

Proverbs 25:1-4

October 29, 2023

Today we are going to get into Proverbs chapter 25. We are going to find this chapter loaded with great truth for all of us, great principles that will give us the answers to all of the things that we struggle with in life. Somebody said a long time ago, and it was kind of in jest, but it is so true, "In every life a little rain must fall." We all go through issues, we all go through struggles, we all go through times that are not pleasant. That is the importance of a good church in your life, people there that love you, that will help you no matter what you go through, that will be there for you and help you walk through it. Even at that, the only thing that really makes it work is the people who take the principles of the Word of God and apply them into your life. Proverbs has been a great book on the issues of life, and I think as we enter into chapter 25, you are going to see it again. I am excited about opening up Proverbs 25. I saw some things here this week that I have never seen before and just had a great time putting it all together. So I am going to get the blessing out of it too. I do not know if it is right to get blessed by your own preaching, but I am going to give it a shot.

Proverbs 25:1-4

These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.

The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.

Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You for all that You do for us. Thank You for these great folks and for the great weekend that we have had so far. Lord, looking forward to today and then restart the mission tonight and just all the good things that You provided for us that we might give back just a little bit to You of what You have done for us. We ask now Your blessings upon this time today and we look for You to give us all those things that we need. In Jesus' name and sake we ask it. Amen.

I. The Bible's Unique Preservation

Verse 1 says, "These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out." It has always been amazing to me. One of the things that to me makes the Bible stand out as the most special book on the planet is that we know that you do not have everything that God said. I am sure Paul wrote more letters than what we have accounted. I am sure that many of the prophets wrote other things that never got into a Bible. In fact, the Bible says over there in John, it says of all the things that Jesus did were written in a book so the world itself can contain it all. When I read that, it really impacted me because it told me then that what I have in my Bible is exactly what God handpicked out of everything that He said and He did that He wanted to give to me.

Proverbs is the same way. He says He wrote 3,000 proverbs. You do not have 3,000 proverbs. You have the ones that He has given you in the book of Proverbs, but there were many, many more than that. When I saw that, I realized that that just made the book of Proverbs even more special to me, how important it was. It says in 1 Kings 4:32 that He had 3,000 proverbs, yet you just got a small amount of those. To me, it shows how condensed God made the Bible, that He can take all the things that Solomon did, just handpick what He wants, but He can keep revealing truth to what He gets all of them done in the ones that He gave us. It is incredible.

Then I looked at Hezekiah. Hezekiah lived some 300 plus years after Solomon died. Solomon is on the throne around 1,000 BC. Hezekiah is down there many, many years after that, around 700 BC. It is some 300 years after Solomon wrote all of this, and it shows how important it was, even as the passing of time, that the kings of Israel saw the value in what the wisest man that ever lived had written. Solomon, without a doubt, will be one of the most incredible men in all of the Old Testament. He is one of the most unique characters in the Bible. Most people never discover the uniqueness. Most people never see the value of it. But boy, I will tell you what, when you put your Bible together or begin to put your Bible together, you have some great stuff.

The Bible says He is the wisest man that ever lived. When you go back to 1 Kings chapter 3 and 1 Kings chapter 4, when He gets His throne established, the whole world is coming to see Him. 1 Kings 4:34 says, "And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom." You do not get that in school today. If you took an ancient religion course or an ancient history course in college or wherever, you never get that. You would hear about all of the Gentile nations and how great they were, but they would brush by or pass over or hardly even mention anything about the nation of Israel. Let me tell you something, and you can put this down. When Solomon is on the throne around 1000 BC during his reign, he is the wisest man on the planet, and every other nation, every other king on this world, looked to the wisdom of Solomon and the building that God had built in Jerusalem. It is incredible.

II. The Five Wisdom Books

In your Bible, you have five wisdom books. They are called the five wisdom books because they are kind of put together in a grouping and they contain great wisdom. You have Job, you have the book of Psalms, you have the book of Proverbs, you have the book of Ecclesiastes, and you have the book of Song of Solomon. Solomon will write three of the five. He also writes some of the Psalms, and he writes as complete books three of the five wisdom books, and each one of those forms an incredible insight and wisdom that is unbelievable about God.

His three books are really, really important just to look at them and see his wisdom.

1. Proverbs: When he wrote Proverbs, he shows us how God thinks and how God looks at things and what the desire of God's heart really is. When we look at that for our own selves, we know that God's heart is for the nation of Israel. We know that God, His wisdom, I talk to you all the time about looking and seeing and understanding things the way that God does.

So when he wrote the book of Proverbs, he gave us a book that has God's opinion and perspective about everything in life.

2. Ecclesiastes: Then he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes. In that book, he shows us how the world thinks. He shows us how the world looks at things. He shows us that the greatest kingdom the world will ever see was the kingdom, a theocratic kingdom that God set up that he is going to establish someday. He will show us through the book of Ecclesiastes that unsaved man will spend his whole life trying to build a better kingdom than God's kingdom. At the end of the book, he tells us that everything in the world that goes up against God is vanity.
3. Song of Solomon: Then he wrote the book of Song of Solomon. Where Proverbs shows you what God thinks, where Ecclesiastes shows you what the world thinks, Song of Solomon shows you what Christ thinks. Where the book of Proverbs shows you that the number one thing on God's heart is the nation of Israel, Song of Solomon shows you the number one thing on Christ's heart is you and me and our relationship with Him.

I am telling you, that is all you need. You have a whole other Bible out there with 60 some more books in it, but I am telling you fundamentally if you know what God thinks and what God's opinion is and you make it yours, if you know how the world system works and you get it, and you know what Christ is to you and how He sees you, what more do you need? You can see the value of these books being wisdom books. This wisdom spills over into everything else in the Bible and the complete wisdom format, and these three books will fill a lifetime, ten lifetimes of study, and it is quite incredible.

Just to keep it all honest, and my job is to preach the whole counsel of God, you have five wisdom books in the Old Testament, you have five wisdom books in the New Testament because God is complete in everything that He does. These five books are all written by one man. You have the Gospel of John, you have First John, you have Second John, you have Third John, and you have the Book of Revelation. When you look at those books, you will see how they compare with the five wisdom books in the Old Testament.

- The Gospel of John: Shows you the insight of God's Son and every detail and how to have a relationship. This compares to the Book of Psalms.
- First John: The theme of First John is knowing God. This compares to the Song of Solomon.
- Second John: It is about truth and the mind of the Spirit. This compares to the Book of Ecclesiastes.
- Third John: You find a wise man and a foolish man. This compares to the Book of Proverbs.
- The Book of Revelation: It is about the suffering and the tribulation. This compares to the Book of Job.

It is an incredible layout. Now I am going to show you this and I want you to think about this. Solomon is the most unique man in the Old Testament. John is the most unique man in the New Testament. I am going to show you this morning why Solomon is the most unique man in the Old Testament. I want you to figure out, and we will talk about it Thursday night, I want you to figure out why John is the most unique guy. We will leave it at that.

III. Solomon as a Type of Christ and Antichrist

Without a doubt, Solomon would be, as I said, the most unique man in all of the Bible in one sense. During his 40-year reign, he only reigns for 40 years, during his 40-year reign it will be the only time in the history of the world. During his 40-year reign it will be the only time that the nation of Israel gets everything and the kingdom of heaven is established. They have all the land, all the enemies are conquered, there are no more wars, there are no more battles, there is no more fighting. That 40 years is the most unique 40 years anywhere in the history of man. It is when the nation of Israel was at the top of the apex and she was reigning over all of the land grant that God had promised to Abraham. It is an incredible period of time, but it only lasted for 40 years.

During that 40 years, all the nations of the world came to see the house of God, that came to see God's building, God's temple in Jerusalem. They wanted to see where God lives. I have told you many, many times the great parallel between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament, God had a literal city and they built a literal temple. All the world in those 40 years came to see God's glory and wisdom through Solomon in Jerusalem in that temple. Now we are in the New Testament. We know now the Bible says that God does not dwell in temples and buildings made with hands. The Bible says, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Where in the Old Testament the whole world came to a literal temple, in the New Testament there is no literal temple. You are the spiritual house of God. In the Old Testament the whole world came to see the temple, in the New Testament we take our temple to the world. That is how it works. That is incredible when you understand that concept. This makes Solomon's time, about 40 years, a perfect type of the millennial reign of Christ. Boy, it really does.

Solomon and his reign, as most of their characters in the Bible, there can be many times. Here is how it works. You have Saul, David, and Solomon. Let me show you how it plays out.

- Saul was the first king. He was the wrong king. So he is a type of the antichrist, one of the types of the antichrist in the Bible.
- After Saul shows up, the antichrist, David shows up. David is a type of Christ that is the second coming of Christ, and David wipes out all the rest of the enemies that were there in Israel's land.
- After David, who is a type of the second coming, Solomon shows up who is a type of the millennium, and he had rest for 40 years.

Saul reigned for 40 years. David reigned for 40 years. Solomon reigned for 40 years. Solomon, in a study of him, is quite incredible. But there is something else here. He is also a type of something else that we want to look at today. Let me just say about this, because maybe many of you, some of you listening on YouTube today and welcome, and maybe some of you even here. In the Bible, you have what we call types. Types are pictures of things. I have told you before how the Bible is a picture book. It is a story book. When you went and got a, you know, wanted to teach your child the Bible, you did not go get a systematic theology someplace. You started with one of those big books with big print where you are told a story about Adam and Eve, and

then you turn the page, and there was a picture of Adam and Eve. You read about Noah and the flood, and you turned a picture, and there is a picture of the ark with a ring coming down. The picture for a child illustrated what he was writing in the story. That is the way the Bible is. Do not ever get so educated in your mind when it comes to the Word of God that you ever forget that you are still a little child. That is the way God will deal with you. So He wrote you a book that you read a story, but within that story He put pictures. The pictures illustrate the stories.

You start basically by learning the basic ones, and then you work up from there. They can get as complicated as you want them to be because the Bible is filled with them. But we kind of walk you through it and help you get that. In the Bible we have types. Somebody said one time that the Old Testament is like an art gallery that has pictures hanging on the wall. But the art gallery, the power is off in its complete darkness. So you walk down the hall and you are in the Old Testament, but you cannot see anything because it is dark. But then if somebody gave you a flashlight, you turn the flashlight on and now you can see the pictures on the wall and make sense of where you are at in the art gallery. That is exactly what it is with the Bible. We look through a glass darkly, but when God in the Old Testament, God gives you the pictures, the types of the flashlight that illuminates the pictures that shows you what you got. It is just that simple. It is not complicated. It is not complicated at all.

There are types through everything. We read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and we talk about the crucifixion of Christ and we see all of that, and we hear it all the time and people preach it all the time. But you know the greatest complete picture of the crucifixion of Christ and what it did and all that it happened when it took place, it is not found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. You know it is found in Exodus chapter 12. Exodus chapter 12 was one of the greatest types. It is one of the greatest pictures of what Christ did in the cross when those Jews came out of the Promised Land or out of Egypt into the Promised Land at the Passover. They had to have a lamb and that lamb had to be a male lamb without spot, without any blemish, just like Christ. Every family had to take a lamb and kill that lamb, an innocent lamb and take the blood and then put it on the side post of the door and put it on the top of the door. One, two, three. Whoever told him to do that, whoever wrote that looked ahead and knew there was going to be three crosses on Calvary. He says, "When I pass over Egypt and I see the blood, I will pass over you." Well, in our hymnal right there we got a song, "When I See the Blood, When I See the Blood, When I See the Blood, I will pass, I will pass over you." When God's judgment comes, it is going to be the blood that you put on the door of your family over your temple that God sees and God's judgment passes over you. It is incredible pictures.

He says down there in the first couple of verses, he says that every man is to take a lamb. The next verse says, he says, "the lamb" and then he says, "your lamb" in verse 3. You look at that and you think to yourself, who would have ever thought about that, that when the Holy Spirit wrote the gospel according to Exodus, Exodus chapter 12 about a lamb, the first thing he would say was you need a lamb. And then you need the lamb because the first thing that everybody in this room needs and everybody in the world, you need a lamb. But not every lamb will do. You need the lamb, but you can have the lamb and know all about the lamb, but until you make it your lamb, you are not going anywhere. That is in Exodus chapter 12. I mean, right there.

He told them in chapter 1, after that point that they started the beginning of their year with the Feast of Tabernacles, September 22nd, 23rd. But when this happens and the Passover takes place, he says, "We are changing all that. You are no longer going to keep the beginning of your year the old way. Now you are going to keep it in the Passover." Somebody said, "What was that all about?" That is simply this. When you became in Christ, you became a new creature in Christ Jesus. All things are passed away. All things become new. All the way back in Exodus, Exodus chapter 12, types, pictures, pictures that illustrate in the Old Testament stories that illustrate great New Testament truths. The art of the Bible is putting them together.

In the Bible, you will have 18 types of Antichrist. We all know who the Antichrist is. He is the coming man of sin. Everybody thinks they knew who he is. Some think it is Bill Clinton. Some think it is Hillary Clinton. Some think it is Trump. Some think it is whoever. It is none of those. The bottom line is that in the Bible, in the Old Testament, you have 18 men, 18, who foreshadow the Antichrist. When you study their lives, you get a composite of what he is like. Somebody said, "Why 18?" Because his number is 666. Six times three is 18.

In the Bible, along in the Old Testament, you have 21 types of Christ. They will run from Adam to Hezekiah, where the Antichrist runs from Cain up to Herod. You will find 21 men who, in things that they do, in situations that they find themselves, they will foreshadow the Lord Jesus Christ. David is a type of Christ. Joseph is the greatest type of Christ. He is the type of Christ in over 152 different places. Those are pictures. Those are types. They illustrate stuff to us.

With Solomon, we have something going on here, and I will give you why Solomon is the most unique man in all of the Old Testament, if not all the Bible. You figure out John, and we will talk about that Thursday night. Solomon is the only man in the Bible who is not only a type of Christ, he is also a type of Antichrist. He is the only man in the Bible that is both types. When you look at 1 Kings chapter 10, or 2 Chronicles chapter 9, they are the same chapter, just two different books, same story, you will find that when you come through there, when you read from verse 1 up to verse 13, Solomon is a type of Christ in every way, shape, or form. Then when you get to verse 14, it says this, "Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold." From that point on, he is a type of Antichrist.

You will find 666 three times in your Bible, four if you count the two places that they are the same here. You will find that in 1 Kings 10 and 2 Chronicles 9, same story, that you will find 666 there. You will find it in Ezra 2:13, where it says 666, right smack dab in the middle of that chapter that is the most boring chapter in the Bible to most people. Then you find that again in Revelation 13:18.

Now the real question is, for those who really want to learn the Bible, why did he do that? I will tell you this much, they all connect together, and each one of them shows you an absolutely invaluable piece of information about the coming man of sin. Most people just read through those things, they never see it. They blow right through Solomon, the gold 666, wait, oh what is the big deal? They get over there in Ezra 2:13, and they see 666, they say, oh, you know, what is the big deal? And they get into Revelation chapter 13, and now it is a big deal because that is the premier chapter on the mark of the beast. You dismiss two of the greatest ones in the Old

Testament that Revelation 13 does not even, it pales in comparison the information you get out of the other two. But that is the way it works.

God does these things, He made Solomon a type of the antichrist, antichrist of Christ, the only man in the Bible to show us what a complete imitation the antichrist is going to be and what a complete fake he is going to be when he shows up. It is so unbelievable that most people cannot figure it out. Book of Revelation, you have two white horse riders, you have a white horse rider in Revelation chapter 6, and you have a white horse rider in Revelation chapter 19. The white horse rider Revelation chapter 6 is the antichrist. In the book of Revelation in the first three chapters, you have the church age, chapter 4, the rapture of the church takes place, and in chapter 5 and 6, here he comes, the man of sin. When he comes in Revelation 6:1, he shows up on a white horse. When Jesus Christ comes back in Revelation chapter 19 at the second coming of Christ, he comes on a white horse. Every Protestant seminary, every Catholic seminary, every Baptist seminary, every seminary Bible college on this planet will teach you that the white horse rider in Revelation chapter 6 is Christ. It is not Christ, it is the antichrist. You take the rider in Revelation 6 and the rider in Revelation 19 and compare them side by side, there is no match to them. But it shows you how good he is going to be when he comes. Well, he has got the theologians fooled right now. He has got half the Baptist preachers in this city fooled, half of them, 90 percent of them, 99.9999 percent. There is a guy out there that he always gives me flack because I always say everything is 99.999999 percent. So I was going to stop it and then I said, no, I just like irritating that guy. So it is 99.9999999999 percent. Bravely spoken behind your computer keyboard. It is an incredible study and even Christians cannot figure it out. So God put us a type in there that shows us that the antichrist is going to be so close to the real Christ. There is only one way you can tell them apart and the Bible says that that is a very easy process if you want to get into the Bible and figure it out. You know that great truth is completely lost today by many modern day scholars, the pastors, those who are in the apostate, Alexandrian cult crowd, the neo-crowd. Through their arrogance of their education they will reject the truth that God has given us and foolishly think that the answers to the Bible are found in the Greek and the Hebrew. Ridiculous.

IV. Hezekiah's Example of Seeking God's Wisdom

Also in verse 1 we see how the other kings looked at Solomon's writings and how important that they were. The Bible says in verse 1 that the men of Hezekiah are copying out of his Proverbs. The wise kings looked to his wisdom for guidance. Now I want to just stop here for a moment and I want to talk to you about Hezekiah who is in verse 1. Hezekiah is one of the last of the good kings, back to years the last good king. He tries to bring the nation of Israel back to God and boy there are some great, great, great parallels here. If you want to study his reign it is in 2 Chronicles chapter 29 picking up in verse 32 or 2 Kings chapter 18 and 20. I am scared 29 and 32 runs all the way through those chapters and 2 Kings chapter 18, 19 and 20. He is a good king in a line of terrible kings and when he came to the throne he realized and saw the condition of God's people. 2 Kings 18:3 says about Hezekiah, "And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did." It is an amazing thing when you start going through these kings of Israel. Every one of them good or bad are compared to the gold

standard of God's king and that is David. Every time you read it it goes back to David, David, David. Verse 5 says, "He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him." It is over and he was the last guy and the Bible talks about the fact that he took away all of the Baal worshippers. He got rid of everything that was defiling there.

The time frame here is about 700 BC, some three or four hundred years after Solomon dies. Here right at the point where they are getting ready to go into the Assyrian captivity, Sennacherib is going to come down and destroy them and take them back to Assyria. He tries, what a great lesson. He tries to bring a nation that has spent at least three or four or five hundred years throwing away everything that God gave them, rejecting every piece of truth that God gave them, and now right before the end here is a good king, a great king who tries to bring that nation back to God and it is too little too late. What a great picture that is for us in America. I am telling you we talk about the president won the election on the great theme, "Let us make America great again," and everybody wanted America to be great again. Everybody believed that he could do it and I believe he can do some great things but let me tell you something, you cannot ever make America great again when you do not even understand what made America great in the first place. It was a book that you got in your lap and until this country gets back to that book it is not ever going to be great. It might be great because you got two chickens in every pot and three cars in your garage. It may be great because you just bought your big hundred foot motorboat. It might be great because you travel all around the world and you got a nice thing and all that stuff. That is fine. That is not what God calls greatness. Hezekiah tried to do it. He could not do it. He could not do it.

Hezekiah, what a great lesson. He sees God's coming judgment and he tries to turn the corner and get that nation back to God but it is just too late. But he did not know. Got to give him credit for this even though he could not do it. He knew the only way to do it was getting back to the book so he has his voice copying out of the book of Proverbs. He knew where to go.

V. The Glory of God and the Honor of Kings

Verse 2 says, "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." Now, doctrinally, this is pretty easy. We know that there are some things in the Bible that God, He did not reveal. There are some things in the book of Daniel that he told Daniel, "Don't write that down. I want to shut that up. I don't want to give anybody that right now." He said the same thing in John in the book of Revelation. He says, "Seal up those things and don't let it be known." We already know that he wrote 3,000 Proverbs. He obviously did not want to give us all of those so he can seal some things.

Historically, this is exactly what Hezekiah is doing. Hezekiah knows that he is in deep trouble with his nation and he knows that God has hid some things from this nation because of their unbelief but he knows where to go. He starts with the book of Proverbs. He starts by having his scribes copy out of the Proverbs Solomon's book the wisdom that he needs to follow.

Inspirationally, it is for you and me and this is real easy. When it comes to you learning the Bible, God fixed it so you would have to study it. God did not write a book so you could grasp it every time you can. Years ago, we had a guy that came to our church that, you know, he got, we were in Romans at that point in time and he got mad because we had spent too much time in the book of Romans. He had some other problems too, obviously. I am just trying to be kind. We had spent too much time in the book of Romans and he put on his little Facebook, FacePage or In Your Face or whatever he was writing on back then, you know, that I am leaving or this and that. Bob just spent too much time. He had spent too much time in the book of Romans. Now, I do not know how much time I spent in the book of Romans. I spent a lot of time in the book of Romans. You can look it up. It is still there probably, I do not know, four or five years, maybe three or three years. I do not know. I do not know. But I do know this. I have people say it about Proverbs, you know, "Well, you just spend too long in the book of Proverbs." Well, let me ask you a question. Proverbs is the mind of God. How quickly do you want to go through God's mind? I mean, make a statement like that. You ought to have a sign that says, "Look how stupid I am when it comes to the Bible." The book that is God's mind and you want to hurry through it. I get it. I get it. I get it.

I am going to tell you something. I do not know how long we will be in Proverbs. I do not know how long we have been in it. But I can tell you this, this is a way we took 10 years to go through Proverbs. We will not. I know some of you went, we will not. But I am going to tell you this. If we did take 10 years to go through it, we could take a break. And I would preach a couple of little nice little neo-evangelical sermons to you about loving your neighbor, kumbaya, and that is my favorite. And then I can come back and say, "I am going to do Proverbs again." I could take another 10 years, go through the same book and find more stuff that I never saw. You know why? Because God keeps revealing out of the book. It does not matter how many times you read it. This is why it is an honor and a glory for kings to search it out.

We want everything now. Everything. When I was in Ohio, I remember when McDonald's first McDonald's started. We went there to eat. Hamburg for 15 cents. On the shine, right now you drive down McDonald's, 100 billion sold. When I went, it was 20. 20 hamburgers sold. I remember, I remember, we went in there, you know, and we had little hamburgers. They did not have Big Mac back then. They had hamburgers and french fries. You would go in there, you know, and it revolutionized everything. It was now called fast food. People who did not want to cook dinner, moms did not want it work. Did not want it, I get it. They went to the fast food place. Then, you know, that fast food was not fast enough to put a drive in through it so you get your fast food faster. That was not fast enough. Then they put an Uber driver out there that will get your fast food twice as fast as the drive-through fast. Because the drive-through is not fast anymore, I am telling you. Because everybody wants to go there because they want to get it fast. Just call the Uber driver telling them to meet you at the park someplace and get your hamburger, whatever you want. Because we do not want to wait for nothing. We want it now. We want it right now.

I look at you guys when I was a kid growing up, I used to hate going back to school because you have to get blue jeans that are blue and stiff, you know. Their new jeans are the worst jeans in the

world. You have to wash them about a thousand times to get them where they got that fit. Now you do not have to. We used to like them when we wore them for five or six years and the knees were not. You can go buy them now with knees out. I see some of you people walking around with holy jeans on. I am thinking, you know what, come on over here. We will go to the clothes closet and we will get you some jeans. Yeah, I am talking about that. I like those shoes though. Play a game of checkers on them later. I get it. I got holy jeans. I do. You gave me a pair, did not you? I wear them. I wear them. I take the dogs out. I wear them. I am not fighting anything. I think they look good. Jamie wears them all the time. You all wear them. Sometimes Jamie, I am thinking to myself, if she got any jeans left, I mean, they are ripped up the legs all the way up. I mean, it is okay. It is the style. I mean, hey, she has got the legs for it. If I put those on, you would be laughing your head off after those things. But I am just telling you, that is what we are. You know why? We cannot wait for it anymore. We are all that way.

You walk into, I mean, the biggest decision, you think it is tough going into a Bible bookstore and they say, "I want a Bible, which one you want?" And you got 500 pair over here. Try go buy makeup. You got a thousand different shades. You have to customize your lips just the color you want. They got peach bluffs, bloom blush, rock blush, dirt blush. They got all that stuff. And then you are going to go buy some jeans. 504s, 512s, 515s, 516, 501, 503. Man, what do all those numbers mean? I want a pair of jeans that when I put them on, make me look like a man. That is what I want. I do not need these numbers, but that is the way we are. We are in a hurry with everything. That is what we want.

When I bought, and this is not a criticism. This is the world that we live in. You know what? When I got my first car, I got a 1958 Ford. What did you get, Bob? A Volkswagen. You imagine Bob and a Volkswagen? Now that is got to be a picture. Wow, man. I will tell you, I just, I drove that 58 Ford. It looked like a big boat. I mean, it did. If you know what a 58 Ford looks like. I am telling you, it is a place where if I had my daughters, when they grew up, if I had bought them a 58 Ford, you never heard the end of it. I remember I took Kelly to buy her first car. I bought her a stick shift. Remember that little escort I bought you? You do. You did not like it. I know you did not. I bought a stick shift because I think every woman needs to know how to drive a stick shift. I think some of you guys need to have a stick shift cleft on the side, out in the parking lot. Make sure there is no other cars around because we do not want them killing anybody. But I think that is good. Hey, girls, you never know when you need to get a getaway. You do not have to wait and pick an automatic. You want to jump in the first thing that goes and get out of town, man. That is what you want to do. So I bought her one. And so I said, "Okay," I said, "You drive it around," took her out, showed her how to work, you know, you got to get the balance between the clutch. The scary thing is when you are on a hill. See, because you got to be fast enough and coordinated enough to let the clutch out and put the gas on so you do not roll back and hit the person in front of you. So I drove her around, did everything. This is a true story, you know. And she is down there. So I said, in our cul-de-sac, which goes up the hill, and I drive it around and just get used to it. So I am in there. Greg McClintock was there staying with us. So when Greg and I were talking pretty soon, I see this little sweet thing running down the street toward the house. I am thinking, you know, somebody went out of her car, by the way. I am thinking somebody stole her car, hijacked the car. So I, she comes in the house and I said, "Honey, what is

the matter?" She is crying, you know, and she, what she does, she tried to go up the hill and then she stalled it. And starting it on a hill is really tough. Because you got to do it. A man, I mean, you know, yeah, I do not know. You guys that went along the road, I have always wanted to see some woman along the road with four or five kids who are car dead, pull up behind her and say, "What is wrong?" "He will not start." Look under the hood and say, "You got a screwdriver?" I love this. "Put that screwdriver down. Try it now." It starts right up. I have never figured that out. I tried it one time, burnt the screwdriver right in half, burnt my hand. But I will tell you what I can do. Oh, I am good. Popping the clutch. See, you stall it on the hill. You are a real man. Do not panic. You say there is a car behind you. All I need is six inches to pop that clutch. Push that clutch in, put it that thing, boy, let that rope back, pop that clutch, and it jump-starts and it goes. You see, that is what a real man does. She parked in the middle of the road, turned it off, ran back home.

You can want everything fast in life, whether it is your food, whether it is your jeans, whatever you want. But I will tell you one thing, it will never work when it comes to that Bible. You got to get in that book. You got to invest the rest of your life in it. You got to search it out like the gold mine that it is. Now, we got these ideas today that these young Christians and these preachers, they are just going to grab the Bible right now. In your worst nightmare, you will not. You got to labor to get it. God fixed it that way. When you do, God is going to open up the scriptures for you. He is going to give them to you. Deuteronomy 29:29 says, "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." He gives those things to you, and then you pass them on to your family.

Learning the Bible is just one fundamental basic concept. It is very simple, it is very easy, and it is a very basic procedure. If the Bible is God's mind, and 1 Corinthians 2:16 and Philippians 2:5 says that it is. If the Bible is God's mind, then the deeper you search into that mind, the more you get into His mind, the more His mind will get into you. It is not about just knowing about the Bible. I have met guys all my life who, who when it came to the great, they wanted to spend their whole life studying the great doctrines of the Bible. They knew about the anti-Christ, they knew about this, they knew about that, but they absolutely had no personal one-on-one love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. You know why somebody will spend all of their time in the deep stuff and never try to get into the basic fundamental stuff? I mean, knowing the Bible is one thing. Knowing the author of the Bible is something else. You know why they will do that? Because with doctrine, with a great tribulation, with the anti-Christ, with all the things, there is no accountability there. You want accountability? You get into a personal relationship with Him. You make yourself accountable to Him. You get into that mind. It is not just about knowing things about the Bible, but rather a relationship with Christ through Christ into the deepest sense of getting His mind. This is called getting God's understanding. It is called a knowledge of God in Proverbs 2:5.

It is like a gold or a silver or a diamond mine. I remember one time years and years ago when we were in South Africa, they took us on a day off, on sightseeing, they took us to a gold mine that had been closed and now it was a tourist attraction. This thing went down five miles. You got

into the elevator and we started going down and I mean it took you 20 minutes in an elevator to get to the bottom level. I am thinking to myself, you have got to be kidding me. I thought this thing is just a hole in the ground. Yeah, we went down to that thing and hit the bottom, doors opened up and boy, there was a shaft going this way and one going this way and one going this way and the tour guide had, we all had those little helmets on with those little lights on him and so he takes us down and he is showing us where they used to dig the gold and he says, "You know what," he says, "We are five miles down as we speak. This is the, this is the deepest gold mine in the world." He said, "Let me show you what it is like if you are working down here, turn all your helmet lights off, let me show you what it is like down here if you are stuck down here and the power fails." He said, "It was, you talk about the bottom of this pit. I mean it was dark." Of course me, my little handy dandy survival flashlight, I am on my way out of here, but it was dark. He turned it back on and again and everybody is saying, "Wow did they," he said, he said, "Let me show you what we do and all the pipes were up here." He said, "What we have done no matter where you are at, if the power gets off, get to the pipes and all of the bolts are facing the way out and you just follow the pipes. If you are going toward this way, you are going the right way. If you are going toward the head of the pipe, you are going the wrong way."

There was a lady there and I was enthralled and it was a lady there, it was not with our group and I am just thinking, you know me, I am thinking of the Bible application. She said, "I have a question." He said, "What is it ma'am?" She said, "How come you have to come down so deep that find gold?" He said, "Well first of all, this gold mine has been here for like 30 years before we close it, maybe 40." He said, "But the truth of the matter is the deeper you go, the more gold and the better quality gold you find." I said, "Amen." He said, "What?" I said, "Something." I took that tour and I thought to myself, you know what, that Bible is our gold mine and the deeper you go, the more pure and the better gold you find. Then I got thinking about it, I even put it into a message that night I preached one night while I was there about the gold mine experience and I said, "You know what, going through that gold mine taught me two things about my Christian life." Because that Bible says that the mind of God is the word of God and we are supposed to search out the mind and we are supposed to get into that mind and the closer and the deeper you get into the mind of God, the more better gold you are going to find. But then there is another thing. That mine was five miles down. Two things. First of all, the deeper you go, the more and better gold you find. Second of all, the deeper you go, the farther you get away from the outside world. I am telling you, man, how is your dig going? The real question is for everybody, including me, how deep do you want to go? I mean, that is all it is. How deep do you want to go?

Look at the last part of verse 2. "And it is the honour of kings to search out a matter." In the Old Testament, the king of Israel would go through the Old Testament books to find out how he has to deal with something. David did it all the time. Amos 3:7 says, "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." You know what he says? He says God himself does not come down and do it. He reveals it to his servants and his prophets through the word and they do it. The Bible says in Revelation 1:6 that it says that you and I are going to reign as priests and kings with the Lord when he comes back. You know, that is a great picture. The greatest demonstration I found in my whole world about that is David. David, I got a message on David from shepherd boy to king. It is an incredible, incredible study of David's

journey. He started out as shepherd boy, but he wound up as a king. Right now you and I are to be shepherd. We are to be dealing with people with the word of God, but someday we are going to reign with Christ as a king. When I realized that, I looked at it, I thought to myself, "Wow, you know what?" David was anointed king when he was still a shepherd boy in 1 Samuel chapter 16. But he did not take the throne as king till 2 Samuel 5:4, which is about 20 years later. In other words, he was anointed king when he was a shepherd, but 20 some years later he became the king of Israel. Right now, God has anointed you as a king even though you are a shepherd. When Christ comes back someday just like David, we are going to reign with him on the throne.

VI. The Unsearchable Riches of God's Word

Look at verse 3. "The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable." Now what is he saying? The Bible calls the word of God in Ephesians 3:8 and Romans 11:33, the unsearchable riches. When you get that book, the depth of it in your heart, everything in this life from top to bottom, from heaven to earth, will be understood, be figured out, and you will have it all put together because of the revealing of the unsearchable riches that God gives you. The depths of God in our heart. I ask you again, how deep are you willing to go? How deep are you willing to dig into that gold mine that is God's mind?

Ephesians 3:17-19 says, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Now that is the key. Filled with the fullness of God. Somebody said, "We are not talking about salvation." No, no, you are not filled with the Holy Spirit of God when you get saved. You are indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God. If you are saved this morning, you have got all the Holy Spirit of God there is. That is not what he is saying. That is not what he is asking. The question this morning is, not how much do you have of the Holy Spirit of God. The question is, how much of the Holy Spirit of God has you? That is the question.

One time years ago, D.L. Moody used to have him back every year to preaching at church. He was a famous pastor in Chicago and they had him back about four or five years and they had a deacons meeting to put it together and somebody deacon did not like it because he got stepping into their face, you know, with the things in the Bible and the pastor said, "I want to have D.L. Moody back again next year." One of the deacons said, "Well, why do we have Moody back? Is Moody have a corner on the Holy Spirit of God?" Pastor said, "No, no, no, not at all. I think the Holy Spirit of God has a corner on Moody. We are going to have him back." It is not a question how much of the Holy Spirit do you have. It is how much does he have of you? How deep are you willing to go?

Most Christians are very one-dimensional. They are saved. They never move out of the one-dimensional mindset of Christianity. They see everything, cannot figure it out. Every once in a while you will find someone as Ephesians says here that are three-dimensional Christians. They have a good understanding and a balance of things. But when he talks about down there the depth and the depth is the fourth dimension. I mean, if you look at it, you have got the, he says,

“What is the breadth, the length, the depth and the height?” There are four things there. The breadth, the length and the height are the three-dimensional that we have in life. The fourth dimension, the depth, is the supernatural aspect to it of getting into God's mind. That is where it is at. The depth of God in our hearts will be unsearchable because the unsearchable riches you filled your heart with. It is just that simple. The endless unsearchable riches of our life from God's mind of the Word of God is the depth of truth. The deeper you go, the better it gets.

I like everybody. I like hanging out with everybody. I simply do, but I got to be honest with you. I like people that have a depth to them. I mean, I know my job is to help people that do not have depth get there and I get it. But I like preaching it has a depth to it. You know, if you ever want to know where a guy is at, a preacher, just listen to him and then put him on your depth meter. You know, all the football teams got what they call a depth chart that shows them the depth that they can penetrate into something with a different weapon that they have. People that they have going out there. You have got five guys who can catch a football, four guys that can run it. You can pick and choose. That is your depth chart, how deep you can get into their world.

The mark of a really good pastor, a really good preacher, will be the depth by what he says. I mean, you know, you got guys who are very surface and very milk, you know, and no meat to it. But a good preacher, whether he is a pastor or not, a good preacher in his preaching will draw off the depth that he has with God's Word. You can see it in his preaching. You know, it is just everybody has got style. It is not about style. I knew a guy one time, and I will not tell you who he is because some of you probably remember him. I used to have him at the Bible conference years ago, and he was a good friend of mine. I had him because I liked him, and he added a, we had four or five preachers, so it did not really matter. But this guy, when he preached, would keep you in stitches. You would laugh from the time he got up. He even looked funny. When he would get up and preach, he had a, he must have had, if Solomon had a thousand, three thousand proverbs, this guy had three thousand stories. They were all hilarious. We would laugh. We would, we would, we would, it would be a, it would be, it would be one laugh from the beginning to the end. He would blend it into a message. But I remember sitting there listening to him laughing. I was having a time in my life, but I would listen to the guys that preached before him and after him. I would think to myself, you know what, all it is is a lot of fun and humor. There is no meat there. There is no depth to it. I knew this guy. I was friends with him, real good friends with him. When we would talk, he did not know nothing about the Bible. But boy, could he move a crowd with laughter.

Now, I can be funny. A lot of times I feign being stupid. So I am funny, so you will laugh at it, but I am not really stupid. But I do not want humor to motivate you. I want the Holy Spirit of God through the depth of the Word of God to motivate you. Humor is a valuable thing in preaching, but you have got to know how to use it. You do not just belch your whole message on a, on a comic routine. Humor is important. I was taught how to use it. There are some times that I want to hit you with something that is really going to be hard and it is going to hurt. I am going to nail you, and you are not going to like it. So I was taught, loosen them up a little bit, say something funny, say it about yourself, say it about somebody that you are, say, make something funny. Then they are laughing and then while they are laughing, nail them. That is how you do it.

You do not build your whole, I mean, this is not come to Old Path Baptist Church Comedy Hour. I mean, it is truth. This guy, you know, wherever he went in a sermon, it was just one funny story after another. I mean, I like guys with depth to it. I like, I like to listen to a guy and we have guys here. You know, I have Bob preach when I am not, Bob will get Danny preach to you. John Biscette on Thursday night in Bible study. I mean, we got guys here that have been around for a while that boy, when you hear them, they give you something. I listen to you guys that are doing your devotions, you know, John is the night at the mission. He will give them something. I listen to you. You do not even know I listen to you when you are teaching your disciple, I have somebody record it and I will listen to you. There is depth there. You are not just giving the story. You are learning how to take the depth of God and paint a picture, a word picture with the words that establishes the truth that you want to give them. That just does not happen with three points in a poem. There has got to be depth to it. Many of you, many of you, we have a bunch of guys and gals here, gals too, that got depth to them. We got a whole host of you that are on that way in your world that you want depth. You want it. I enjoy it on Thursday night when, you know, when I miss something or this or that, man, there are guys out there that just get it. Or even, even though after I say something, somebody will come back around and raise their hand and bring up a, what I call a closure point. It is, I mean, it does not get any better than that. I mean, it is just, you know, it is like trying to, I like a guy preaching. It is like listening to him. It is trying to write it all down. It is like trying to get a, get a drink of water out of a fire hose. Take your lips off.

But good preachers, deep preachers does not happen, but just preaching a lot of sermons. I know the mindset is if you preach enough sermons, you will turn into a good preacher. No, you will just go through your life preaching a much more bad sermons. Preaching is an art form. You have to learn some things in doing it, but preaching demands a depth. Good preaching. I am not kidding you. Listen, if the depth of, of your heart and my heart is the oil, the Holy Spirit of God, because of the truth and the depth, then the message that you and I preach out of the depth of our heart will simply be the dipstick to the oil level. I will be honest to tell you, most preachers are about three-quarters low, but that is where it is at. How deep are we willing to go? How much depth are we willing to get into? Are we, are we satisfied just staying on the surface?

VII. Refining the Vessel

Look at verse 4. "Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer." Doctrinally, we know this is the second coming of Christ. This is what he does when he comes back. We have seen it in many, many places in the Old Testament. But for you and for me, there are some key words here that are good words to study.

4. Dross: Dross or impurities. In gold, silver, you have what we call dross, dross or the impurities. When you want to purify gold or you want to purify silver, then you boil it or you put it under a fire. What the fire does, the fire separates the real pure gold or silver from the impurity, the dross and the dross come to the surface. That is exactly what God wants to do in your life. That is why you got to have some trials in your life. That is why you got to have some fire in your life. That is why you got to have some things that do not always go right

for you. It is those various things that we do not want in our life that God uses to take the dross to the surface so you can get rid of it.

5. Silver: He could have said gold. He could have said precious stones, which we know is people. We know that gold is the deity of Christ for the types. But he says, he chose the word silver here. Because as you purify yourself and you purify the dross out of your life, the thing that is going to make that happen and make you pure every day is the more you understand what Christ did for you and the price he paid for you. I do not love God because of all the good things he has done for me. He has done some tremendously wonderful things that I will never be able to thank him for. I do not, I do not love God because of the Bible that he gave me, though I love the Bible that he gave me and I do love him for giving it to him. But that is not the main reason. The main reason in my heart for everything that I have with God is goes back to the day he hung in that cross for me and paid my price. Because without that, none of that makes any difference. Every day of your life and my life, day by day, we should have a better appreciation and a better understanding of what he has done for us.
6. Vessels: When you do that, the vessels will be our bodies, a choice vessel for God's work. The Bible talks about in Romans 9:21-23, and 2 Timothy 2:20-21, that God has vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor. He wants you and I to be a chosen vessel of silver based on the redemption, that we get purified, that the dross comes off the top, and that we become a vessel fit for the master's use.
7. Finer: That will be the Holy Spirit of God who will refine us and perfect us as we dig into God's mind. The word we have today is refinery, where they take the raw materials and refine it into gasoline for your car. What God does is he takes the raw materials in your life and my life and through a refining process of getting rid of the dross, you understanding the silver, and you becoming a vessel, he refines you and perfects you for the work of God. That is how it works. Simply put, taking away the dross, perfecting you for the work of the ministry, 2 Timothy 3:16.

The deeper you go into God's mind, the farther you get from the world. The richer your life will be because the gold gets better. In your hymn book, I think it is 204, 207, there is a hymn there that is one of my favorites and we have seen it many, many times. Familiar to everybody, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus." It says, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, looked full with his wonderful face." That is putting the dross, the silver, and the vessel in the finer's hands. He says, when you turn your eyes upon Jesus and you look full, not halfway, full, at his wonderful face, he says, "And the things of earth shall grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace." You know why they grow strangely dim? Because you are getting down so deep that the life in this old world is not affecting you anymore. That is your problem. That is my problem. That is our problem. We ought to be so deep in the mind of God, in the mind, gold mind, that God has given us that the world, we do not even know what is going on up there. An A-bomb could hit it and take the whole place out and you would come up and you would say, "Wow, I wonder when this happened." You are so into what God has given you.

Now you may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, the length, and the depth, and the height, and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge that she might be filled with the fullness of God. That is what he wants for you and me. He wants us filled with the

fullness of God. He wants a depth to us. The thing I like about so many of you, it does not matter who comes in with what problem. Somebody could come in with a marital problem, a kid problem, or this problem. I can just about drop 85% of you into any scenario in any situation and you will read it, you will understand it, and you will know where to go in the Bible to fix it, and you will begin to put a process together to walk them. They may not do it, but you will begin to put the process together to get them out. You know how you do that? Depth. Digging in the gold mine. Finding those nuggets, those chunks of gold that give you all the principles. That is why Hezekiah knew what he needed to do. He is looking at his nation and his country and he says, "Man, we are in a mess." He says, "I want to get back with God. I fear God. I trust God." He knew, he was smart enough to know that if he was going to find any answers to his nation's problem, he was going to have to go to the wisest man that ever lived. You know, when God ascribes around him and he says, "Copy out the proper of the Solomon." That is where I am going to start. That is where we need to start. Getting into that gold mine. Proverbs is the entrance to the mine and the mind of God. We will hold up there. Let us pray. Father, we thank