

Proverbs 22:10

Sunday 2/11/2018

Last week, we had a great study on the bountiful eye, looking at things and seeing the opportunities of God through all the bountifulness that God has given to us in our lives, all the goodness that He has done for us, and how the real blessings in our lives will come from taking what we have and recognizing what God has given us, and then giving that to others. That is where the real blessing is. People think that the key to God is love, and that is not true. The real key to God is giving. God so loved the world that He gave. God is in a continual state of giving to His children everything that they need. We as Christians need to be in that continual mindset of giving to others the things that God has given to us.

We looked at two great examples of this as a child of God: never to miss the opportunities that God will put in our lives. How absolutely important that is. We talked about the door of utterance in Philippians 4:3 and the door of opportunity that, through our spiritual insight and our spiritual discernment, we see and understand all those things, as 2 Corinthians 2:12 talks about.

We looked first of all at the book of Nehemiah. We saw how he was a man of God who was in the right place at the right time to do what God wanted him to do. It was an incredible study to see how he saw God orchestrating the opportunities to get the nation of Israel back to the land, and how he was the key person that God used. I emphasized that last week, and in our introduction this morning, I want to emphasize it again: you do not know how important it is that you may be the key person that God wants to use in some situation. We saw how he saw it and he seized the opportunity.

Then we looked at Acts 8 and Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. I showed you where, in the book of Nehemiah, we saw God orchestrating and putting everything together. But then in Acts 8, we saw the other aspect to it, and that is how God gets you to the right place to be the right man at the right time. We showed that through the relationship that you have with the Holy Spirit of God. It is, honestly, a totally complete foreign concept to most of God's people today, not understanding what it means to have a working, talking, walking relationship with the Holy Spirit of God. We saw it with Philip, how he and the Holy Spirit of God were in tune all day long, all the time, talking back and forth, that He was giving him the instructions of what He wanted him to do, and that he was taking those instructions and doing it.

I said it Thursday night that many times we as Christians spend a lot of time studying the Bible. We come away knowing the Bible, but we never come away knowing the author of the Bible, the Holy Spirit of God. It is His leading and opening and guiding us with the Word of God that really makes the difference. This is where we saw last week the great concept found in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, where it says, "Pray without ceasing." We ought to be constantly praying, constantly in touch with the Holy Spirit of God. Of course, Ephesians 6:18 talks about praying always with all prayer and supplication. We looked last week at what that really means and we talked about it.

We saw the definition of the word "eye" in the Bible. I told you how certain words in the Bible are going to trigger things that you will want to study; they are key. We are going to see another one today. We saw how, in the Bible, a bountiful eye. The Bible says in Matthew 6:22-23, if your

eye be full of light, then it is singleness of eye, and you are seeing God in everything that He wants. The Bible says if your eye is full of darkness, then it is full of the world. I showed you how, as Christians, you cannot have one eye filled with light and the other eye filled with darkness. It has to be a great principle: singleness of eye.

Today, we are going to look at just one more verse. It is all we will get through today. If there was ever any question as to the Holy Spirit of God leading where we go in the Bible and all the things that we deal with, it is how He puts the sermons together. When I have studied through the book of Proverbs, I never orchestrate sermons around circumstances or situations. I just let the flow of the Holy Spirit of God. I am just moving through the book of Proverbs. I have always wanted God to have the freedom here to give us and to set the structure of preaching and to give us what we need. It is one of the things I like about Thursday Night Bible study. Too many churches orchestrate too many things. I like to have the freedom for God to do whatever He wants to do, change up whatever He wants to change up. Thursday Night is a class example of that. Thursday Night is a time where, in most Bible studies, you go in there, you have a set format. The guy gives you what he wants to give you, what he thinks you need. I am not saying there is anything wrong with that; certainly, there is not. But I like the atmosphere of being able to let the Holy Spirit of God do whatever He wants to do.

I think that you study the Word of God all week. You certainly get into the Bible, many of you, most of you. I think to have a place where the Holy Spirit of God can bring all of us together, lift out those things that we can all benefit from, where it is not just me orchestrating what we want to talk about, I think that is invaluable. I think that is a sign of a healthy church where you are not trying to control everything that is being put out. You do not have your own agenda so much that the Holy Spirit of God cannot change it. I have always told the Lord, no matter what I am going to preach, getting ready to preach, or actually sometimes in the process of preaching, God has come down and thrown what I call in a play from the bench that He wanted me to shift gear. I like that. I like to come to the place where God knows He has the freedom here to do whatever He wants to do, however He wants to do it, and I am okay with that.

I. The Unpopular Truth of Proverbs 22:10

I want to talk about a verse today that most pastors probably would not want to preach on. It is not a popular subject, but I think it is an invaluable subject in the Bible. Paul said that he taught the whole counsel of God. We live in a world today where most Christians pick and choose what they want to believe out of the Bible. Most churches pick and choose what they want to do with the Bible. I never felt that was a good situation to be in. I think that, good or bad, you have to preach all of the Bible. I think that there are things that you have to say at times that benefit people. I want you to learn and grow.

I am not under any illusion that within this group this morning and within our church are men and women who someday are going to be heading up great ministries someplace and doing some great things for the Lord, either pastoring your own church or whatever. I want you to know everything about the ins and outs. I have tried to make myself available through my experience. I was thinking about this week: in a couple of years, it will be 47 years today I have been in the

ministry. In another three years, it is going to be 50 years. That is half a century. I got thinking about it this week, and I am thinking, my goodness, where did the time fly? I remember when I was still at Camp Choff down there trying to figure out what God wanted me to do. Here it is almost 50 years later of my life. If there is ever a time that you realize the great verses in the Bible, like in James, where it says, "What is your life but a vapor that appeared for a little while then fadeth away," it is looking back and seeing how fast the ministry went, how fast everything transpired. Hopefully, in those 50 years, I was able to learn some things. I want you to learn those things.

I believe what Paul said when he said, "The same things that I have, you have heard of me." He says, "I want to commit to faithful men." Paul realized that he had a responsibility not just to preach the truth but to learn from the things that he had gone through and then pass them on to somebody else that is going to have to go through them. I try to do that with the Bible. I try to make the Bible as easy for you as I know how to. I spent both of those 50 years pouring through the Word of God. I look at the value of that now, not only what it has done for me, but now it has the ability to be able to pass that on to you. But I just do not want to pass on all the good things to you because in the ministry and dealing with people, it is not always good things. The ministry is one of the bittersweet paradoxes of life. There are great things in it, and then there are some bad things in it. You have people that you deal with that you get the blessings of life from, that they make a life in the ministry one of the greatest blessed in the world. But then you have circumstances and situations that are not too great, and every church has them.

I do not want to just always be a pastor who just gives you all the good things because, you know what, that is not being honest with you. When some of you boys get out there, some of you gals get out there at some point in your life, and all I ever gave you and prepared you was for all the fun things and the good things and the sweet things and the blessings you are going to get, you are going to get run over with a bulldozer. So I am going to preach today on a very negative verse, and I did not pick this. I did not wait all my ministry life for 50 years to get here on this day to preach this verse. I am just walking through Proverbs, and I just happened to, it is just like when the music stopped, here is where I was today.

Proverbs 22:10

Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

Let us go to the Lord today, and we will get in. Chris Pascana, would you ask God's blessing on the message this morning? Thank you, Chris.

II. The Unchanging Truth of God's Word

The verse will stand as absolute truth, and one of the great things about the Bible is when it says something, a lot of people like things that the Bible says that they go along with. But when the Bible says things that we do not go along with, we have a tendency not to agree with it or not like it or not care for it. I want you to know that God does not really care what you think about His Word. He does not care if you like it or not. It does not change the truth. We live in a day and

age today where people think if a majority of people think something is true, that that must be true.

How did a guy say one time, "Well, you know what, talking about the King James Bible, you know how many people in the world out there do not believe that, and you and your little bunch of guys over here want to believe that. Do not you know the whole Christian world does not believe anything like that? Does not that bother you?" I said, "It bothers me no more than in Noah's time the whole world did not believe it was going to rain, but eight people did." God has always been in the minority. As the old Chinese proverb says, "If a hundred million people believe a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing."

Now, I am buttering you up and making you laugh because I am going to slam dunk you here in just a minute. Most people do not like confrontation. Most people do not like controversy. I wish in the Christian life, in a perfect world, we all got along. I just think that would be wonderful. I think that Christianity, and actually if there is any place that it ought to be perfect, that ought to be in Christianity. But the devil is not going to let that happen. He is just not. If I did not know that the church and Christianity and Bible believers were God's way, any other way I would know by how the devil attacks it. Christianity is the only thing I ever met in life that gets attacked more by the people who are part of it than the people that are in the world. It is an incredible thing. I do not like it either, but it is just as much a part of pastoring and being in the ministry and working with people. Sooner or later, if you work with people, sooner or later your number is going to come up, and sooner or later you are going to have to deal with something negative. It is just that simple, and nobody likes it.

I think that sooner or later, God's people in a church, when you are teaching or you are leading, or certainly if you are a pastor, you have to stand for something. The problem is today that we live in a Christianity with a bunch of Christians who do not want to stand for anything. In my mind, after all these years in the ministry, and I have hopefully learned some things of pastoring and doing the ministry, I hope so. As I look at that verse, I am going to tell you right now, nobody can grasp that verse and understand it better than a Bible-believing pastor who is simply trying to do the work of God that God has called him to do.

Scattered through this country, little lifeboats of truth in a sea of apostasy, little islands, little pockets of truth in a cesspool of Christianity, you are going to find guys out there. You go up to New York, and you will find old Pat Dean up there. You will find, go to Vermont, you will find old Jim Lake. Go back to Canton, Ohio, someplace, you will find old John Tony. We talk about Mouse Zabaka all the time. Most of you do not know that his grandson, Chuck Zabaka, or nephew, Chef Zabaka, started a church there in Canton. He is pastoring there. You have Mike Veach. You go down to Dr. Ruckman's church now that Dr. Ruckman is gone, you have Brother Donovan. You go a little farther up there in Florida, and you have Brother Peacock. You go up back to Ohio and Alliance out there, and you have Joe Silvestri. A bunch of good guys who are doing what God called them to do. I would tell you that every one of them would look at this verse, and they understand this verse probably better than anybody.

I know that no pastor will go through the ministry and building a church and not face issues like this. Mel did not. Ruckman certainly did not. J. Frank Dora certainly did not. Bob Jones Sr. certainly did not. None of them did, and I have not, and neither will you. I have seen the scorned of the ministry all my life. I have watched this verse play itself out in different scenarios all my ministry, all of my life. Within that time period of 45 some years, I have helped pastors. I cannot even remember how many. I would go to preach someplace, and we would have a four or five-day meeting, and about the second night, he would call me over and he would say, "Hey, I really got to talk to you," and he was struggling with some issue just like this. Even today, I get calls from pastors right now that I am trying to work through issues that they are struggling with. When we look at this verse, I just do not want to beat on everybody that has a bit of scorner in the ministries or churches, whoever. That is not my goal. But I want you to come away this morning understanding why things are the way they are sometimes.

III. The Adversary's Opposition to God's Work

Last week, in people ministry, I gave you a really good example in Jeremiah 18, how Jeremiah was the prophet that came to the nation of Israel, and he brought them the truth of God. The nation of Israel is much like Christianity today. Nobody wanted to hear it, and he lays out the truth and tells them what God is going to do and where they are at with God. Then, about four or five verses down, they came back and they say, paraphrased, "Who does he think he is? We will smite him with the tongue and not give heed to any his word." That was Israel's mindset.

I have told you many times, and it is so true, I like that in everything in life. It is just the way I have to do it. I have to break everything down to the lowest common denominator. I am giving you the benefit of that in the Bible Institute. I am taking a book that everybody thinks is complicated, and all I have done is taken out of my life, and I had to do it because of my lack of intelligence, is to break that book down so simple that I could get it. I found that as dumb as I am, God blessed the Lord, gave me a bunch of dumb people just like me, so it is easy for you to get it too. That is just the way it is.

I have to look at everything. You talk about the complexity of history. My goodness. American history, if that was not complex enough, all the presidents we had, all the vice presidents we had, all of the wars that we have been involved in, all the social issues that we have had, all that, what an amazing study that is. But then you expand it to world history. One of the most, you want to really a challenge, study English history. Study the kings and queens going all the way back. I mean, it is unbelievable. America has only been around a couple hundred years. England has been around since 1900 with the Saxons and the Normans, and they all got together, and it is incredible. European history, Chinese history, Japanese history, it is incredible. You look at that, and you think to yourself, "Man, how do I ever get a handle on all of this?" We waste so much time in all the minutia of all the details.

I am going to tell you something: history, much like the Bible, is very simple, and I have told you this before. History is nothing more than understanding that God has a plan, and within that plan, God moved down through history through nations, through people, through kings, through queens, through everything in life to accomplish that plan. The devil, through countries, kings,

queens, and everything else, moves in opposition to stopping. You take that simple little format and look at all history; it becomes so simple, and it is an incredible concept. God moved to do a work, and the devil moves to stop that work. In the Old Testament, the devil attacked the nation of Israel through other nations. In the Old Testament and the New Testament, the devil attacked the church. It is the same principle.

The same thing will take place when any man in this country starts to do a work for God, and God puts it in his heart to do that work, and God calls him to do it. The moment he starts to do that work, just like the moment God sent Israel and called him out of the Arab countries with Abraham, the devil will start to put circumstances in their life to stop them. This is where our verse is at today. You see it in Ezra 4:1, and what a great study that is. We saw last week how Nehemiah went into the king, and he got to go back. In Ezra, this is where they go back. In Ezra 4:1, they begin to build the city of God, just like God will put in your heart as a young man to go build a church, like He put in my heart to build a church. Immediately, once they start to do that work that God has called them to do, the Bible says in 4:1, the adversaries show up.

Now, when the adversaries show up, they do not try to, they do not come at them full force and try to burn the church down and kill everybody in it. No, they say, "Let us work with you." When you go through the story, the Bible says those adversaries do, they weaken their hands and build. There will be people in your church, in every church, that come into the church who look like you, smell like you, talk like you, but in time, their purpose is not to build the church but to weaken the hands of those who are building it. It is a fact of life. I wish it was not true. I wish that everybody that ever went to church and got saved just lived their life for God, and everybody just got along happily like we will get in heaven. But it is not going to work that way, and the Bible says, "Cast out the scorner, and contention will go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease."

IV. The Nine Gates of the Church and the Dung Gate

You will remember when we started our church a number of years ago now, I had a plan in mind in the design of taking the core people that God gave us, knowing that 15, 20 years later, where we are at now, you people would be the core substance to work with me in building, and we have added a lot of people to that core over the years. But I wanted you to have, and also it is on the website, I wanted it to be documented for future generations. I like this. I got a letter from a gal this week in Michigan who sent some Bible questions to us, and she says, "I just cannot get enough of your website." She says, "I love this." She coined the phrase, "I really enjoy your air ministry." I had to think for a minute. I thought she saw me play basketball at one time.

I wanted it to be for you core people, but I wanted it to be for the generations to come, the pastors out there who are struggling to try to build churches, gleaning from, as I glean from other men who did, and that is really how you learn. You get into your Bible, God calls you, but then God will put people in your world who know how to do it, who understand how to do it. I told you in any good Bible-believing church, you will have what you find in Ezra here, chapter one and two and three, all coming down through here. You will find you have nine gates. You find them in Nehemiah 3. What they did was, the city is in a mess, the city being a picture of the

church, and the wall was completely destroyed, the wall being a picture of the Bible truth and the Bible doctrine that you build, as the Bible says, line upon line, precept upon precept, one block at a time. So it is a great picture of a church, the city of God, the church of God, the city of God, the Old Testament, the church of God, the New Testament, in the spiritual sense. The wall is what protects the city, just like the Bible doctrine we teach you protects this church. But if you just build up a wall around the city, nobody can get in and nobody can get out. So within that wall, there were nine gates, and those nine gates are a way that people can get into that city.

I told you back then, it is a picture of the nine gates of this church where people can come in.

1. The first one there in verse one is the sheep gate. I remember telling you, and I am not going to spend a lot of time on that, I remember telling you that the first thing this church needs to understand is sacrifice. What it is going to take to build a work of God, hands down, is for everybody involved to understand the concept of sacrifice. Not giving to God in your own life, in your finances, or whatever you have, not giving to God what is left over after you get it all, but giving to God what is sacrificed to Him based on what He has done for you.
2. The second gate in verse three was the fish gate. We talked about winning people to Christ. That is your gate, winning people to Christ, going out and telling a story. You go out and tell people about Christ. Many of you came into this church through the fish gate.
3. The third gate in verse six was the old gate. How much time I have spent helping you understand your roots of church history, where you got your Bible from, where you came from, why we are called Baptist, why we will never take Baptist off our name.
4. The fourth gate was the valley gate in verse 13. The valley gate was where we work in the people ministry, people in the valley going down through a tough time, reaching out to them. How many of you came into this church through that valley gate, struggles in your life?
5. The fifth one was the fountain gate, verse 15. That, of course, is our fellowship together. Our fellowship together is based on our fellowship with the Word of God, 1 John 1. It is our fellowship drinking at the fountain of the Word of God, bubbling up in our fellowship around that.
6. The sixth one was the water gate. We had to jump over to chapter eight for that one. The water gate obviously is a picture of the preaching of the Word of God. The Bible says that Ezra made a pulpit of wood, and he preached to the people off of that pulpit. If you go to most Protestant churches, you are going to find that the pulpit is either over to the left or over to the right. But when you go to a Baptist church, and you find other churches, but it started with the Baptist church, the pulpit is all in the middle. The pulpit is all in the middle because Baptists wanted to make sure that everybody understood that the central focus of what they were doing was the Word of God being preached. Now, the pulpit may be still in the middle, but we have lost that concept a lot. That is our preaching ministry. Pulpit of wood, verse four. In that, just to throw it out to you, there were five goals that the preaching of the water gate accomplished: First of all, in 8:1, it talked about bringing in unity. There was no division. The next thing was the attention to the book. People were paying attention to the Word of God. The next thing was they had a respect to the Word of God. The next one is that they read it, and they helped others who could not figure it out understand it. The last one, the

preaching of the Word of God, was designed to help them fall in love with the Word of God. Exactly what we do here.

7. The seventh and the eighth gate, found in 28 and 29, was the eastern gate and the horse gate. We know that represents the second coming of Christ. He comes back on a white horse, Revelation 19, and Ezekiel 44, he comes in through the eastern gate. A double emphasis on that because that is the theme of the Bible and the most important.
8. We have one more gate left, and that would be found in verse 14.
9. Number nine will be the dung gate. Now, the dung gate is different than all the other gates because the dung gate, people did not come in. It is where they went out. That is where they took out the trash.

I do not mean to be crude today, and I am certainly not intended to be. I am very polished in everything that I do, and I know what to eat first and all that stuff. If you have me over, you do not have to worry about me embarrassing you. I will not blow my nose in a clean napkin and put it next to my food plate or yours. I get that. I learned my lesson that from you. I never forgot that.

The human body is a marvelous design. Probably nobody understands that better than Doc back here. He studied all his life, and he knows the anatomy. He knows what makes work work. I do not really know it. I just know it is pretty amazing. It is a thing where, but within our physical body that God designed and God made, He had to have a process for us to eliminate waste. So within this marvelous body that we have, there is a natural process for it to eliminate the things that it has to get rid of in the body. We accept that, and we thank God for that, and we appreciate the fact that the amazing human body that God created and how all of it works, and how that particular aspect fits right in with life. But then somehow we think that in the body of Christ, there would not be a process of elimination too. So God gave us a dung gate. The dung gate was not where people came in; it is where some things went out.

I do not want to focus on that, and like I said, this is not a, I want you to understand today. This is my only goal. I want you to understand why and how things happen in the church. This is not a criticism of anybody. This does not have nobody in mind. This is not some message to beat somebody up. It has nothing to do with any of that. I am just walking through Proverbs. Now, how many of you actually honestly would like me to preach on the bountiful eye and then just skip this verse? Anybody? I preach the whole counsel of God. Everything about it. Everything. The good, bad, and yes, some of you are ugly.

I want to show you how this all really works so you can better understand when you are faced with it because you will be. My plan for most of you, all of you, I do not know that all of you will ever get there, but my plan for all of you is to someday be holding and doing the work with the Word of God in people's lives. That is my goal. That is God's goal for you. He wants you to, through a bountiful eye, take what He has given you and all that you have and the blessings, and then give them to somebody who does not have it. So I want you to understand how it works because sooner or later, you are going to get it.

V. The Progression of Becoming a Scorer

I would like to show you how all this really works so, as I said, you can better understand our key verse here that I want to look at. I want to go back to Psalms 1, and I want you to ask yourself a question while you are turning there: How does a child of God who is truly saved, on their way to heaven, get to the place where they are so negative about everything with God and the Word of God and the church of God and the people of God that they become the most miserable people in the world and wind up scorching everything that God actually gave them in salvation? You go over to the book of Ephesians where God saw the church, and He says that He gave gifts unto men. You have to look and see what those gifts are that He gave you. You know what they are? They are the same things you get to the place that you scorn in your life. How does that happen? I do not know if that bothers you, but I wonder about things like that. I have the answer. I am going to show it to you.

A couple of things here. First of all, I want you to see the progression of becoming a scorner. I want to show you the ministry of scornship, how to develop a pattern to be a scorner. Where does it all start? Well, it starts by hanging out with the wrong crowd. That is where it officially starts, but then let us look through the process.

Psalms 1:1-2

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

That is a really good definitive verse on a scorner. It shows you their motive, so to speak. As I said, the first thing you see is the fact that they quit walking with God. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." So this guy, at one time, whoever he was, walked with God, and then it came to a point where he quit walking with God. He started hanging out with the wrong crowd. Let us see what happens. "Blessed is the man who walketh not in the first thing, counsel of the ungodly." Now, once he quits walking with God, now he starts listening to somebody else. He starts not taking his counsel from the messages or from the preacher or from the discipler or from the person that God has put in his life. Now they start taking counsel of the ungodly. Then, based on the verse, once he starts taking the counsel of the ungodly, then he starts standing in the way of the sinners. Then, if that was not enough, here comes the progression: now then he is seated in the seat of the scornful. So he goes through a process of quitting walking with God, walking with the wrong crowd, taking the counsel of the ungodly while he is walking. Then he is standing with the sinners, and pretty soon he is sitting with them, and you cannot tell them apart. That is the process.

VI. The Seat of Authority and the Scorners' Rebellion

Most important thing I want you to see here is a scorner. Here comes another key word for you. A scorner in the Bible will always be equated with a seat. A seat. "Have a seat." That is a key word in the Bible. A seat in the Bible will always be associated with authority and power. In Exodus 25, when you want to talk about God's authority and power, forgiveness, we had a mercy seat. When you and I end our life and wind up before God's final authority and power, 2

Corinthians 5, we are going to wind up at the judgment seat. Jesus was talking to the scribes and the Pharisees in Matthew 26:6, and He talked about how that they wanted to sit in Moses' seat. The ultimate power and authority is the Lord Jesus Christ, and He is seated at the right hand of God.

Here you have somebody that went through a process to quit walking with God. That means, we will define that for you, that means they quit growing. When they quit growing, they quit listening. Those two will always go together. Once you quit growing, you will quit listening. Then you start listening to somebody else as you are walking with them, and then pretty soon you are standing with them, and then after a while, you are sitting right in the middle of them, and you cannot tell you from them. When we talk about the United States, and you know that all presidents are called president. I mean, if you introduce Clinton, he would say President Clinton. He is not president anymore, but he is President Clinton. Obama would be President Obama. When you talk about Trump, he is called a seated president. Why? He is sitting in the seat of authority. A sitting in the Bible or a seat in the Bible will always be a key word to show you authority of something. The scorner who goes against that, the scorner who goes completely against that, is someone who is going against the authority that has been set up. They are rebelling against that seated authority of the Word of God. You begin to see how this thing works and how it all plays out. In Ezekiel 28:2, the devil said, "I am a God, and I sit in the seat of God." He wanted that authority. That is a great verse because it shows you that to get that seat, he had to rebel against God's authority. A scorner will always be somebody who fundamentally, bottom line, is rebelling against God's authority.

Do you know how easy that was? That is it. Based on our inflatable book of definitions, we see that the root of a scorner against God, against His church, against the pastor, against other people, whoever, anything that God is trying to do, will go back and deal with the fact that he is rebelling against the authority that he does not like. Every pastor in every Bible-believing church will be acquainted with what we lovingly call the sins of the saints. Garden variety problems that God's people get into. Nothing, they do not murder anybody, but you know what they are: sowing discord, gossip, chronic griping, church bellyaching. You have the spiritual giants who have all the answers, yet their own life is a disaster. You have the drama kings and the drama queens, that everything in life is a Shakespearean play. It is unbelievable. People who fake spirituality really well, but inside they are fake and phony as a three-dollar bill. Good Bible hard preaching will always bring it to the surface. This is where the problem starts.

Most people like this, they want to go to churches where there is no preaching, or huge churches where there is no accountability. If you miss a couple of weeks here, somebody is saying, "Hey, where were you Sunday? We missed you." I can always tell when you have quit listening and you have quit walking because of your answer. "Hey, I have not seen you for a couple of weeks, where were you?" "I was not here." Wow, are you not masterfully obvious? "Where were you?" "I was not here." My response to that always needs to be, "Well, you know what, God is going to kill you if you do not get your life right now." But I am telling you, you can tell. There is a little song that kids always say. Most of the little kids' songs are more impactful than some of the big songs they have today. But you can always tell. "I got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart,

down in my heart, down in my heart. I got the joy, joy, joy, joy." No, you do not. No, you do not. I do not know what you have in your heart, but you lost the joy, joy, joy, joy. When you give me an answer, who I am concerned and I love you and want to care about you, "Where have you been? I have not seen you." "I was not there." Bam! Now you are not there either. You are lucky the Bible says for a pastor, "not a striker."

Good hard preaching always, always brings it to the surface. In World War II, when submarines were a real menace, I think the U-boats, I mean in the first, they called it the happy time, like '39 to '40, maybe '41. They were sinking more tonnage. They were coming right off the coast of the United States and sinking ships that you could see. Boston, all the East Coast was in sight with the lights on. They were sinking ships, thousands and thousands and thousands of tons. They were called wolf packs. America was unprepared for them. There is nothing worse on this planet than somebody, you are going across the ocean, and somebody is in a submarine going to torpedo you. But America caught up to it, and after a while, they figured out how to bring them to the surface. They would have depth charges on these ships, and they would use sonar. They would get the pings where the ships were at, and they would go over them and dump these depth charges down. Boy, you would be in a submarine, and a depth charge would go off, the concussion against that shell. It always did. It always brought them to the surface. Preaching is a lot like that. You like to hide down there in the depths, but boy, when those principles come down, bam! You will come to the surface. You will come to the surface. That is what preaching does. That is what it is designed to do. The preaching is designed to do one of two things: kill you or cure you. And you get to choose.

This is just insight into the ministry. In every case I have seen or dealt with or helped a pastor with, I mean, come on. It is easy to criticize a pastor someplace that you do not like what he does, but you have never built a church yourself. I used to go to the gym. Well, I still do, but there is not anybody there anymore. Once I got there, they all left. But anyway, Monday morning was always a great time because the Chiefs always played on Sunday and always lost. So all these Monday morning quarterbacks, you never heard them in a locker room. "Yeah, they needed to get rid of that quarterback. Yeah, that coach, he needs to go." They would go on and on and on and on. I would just do my thing. But I would think, "You are kidding me, right?" I mean, here is a guy over here who just got out of the shower. He looks like the Goodyear blimp. He has not seen his toes in 30 years. If you snapped the ball and gave him the ball, he would not run 10 feet before he fell down. But he is an expert on why the Chiefs lost. He says, "Oh, that quarterback throwing a ball, you know what, that quarterback can throw that ball, it will hit you in the head, it will kill you." Throw him the ball and let him, he would not, he would be dead in 15 seconds. It is easy to criticize people when you do not have to do their job.

Somebody says, "Oh, that is easy." Really? A guy walked from the, before the Twin Towers went down, a guy walked a tightrope between two Twin Towers. Remember that? That guy said, "Oh, anybody could do that." Really? Here, big guy, do it. Wear a parachute. You are going to need one. It is easy to criticize people. I mean, that is just what we do. We do not like something. We do not understand it. So we criticize it. If you had to do it, you probably would do the exact same thing the guy you are criticizing does if you understood it. But because you never did it, because

you never been part of it, because you never had to deal with it, you are an expert. Yeah, you are an expert.

In every case I have seen or helped the pastor with, the issue of scorners will always go down to just a couple of people. It always does. These folks are always, they always follow the same pattern. A church of 500 or 600, 700, 800, "The whole church is wrong, and I am right." You are kidding me, right? I mean, is your insanity catching? The whole church is wrong. I mean, they have been here for 30, 40 years, and if the pastor preached the Word of God all of his life and built a church and supports missions and does this and does that, and now you have the insight from God, and all the other people are wrong, and you have the truth, right?

So, the pastor and I said, "Now we began to peel back this thing," and he began to look at it and put all the principles to it. It just came down to his church of six or 700 people, I forget, to four people, four of the most self-righteous, puffed up, egotistical, self-serving folks you would ever want to meet. As we talked about it, these four people did more damage in his church than all the booze and the drugs in town. When the pastor and the deacons finally booted them, it brought a peace and unity to that church. It always does. If you know Joshua 7 and the sins of Achan, you know that one man affected a whole nation and lost the power of God, and God could not do anything with them. You get just one or two people in a church who are scorners, and it will stop what God is doing.

In every church situation I have been in, in every situation I have heard of and tried to help them with, let me tell you something. I have been through a few of them. When that bunch of puffed up, self-inflated, self-called spiritual giants left and got booted out, there was an increase in the attendance, there was an increase in the offering, and there was a peace in that church that was unbelievable. He wrote me later, he says, "You would not believe the difference."

Problems in churches, now if you do not hear anything else I say, some of you young guys that are down the line, hear this: problems in churches are a lot like problems in your life. The problems in your life, you have two choices. You can get closer to God and pull closer to Him, or you can pull away from Him. Problems in churches will either pull the church together or it will pull it apart. It goes back to the fundamental spiritual depth of the people in the church, what they really understand they are there for. This guy had a great church, and boy, they rallied around it.

Proverbs 22:10 says, "Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease." The dung gate. I say this all the time, and I believe this with all of my heart. I know there are pastors out there, I get it. There are pastors out there that believe that they have the only church in the world, and you cannot ever leave this church, and if you do, you are not spiritually right with God and all that stuff. Come on, come on, come on. I will tell you something, no church is for everybody. But you just need to be honest about it. You go to a church, you do not know. If I went to a church someplace and I did not like it, and the guy said, "Hey, are you going to come back?" and I say, "No, I do not think so. This is not what I am looking for." I would not join the church, pretend I did, and then cut the legs off from the guy behind him. I would not do that. That is the difference between character and lack of character. I mean, that is just what it is,

and it is an absolute truth all the way through the Bible. Look at the Old Testament where the Jezebels and the Micah and the Achans and the Tobias and the Gershon and the Abirite go out, the blessings of God came in. It is just the way it is.

VII. Two Groups of Scorners: Young and Old

From my experience, you find scorners that we are talking about here in two basic areas of Christianity. I have watched this for 50 years, and you can see it coming long before it gets to you if you know what to look for. Nothing you can do about it. You try to sandbag everything as best you can so the collateral damage is not too bad, but there is nothing you can do. You cannot go up to somebody before they do something stupid and say, "God told me you are a scorner." But there are some things, patterns in people. In the Bible, there are 51 patterns, I told you this the other day, I did not give you the number. There are 51 patterns of human nature in the Bible. You learn those 51 patterns, and you operate by those 51 patterns, you are going to have spiritual insight, and God puts those in there so you as a minister or a pastor or whatever can see long range so you do not get sandbagged. A scorner has a pattern of self-righteousness, rebellion to authority. Many times, they have an unteachable spirit. The Bible has a pattern for establishing everything in the Bible. That is why I am so big on teaching you the patterns, the models. They form the basis for everything that we do. You want to get the right model or pattern? There it is.

The first group you will find will always be young Christians. I need to say this: the percentage of young Christians that are like this is very small, maybe one in 200 on a course of time. But there will be young men and young women who are not grounded in the Word of God. They have what Romans 10:2 says, "They have a zeal but not according to knowledge." Paul said about people like this, "You do not give them a lot of responsibility until they prove themselves." He was telling Timothy over there in 1 Timothy 3:5-7, he was talking about being a deacon and people wanting to be a deacon or wanting to be a pastor and all those things, and he says that is a great calling. But he says, "If a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" He is saying, if you cannot handle your own family, you have no business handling the family of God. Then he says in verse 6, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." So the second thing he says is, no new Christians. You do not take a new Christian to make him a deacon. You do not take a new Christian to put him in charge of a ministry. Now I have to tell you, I made that mistake in my life, and I got burned every time. But you learn. You learn. He says, "Not a novice." This is why the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:21, when it comes to, "Prove all things." You prove all things. He says, "Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." In other words, people have to see you do things. They have to watch the progression of God in your life.

There are people in this church that if I gave you something to do, everybody in this church would say, "That was a great call." If I put somebody else in charge, they would look at me and say, "What is wrong with you?" And they probably would be right. Prove all things. In the military, when you come out of basic, they do not make you a sergeant. They do not make you a general. They do not make you an officer, captain, lieutenant. When you come out of basic in the

army, you are a buck private. If you did some good things, you got to be a PFC, praying for a civilian. But they never make you any rank because in the military, like Christianity, moving up the chain of command and getting rank is based on two things: time and grade. The longer you are in, the more you understand, the more valuable you are, the higher grade you get. They do not just take you and say, "Okay, you are basic now. You know the basic thing. We are going to make you a sergeant and give you a platoon. We are going to give you a rifle company. We are going to give you a battalion of 600 men. We are going to do this." They will not do that. You have to go through a process of time, and through the time, you get the grade. In Christianity, it is the same thing. You want to be a discipler. You want to take a prayer group. You want to do this, and you want to do that. I will say this, I am impressed out of my mind about all the new people that took a prayer group this time. Every one of you did exactly what I would have wanted you to do, and I hope next time we get a bunch more. I love the fact that you older ones are just stepping back and letting them do it and helping them. But you know how you got to the point? You got to that point through time and grade. You spent your time. You got into the book. You grew. You got to know what is going on. Now you are in charge of that, or you are in charge of this. Now you can be trusted. I know you get burned every once in a while, but that is just the way it is.

People like this have a tendency to pick some spiritual doctrine, and it becomes their hobby horse, and they ride it all through Christianity. They all have an unteachable spirit. Every one of them in my life that I have ever had have always been unteachable. They will develop a false sense of spirituality that in reality has nothing to do with the Bible, and they do not know anything about the Bible at all. I just jotted down five of the danger areas:

- Spiritual gifts. Boy, that is a killer. Spiritual gifts are defined for you in 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14. They are the three definitive chapters of spiritual gifts. I never met a guru of spiritual gifts who could ever lay out 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14 with a gun to his head. But yet, "Oh yes, I am the discerner of spiritual gifts. You have this spiritual gift, and you have this one. I myself, I have the spiritual gift of humility." No, you have the spiritual gift of humility.
- The second one is a big one, soul winning. We try to keep soul winning as a balance here, biblical. We realize that that just happens through the process of our intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit of God. But you have some people that they just like to notch their pistols like a guy in a gunfight, shoot somebody, they notch their spiritual pistol with everybody they won to Christ. To them, how many people you won to Christ is some kind of monument to your spirituality. Of course, that is just not true. I get it. Winning people to Christ is vital. I understand that. We got a fish gate. I get it. But it comes at a place where they become a Pharisee about it. They will ask you, "How many people did you win to Christ this week?" And when you say, "Well, I did not win anybody," they will say, "Well, I won two." Now, the inference of that is, "You are not as spiritual as I am." I always say, "Yeah, but your two, I saw them out drinking right after you got them saved. They really did not get saved." Bring them down a couple of notches.
- The third one is a big one, dress. How you dress, what you wear. There are some churches that if you women, you would be most of you women today would be ungodly and on your way to hell. Not to saying that you are not, but it is not because of the fact of what you have

on. No slacks. I watched this guy on YouTube one time, and he went on and on and on and on. Let me tell you how stupid people are. I know you do not like the word stupid, but life is tough. This guy was going on and on and on and on about women wearing slacks, how ungodly it was. He was using the verse in the Old Testament that says that a woman should not wear that which pertaineth to a man. Now, he had no idea that the verse in the context back there was dealing with lesbianism and homosexuality, but that is way beyond his pay grade. This guy probably thinks apostles and pestles are husband and wives, and I was not going to ruin his day. I am sitting there listening, and the only people dumber than him were the people listening to him. They were, you should have heard the "Amen." I am thinking to myself, the verse says, "It is an abomination for a woman to wear that which pertaineth to a man." And he is building this whole case on that. I am thinking to myself, now in the Old Testament, every man wore a short skirt. So ladies, if you are here this morning and you have a dress on, you are wearing what pertaineth to a man according to the Bible. See how stupid that is? But this is where they go with it. I know I have had, and I do not fight it. I have had pastors that think that, you know, you are preaching to the pulpit, you have to wear a suit and tie. I wore a suit and tie preaching for years and years and years. Just the most uncomfortable thing in the world. The way I preach or used to preach, I would sweat through a suit so bad that you could see, I mean, it would just sweat. I had to throw a suit away one month. I do not have a problem. Hey, I have been to preachers. I have been to places. I have been to places where the guy, I know the guy requires, and when I go to preach there, I wear a suit and tie. I do. I do not care. It does not matter. What bothers me is when somebody makes that a spiritual deal. Like me encasing my flesh in a suit and tie will make me more spiritual. You are out of your mind. Paul said this flesh is no good thing. If you really wanted to preach honestly, you have to preach naked. Jeremiah did. I mean, come on. Then it is one of those things where, you know, nothing hidden. You just put it out to him. It is probably not a very good idea. I had a pastor friend one time. I love the guy. One of my best friends in the ministry. I loved it. I preached at his church one time, a couple of times. He had me in for two weeks, taught me, had me teach all of his guys about ministry. But they were the most messed up people on the planet when it came to the practical things. I mean, they were legalistic. They were everything. He asked me in front of his whole staff. He says, "Tell us how we can win more people to Christ." I said, "You have a beautiful church. How many acres of parking lots did you have here?" He says, "We have 40 acres of parking." I said, "Great. Here is how you win more people to Christ than what you are doing right now. Turn your parking lot of your church into a used car lot. Make all your pastors car salesmen. Everybody that comes and buys a car, give them a really good deal, give them a tract, and try to win them to Christ because you will have a better chance of winning to Christ that way than doing what you are doing, having people cannot come to your church and deacons at the door telling them they have to leave because they are not dressed right." Now, I love this guy. This guy was a great guy. He wore a suit everywhere. I was with him one time. We were driving together. I said, "Brother, I have to ask you. We are buddies. I mean," and I said, "You know, I do not care. You know, we are buddies." He said, "I know, Bob." He said, "Go ahead and ask me." I said, "I heard." I said, "I know you wear suit and tie for everything." He said, "Yeah, I do." I said, "I heard that you and a bunch of pastors went skiing out in

Colorado, and under your ski suit, you wore a shirt and tie and pants." He got real quiet, and he says, "Yeah," he says, "I am as boring as puke, Bob. I really am." He said, "Yeah, that is true." I am thinking to myself, "You have to be kidding me." But that is where it is at today.

- The next one is the Bible. Now, we believe the King James Bible is the Word of God. Absolutely. I would die for it. I would defend it. I would stand for it. I would do anything to do it. I preach it. I believe it. But I am not calling my church a King James Bible church. When somebody comes to this church and they have an NIV or whatever, you know what I do? And they come up, I have had them come up to me, and they said, "Hey, I have got, I am here in your church today, and I know you believe the King James Bible, but I have an NIV." I say to them, "You know what? You just use that. That is fine. Do not you, do not you let anybody take that from you. If you ever change Bibles, you make sure that God shows it to you and not some man." And let it go. "Let us be in here. I feel the spirit of Satan coming down on me." No, you just cannot preach to start with. See, it had an issue with me. There are some guys, it is an issue wherever they go. I had a guy one time, and we were preaching up in New York, and a guy was preaching up there in front of 4,000 people. He got off on women wearing slacks, and he called every, and there were women in there that were dressed nice wearing slacks. He called every woman in the church who wore slacks a dirty-legged whore. 4,000 people. He is dead now, by the way. Just so you know.
- The last one is a big one, prayer. Oh, the great prayer warriors of Christianity. How we fool people. "Oh, he is a godly man. Time and grade. Oh, he prays about everything." That is your first sign. He does not know anything. When it comes to anybody selling their own spirituality through one of these areas, remember two things: time and grade. If you have not done anything, I doubt very seriously if you know a whole lot.

This is where most young guys get into the ministry when they never should have gotten in. They are self-called, never sent out by anybody. In most cases, they cannot submit to any authority. In the Bible, just like I talk about models and patterns, in the Bible, there are seven models for building a church that you build your church on those seven models. You actually understand what those models are, why they are there. Then when God calls you to build a church, then you take those seven models and you say, "This is the seven models by which I am going to build my church on." And then you do it. You want to stay biblically. You want to stay as close to the church of Acts as you can. Follow the seven patterns, the seven models.

I had a couple of guys over the years that went out of my ministry years ago. They are funny. They are hilarious. Some of you know who they are. Most of you do not. But one of them was a guy that I know now he pastors a church up here north on the other side of Independence up here someplace. I have known this kid for 40 years. This kid has been in and out of every church all of his life. He could never submit himself to any authority. So you know what a guy like that does? He starts his own church so he can be his own authority. That is what he does. I have known that kid for 35 years. His hallmark of his whole life as a Christian is the fact that he would never submit to anybody's authority. He always thought he knew better and knew more. He was in and out of every church under every pastor. It just never worked out for him. So finally, he goes and starts his own, and then he can set it up and do it the way he wants to do it.

I have another guy that I was in my ministry years ago. He has probably been pastoring a church in Kansas City for 30 years. This guy thought he, you know, he, both these guys, you could not teach them anything. They are, you know, they, a while back, about, oh, I do not know, 10, 12 years ago, he called me and a preacher friend of mine. He said, "I want to take you guys out to lunch." We said, "Okay." So we went out to lunch with him. Now he is pastoring the church. He has been pastoring the church for 30 years. He is probably running 12 to 15 people. At the time we went out to eat, I was running about 250 somewhere in there. So he brought me and my buddy out. We sat down to eat there, and he says, "I would just like to share with you some things that God has given me that you guys have never taught me and do not know that I might help you in your ministry." He says, "I would like to just share with you and give you," and I hate the word share. I am not sharing nothing with any of you because share means we are going to do it nice. If I am going to preach to you, I do not have to be nice. When somebody says, "I would like to share something with you," I always put my hands over my wallet. He says, "I would just like to share with you two guys what God has given me that He has not given you that maybe you could have, you know, you could really have a, it would help you in your ministry." Now my buddy was nice. He is kind of a wimpy guy. He was nice. He was professional. He said, "Well, my brother, I really appreciate that, and I, you know, I will take it." I was not nice because I am never nice. Not with guys like that. I said to him, "This is amazing. I want everything you have. I am going to sit here with bated breath and listen to every word you have, and then maybe when it is all said and done, and I follow what you did, I can run 13 like you." Pharisees.

I have been in this business 50 years. I could write volumes and volumes and volumes what I do not know about building the church. I just got a little thimbleful with some key things that have happened to work. They all follow the same pattern. They never do anything. They never give anything. They have all kinds of personal issues. Their flesh. Their marriage. It is a mess, and yet God calls them to solve all the problems in any church. Time and grade.

The second group will be older Christians, and they are somebody who got disgruntled about something along the way. You see in a lot of Baptist churches, they are deacons or this or that, and they are the meanest people on the planet. They quit growing years ago, but they got their little power. There is no joy in their life. They have never won anybody to Christ for years, if ever, and they will play the part of a great pattern in the Bible found in 2 Samuel 14 and 15. That is what I call the Absalom at the Gate Syndrome. One of the greatest studies in the Bible if you are going to be a pastor, what these guys will do to you or try to do to you. Absalom was David's son. David was the king. Let us translate that into spiritual sons, and you are the pastor. Absalom is rebellious. Absalom is one of the 18 types of the Antichrist in the Old Testament, by the way, but he is envious of his father David. He wants the kingdom. He thinks God made a terrible mistake. He thinks God got all caught up in what He was doing and put David on the throne by mistake when it should have been him. That is where these guys come from. God did not make a mistake.

So Absalom goes down to the gate in 2 Samuel 15:1, and he stands by the gate where people are coming in to see the king. He gets up early in the morning, and he has a plan to undermine the ministry of David his king, his father. He looks for the people who are coming in who have

issues or they are struggling with something, and he goes over to them and he says, "You look like you are really troubled today. You look like you are struggling with some things." He pretends like he cares for them. I am sure he says, "I have a little Bible study over my place on whatever night, and why do not you come over?" And they say, "And you know, and I am really sympathetic. You know, I know you are going to go see the king, but he is so busy. These little issues, he does not care about that. I care about you. I feel your pain, and you know, I want to help you. Oh, if I were only king. If I were only the pastor. Oh, I am sure of all your problems. Oh, come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give it to you," and you do not know where. "Oh, if I was just the king. If I were the pastor." Absalom in 2 Samuel 15:4 says he claims to be wise and more spiritual than the king, his own father. By sowing discord and being dishonest in how he was used of the devil to move the people against God's established structure. 2 Samuel 15:6 says that "on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel." He was not the king. He had no business doing anything. He circumvents the king, traverses the king, cuts his legs out behind him, and thinks he is doing God's work.

In my Bible, in 2 Samuel 15, I have a list of 15 men. It is going to be 18. I just have not gotten around to putting three more in. I have a list of 15 men that in 45, 47 plus years of my ministry played Absalom in my world. I think that is pretty good. Not bad in 47 years. You only have 18, but I said the percentage is really low. But they are just like Absalom, and they get busted. They get broken. Their lives fall apart, and this work still goes on. You know why? Because God built this, and you are never going to tear it down. I mean, if I built it, then you could tear it down. This thing will stand the test of time because of the fact that I had nothing to do with it. I was just an idiot up here that just did what I was supposed to do. Absalom was a fool.

VIII. Dealing with Divisive Individuals

Paul understood this, and he says about this kind of Christian, and he had to deal with them too.

Romans 16:17

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

That is pretty strong stuff. He says, "Mark them and avoid them." Paul follows what Christ did in Matthew 23 with the scribes and the Pharisees when He marked them and then He avoided them. He follows the Old Testament of Elisha in 1 Kings 17:21 when he is up against the prophets of Baal.

He said in 2 Timothy 4:10, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." Called him out for all the Bible for everybody to read. He named Hymenaeus and Alexander in 1 Timothy 1:19-20.

1 Timothy 1:19-20

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Wow. He said, "I have delivered them to Satan that they may not learn to blaspheme." Wow. Paul had a fellowship. Is he mad or what? No, he is just following the Bible.

In 2 Timothy 4:14, he said, "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works." He greatly withstood our words.

In 3 John, John talked about Diotrephes, and he says, "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loved to have the preeminence among them, received us not."

3 John 1:9-11

I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Whoa. Now what do you do with that? I know this guy. I do not know when Diotrephes died in the Bible, but his kinfolk are still alive today. You can get on YouTube sometime if you are on there where we have, you have what we are playing, and over here is the column of Opath Baptist Church and all the things we have done archive. Because our name is Opath Baptist Church, somehow everybody else's named Opath Baptist Church is in that column too if you go down for it out. There is a pastor in there, and the name of his church is Opath Baptist. I do not know where he is at, not around here, but his name is Pastor Anderson, and on one of the videos, it is an hour video of him kicking a guy out of his church. He is railing on this guy. He is just calling names. Everybody knows who he is. You ought to hear what he is saying. Now, I understand the Bible says you have to do those things, but I will tell you something, you are dead wrong putting it on the internet. That is something that needs to be handled in the church with the church family, not for the whole world to see. But that is where we are at today. The danger of a critical, slanderous spirit that is used of the devil to stop any work, and you have to deal with it. That is what Paul is saying, you have to deal with it like a doctor deals with cancer, or it spreads, and you have to cut it out. You are better off to lose two than to let it stay around and lose 20. You mark them so young Christians who do not have the discernment will not get destroyed by them. That is what Paul is doing here. He is trying to give us the example.

Now I get it. I understand. I get it. It is God's church, and God will take care of it. I get that, but you know what, we all got a Bible, and we do not let anybody tear apart the Word of God. We will take our stand. If somebody says the King James Bible is this, this, this, this, most of you would take them to task. But the same church who believes that book, who gave you that book, that you would not have it without it, somebody can say something bad about this, and you just

keep your mouth shut. I do not get you. Casting out the scorner is as important as getting people saved and getting them into the church. You have a fish gate and a dung gate. Some are important to get in, and some are vitally important to get out. Edmund Burke, the great English unsaved writer, said one time, "Evil triumphs when good men do nothing." The Bible says strife and contention will cease, and reproach will go out. It goes out when they go out.

I love this, they will say, "Well, I left the church." No, you did not. I mean, you may have left the church, but you know how you left the church? You got booted out by the book. It was the principles of the Word of God and the preaching that you could not take anymore. You had a problem with authority. You had a problem with truth. It was not the fact that one day you decided, I mean, I know how it works. You get busted, you get caught, or about to get caught, and suddenly, suddenly the church you had been in for 10 years, the church that your kids got saved in, you got saved in, your kids got baptized in, who taught you the Bible, who gave you the Bible, who was there for you when your brother died or your sister died or your mother died or your father died or your dog died or whatever. It was there for everything in your life, a church that has stood for 30, 40, 50, 60 years preaching the truth, suddenly it is all wrong, and you are right. How insane is that? But that is what a scorner does. You did not go out, God threw you out. God would not allow you to stay. Bob Jones Sr. used to say when he used to deal with it all the time, "You know what he would say?" His quote was, "Never cast your pearls before swine," based on Matthew 7.

If I have learned anything in 45 years of pastoring and ministry, I have learned one great truth based on what we do with the book after our salvation. God has a plan and a purpose for every one of you. He will give you a Bible. He will give you a church. He will give you a pastor. He will give you everything you need because He wants you to accomplish what you want to accomplish. But if I have learned anything after all those years in the ministry, based on what we do with the book, what we do with the people, what we do with the church, what we do with the pastor, what we do with the authorities over us that God gives us, at the end of the day, after salvation, we all get what we deserve. We all get exactly what we deserve. You will never be able to complain, "Well, I was not treated fair." God gave you everything you needed. You will wind up in a wishy-washy church where the guy could not preach his way out of a wet paper bag. You will wind up in a wishy-washy church where nobody will take a stand for anything. That is what you wanted. You got it.

Proverbs 22:10 is just as true as 1 Peter 5:8, where it says, "Cast all your care upon him; for he careth for you." It is just as true as Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." It is just as true as Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." It is a truth of the Word of God. "Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease."

IX. The Church's Purpose and Heavenly Rejoicing

This church has nine gates. Every Bible-believing church that understands the patterns should build that wall around nine gates for people to come in, and sometimes they go out. You have to

have a sheep gate. This church will never be anything if you do not understand the concept of sacrifice. This church has to have a fish gate. You have to be able to win people to Christ, call them out, get them saved. It has to have an old gate. You have to know where you are at, where you have come from, and who you are. It has to have a valley gate so people that are struggling and hurting in life have a place of compassion that they can get what they need. It needs to have a fountain gate, a fountain gate where we fellowship with each other, but always around the Word of God and always around the love we have for each other. It has to have a water gate, like today, where the Word of God is preached, the whole counsel of God, not giving you what I think you want to hear, not giving you what I think will make you happy, but preaching the truth of the Word of God to you and let it lay right there. It needs to have an eastern gate and a horse gate. Every day of our life, we look for the fact that the Lord might be coming back today. That is the premier thing in our life, the last prayer in your Bible, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Get us out of this mess. Then, praise the Lord, you have a dung gate because this body of Christ needs to be able to eliminate the negative things that will try to stop what God has called it to do.

As a church, the Bible talks about the seven things that they rejoice on in heaven. Up in heaven, they rejoice about seven things. I know we think that they float around in clouds up there. That is not true. The Bible says in heaven, as you come through the Bible, there are seven things that they rejoice about in heaven. One of the things, believe it or not, one of the things found in the Bible that they rejoice in heaven is the breakdown and the ultimate destruction of the proud and the wise who scorned. There is no place for, because God knows something that none of us really understand, maybe some of us get a glimpse of it, that God puts a work into progress that is His plan for this age, just like the nation of Israel was back there. When the adversary showed up to stop and weaken the hands, they will show up to weaken the hands of the church. If the church's job, following the principles, is to do exactly what the Bible says when it has to be done.

Thankfully, in my ministry, honestly, I do not think in all my some years in the ministry I ever had to invoke that verse, and I am happy about that because I do not like confrontation. My style of mission, my style of ministry, my style of preaching will always take care of those things. I would rather do it that way anyhow. Now you get blamed for it, but that does not matter because criticism never bothered me because at the end of the day, God is keeping the score, and 20 years from now, we will look at your life, we will look at my life, and we will see how it played out for you, and as Dr. Phil says, "How that worked for you." The end result is this: that is why a church, any church, and they are out there, has to be strong, not just in believing the Bible, but strong in preaching the Bible. You cannot build a church on teaching. You cannot build a church on just telling people how nice they are. You have got to be able to preach the Word in season, out of season. You have got to be like the Old Testament prophet that when it is wrong and it is sin, you do not sugarcoat it. You do not cover it up. You lay it right across the plate, waist high, where they can swing at it. That is what a church has to be. So you see that verse. I would not have picked that if I had had my choice. I would have preached on the love of God this morning. I would have preached on the Rose of Sharon and how you all look like lilies in the valleys. But the verse is what it is.