

Proverbs 24:10-12

Sunday 8/19/2018

Last week, we were in the book of Proverbs chapter 24. We looked at verse 10 and kind of shingled off that verse. We talked about what I think is one of the great lessons and principles of life, talking about the real test of our relationship with God. We all like to think in our minds and pretend we are great Christians. Many of you are, and I do not say that facetiously. I say that because I know in this church, we have some really solid people. But we all like to think of ourselves better than probably what we really are.

It is a situation where I told you last week, the real test of your relationship with God is not what you think about yourself or what other people say about you or even think about you. The real test of our relationship with God will be how we stand or do not stand in the day of adversity. I took you to the book of Job, and you saw how Proverbs 24:10, about feigning in adversity, your strength being small, and how the book of Job go hand in hand.

The reason for that is as doctrinally as the book lays itself out prophetically, both Proverbs and the book of Job are a picture of the nation of Israel going through the tribulation period. They go hand in hand. It is their day of adversity. Job, as I said last week, is on the ground seven days, persecuted by the devil. Seven years in the tribulation period, Job is in the land of Uz. That is exactly the Dead Sea area where the nation of Israel will be during the final years or months of the tribulation period. Job means persecuted by the devil. In Revelation chapter 12 and Revelation chapter 13, you have the two paramount chapters of the devil's attack against the nation of Israel.

Job has three friends who come and falsely accuse him. We talked about that. When you go to Revelation 16:3, you will find that the nation of Israel is up against three unclean spirits that do the exact same thing. At the end of Job's ordeal and his adversity, he got back double everything that he had lost in Job 42:10. The Bible tells us in the book of Isaiah that the nation of Israel, at the end of their adversity, will get back double everything that they lost. Job is a type of the nation of Israel in the tribulation. Look at James chapter 5, and it lays out some time, all of those things. Then it talks about, in the context of the tribulation, the patience of Job, making the connection. Lastly, but certainly not least, we know that the great tribulation period runs 42 months, and we will find that there are 42 chapters in the book of Job.

So we saw last week how vitally important those two books go hand in hand. We looked at it so clearly that the practical application for you and for me out of Job's life in the book of Proverbs is how we fail to stand in the day of adversity. It comes back to the fact that our strength, the Bible says, is small. That word "strength" is a key word. I went back to the Greek to find out exactly what it meant, and then I remembered that the Old Testament was in Hebrew. So I went back to the Hebrew, and there was "Yahshgabahakabu," which I did not understand. So after all that, I just went back to the English. The word "strength" means your faith. What are you strong in? It is a key word. We are told in Proverbs 24:5 that we, as God's people, are to increase our strength. Every day you should be stronger in the things of God than you were the day before. That strength will be defined as our faith, basically how well we can trust the promises and the

principles of God when the tough times come. It means nothing to trust God when everything is fine. It means everything to trust Him when your world is falling apart.

Romans 12:3 talks about how God gives us the measure of faith. Let me explain that to you for a moment because that is a key concept in the Bible. When you got saved, God gave you just enough faith to believe that Christ died for you on the cross. When you got saved, you did not have enough faith to trust God to go into the ministry yet, or go be a missionary, or go back and be a great witness at work, or disciple somebody. Those are things that came in time after you got saved. When He says He gives every man the measure of grace, it simply means this: when you got saved, God gave you just enough grace to understand and enough faith to understand that God died for you, that you were a sinner, and gave you enough faith by measure to exercise that and trust the Lord Jesus Christ out of your own life. That is what you do. You get saved by your own personal Savior.

Then as time goes on, you get disciplined. You come to Bible study. You get into the Bible. Somebody begins to work with you. The Bible says in Hebrews chapter 5 that you begin to exercise your senses. The Bible talks about in 2 Peter 1:8 that there are things that you add to your faith, and your faith begins to grow. What started out as a measure turns into a mountain that pretty soon in your life, or you should be, you ought to be able to stand for everything. This is why when you first get saved, you need to be very careful who you hang out with and who you are around. You need to be careful about old relationships and friendships because you do not have enough faith yet to be able to stand where you need to. The first thing the devil is going to do is he is going to try to overwhelm you with everything that they try to stop you. That is why church is so important. That is why our support groups and our prayer groups and the people in discipleship, they form a little team around you. They become the wall around you that will protect you until you get strong enough on your feet to man your own wall and take care of yourself spiritually.

So you exercise, the Bible says, your senses, and you get the ability to discern what is good and what is evil. You add to your faith, and there are seven things that we have talked about before that you add. Through that, you strengthen yourself through the principles of the Word of God. This is where many of you are at right now. Many of you right now are in this process in your life. You are getting strength. You are strengthening yourself. I watch you grow. It is amazing, you young men and young ladies and you young couples, how you are growing and how you are getting strong and how you take a stand for things. It is absolutely incredible. I appreciate so very much the fact that you are so dedicated to that, that you want to strengthen yourself every day.

You know, every New Year's, at any fitness center, but it is certainly true of the one that I go to, but it is true of any of them, the day after New Year's, the place is packed. Everybody has made their New Year's resolution now that they are going to lose 20 pounds of ugly fat. My suggestion would be just cut their head off, but they never listen to me. They come to the place where the place is packed, but you just be patient. In two weeks, all is back to normal. You know that is true of churches. It was true of camp. It will be true when a great revival hits a church. Everybody will hit the altar. Everybody will get right with God. You are so fired up, but in two

weeks' time, it is business as usual. That is just the way it goes. It is rare today to find men and women who really want to stand. They really want to take their stand for the Lord Jesus and stand with me in these last days to do what God has called us to do.

I. Doctrinal Application of Proverbs 24:10-12

Now today I want to look at verse 11 and 12. We are going to add verse 10 back into the mix today because I want you, I know I took verse 10 because I had something I wanted to specifically teach you there. But now I want to put it into the overall context of verses 10, 11, and 12. Here is what it says:

Proverbs 24:10-12

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;

If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

Now let us get the doctrinal out of the way first. Again, I want you to understand everything about the book of Proverbs, and I have told you the three different applications. But let us get the doctrinal down first, and then we will see how it applies to you and me inspirationally. Here is what you have doctrinally, just so you know. Doctrinally, these verses will be about the nation of Israel going through the tribulation period, their day of adversity, and they are told not to faint.

In the tribulation period, you probably already know that God has one last movement to reach the Gentiles that have been unreached yet within the tribulation period. The Bible says in Revelation chapter 7 and again in Revelation chapter 14, you will find a definitive passage on it in Matthew chapter 22. You will also find it in Revelation chapter 11 with Moses and Elijah. God calls out 144,000 men out of the nation of Israel. The Bible says that they are virgin. The Bible says that there are 12,000 from each tribe, 12 tribes, 144,000. Let me stop here and tell you that all the Jehovah's Witnesses think that they are part of the 144,000. Only the Jehovah's Witnesses who have been around since 1850 somewhere in there could stretch 144,000 to 277,000 billion and try to get everybody in. 144,000. The Bible says they are virgin. So if you are married, you are out of luck if you are a JW. But you are out of luck anyhow if you are a JW, it is not that really a matter. So we are not talking about Jehovah's Witnesses here, just so you know that. Next time a Jehovah's Witness comes to your door, ask him if he is part of the 144,000. If he says he is, ask him what tribe he is from. Put him on the spot. He will not know. If he says "Chikawah" or "Su," he does not know what he is talking about.

But anyway, they are Jews. God calls out of 12 tribes, 12,000, 144,000, and He sends them to the Gentiles that are left on this earth to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. This is important. They are not preaching the Gospel that you and I get saved under. Our Gospel is the Gospel of the grace of God that was given to Paul. The Bible says in Revelation 14:6 that this is the Gospel of the Kingdom. It is called the Everlasting Gospel. This is not the Gospel that you and I were

saved under. This is a Gospel that is preached to the Gentiles, Matthew 22, by the 144,000, Revelation 7 and Revelation 14. It is not the Gospel that you and I were saved under. This is a completely one to the nation of Israel. This passage, doctrinally, will be to them to not faint, the 144,000, because they are under tremendous adversity. The Antichrist is trying to wipe them out. He is trying to kill them off. They are running all over the place. Their own families are turning against them. Their friends are turning against them, just kind of like any Baptist church you would find today. They are in a lot of problems. They are going through this, and they are admonished not to faint. He says that they are to keep the preaching until the end. Of course, Matthew chapter 25 tells us that the end is the tribulation period.

II. Inspirational Application: Giving Out the Gospel

So now that we understand that, let us talk about it as it applies to you and to me. We have a great lesson here on what God has saved us for and called us to, and that is the giving out of the Gospel. The definitive passage on the Gospel is 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. If you want to know what the Gospel is, that is where you go. That is the definitive passage on it. A couple of weeks ago, we talked about Proverbs 11:30: "The fruit of the righteous is as a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." I told you that reproducing yourself in the life of somebody else is the number one thing that we are to do once we get saved: giving out the Gospel.

In Romans 1:1, Paul says that he was separated. He was called of God, and then he said he was separated unto the Gospel of God. Now, I am going to tell you what is wrong with Christianity today. Most churches want to get you separated from the world, which you should be. But then the preacher does not spend any time getting you separated to the Gospel. Because the Gospel of Jesus Christ in your life, once it changes your life, it ought to be the message on your lips to every man and woman that you meet. We are going to talk about that today. We are going to look at that. A wise man will be a tree of life, the Bible says.

It is simply this: when you go to the book of Romans, and the book of Romans is an incredible book, Romans chapter 9 and Romans chapter 11 really deal with the nation of Israel. When he wrote the book of Romans, he wanted to give you and me. Remember now, Romans is your first book once you get past the historical books. You have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and you have Acts. Then the doctrine for the church starts fully in Romans. Every chapter in the book of Romans, he lays out what the church is to believe and what the church is to understand. When he gets to chapter 9, he takes the time to show us why Israel got in the mess that they are in. Then he uses it as an example that we do not get in the same mess. When he gets into chapter 11, he now tells us that God is not finished with the nation of Israel, and He is going to restore the nation of Israel someday, and He is going to bring them back.

Here is the illustration that he uses. I want you to get a major piece of your Bible right now. This will help you. When you get into Romans 11:13-21, here is the example that he uses. He says Christ is the olive tree. Christ is the olive tree. Fundamentally, Christ is the tree of life. That is very significant in itself because if the Bible says Christ is the olive tree, and you go back in the Old Testament, olive oil was a type of the Holy Spirit of God, and you find that the nation of Israel is always connected with an olive branch, and you know it is always connected with an

olive tree. If somebody would ask me what the tree of life was back in Genesis, I would not think it was an apple. If that tree of life is a picture of Christ, then Christ is the tree of life, and He is an olive tree, it does not take a seminary degree to figure out what it was.

Now, the real mystery in that is how do they get those little red things in them? Every time I go to the grocery store and I walk down there, I love olives. I just look at that and I always wonder, I know they are a type of the tree of life, and I cannot get the little red pimento, is what it is. Why did He put it in in the first place? What is its significance? I just, you know, I spiritualize everything for my own spiritual edification. I just thought, you know what, that olive is Christ, that pimento is me. I am in Christ. Now, you want to write that down. I want to see that in your Bible, Romans 11, verse pimento. I want to see that. I do not know if that is true or not, but that helps me through today when I have to go grocery shopping.

Anyway, back in the Old Testament, they had that seven-pronged candlestick. It is called a menorah. Menorah Hospital is named after it. When you look at that menorah or that candlestick, it was given in a tabernacle, again, same picture. It has a central stock, which is the base for it. Then it has seven candlestick holders that you put seven candlesticks in. Those seven candles are the picture of the seven spirits of God back in Isaiah chapter 11. The shaft or the piece that is coming up that holds it is a picture of the tree, which is Christ, showing you that the Holy Spirit of God all comes from God, it all comes from Christ. It is all through the Bible.

Here is what he says in Romans 11:13-21. He says that Christ is the olive tree. He says there were some natural branches on that olive tree. The natural branches were the nation of Israel. He says that they did not bear any fruit. They did not do what they were supposed to do. So the Bible says that God broke off those natural branches. That is a picture of God calling the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, them not bearing fruit. Then in 70 A.D., God being done temporarily with the nation of Israel, He breaks off the natural branches. Then the Bible says He takes a wild olive tree branch and He grafts that into the tree. That wild olive branch is you and me. That is the Gentiles. What he is saying there in that passage, and it is a tremendous piece of your Bible, what he is saying there is that Christ is the olive tree. Israel was the natural branches. They did not bear the fruit. So God broke off those branches, and then He took you and me, the wild ones, and grafted us in that we become part of the olive tree. That is a picture of your salvation. That is a picture, theologically, of what God did. What a great illustration that is for you and for me.

III. Standing in Adversity and Reproducing Ourselves

Now the verse inspirationally deals with our own admonition not to faint in our day of adversity. I told you last week that what we go through, the struggles that we go through, many times are a great tool for God to use to be a witness to others, because people are going to watch how you deal with it. You are going to go to work all day long, all week long. You are going to pass out tracts, and you are going to be a great Christian. You are going to tell everybody about the Lord. One little thing comes into your life, and you fall apart. They will judge your whole Christian life based on how you deal with adversity. You can lose everything that you have built in your life if

you do not have the strength to stand in the day when it is all coming down around your shoulders. It will come.

You keep putting out the Gospel of God's grace, and you do not faint. The adversity does not stop you. Wherever you find yourself, Paul says, "in season, out of season," you preach the Word. You put the Word of God out. You allow God to use you, allow God to use me through the adversity that we face, not to miss the opportunities to see what God is doing. But we allow the very adversity which stops most people dead in their tracks to be a great witnessing tool for Him.

The number one thing in our lives, and I said this already and I am going to say it again, the number one thing in our lives after salvation and learning the Bible will be for us to reproduce ourselves in others. I cannot stress this point enough. You know what? People think, "Ah, I am not going to do that. I am not going to reproduce myself in somebody like he is there." But you know the truth of the matter is, we all reproduce ourselves in somebody, good or bad. There will never be a time in your life, unless you are dead, and then probably even after that as long as they remember you, that your life, good or bad, will not impact somebody. They are going to look at you and remember the good, or they are going to look at you and remember the bad. But it is a fallacy to think, "Well, I am not going to reproduce myself in anybody." Yes, you will. You just will not do it God's way.

Parents, you will reproduce who you are in your kids. It is just that simple. I hear this all the time, "Well, you know, this kid or that kid made my kid this or made my kid this." No, no, no, no, no. Let me put it to you right down where the whales live. Let me tell you something. Your kid will mirror whatever your spiritual image is in your family. It is just that simple. Nobody will have more influence over your child's life unless you allow them to have it. I mean, unless somebody just came in when they were five years old and tied you up and put you in the closet for 30 years and never let you out and then taught your child one way, I am telling you something, it does not work that way. You are responsible for your child. Your child making it or breaking it will simply go back to your own spirituality, where you are at. You will either reproduce yourself in them as a strong, vibrant, soul-winning, Bible-believing Christian, or you will reproduce them as a slug.

It is true of a church. I am not just picking on parents. I am going to pick on pastors now. It is true of pastors and churches. A church will not go any higher than the spiritual temperature of the pastor. It will not. A guy can get up and talk about, "You need to be excited about the Word of God. You need to be excited about it." If you are not excited about the Word of God as a pastor, nobody else will be. If it is not the number one thing in your life, it will never be in theirs. You know why? Because as a pastor, like a parent, you reproduce yourself into whoever you are. That is just the way it is. You look at me, and I am a reproduction of two men. One of them is Mel Shabaka, who took me in when I was a young guy and taught me the ropes and gave me everything. The other one is Dr. Ruckman, who really gave me the extension of my Bible to the way I have today. I look back, and I have had people all the time, that you went around long enough, but I will preach someplace, and somebody will come up and say, "Man, you sound just like Mel Shabaka." I have had a come up and say, "Well, you sound like Dr. Ruckman." Now, I

do not think I do, but you cannot be around somebody like that and learn it and learn from them and not pick up some of their traits.

Here is the danger. They were the two influences of my life, and they reproduced themselves in me, but I never lost my identity of Bob Alexander and who I was. I am still the idiot I was before I met them. I know a lot of guys that when they meet Ruckman and go down to his school, they try to be a little Ruckman. They lose their identity. There were guys who did it with Shabaka, and they would pick up their mannerisms, they would do everything that they did, and they wanted to imitate them to a degree. I understand that. I wanted to learn the Bible and imitate them when it came to learning the Bible, but I knew I was who I was, and I knew I could never be them, nor did I want to be them because, hey, I am enjoying being who I am. It is one of those things where, but you will reproduce yourself.

A pastor says, "Well, my church is just a mess." That is because you are a mess. A pastor says, "Well, my church will not do anything for God." That is because you are not doing anything for God. Everything, and I mean everything, rises and falls on leadership. If I was satisfied to let you be the status quo, you know what you would be? You would be the status quo. If I did not light a fire under your rear end every Sunday morning and hold your feet to an accountable, you would be like every other church out there. You would be whining and you would be complaining, and you would not show up for Sunday morning, you would not bring your Bible. Oh, I know. We will just put the Bible verses up here so you do not have to bring your Bible anymore. I will tell you what. We will put the songs up here. You do not have to open a hymn book anymore. You know what we have done in Christianity? We have taken every personal, private blessing that God has for us in His Word and singing to Him and taking it away and stocking up on a wall someplace.

Mel used to get up when he started to preach many times. He would say, "Okay, I want you to take your hymn books and I want you to turn to Genesis chapter 15." Everybody would laugh. They thought he made a mistake. A crowd would chuckle across there, and he would say, "What is the matter?" Somebody would say, there is always a dumb person in the crowd that will fall for anything. Somebody in the front would say, "You made a mistake. You said a hymn book instead of Bible." Mel said, "No, hymn book. This is a book that is all about Him." He knew where it was.

The people you work with. I watch you guys. I watch you men and you women down here. There is not hardly a time during the week that this church does not have three or four groups in it, or you are meeting in somebody's home, or you are meeting someplace. You know what you are doing? You say, "I am discipling them. I am going through discipleship one. I am going through a discipleship." No, you are not. What you are doing is you are taking what God has given you and you are reproducing it in them. That is all you are doing. I mean, you may be doing this D1 or D2 or doing some special thing with them, but I am telling you. When you put yourself into people, good or bad, you will simply take what you have got and transfer it into them. You will produce either a wise man if you are wise, or you will produce a fool if you are a fool. It is just that simple. It is not complicated. We like to make it complicated because we do not want to deal

with how simple the outcome and how tragic the outcome is because most of God's people simply do not do it.

I want to tell you something. This church has a ton of strong men and women who do not faint. I would put most of you up against anybody out there. I really would. I just sometimes I am amazed at it. I mean, you are something special. You know, I look at little things in the Bible, and God knows that we all like to eat. Have you ever noticed how Jesus always used examples about He wanted to get somebody's attention? I mean, when you said, "I want to open up a verse here," nobody, but you say, "Okay, I want to talk to you about bread." Everybody is paying attention, especially if you are hungry. He says He used about the fishes. He used food all the time. Now, part of that is because there is a great banquet coming that we are all going to be part of if you are saved this morning. So I get that. But He wanted to identify people with food. I mean, He did. I mean, I go back there in the Psalms, and He says, "Christ was the apple of His eye." Now, He picked apple. Why did He not say peach? Why did He not say watermelon? Why did He not say cabbage? Why was it apple? Because apple meant something. When He says that Christ is the apple of mine eye, He is saying that the best fruit you can have is an apple because it represents God in the Bible and the Word of God. He says Christ was the apple of my eye.

Well, I think, I look at you, I think of food. I like hot dogs. I do. You had hot dogs the other night there, it was great. Those were good hot dogs. Will had nothing to do with cooking them, but they were really good. I want to tell you something. Those were good hot dogs. You know, in most Baptist churches, they will have a banquet, charge you \$7, \$8 to come, and you will get hot dogs. The pastor, oh, no, I went to a church that way where that is all they ever had was all, they charge you \$10 to come. We do not charge you anything. We give you better than hot dogs. The pastor thought we were all stupid. He called them tube steaks. They were far from tube steaks. But I like hot dogs. I go to the ball game, I want a hot dog. I tell you, a good hot dog is hard to beat. But I will tell you what is better than even a hot dog. The best part, the best thing, the epitome of a hot dog is a corn dog. When I look at you, I just think of food. I look at you and I think you guys are the lone corn dogs in a world of regular weenies. That is who you are. You are something special. Yeah, put that in your Bible. Corn dog, C-O-R-N-D-O-G. You are the lone corn dog in a world of just regular weiners because you are special, because you know how to stand, because you are strong. You do not faint. Yet you are all different. I know, you will never eat another corn dog again now at the fair that you will not think of yours truly. That is my point. That is what Jesus did. He used things that every time you took one of them, you would remember what He said. That is a key in getting people to remember. That is a key to using things like that, because you are all different. But you all have something different to contribute to this church. When we all have something different and we all work toward the same goal, and that goal, ultimately, fundamentally, is winning people to Christ.

Everything that we do, we have a softball league, and softball is fun. But you know what? That softball league is for one reason. That is to bring people in that are lost or need a church and then invest into their life and then get them saved. You do the same in volleyball after the first of the year. It is the same thing. Everything that we do, I tell them, you know, in most churches they say, "We are going to have a softball team and we are going to play in the league, and here is

what I want to do." We are going to have a softball team, and we are going to get people on the team, and then we are going to find a way to minister to them. I do not look at it that way. I tell my captains and co-captains, "You are going to have a ministry, and then you are going to find out how to play softball." You just reverse the process because it is people. I could care nothing of who wins the championship. I know you do, and I am good for you because you guys are, I like that. I like the fact that you want to win. But at the end of the day, it is not about winning the game, it is about winning someone to Christ. It is about getting another family in this church. It is about getting the kids in that need to be saved and get to come to camp. It is about reaching out to people and helping them, no matter what we do. All of our get-togethers, and my goodness, I mean, the Methodist Church has nothing on us with chicken dinner. We have them all the time. Everything we do, I do not care what it is, at the end of the day, we all have one goal, and that is if there is somebody there that is lost or somebody there that is unchurched and needs something, we are all there for them. That is the very strength of this church. You are amazing.

Now, you know, it does not lie in me anymore, but now it lies in you, and how you take what you are given and then you reproduce yourself into others with it. You reach out to them, and then you reproduce yourself in them. It has happened all over, not only Kansas City, it has happened all over the country. We have people in Minnesota. We have our group up in Lincoln. We have our group down in Wichita. We have our group up in Washington State. We have our group down at Camp Lejeune in a Marine Corps base. We have our group out in Idaho. We have our group up in Peoria, Illinois. It is just where your impact in people's lives, people who need the Bible, who care, you see what needs to be done, and you reproduce what God has given you here in the life of somebody else. That is what the ministry is.

I said this a couple of weeks ago. You know, we get the idea that we talk about soul winning and sitting down with somebody and running down a Romans road, you know? We are sitting down and winning somebody to Christ. I get that. But it is not just sitting down and opening a Bible and winning them to Christ. Soul winning is a lifestyle. It is what you become. There is no class for it. Oh, I can teach you a class to run you through the Romans road or the Matthew Turnpike or Paul's Highway, whatever. But it is not just about that. It is about you entering into a lifestyle that your life is so infused with the principles of Christ that everybody you meet, you infect. If your Christian life and testimony is not infecting, then it is contaminated. That is what it really is. It is about your willingness to invest your own self into somebody else's life. It is not about just parroting the words out of Romans road. Every Christian ought to witness. Sometimes you should even use words. But the real witness will be how you live your life and what you go through in life. It is about your willingness to invest your life, your own self.

The Macedonian Christians over there in 2 Corinthians 8:5, 2 Corinthians chapter 8 and 9 are the two greatest definitive chapters in the Bible on our giving. It is really not talking about money. It says in verse 5, talking about the Macedonian, Paul bragging on them and he says:

2 Corinthians 8:5

And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

They gave themselves first to the Lord. That was the first thing that they did. That was the first step. I want to tell you something. When you decide in your heart, when you decide in your mind and you put everything else aside and you are done now with all this stuff and you decide that you are going to put the Lord first in your life, you will be a soul winner. I am not saying you are going to win somebody to Christ. There were guys that wrote books and used to do seminars telling them how to win out of the next five people you meet, how to win three of them to Christ. You know what that does? That just takes the Holy Spirit of God completely out of it. You learn a set of tricks. You learn a set of marketing skills. You learn to say the right thing to draw them in. You think that is of God. I will tell you what. You will never be everything that God wants you to be. I will never be everything that God wants me to be until we first give ourselves to the Lord first.

Then it says over there in Acts 13:2, the Church of Antioch, the model church for you and me, it lays out everything we are to be. You know what it says first? It says that they ministered unto the Lord. You could not find ten Christians in this city outside this church that could tell you what that means to minister to the Lord. You could not find a commentary anywhere on any godless Christian bookstore in this city that would take you and tell you in Acts 13:2 what it means to minister unto the Lord first. But oh, we are ministering. Look at me. Look at me go. Well, you are wasting your time if you are not ministering to the Lord first. There are four ways in that Bible that you minister to Him first. Remember, first off, ministry is being something. It is not doing anything. When you minister unto the Lord, you know what He does? He takes that and He reproduces that into somebody else's life. It is not about what we do or how good I am of laying out the verses and how I cover all of the bases. It is about have you given yourself to Him first for the number one goal that He saved you for was reproducing yourself in the lives of others. Then have you spent your time ministering to Him first so then you can minister to others.

IV. Our Responsibility to a Lost World

Now look at Proverbs 24:11.

If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;

We are going to talk about our responsibility to a lost world. Ezekiel 33:1-7 is a great illustration of what your life and my life should be in a New Testament format, even though it is written in an Old Testament context. Let me read it for you.

Ezekiel 33:1-7

Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.

But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

I want to tell you something. The day you got saved, God set you a watchman over His body of the church. You are a watchman this morning. You see God's judgment coming. You see the hand of God in America, in every aspect of this world. You have the trumpet, the message of God, and we need to blow that trumpet and warn the people. When you do not, the blood is on your head. When you do, it is on them.

In our text today, Proverbs 24:10-12, you will find seven things that we want to remember in our commission to reproduce ourselves and others after we get saved. Remember now, John 15:16 says, God, you have all got your ordination papers. Have you been saved? Those ordination papers say that God has ordained you, that you bring forth fruit, but then that your fruit should remain.

1. The day of adversity will come in your life.

At some point in this time, it will come. I was telling somebody the other day, you know, I was proud of myself, the fact that I was 65 years old, 64 years old, never had a broken bone, never had any major, never been in a hospital, never had any real problems in anything, my health was good and all that stuff. I remember the day when I hit 66, 67, now I have been in the hospital four or five times, like I am friends with the emergency room doctor. I mean, they know everything about me from my kidney stones up. I mean, it is just, we are old friends. I mean, it is just like everything fell apart. I am telling you, you may be in your health right now and think you can jump tall buildings with a single bound, but there is a day coming when you will not. You may think your life is great and you have everything going your way, and maybe it is, but there is a day of adversity coming in your life. The whole world is going to watch to see if you, the Christian, are going to stand, whether your strength is small or whether it is great. They will be watching.

2. In that day, the child of God is to keep on sowing.

Galatians 6:9 says, he tells us that not to be weary in well-doing. For in due season, we shall reap if we faint not. You have got to stay doing it. You have got to make adversity your friend. You have got to realize that it is just part of it, and it is not going to stop you. You have got to look above the circumstances because you are living above the circumstances, and you have got to

now apply the very principles and the promises that you sat in church for years and years and years and went right over your head.

3. We are told no matter how dark the clouds will get, and, brother, they will get dark sometimes.

Ecclesiastes 11:6, we are told that in spite of that, we are to cast our bread upon the waters. We are to put the Word of God out. The Bible says you will find it after many days. That is because Isaiah 55:11 says the Word of God never returns void. He says cast our bread upon the water. He says be not afraid of the winds and the clouds. Look, I am telling you, man, when you start sowing the Word of God, the adversity is going to come in, and the devil is going to do everything he can to get you to faint. He is going to make the clouds so dark, he is going to make the wind howl so bad, you forget. That even though the devil can bring the clouds and the devil can bring the wind, when he did that to the disciples in that little boat, all it took was Jesus showing up, and the wind ceased, the waves were calm, and the clouds were gone away. I never worry about the clouds that come into my life. You know why? Because that Bible says that Jesus is coming back in the cloud, and I just hope that He is up there.

4. Our strength should be able to stand the test.

In Acts 20:27-32, he talks about all that they went through. He says in verse 32, God through all the adversity will build you up to an inheritance. There is a purpose for the days of adversity we go through. There is a strengthening in them. There is something that God wants us to see, understand, and ultimately something God wants us to be.

5. Because you and I have followed the instructions of Proverbs 24:5, and we have increased our strength, we added some things to our faith, we grew spiritually, we got to the place where we went from one spiritual level to another, now when the adversity comes we see it for what it is.

It is just like when we were all little kids, we were afraid of the dark, we had to go to sleep with the light on. Now when you are an adult, you do not have to go to sleep in the dark, you are not afraid of the dark, and you do not need a light on, you know why? Because you have got a .357 right in your nightstand.

6. If you do not strengthen yourself, a faulty strength will fail in the day of adversity, Proverbs 24:10.

You will fall, you will fail, you will get swallowed up. I am sure it is true of every church, well I know it is, but you see it in our own church, you will see people that, they have been around churches, around our church, for ever since 15, 16 years we have been here, they are like a comet, they make their passage every 3 or 4 years through the church. They will come in, they will stick around for 3 or 4 weeks, and then they are gone again. Then 3 or 4 years they will come back and they will want to do what is right, they are all sorry about this, and then they are gone again. Their whole cycle is just an orbit around and through the church, and then back to the world. They get themselves, every time they come back, you can see that they got themselves a little deeper, a little darker in the world and the problems in their life. Pretty soon there is no

getting out of it. Yet you see people like that, and I feel truly sorry for people like that. On one hand I understand that they are saved, I really believe that most of them are, and they are saved, but they have lost every battle in life. Some of them I have known since they were 15, 16, 17 years old. Some of them I have known for 20 years. I can say one thing about them, in all the years that I have known them, they have lost every battle that ever came their way in life. Every time they will go for a while and they want to get back on it, they will come back in, they will get involved, they will come this, they will start to get disciplined, they will start to do this. Then second verse, same as the first, right down that road again. An old boyfriend will show up, an old girlfriend will show up, something will happen in their lives. I have seen them come in, you know, and the place where they listen to you and you try to help them, and then some guy or some girl comes in their life and you go, counters what we are saying here, you know. Bye-bye. Every time you go through that cycle, you just get a little farther out in your orbit. You know why that is? It is because you have never buckled down and changed your life and committed your life to change. Life-changing issues in your life is not just saying I am going to change. Changing issues in your life takes your commitment to change. That means you have to take it seriously.

7. Through the strength that you have increased and got from the Lord in the Word of God, you will keep on witnessing right to the very end.

Psalms 126:5, we are told that:

Psalms 126:5

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

You may go through some tough times in your life, and there may be some darkness in the cloud, but you can hold the light and you can stay faithful with it and you can stay in it no matter what, and you not let the circumstances override you and push you out. You may go through some tough times and you may do some sowing in tears, but I guarantee you, you will reap in joy.

V. The Power of Deliverance Through the Word of God

Now along with that, those seven things, you want to remember this. I know you know this. The Christian has the power of deliverance with the Word of God. Matthew 28:18, he told the disciples, and he is speaking to us that all power is given unto you in heaven and earth. A lot of people get confused about a verse found in Matthew 18:18, where he says:

Matthew 18:18

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

I get that question a lot of what he means, and I understand if you are not familiar with where you are at with it, I can see how that could be confusing, but here is what he is saying. You as a child of God, if you are saved and you have the Word of God, you have the power to deliver people through that Bible. You sit down with somebody and go through and show them they are

a sinner, show them what they need to do, show them that Christ died for them, and open up the Word of God and show them what he has done or by your life, and they reject it and they walk away from you. You know what you have done? You have bound them to their sin through the Word of God. Nothing about you through the book God gave you. You take that same book and through your life, somebody comes to you, they see the difference in your life, they sit down with you, and they ask you why you are different. You open up the Bible and show them. You do not tell them what God will do for them. You show them what God has done for you, and you lay that thing out and they say, "Boy, I want that," and you win that person to Christ. You know what you have just done through the power, the authority, the Word of God? You have loosed them from their sins. It has nothing to do with you. It has to do with the Bible has the power, and you have it in your hands with the message of God to bind and loose the sins of people by you showing them the greatest message the world has ever seen, that Jesus came and died, was buried, and rose again the third day. Because of that, we do not have to live in our sins any longer. We have the message of deliverance.

Found in the book of Romans, in particular Romans chapter 10, will be the message of that deliverance. I find it very instructive. I told you how the book of Romans lays itself out. The outline of Romans is crucial to understand the book. When I hear somebody talk about the book of Romans, I can tell in about 30 seconds if they know what they are talking about or not, simply because Romans is such an easy book to understand if you follow the breakdown structure of how God intended the book to be laid out. You do not when you are on your own. I told you, it is the book right after the book of Acts. You have the five historical books, and then bang, you get the Romans. Nothing historical about Romans. It is doctrine for the church. In Romans, he has everything that the church is to believe, everything that the church is to know, everything that every aspect of every fiber of the church is found in the book of Romans. The key to it is how you break it down.

In chapter 1, he tells you why the Jews got into a terrible mess. We need to know that.

In chapter 2, he shows us why the Gentiles are in the mess.

In chapter 3 and 4, he tells you why what they go about doing will never solve their mess.

In chapter 5, you know what he is in chapter 5? In chapter 5, he tells you the only thing that will solve that mess is Jesus Christ dying on the cross.

In chapter 6, chapter 7, chapter 8, chapter 9, he lays it out. It is no accident that in chapter 9, he shows you how Israel got messed up in chapter 9.

Then you have chapter 10, which is the great chapter of the gospel going to you and me, the Gentiles.

Then he goes back to chapter 11 to show you that even though the Jews got busted off and the Gentiles came in, chapter 11 now, he is going to restore.

Incredible. It follows right the line of doctrine taught through the whole Bible. But Gentile salvation is Romans chapter 10. Number 10 in your Bible will be the number of the Gentiles. The

first Gentile kingdom is found in Genesis 10:10. Noah was a father to Gentiles. Adam and Lenny, she is the tenth from Adam. You will find over there that the gospel calls in Luke chapter 10. You will find here the missionary calls in Luke chapter 10. You will find here that the salvation call for Gentiles is in Romans chapter 10. You will find that everywhere you go, Romans chapter 10 is where you come back.

Romans 10:9-10

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The message is clear. Acts 13:38-39. We have the message of deliverance. You have it inside you if you are saved. You have it in your Bible if you have one. The message is clear.

Acts 13:38-39

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Praise the Lord. When he came down he did what the law could not do. When he came down he did what Moses could never do and all the sacrifices never could do. He saved us from our sins. You have that message. It is exciting for you. It just is not exciting for you to tell somebody else about it. We as God's people, we hold this message. The Gospel of the grace of God. The fact that Christ came and died and did for us what the law could never do.

Have these idiots out there that say, "Well, I just do not know how God could ever send a person to hell." Well, you inflated egotists. Let me tell you something. I do not have no problem understanding why God could send a man to hell. My problem is why God will not take somebody like me to heaven. You are thinking pretty hot of yourself that you have got. We all deserve to burn in hell. Every one of us here deserves to scream our lungs out in the lake of fire. Thank God he saw that, loved you enough to come down and goad you out of that fire. Now how about you loving somebody enough that you will do it for them?

Jeremiah 48:10

Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.

The sword is the Word of God. You know what you do as a Christian? Now people are not going to like you for this. This is why people do not like me. You stick them. See the problem with most preachers and most churches, they do not have a sword. They have a butter knife. You cannot stick anybody with a butter knife. They have an NIV or an ASV or some other piece of godless trash out of the pit of hell, and they just go around nudging people with it. Bible says cursed be your preaching. Cursed be the man or the woman that does not draw blood with the

sword that God gave you. You say, "Well I do not like the message you preach." You will love it a lot if you got saved that it kept you from going to hell. I will tell you what, if you reject it and wind up in a lake of fire, you will wish every time for all of eternity that you would have loved that message instead of hating it. That book will stick you. Now you know what? You can be saved, and it will still stick you. I mean I know, is this true of any church? Some of you are getting stuck this morning. That is good, I am getting stuck this morning. You have got to hear it once. I had to work on it all week. There are places in there I wanted to go liberal. I threw the corn dog thing in there so you would love me. Because I know you like corn dogs.

VI. The Story of Ehud and Eglon: A Picture of Soul Winning

You know, there is a great illustration in the Bible, and I want to tell you this story. There is a great story in the Bible about getting stuck with the Bible. Turn back to the book of Judges. Judges chapter 3. This is one of my favorite stories in the Bible. You would not think that it had anything to do with New Testament soul winning, that is because you are educated beyond your intelligence, and your degrees are getting in front of your way of reading the Bible. This is one of the greatest practical portions anywhere in the Word of God that shows you what soul winning should be, what it is, or what God intends you to do with it.

Now you have two guys here. You have a guy by the name of Ehud. Ehud is a deliverer. Then you have a guy by the name of Eglon. Eglon is a fat guy who is a Moabite who cares nothing about the things of God. It is a picture of Ehud, the prepared soul winner, who has got the Word of God going to a fat man, fat with the world, Eglon, who has got everything and he has got a message for him. Now follow along here.

Judges 3:15-23

But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab.

But Ehud made him a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh.

And he brought the present unto Eglon king of Moab: and Eglon was a very fat man.

And when he had made an end to offer the present, he sent away the people that bare the present.

But he himself turned again from the quarries that were by Gilgal, and said, I have a secret errand unto thee, O king: who said, Keep silence. And all that stood by him went out from him.

And Ehud came unto him; and he was sitting in a summer parlour, which he had for himself alone. And Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee. And he arose out of his seat.

And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly:

And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out.

Then Ehud went forth through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them.

Now if I were you, and this is just what I would do if I were you, I would take your little, I mean you are going to know who it is, take your little epitograph pen and cross that name out there and put your name in. Because God wants you to be the deliverer. He has got some fat people he wants to send you to in the world. Ehud, the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man left-handed, and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon, here he is, the king of Moab. But Ehud made him a dagger which had two edges. Who! Now somebody said one time that, "Well, the Bible says that it is a two-edged sword, it is a dagger." Our answer is that is because all we had was a New Testament. You can stick them with the New Testament. New Testament is much smarter than a bigger Bible. You get it later, it is okay. He made him a dagger which had two edges of a cubit length. So that dagger is about that long. It is like a Roman short sword. He did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh. Now there is a reason why the Bible says that he is left-handed, but he puts the sword on his right side, but we do not have time to get into that this morning. The fact that he is left-handed means that he is still a sinner, and the fact that he puts it on the right side means that he is right with God because the right side is all... it is a beautiful picture. You are still a sinner, but you have got a book on the right side that will get the right message out. Okay.

He brought the present unto Eglon, king of Moab, and Eglon was a very fat man, picture of a worldly man. When he had made an end to offer the present, he sent away the people and bare the present. But he himself turned again from the quarries that were by Gilgal and said, "I have a secret errand unto the old king," who said, "Keep silent." All that stood by him went out from him. So he sets the situation up where it is just him and him. Go do a little witnessing here. He says, "And Eglon came unto him and was sitting in a summer parlor, which he had for himself alone," and he had said, "I have a message from God unto thee," and he rose out of his seat. He sets the scenario up, and then he says, "I have a message from you from God." So what you do is you have your dagger on your right side. Yeah, you are still a sinner. You go to somebody who is fat with the world, and you say, you get them alone and you get in a circumstance, right? You say, "I got a message from God from you." He rose out of his seat.

Verse 21, "And Ehud put forth his left hand and took the dagger from his right thigh and thrust it into his belly." He grabs him in the belly. Oh, let us go on here. "And the heft," that is the cross part of the sword. "The heft also went in after the blade, and the fat closed upon the blade." This guy was really fat. "And the fat closed upon the blade so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly. And the dirt came out." Now, that is a great picture. Because everything we know about the Bible and everything we know about the message of God is found in that last two verses. He put forth his left hand and took the dagger from his right thigh. And thrust it into his belly. And the heft went in after the blade, and the fat closed upon the blade that he could not draw the dagger out. You know why? Because once you stick them, they stay stuck. He could not pull that dagger out because you stick somebody with the Word of God. They may reject you, but for 20,

30, 40, the next 50 years, they are going to remember the day you stuck them. You know why? When that book, when that sword, when you draw blood, that cut does not heal. When you stick that dagger in and it goes in and the fat closes around it, you do not pull it out. Then you know what else it said, "and the dirt came out." You know how to get the dirt out of your life? You know how to get the drainage ditch going of dirt out of your world? You know how to get the dirt out of your life this morning? Just get stuck with that book, and the dirt will come out. That is some picture you have there, man.

God is going to hold us accountable because we do have the message of God. Every, I am going to tell you something, especially you young kids, every talent you have got, every ability you have, everything that you have about you, that is a good thing. Every quality, every ability, every talent, everything you have got, God gave you for one reason, and that is because God wanted you to get saved and get the message and give it out. If you use it for something else, that is fine, but I will tell you what. You better make sure you keep a good disproportion, that you are doing it more for God than you are for the things that you want to do. Because that is why He gave it. The same God that gave it to you, He can take it away as fast as He gave it to you. Because there is one who keeps our soul, Jude 24, keeps you from falling and will protect, or will present you faultless with exceedingly joy. He ponders our heart attitude, Romans chapter 8. The Bible says He will render to us according to our works, 1 Corinthians 3:13.

1 Corinthians 3:13

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

VII. No Excuse for Ignorance

Now look at Proverbs 24:12.

If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

Let me tell you something. There is not a Christian on this planet that can pretend that you do not know the fate of unsaved people. There is not a saved person on this planet today that can feign ignorance about the fact in that day that you did not know there was a lake of fire and unsaved people were going to it. Proverbs 24:10 and 12 deals with one of the most crucial issues of our day, the absolute refusal of American Christians to witness and tell unsaved people that there is a hell to shun and they are going to wind up in the lake of fire someday. The indifference of God's people to a lost world is unimaginable. It is unbelievable.

Old Bob Jones Sr. used to say when he had a seminary down there before he died, he said, "I would like to take the last 24 hours of seminary training and take every young man that is called to be a preacher, or called to be a worker, or called to be evangelist, and I like to suspend him over the bottomless pit, the pit of hell for 24 hours and just let him swing back and forth and hear the cry and see the agony and see the torment and then turn him loose on that world." It would

make a difference, but you know what? You can see it from the book without ever going there. We do not want to see it. We have been so mesmerized by, I mean, you watch television all day long and some of you kids do and some of you parents do too. I mean, you can see 148 rapes, 275 murders, 300 for the child abductions. I mean, it is endless. It is just endless. You see some of the most grotesque, bloody murder people die and after a while you get desensitized to that and when you try to talk about somebody dying and going to hell and burning in a lake of fire, it does not mean that much to you. Can you show worse than that on television? I am telling you. Do not you tell me about it. I have limited my TV to Bambi.

Psalms 142:4 is one of the most powerful verses in all the Bible. It shows our indifference to unsaved people all around us and our forsaking the message that God has for us to give to them. He says in Psalms 142:4:

Psalms 142:4

I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

I want to tell you. Boy, the key words in there, "no man would know me." We are not going to spend the time to get to know somebody to find out what their really needs are. We are going to throw you a tract or we are going to give you this and then we are going to just let God deal with it or we are going to win you to Christ so fast they will never see you again. I want to tell you something. That verse says, "no man would know me." Nobody today wants to spend the time to get into somebody's world to find out what they are really all about. He says, "I looked on my left. No man cared for my soul."

We have been commanded to witness. We have been commanded to warn people that they will die in their sins and wind up in the lake of fire. Yet we pretend that we do not know. Ezekiel 18:20-24 says that God will forgive the transgressions of men. That is our message. Acts 20:26-27 says, Paul said that he was free from the blood of all men. You know why? Because everywhere he went they knew where he was and he knew what he believed. Not by just what he said but the lifestyle that he lived. You can never open a word in your mouth and live a life for God and never say a word and people will be drawn to you and they will ask you what is different about you instead of you have to tell them what is different about you. 95% of God's people they refuse to do it. 85% of the pastors refuse to do it. They do not want to ruin their social status. They do not want people to get upset. They do not want to offend anybody. They do not want to face rejection. Pastors do not want to hurt their offerings by preaching the truth because they have got to have all the money to pay for the monuments that they are building.

Proverbs 24:12 clearly says that in that day when you stand and I stand before God we will not be able to plead our ignorance. No man will say, "Well Lord I did not know." We have the message of God. We have the power of God. We have the witness of the Spirit of God inside us that burdens God's heart. It is burning in us and we quench it. A great truth, God will not hold you accountable for what you did find out or what you did not find out. God will hold you accountable for what you could have found out but you chose not to.

Reproducing in others what God has done in us. Reproducing in our families, in our daughters, in our sons, in our children. Making sure that what we put into them is going to carry on what God has put into us. In our church. Making sure that when you work with somebody, making sure that every day, every Sunday, every Thursday night when I stand in this pulpit I give you exactly what the Word of God says. Not what I think, not my opinion, but what the book says and let the chips fall where they may. If I am a pitcher and you are the batter, I am going to throw that ball right across the plate waist high where you can take a swing at it.

Reproducing yourself in the people that God gives you. You get disciplined, you disciple somebody else. You go through DSU, you deal with somebody else. You get into the people ministry and help me with people. You get into the Bible Institute this Saturday. You start, get the tape, get caught up, jump into that thing. Get, start letting God use you, prepare you for the day of adversity that is going to come in your life. Too many times the poem that I heard many, many years ago will ring out in that day.

On the brink of eternity I stand,

Lost and forsaken. My time is at hand.

Oh, how I wish that I would have been told.

But no man, no man cared for my soul.

The greatest mark of your relationship with God is you caring for the souls of others the way He cared for your soul. It is just that simple. Understanding what He did for you and then realizing that He has called you or ordained you that you do it for somebody else. You take what God has given to you, taking what God has given to me. I do not deserve to be where I am at. I do not deserve to have any of the blessings of God in my life. But I am just going to simply tell you this, the bottom line is this. When I got saved, when I got saved I simply wanted to do for others what God had done for me. I have not always done it well. I have not always done it perfect. But I want to tell you one way or the other, I always did it. I never lost sight of the fact that the only thing I have to give anybody is nothing good from me. The only goodness that I have to give anybody is the goodness that God has given me. That has to go to you. That is the only thing you have to give. They do not need what you have. They do not need who you are. They do not need your personality. What they need is the goodness and the severity of God that He has put in you that you can reproduce in them. That when God gives you somebody or you see somebody, you gravitate to that person because you do and realize and understand that you are doing for God what He would do if He was here Himself. You are feeding the five thousand. You are doing this. You are healing the sick. You are healing the lame. All in a spiritual sense. People who are hurting. People who are broken. People who are starving to death.

We have people come into this church that are saved. They are absolutely starving to death. I was on the phone for about 40 minutes last night from a guy up in New York by the name of Tony. Tony, if you are listening today, God bless you. I enjoyed our conversation. Called me out of the blue. Said, "You know what, Bob, there are no churches up here." He said, "Your website is all I have got." He said, "You know what?" He said, "I believe that Bible all my life." He said, "But

there is no place up here to go to church." He said, "I hang on to everything you guys are doing down there." He said, "I just got a couple of questions." We talked through the Bible. I get that two or three times a week. There are people out there that are starving to death. There are people who come to this church that are good people, but they have been in a dry land for a long time. They need the refreshing drink of cool water from the wells of Gilead. They need the food of the manna from heaven to give them supernaturally what they need. You know what? You are the ones that can do it. Me up here. This is just a big commercial. That is all it is. This is a big commercial telling everybody what is out there waiting for them. My corn dogs. It is just a big commercial. I run a car dealership and I am telling you that that Ford or Chevy or Pontiac is the best car. I am telling you to come to my dealership and we will give you the best deal you can. All I am doing is telling people and trying to point to people that the greatest asset that they could ever have is in that book. The greatest people on the planet that have that book is you. Because you are special.

There are God's people who think they are spiritual. They do not like us. They do not like me. They do not like you. Yet they have never won a soul to Christ in their life. They would not walk across the street. They pretend themselves to be so spiritual. They do not like anybody that is spiritual. But at the end of the day, they are going to live their whole life. Never telling one person and winning one person or investing their life in one person. They are supposed to be the good guys. No, the good guys are right here. You are the ones that I am so proud of. You are the ones that have taken what God has given you and you are giving it to everybody else. That is what makes you special. That is what makes you above the rest. That is what makes not only I love you, but God loves you. Because you have seen the difference and you have taken the very message that God instilled in you and given to them.

Stephanie, I have got to say something to you. I have always loved you. I think ever since I saw you come out of left field and catch that ball. Amazing. I said right time, she is a corn dog. I have got to tell you. I know you were burdened for your sister. I know we had talked about it before. This year when you got her coming down to camp and you got the winner to Christ. There is no greater thing in this world than a sister taking another sister or a brother taking a brother or brother sister to taking a family member that you are burdened for. Then leading them to Christ. That has got to be the greatest sensation feeling on the planet. I will tell you what, I love you. But I have always loved you. You are special. That is what it takes. Because there are so many other brothers and sisters that they just do not care. You know, she was a burden in your heart. I saw that and I thought I did not say anything to anybody. It just it it just it moved me to tears. It just brought me to the point where I thought that is the epitome of what we ought to be doing. The burden you had and God honored that burden and you got and then you got the winner to Christ on top of it. It does not get better than that. But you know what? That story is repeated all through this church over and over again. I watch you guys up in Lincoln with those kids that you invest in up there. It is incredible. I get to stand amazed at it. I just I look at those young guys coming down and what you guys do up there and you know, you know, everybody, you know, everybody said that when you move down here, who is going to who is all the leadership is going. You know, who is going to take up down here? I want to tell you something. Your two brothers are stood up and stood in the gap, boy. I will tell you what. No, Logan. He is something

he is going to be something else. I hope he is not listening to this because I do not want Logan. You are a bum if you are listening to this. Then your brother, brother. You know what? Yeah, Jaden. I am sorry. Yeah, I know. But he is younger brother. He could have picked for for a thing at school. He could have picked anybody. He could have picked Jody Maggio. He could have picked, you know, OJ. No, no, no, Jesus. That is somebody to lose your head over. He could have. He could have picked anybody out there. He picked one of the most controversial preachers that ever walked planet Earth. J. Frank Norris. Now, I want to tell you something. I do not know what to say. I did not say anything. But in my mind, I am saying, wow. I am telling you, you guys are incredible. You guys take the stand. When the adversity comes, you will stand. I have no doubt about it. You will stand because of what God has done in your life. You have taken what God has given you. You have done something with it. I have had nothing to do with it. All I do is stand up here and sell cars. You guys take the truth. Take it internally. Then you give it back out and you reproduce in others what God is doing in you. That is what New Testament Christianity is. That is what it is all about.