look at verses 7 and 8 here. I'm going to read the passage, and then we'll ask Footzwalker to stand up and pray once I read the passage, and then we'll talk about it from there.

*Proverbs 22:7-8*

*The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*

*He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.*

Footzwalker, would you ask God to bless our time today?

Now you look at these two verses, and you would probably say to yourself, “How in the world do you talk for an hour and 15 minutes on this?” I mean, it’s pretty much self-explanatory. I asked myself the same question Monday morning when I first looked at it. But I found that as everything in the Bible, once you commit yourself to it and you start going through it, then God starts opening up the verses to you. That is a great lesson in itself because the Bible says that unless God opens up your understanding of the Word of God, you’re not going to get anything from it. It’s a thing where it all matters how you approach it. Now we’ll look at these two verses today, and again, we’re going to glean out of them some practical truths that will help us. There are some things that we need to be reminded of, and I know the verses are really—I mean, look at verse 7: “The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” Okay, how deep can this be? Let me show you.

The verse is, as I said, pretty much self-explanatory, and anybody could get it. But there are at least two things here that I want to focus on, that I want you to see, that I want to touch on.

### ➤ The Rich Rule Over the Poor

Now the verse says, the first thing I want you to see is, “The rich ruleth over the poor.” That’s because the world looks at riches and equates it with power. In most cases, powerful people in life will always be rich. Not always true, but I would say 98% of the time, because money buys you and gives you the ability to be over people who are poor, and we see it all the time. In most people’s minds, riches give you the ability to live above everyone else. It puts you in a status of eliteness, so to speak, and you can buy your way out of almost anything you get into. Whereas a young guy doesn’t have any money, gets into trouble, and he can’t afford a lawyer, he gets a public defender, which many of them are very good. Thank you for that testimony, brother. Three to five with no parole, I do believe it. Anyway, if you’ve got a lot of money, you can get a great lawyer, and don’t think for a moment that a lot of money and a great lawyer can’t get you some stuff with certain people that a bad lawyer and no money can’t get you. It’s just the way it works. Powerful people will always use their money and their influence. In most people’s minds, riches give you the ability to live above those circumstances, and you can buy your way out of almost anything.

Or maybe you have a business with a thousand people working for you. They all respect you, they don’t call you by your first name in most cases, you don’t even know who they are. They labor for you while you sit in the office, and it’s okay, it’s the way it is in our system of capitalism. But you’re over them, and they know it. It’s your company, it’s your business, you drive better cars than they do, you live in a very nice house that they don’t live in. They understand. Or maybe down south someplace or up in New England where you have a big mansion, and it’s filled with servants that wait on your hand, they bring you your breakfast in the morning, bring you your coffee while you’re in bed, do all those things that your wife should be doing that doesn’t? Or you should be doing for her that we don’t? False balance is an abomination, so you want to cover both sides of that. Okay, you come up and finish the lesson. Just because you’re my buddy and I like you doesn’t mean you can interrupt my sermon. I have

thrown people out of church for a lesson. I know. I like your hat, by the way. Too bad they didn't have it in your size. Anyway.

You know too, in our own neighborhood, the guy that's got the biggest house, the nice big grandiose old house, and we're living in a bread box, you know what I'm saying? Or the neighborhood, new elite status to where people live in a neighborhood. What part of town? Now in the Old Testament with the nation of Israel, so you'll understand, when a man had riches and he was very rich, that was a proof that he had great relationship with God and was right. In the Old Testament, God would bless a man who did what was right with riches. The great example of that is Job. From time over there in Matthew, Matthew chapter 19, I think it was, that was verse 24. The Bible talks about, Jesus talked about it was harder for—it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to go to heaven. As the apostles scratched their head and they said, "Well, who then can be saved?" People look at that verse and they don't understand their response. Their response was based on the Old Testament that taught that riches were proof of your godliness, but we're shifting into the New Testament. I mean, in the Old Testament, you know your Bible, it was the physical kingdom, the kingdom of heaven. So the physical blessings are there. In the New Testament, where we were shifting to when Jesus made that statement, that's not true. Though most people, most Christians, and most churches and most pastors think it still is.

We live in a spiritual kingdom, the kingdom of God, where the Bible says in Luke 17:21 that it is within you. So the blessings that we have, they may wind up being physical, that you need something, but they don't start that way. They start with the spiritual. The true riches that you and I have are not in what you have in your bank account. What you have in your heart with the Word of God, which Luke 16:11 is the true riches. Of course, we see in Revelation 3:17 that the church today, the Laodicean church, that's exactly where they're at. They think the bigger the building, the more money you get, the more that proves that you're godly. Of course, Revelation 3:17 very clearly said that's not true. That's an illusion that people believe because they don't know anything about the Bible. But in the world system, and unfortunately, as I said, in the Laodicean church, churches and money and possessions are viewed as power. It gives you rule over people who really don't have much, or at least the illusion that it does.

You know as well as I do, the standard joke today is people who live in Johnson County. Johnson County is the—I'm going to just tell you with me, Bob here, don't leave the church just yet. Johnson County is the richest county in Kansas, wouldn't you say, Bob? Yeah, I think it is too. Maybe in the country, I don't know. But not the country, but it is. It's hard for me, it's hard for me to get all this together because we don't have these problems in Raytown. We don't have anything in Raytown. They cut the police force in half. We've got two old guys out there, and they don't even have—they only get two bullets apiece. Budget crunch. The standard joke is that people in Johnson County, because it's an affluent county—and I'm listening right now, I don't necessarily believe that. I've met lots of nice people from Johnson County. But that's the perception. You know, people who don't have much and drive through Johnson County, and there are some beautiful places in Johnson County, nice homes. You're spread out over there, and people see that. They think, so they get that impression. That's not necessarily true. But it proves

my point. That that idea is based on the idea that we have from Proverbs 22:7 that the rich want to reign over the poor. So they see people that have all of this. They don't have it. So the standard joke is, "Well, them people from Johnson County," they talk about them being snooty. They talk about them being... They've got some of the nicest people on the planet from Johnson County. You know, it ain't much for turning out preachers. But it's good for... It's good for a lot of nice people over there. But in most cases, the more money you have and the richer you are, it's just a fundamental rule of life, the more corrupt you become. That's based on 1 Timothy 6:10 where it says, "The love of money is the root of all evil."

Now, looking at that verse, it isn't the money that is the problem. It's the covetousness of loving money, wanting more money, that is the problem. It becomes a stronghold. What Jesus was saying when He said it's harder, it's easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than a rich man to get to heaven, is because riches will obscure your faith. Let me tell you something. When you have all the money you need—and we all want it, we all want it—and you know lots of Baptist preachers preach against the lottery and all that stuff, I've never preached a sermon in my life against the lottery. The only sermon I'll preach is after you win it, tithes belong to the Lord. That's the only message I'm going to have for you. But you've got to understand that all of this, what Jesus was saying was that riches will obscure your faith. When you have all the money you need, and you don't have to pray about anything, you don't have to worry about the bills, you don't have to worry about this or worry about that. You just write a check for it. Where's the faith in all of that?

I remember years ago there was an organization down south that was a Bible college, and I wouldn't mention their name because I wasn't one to bury Bob Jones University for anything on the planet. But they put out a magazine called Faith Magazine. I used to get it. They sent it to us, you know, and I thought to myself, this is the biggest farce and the biggest joke on the planet. These guys are living in palatial palaces down there. They never cut their grass. They never shovel the snow. If a light bulb goes out, they don't fix it. They don't prepare their own food. Every bill they've got is paid. They drive cars that are owned and paid for by the university. How in the world is somebody who lives a life like that going to write a magazine called Faith Magazine that's going to give anything to me? But that's just where we're at today.

### III. Government and Corruption

Now, where this proverb is so evident, and I want you to see it today, this proverb is more evident than any other place in understanding the example that will be in our own governmental system. Our government started in 1776, and it started with the idea of a government that was for you that took civics class. Our government started out at the beginning, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The idea that your government is your government, and the people that you elect as your representatives in Congress and the Senate and the President, they go there not to represent themselves. They go there to represent you. It was never intended that they would go there to push their own political agenda. It was always intended that they would understand that the government was a government of the people, by the people, and most importantly, for the people.

Now somewhere in the last 200 years, we lost that concept, and it's been lost. It's become a power base of corruption, and all government—well, will if you study the book of Ecclesiastes. We have our form of government as capitalism. When you go through the book of Ecclesiastes, you'll find that Solomon examines all of the oddities of man and all of the forms of government. Yes, he goes through fascism. He goes through all of the different fundamental governments that you could ever have in life. He goes among—and when he comes down to the end of it, he basically says they're all worthless. We think because we live in America—and I love America. Don't sell me short. I love America. I thank God for America. I'm glad I live in America. I just don't like the century I'm in. But that's not America's fault. But America was a great country, and I love America. But let's not kid ourselves. We think the fact that because we live in America and we're not under oppression yet and we have relatively freedom—you can go from state to state to state or country to country and you can do whatever you want to do—that this is the best form of government there is. That's just a natural thing that happens to us because we live here and we enjoy the freedoms. I'm all for freedom. But I want to tell you something. Capitalism is just as corrupt as any other form of government out there. You want a perfect form of government? There will be no perfect form of government until the Lord Jesus Christ comes back and sets up His rule in Jerusalem, and then He rules planet earth with a rod of iron. Then you'll have judgment. Because right now everything is about power and money. You know, we come to the point where we lose sight of all of the things that happen.

Our government, where it started, was based on the Word of God, based on caring for you, the people. Now they've thrown God out, and we have a bunch of people in office that all they care about is their own agenda, their own power. Now I'm going to show you what I mean here as we go through. This is a great proverb. The idea about it that the government and the people when they represent, they go to Washington to represent you and me, not themselves. Last week we had a government shutdown. I was where—I forget where I was, and I forget what I was doing, but there on the big screen was a countdown. Oh, I know where I was. It was over at Joe's for the camp meeting. We were sitting around there eating, and on the TV was this big thing on Fox News. The countdown, four hours and 15 minutes and 23 seconds until the government shuts down. There were people across this country that were going, the Democrats were blaming the Republicans, they were probably blaming the Democrats. Of course, you know, the news media was having a meltdown, they were having a heyday, they were having a countdown. You thought we were launching a guy to the moon. Which is a good place to send most of the politicians if we get a rocket ship that big. They were on there, commentators came up, "What do you think will happen when the government shuts down?" Of course, people were scared. The politicians play on that. I heard one politician, and I don't know if it was a Democrat or Republican, I don't care, they're all corrupt as far as I'm concerned. They were saying, "Well, there's people going to die because of this." As I said, the Republicans blamed the Democrats, Democrats blamed the Republicans. All America walked with anticipation. Here it came, government shut down. You know what changed? Nothing.

I remember back when we went from 19th to 20th century to 21st century, remember at midnight they thought that the power grids all across the country were going to shut down? We were going to go back to the Stone Age. We had a bunch of people over that night, and I got lost in the

crowd and went down to the downstairs, and as soon as it hit midnight, I shut the whole power off. Fell over something in the dark and hurt my back, but it was okay. Listen, I've got a headline for you. If you don't hear anything else I'm about to say today, and there's going to be a lot of good things I'm going to say, just go home with this. Our government shut down years ago. It's got all the lights on, but there ain't anybody home. Nobody cares about what you're struggling with. Every issue that comes up, before they decide, if they ever get the decision, how it's going to affect you, they all stop and consider how it's going to affect their position. Then they'll make their decision of what they're going to do, not on your needs, but on how it's going to help them stay in office. That's the way it works. That's not the way it was supposed to work, but that's the way it works. It's just a big house with all the lights on and nobody's home. Nothing gets done. It's a quagmire. It's a swamp. It's like going to a schoolyard at recess and watching a bunch of junior high kids bicker back and forth and fight over stuff that doesn't really matter.

We've got a government that'll give lucrative contracts to dealers that—I remember back when, and when they were still, I think they were still flying the B-52, but they were flying them back there. Somebody got up and raised because the little roller casters on the chairs that the navigator sat on that he could roll from place to place, they were buying those for \$800 apiece. Now, anybody here that goes to the grocery store and buys a light bulb that would pay \$800 for a light bulb? Why? Because your budget can't handle it. Well, our government budget can't handle that kind of stuff either. That's why we're \$14, \$15 trillion in debt. Nobody's home. Everybody who gives a contract to somebody gets something back for it. It's just that simple. It's a swamp. Our government today is the greatest illustration I can think of of Proverbs 22:7, the rich over the poor.

You know what? We never learned the lessons from history. Somebody said one time the only thing that man never learned from history is the fact that he never learned anything from history. Back in 1787, I actually believe it was June the 28th, our government had just been functioning for a very short time. It had also come to a shutdown standstill. They began to fight and bicker. They didn't have near the issues that we have today. They began to fight, in-fighting among themselves, bickering among themselves. It was a total collapse of the system. The government that was by the people, for the people, and of the people, had shut down. They're going back and forth and yelling and screaming, and nothing is getting done, much like today. Only today is a much larger and much more complicated. Sitting in that room was the man we all love the most of all of the presidents. We love to collect his picture, Ben Franklin. He's on a \$100 bill, by the way. Ben Franklin was 81 years of age at that point in time. He was of very poor health. He stood there as the old man listening and watching and everybody going back and forth and screaming and just terrible. He stood up and he addressed the Congress and the Senate. He gave one of the most stirring addresses of his political career. Of all the things that he said, I don't remember everything, but I remember he said this: "Gentlemen, 13 years ago when we formed our country and came out of the deepest time of war that would have put us all in the hangman's noose. When we formed our country 13 years ago, we didn't know what we were doing, we didn't know where to go. In this very room, we all got on our knees and we asked God Almighty to give us the direction of where He wanted us to go." At the end of his address, for the next three days, the Congress and the Senate of the United States of America brought in every

preacher they could find and just let them preach the fire off the walls to them. It brought this country back together.

I must tell you, as I've always told you, that that's the problem with this country. I'll just throw this in because this will irritate some of you, and I'm in a very irritating mood this morning. They didn't preach out of an ASV or an NIV or an RSV or a Douay-Rheims, but brought the country back in 1787 and got this government back on track with the preaching of a King James 1611 Authorized Version by men who believed it to a country that believed it. Today, our government, it's become nothing more than an assembly of corruption that has bred men and women to have their own agenda. It is to stay in office. There's no accountability. There's no responsibility. It's all about them because politics has moved based on Proverbs. As I said, Proverbs shows you what's coming because the political arena is and always has been about three things: money, sex, and power. This is why you have scandal after scandal after scandal after scandal. There's no accountability, and I want to tell you something. When there's no accountability and you have absolute power, listen to me, absolute power will corrupt absolutely.

I mean, come on. I know life is tough, but I'm a nobody. I never been to college. I had to bribe my high school teacher to graduate me so I could go into the army. That's a true story. I'm not very smart, not very intelligent. Don't know how to fix a lot of things. That's an understatement. I don't want to fix anything. My greatest asset is taking things apart. My worst asset is trying to put them back together. But if I can figure this out, you ought to be able to. You're all smarter than me. You're a lot of college educated people here, a lot of better IQs than me. You're younger, you're smarter, you're sharper, you're brighter. I mean, this is your country, mine too, but I'm on the downside of it. You're up and coming in it. It doesn't ever bother you. I mean, I look at everything. I'm always asking myself in any situation—I shouldn't even tell you this because it gives me away—I always ask myself in any given session, "What's really going on here?" Because usually what's appearance is not really what's going on. But I mean, come on. Who in their right mind would spend \$200 million to get a job as President of the United States that only pays \$300,000 a year for four years? I mean, you have spent \$200 million and you get back \$1.2 million income. Does that not bother somebody? Does that take a rocket scientist to figure that that's not a very good deal? If you wanted to get a job and didn't have a job and you went to the guy and the guy said, "I'll give you a job," and you say, "Okay, but I'm going to give it to somebody else," and you say, "I'll tell you what, give me that job and I'll give you a million dollars." So you're getting the million dollars, you get the job and you make \$10 an hour. Is that smart? This isn't smart either. I mean, why would a guy spend \$200 million, raise \$200 million, his party raised \$200 million when he's going to take a job that only lasts at the downside for four years and he only gets \$300,000? That's \$1.2 million, maybe a little more income when you spend \$200 million. The senators and congressmen spend a thousand times their salary and their income to get a job or to stay in office. Why? I'll tell you why. Power and money, total corruption. I mean, kickbacks, under the table deals, bribes, slush funds, drugs are rampant, free vacations from the places you give the contracts to, women, parties. I mean, there isn't a week goes by that out of Washington D.C. that these guys that have everything and these guys that have everything they could ever want are caught up in some kind of corruption someplace along the line.

I remember years ago CNN, an announcer from CNN was interviewing a congressman or a senator and he said, this is a standard joke, and he says to him, he says, “Well, Senator,” I said, “I’d like to ask you for our viewers, what is your view on the abortion bill?” He got real flustered and he says, “I paid mine.” That’s a joke. He paid his. That’s where we’re at today. The mindset completely that there’s no accountability in anything that we do, the kickbacks that they’re over the common people, you and me, it’s our country. You pay their salaries. You’re attached when it goes in. It’s to be used wisely and to be used in the right way for you, for your kids.

I remember when Obamacare came out, and I could care less one way or the other. You know me, I’m not political at all, but I know that they get up there and they say, “You can keep your doctor,” and nobody could. “It’s affordable,” and the rates went up 1000%. That’s beside the point. And yet, what a good deal it was to all the people. You know why I knew it wasn’t a good deal to all the people? You know why I knew it was ripped with lies and just another party line they were sending you? Do you know how I know that? And I’m not the smartest guy in the world. I’ve never claimed to be. I’m just the fastest one in the slow class. But you know why I knew it wasn’t a real deal? Because not one congressman or not one senator signed up for it. They wanted you to sign up for it. They weren’t going to sign up for it. They had their plush plan. They had everything. And you paid for it. Your tax dollars coming in gave them the greatest package of healthcare that not a one of them said, “Well, I’ll lead the way and I’ll sign up for it. Follow me.” And everybody in America just thought, “Oh, this is so one.” See, you don’t think. They got the best. We got what was left. That’s Proverbs 22:7, the rich ruling over the poor, the government of the people, by the people, and for the people. I don’t know where that went, but it went somewhere.

#### IV. The Rich and the Poor in Practice

I might add many churches are the same way. Pastors too. It’s like the medieval times in Europe where they had the—when the Roman Catholic Church ran the world in the Dark Ages, you had the, you know, you had the, you had the lord over the, over the serfs, the feudal system. That’s what it was called. It’s the same way. Pastors get the “gob complex.” They’re unapproachable. You try to walk up to them and ask for an appointment, “We don’t have to call my secretary.” “Well, I don’t do that. I don’t deal with that. We have a psychologist that deals with all those problems. He’s on staff here. I don’t deal with people’s problems. I’m the pastor.” What do you do? Living like a king, requiring the people to do all the work while you sit there and be king, and they agree. It’s nice to be the king. I call them the popes of Christianity. The rich and power over the poor. You see it all the time.

We were down at Restart doing the Christmas program. I was out doing my deal with the guys on the street. I was coming back up, and you know, when you go to Restart and you come up that one street there, there’s the park over here, and then there’s the Restart’s up here, and then there’s something over here with a long fence. I pulled up there, and I got a cup of coffee, and I was just sitting there waiting. I was going to go in and see how the party was going. A big, big, big, but I mean, a \$300,000 bus came, pulled up alongside of the park. I mean, it was, it was, it was a brand new, incredible, it was a rental, but it was incredible, and it had everything in it. I was in,

and the door opened up, and a guy came down, and you know, he, he, he was, he was armed, he had a gun. He was, he had a suit on, armed. He was some kind of security guy, and he walks out there and looks around, then he motions down, and all these people get off this bus. They had three-piece suits on, I mean, coats, high heels. They were the rich and famous, believe me. The guard is looking around over and over in the park here, there's 200 people. You know, they all come over from Restart and smoke and get high with us. They're over there, and they're looking over there, you know, and I can just see some of these guys, you know, and so the guard standing there, you know, and so they get their kids off, and they're all got them a little crowd, you know, "Come on, come on, come on, kids." And I'm sitting right there. They're going right in front of me along that fence. They're hanging up little presents, gloves, hats, scarves. They're tying them to this wrought iron fence, and the guard's standing there looking around, you know, and he's denying everything. You can tell they're in a hurry, and they're kind of like, take your kid on a \$300,000 bus, go down to the slums, get an armed guard out there, walk over and put a little present on the fence, run back in the bus. They're tying them up. I'm hearing all, and all the people are over in the park kind of looking at this, you know, they don't want the gloves. They're going to steal the bus. I see it coming. I'm getting ready to move my truck, man. I'm in a crossfire here. So I just get out of the truck, and I'm walking around, and I'm just wondering, I know how to do it. "Hey, Holmes. We got to ride around me, you know, hey, Holmes, how are you?" "Well, all these homie people over here doing, huh, down here in our hood." I'm one of them, man. I know what's going on. So they're all tied, little presents up there, and then just like a signal. Everybody back on the bus. That bus door closes, the armed guard gets on the thing, last one on, you know, and off they go.

That was their mindset. I mean, right across the road was 200 people. They could have walked in there like we do, gave them these gloves and said, "What do you need?" And "Here's this and here's that." And "Here we got these for you and we, you know." No, no, no, no, "We can't, we want to, we're rich. We want to do something for the poor, but don't touch me. Who knows what you've got? Who knows where those hands have been? Who knows when the last time you had a bath?" Hey, I've seen some of you guys down on the street, put your arm around them and talk to them about the Lord. You never cared where they've been. You never cared. You know why you didn't care? Because you never forgot where you had been. Amen. So nobody went over. I mean, they pulled off, drove up there, and I'm thinking to myself, "You guys down at the library," so I just went and took all the gloves off the deal. Hell yeah. Why not? I was already one of them. You know, I pulled my pants down to here, so they thought I was one of them. I just kind of walked over there and started taking them all off the thing there, took them down to John and the guys down there on the deal, and passed them off. Some little lady came over, I gave her a scarf, somebody else came over, I gave them this, gave them that. I'll tell you what, I thought to myself, that is so typical of the way the rich mind thinks. I guarantee you, they're off now to—I almost said, Jason and Deli, they would never eat at Jason and Deli. They're off back to someplace where they drink their tea with a finger up. Where they have to have the right spoon and the right fork and the right order. They're sitting around talking about what a warm feeling they have. Because they gave something to the unfortunate. I'll tell you something, you know what the unfortunate needs? They don't need your, and the gloves, I've got to tell you this, the gloves were the cheapest things. They went to Dollar General. These people, in that bus was

\$300,000. The people in it was probably another \$200 million. And they bought their gloves at the Dollar General store. I mean, even the stuff was bad. But that's the mindset. That's the proverb. That's it, man, that's the way it goes.

Hey, look, in ministry and in pastoring, you never ask people to do anything you're not willing to do yourself. We chew the same mud. We do the same work. My philosophy is my boots are the first ones on the ground, last ones to leave. You lead by example. You don't lead by decree. Same foxhole, chew the same mud. That's the way it has to be. Because the bottom line is the riches that we have is not physical, it's spiritual. When you have the physical, it loses the spiritual. What you and I have, God gave to us, not for us to keep. He gave it to us so we would give it to somebody else. That's what we do.

### ➤ The Borrower is Servant to the Lender

Now look at the second part of that verse: "And the borrower is servant to the lender." Again, there's no real commentary necessary here. This proverb has played itself out over and over again in 6,000 years of man's history. No statement was ever truer than in America. In debt beyond all belief. As I said earlier, our country, our country is \$14, \$15 trillion in debt, over budget. It's all because of undisciplined spending. Our system of capitalism by design is set to make you its servant. To put you as the borrower in servitude to the lender for years, if not your whole life. Listen, they don't call it MasterCard for nothing. You become the servant to the master. In most cases, I mean, let's be honest, in most cases, you know, I had a guy say one time, "Well, if I just had more money, I wouldn't have all the issues I've got." No, you know what? In most cases, more money will never solve our problems. It's not a problem that we need more money to get out of the mess we're in. It's the fact that we're not disciplined with what we have. The national average, and there are 300 million people in America. The national average is that every American family has over \$7,000 of credit card debt. People with five and six credit cards, you know, maxed out at 25 to 20 percent interest. You'll never get out from under that. People strapped with all that debt. I've seen people strapped with all that debt and have that hanging over them. You know what? Every month they've fired away to get what they want to get, to get done what they want to get, instead of paying off what they need to pay off. They come to the place that, you know, every event, every place they go, every car they buy, everything you do will go back to the permission of the master, the MasterCard, the lender, who you are now serving to. It's just that simple.

You know, I, again, remember reading in history, the great movement of the Moravians with Count Zinzendorf, August Spangenberg. They took men and women in and trained them to be missionaries. They gave them a one-way ticket to wherever they decided to go to serve the Lord. I've said this many, many times. There were Moravian missionaries who were free men who had a burden for the black African slave trade to win him to Christ. The only way that they could reach them was to become one of them. They actually sold themselves into slavery, that they might reach the black African for Christ to win him to Christ. They gave up their freedom, and they took as a master of them being a slave. In the 20th, 21st century Christianity, we would never think of making the Lord Jesus Christ our master. We'll make it MasterCard. When they gave their own freedom up to be, to win the people to Christ, we'll never do that. Their master

was the Lord and everything He wanted them to do. Our master is what we have and what we want to do.

You know, when I grew up, we lived at 1451 Alden Avenue, Canton, Ohio. You've got to Google it sometime. My house is right there. My mom and dad came to Canton during the war, World War II. Jobs were plenty in the steel mills. My family from Maryland, Frostburg, Maryland, next to Cumberland, were a coal mining family. There were no jobs there, and so the war was on, and Republic Steel's where my dad went to work, and my mom went to work at Timken Roller Bearing Company, made ammunition. They moved there, they lived in an apartment, a little one-bedroom apartment with one kid, my sister, I came along later. It was something like 15 years before they ever bought their first house. My dad moved to Canton around 1942, but he bought his first new car in 1955. He either walked or drove. My mom and dad, as many of your moms and dads, they saved for everything that they did. Not today. If you're 17 years old and you don't have a brand new car, you think you're going to turn your parents in for child abuse. Our kids grow up today with an entitlement of what they think they should have, and they never understand the value of anything.

I went to work for my first job when I was 12 years old. Back then you had little mom and pop stores on the corners, you know, they're all gone now. I had a job as a stock boy. I had the great deal there to go to school and walk home, and the guy that asked me if I wanted to go to work for him, and I said, I was 12 years old. I said, "Sure." He paid me 50 cents an hour. I'd stop after school and I'd stock the shelves, and I'd work all day on Saturday, 50 cents an hour. You would be surprised what I bought as a kid for 50 cents an hour in my lifetime, and I worked that job for two or three years before