

Proverbs 25:21-24

Sunday 1/20/2019

Amen. If you have your Bibles this morning, I want you to turn back to the Book of Proverbs. We have been out of the Book of Proverbs for a while. We have been doing things for the, had our Bible conference over New Year's, and then got back into, I preached my New Year's sermon to you last week. We have just been having a great time getting some good preaching, which has never hurt anybody.

We talked last week out of the Book of Proverbs about a song in your heart, a heavy heart. We went back to Psalms and we looked at how the nation of Israel was in captivity and all the things that they were struggling with and having a tough time with. We talked about how it is hard to sing the Lord's songs in a strange land. Basically, we talked about Israel's captivity, how they were God's chosen people for what God wanted to accomplish through the world in the Old Testament, but they fell to the world. Instead of being a witness to the world, they became one with the world, and God came down and put them into captivity by that same world system that they decided to follow.

Then, if you remember, I took the inspirational application and I showed you how that it is a picture of our captivity by the world system. We looked at two great principles that really illustrate that. One of them where we talked about somebody taking your garment in the cold. I talked about how that is a picture of the warmth of the Word of God that God has for us, that the worldly blast of the world wants to just put you into an ice age in your life, just absolutely no friend to you in any way, shape, or form. God's warmth of the Word of God is what keeps us. It protects us from that. But when we get into the world system, then the world will take that garment of the Word of God from you.

Then I talked about in the second illustration how vinegar mixed with nitre gives off a stinking smell. We talked about how throughout the Bible, the pleasant odor, the aroma, a perfume, the aloes, the different spices, all represent our relationship with Christ. The Bible says that when we talk about the Lord Jesus Christ, we are a sweet savor and an offering to God. Our relationship, as God sees it, is not about what we do, but rather how we smell, that aroma of the relationship we have with Christ. I showed you how that in the Song of Solomon, every chapter likens you and me and our relationship to a perfumed or a spiced or something that gives off a pleasant aroma that is the picture of our relationship with Christ.

The real key I talked to you last week about was the Garden of Eden. We look at the Garden of Eden and we think of Adam and Eve in the garden and what a beautiful place that was, how it had controlled weather, everything was beautiful, the animals were tamed. It was just a wonderful paradise. In fact, man has tried to get back to that all through history. The great pagan philosophers like Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates, and my favorite was Aesop, he is tough to swallow sometimes if you read him. They all wrote about a utopia. They all wrote about a place because they knew that there was a Garden of Eden at one time. They rejected it, but man wants to get back to that.

When you would go to the South Sea Islands, Tahiti and those places out there, which is literally a tropical paradise, when the British explorers and the Dutch explorers got out there and they saw that, do you know what they called it? They were Bible-based back in that day. Do you know what they called it? They called it the Solomon Islands, based on King Solomon and what he had with the nation of Israel. That Garden of Eden was destroyed. It was wrecked by sin and it destroyed everything. One night they went to bed with the soft purrs of the animals and the birds and the peace and the quiet of the relationship with God, and the next day it was all gone. From that point on, they had to build fires at night to keep warm and keep the animals away. Something had changed. They had lost that perfect estate of the Garden of Eden that God had for them through sin.

The Bible says that Christ came down and died on the cross and He paid your debt, my debt, for our sins. Once you become saved, even though we are in this world, I want you to know that your relationship with God should be just like the Garden of Eden. God takes care of everything in your need. God keeps you warm. God feeds you. God gives you everything. My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. But just like the world came down and destroyed the real Garden of Eden, the world wants to destroy the spiritual Garden of Eden that you have in your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We talked about that last week and we went through it in great detail and laid it out.

Now I know that for the last four, five, six weeks you have just been preached to. There is nothing wrong with that. You need to get preached to. In fact, I may change my mind, I am preached to you this morning because some of you look like you really need it this morning. But you know, you have got to have a balance in everything. Today, we are going to learn a little more about your Bible. I cannot promise you that I will not squeeze a little preaching in some place, but the majority of it is I want to teach you something today. I want you to see some things. Most of you work with people. Our church is just loaded with men and women who are from the Bible Institute, from our people ministry, that you have committed your life to people. That is the key to any ministry, the key to any church. I always like to give you things that will help you. I like to give you things that will help you by teaching you some great principles of the Bible. But then also I like to preach to you to keep you clean so you can use what I give you when I teach you. So there has got to be a balance. There is a balance in everything.

Today we are going to move through a couple of more verses and we are going to look at them. Again, at first sight as we read these, you are probably going to scratch your head and say, "Where is he going to go with it?" Just hang on, I will show you.

Let us read in Proverbs chapter 25, pick it up in verse 21.

Proverbs 25:21-24

If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

I like Greg Kudowski, our own missionary here. Would you stand up, Greg, and ask God's blessing on the preaching this morning, or teaching this morning? I am not going to preach, I am just going to teach. Go ahead. Well, we love you and thank the Lord Jesus Christ. I am going to be here around the final hour. We are going to go to our Father's Church, Father's Church, Lord. After that, we will be very much in prayer for you, and you will be very much in prayer for me. Amen. Thank you, buddy. We are glad you are here. We love you very much, you and your boy.

Now, we are going to take this and we are going to kind of separate out the verses as we begin to lay it out. Like I have taught you many, many times, what we are going to do is we are going to establish a context first, because a text without a context is a pretext. We have got to have a place we start and then we work from there. As I have taught you many, many times, we are going to look at this thing from a doctrinal prophetic application.

I. Doctrinal Context: Israel and the Tribulation

We know from our past studies that the Book of Proverbs doctrinally is a picture of the nation of Israel in the Tribulation period. We know that in Matthew 25 we have a wise man and a foolish man represented by ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. In Proverbs, we see the personification of that and we see Proverbs about a wise man and a foolish man. We know that the Antichrist is likened to a wicked man, so in the Book of Proverbs you will find an evil man. We know that his religion is going to be the Roman Catholic Church and she is likened to a female deity, so you are going to find a strange woman. Everything is found in the Book of Proverbs to doctrinally lay that out.

At the same time, we have learned and we know from our studies in the Scriptures that even though the Bible has a prophetic application, it will also have a practical application. We can learn from that in our everyday life, and it also has a historical application.

Now I want to read here verse 24 for you and let us establish the context. I start here for a reason.

Proverbs 25:24

It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

This will be the second time we find this verse as a reference point in the Book of Proverbs, if you have a trained eye and you are remembering what we are teaching. The last time we saw it was Proverbs 21:9, a while back, and we saw the same verse. You will remember when we did that, that I took the time to take you back to a couple of places in the Bible, Matthew chapter 24, verses 15 through 21.

Matthew 24:15-21

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Then let them which be in Judæa flee into the mountains:

Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

I also gave you Isaiah chapter 22, verses 1 through 5. So let us look at that one again.

Isaiah 22:1-5

The burden of the valley of vision. What aileth thee now, that thou art wholly gone up to the housetops?

Thou that art full of stirs, a tumultuous city, a joyous city: thy slain men are not slain with sword, nor dead in battle.

All thy rulers are fled together, they are bound by the archers: all that are found in thee are bound together, which have fled from far.

Therefore said I, Look away from me; I will weep bitterly, labour not to comfort me, because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people.

For it is a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity by the Lord GOD of hosts in the valley of vision, breaking down the walls, and of crying to the mountains.

The context here is again the Tribulation period. Here is what you have if you remember when we talked about this, and I say this quickly just to refresh your mind as we go back through this. We know the Tribulation lasted seven years. At the midpoint of the Tribulation period, remember the first three and a half years, the Antichrist brings on a false peace, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3. He talks about peace and safety. Then at the middle of the week, that three and a half year mark, at the middle of Daniel's seventieth week, the Antichrist turns on the nation of Israel and this is called in the Bible the abomination of desolation. This is found in Matthew 24:15, Daniel 11, Daniel 8, and 2 Thessalonians 2:4. It is a time when the Antichrist at that midpoint goes into the temple, sits down in the temple, and declares himself to be God and demands that all the world worship Him. That is called the abomination of desolation. It is just like what Nebuchadnezzar does in 606 BC and then Sennacherib does a little before that in 721 BC, and he takes the nation of Israel and turns on them and tries to wipe them out. Both of those men, Nebuchadnezzar and Sennacherib, are types of the Antichrist in the Bible.

The Jews will hear of it. They will go up on the housetop, Isaiah 22, Matthew 24. They will go up on the housetop when they hear that the Antichrist is literally coming down to Jerusalem to accomplish the abomination of desolation and to wipe them out. They go up on the housetop, that is what the references are. They see him coming and then the Bible says that they flee into the wilderness.

In our text, the brawling woman, not your ex-wife, the brawling woman, though it could be, here will be the great whore of Revelation 17. This will be the Antichrist's religion, which we all know as the Roman Catholic system, typified through the Bible in many ways. In the Book of Proverbs, we saw it when we came through Proverbs 5 and then again in Proverbs 7 where she is likened to a strange woman. It is very clear when you read those passages that she is connected with a religion. We see the best example is found in 1 Kings 18 with Jezebel and Ahab. Ahab is the wickedest king that Israel ever has. He is one of the 18 types of the Antichrist within the Old Testament. He has a wife who was a religious prophet, and that is Jezebel. Where Ahab is a type of the Antichrist, Jezebel is a type of his religion, the Roman Catholic Church. In the story of 1 Kings 18, you have Elijah, the prophet of God. I am working on a great sneeze here so just bear with me here. It may come at any time without warning. I think it went to Topeka, it is gone now, we are good.

Now, when you go back there and you put all this into an understandable format, the Jews, when they see the Antichrist coming down, they are up on the rooftops. They see the Antichrist coming down and they flee into the wilderness and they hide out there as they are hunted by the Antichrist. You will find this in Revelation 12:6 and again in Matthew 24:16. When they get into the wilderness, some of the people will help them and some of the people will persecute them. You will find that in Matthew 25:31.

II. Doctrinal Context: The North Wind and the Second Coming

Now, with that little understanding from a doctrinal perspective, we are going to get to the practical here in a moment, but I like to lay it out so you can get these notes in your Bible because I want you to learn these things because this is quite a piece of your Bible if you can get this down today.

Now look at Proverbs 25:23: "The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue." As we stay with the doctrinal for just a few more minutes, we want to get this down. The north wind driveth away rain. The North wind in the Bible or North in the Bible will always be a reference to the Second Coming of Christ. You will find that in Psalms 75:6-7.

Psalms 75:6-7

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Notice how God told you about the East, from the West, from the South, that He put Himself in a place of North. When you study through the Scriptures, you are going to find that when God comes down with the Second Coming of Christ, He comes from the North. That is clear all the way through the Bible. In Ezekiel 1, we talked about Ezekiel last week and about the captive down there by the river Chebar and all of that. I told you, but Ezekiel 1 is a picture of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. When Ezekiel is down there held captive and he sees that vision, that vision is a vision of God's deliverance to the nation of Israel, which is going to take

place at the Second Coming when God brings His people out of their captivity. He says in Ezekiel 1:4:

Ezekiel 1:4

And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

For those of you who are Bible students, there are five key words in this little verse here that every time you find them in the Bible you want to mark them, watch them, because they will denote the context of what you are reading as the Second Coming of Christ. Five of them. The first one is a whirlwind, the second obviously is the North, the third one is a cloud, and then of course the fourth one is a fire, and then of course the fifth one is brightness.

You are going to find in Psalms 48:2, when it talks about heaven and where God's throne is, it says, "on the sides of the north." In Job 26:7, the Bible says that God stretched out the North over the empty place and hangeth the earth upon nothing. In your Bible, if you wanted to find a direct route to God, it would be due North. When the Lord comes back, He comes from the North, comes down to this earth to Mount Sinai, and then goes from east to west as He comes into Jerusalem. That is the picture that is laid out in the Bible.

As you come down through the Bible, and you see that heaven is the direction of North which God comes from, it is no wonder. We know the Bible says that we have the Christ and we have the Antichrist. We know that the devil imitates God in every way, shape, or form. The Bible tells us in the Book of Corinthians that it is no mystery that the devil's ministers are transformed into the ministers of righteousness. He counterfeits everything that God does.

Now we know that heaven is North. So it is no surprising that you find that in the world system there are two Norths. There is what we call magnetic North and there is what we call true North. Just like in this world there is a true gospel and then there is a false gospel. True North is based on the stars that you pull up and you find where true North is. In our world today, when we want to find North, we go to Polaris, what we call the North Star. We use that as a navigational point, but Polaris is about a half a degree off of true North. It has always amazed me that it is just like false religion. The Bible says there are many devices in a man's heart. There are many things that man puts out there that he betrays as being truth, but they are not. The devil's religion will get so close to the truth without actually being the truth. Just like you can get off true North and go to magnetic North. Magnetic North, by the way, changes its position because it is based on the earth, the world. So it changes, it fluctuates. True North never changes.

In the world that we live in of Christianity, I want to tell you if you are saved this morning, if you are on your way to heaven, it is because you put your hope and trust in the throne of God that is true North. If you are caught up in some religion or some false teaching or whatever, it may look good. There are many devices in a man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand. Except the Lord build a house, they labor in vain that build it. I am sorry. Let me work back down here. Thank you for being here today. I would like to take a few moments and share with

you some things that have come my way. I do not have a chapter and verse for that, but you front people in a row probably got a little bit in your Bible anyhow, so here we go. There is true North. Everything in life is a counterfeit. God is going to have a true line. The devil is going to have a false line and he is going to make that false line look so good that 98% of the world is going to buy into it.

So when we find here, promotion comes, heaven is North, then it says it driveth away the rain. Here is another piece of your Bible that you are going to have to learn sooner or later. In the Old Testament, you are going to find a phrase called "the former and the latter rain." You will find that in Joel 2:23, Job 37:6, 2 Chronicles 6:26, 2 Chronicles 7:12, Revelation 16, Revelation 14, Proverbs 16:14-15, Psalm 68:3-9, Revelation 11:6, 2 Samuel 23:4, Hosea 10:12, Jeremiah 14:22, and Isaiah 5:6. No, I will not give them to you again. You are going to find the former and over and over and over again.

Now I am going to tell you right now, I am going to explain it to you. Any time you find the former and the latter rain, the reference hands down is going to be to the end of the Tribulation and the Second Coming of Christ. The definitive passage on it, if we like to start with definitive passages in our Bible studies, the definitive passage on it will be James chapter 5. He says in James 5:7:

James 5:7

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Now I have got to tell you right now, the husbandman here is the Lord Jesus Christ. The fruit that he is waiting for is for the nation of Israel who is like a barren fig tree that in the millennium is going to bear fruit. But the former and the latter rain have to come first.

Now here we go.

James 5:11

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Now look at James 5:17-18:

James 5:17-18

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Here is what you have. In the Old Testament, Elijah was up against Ahab and Jezebel, a type of the Antichrist and his religion. During that time, he shuts up heaven that it does not rain for three

and a half years. During that three and a half years, no rain falls on the earth. At the end of that, he opens up the heavens and the rain comes down.

Now this is what you have. The Tribulation is seven years long and divided into three and a half years each section. The first section is called the Tribulation. The second three and a half is called the Great Tribulation. In the Tribulation, we know from Revelation 11 that Moses and Elijah are the two witnesses that come down. They do their miracles in the Tribulation exactly like they did when their Old Testament up against types of the Antichrist. Moses turns the water to blood in the Tribulation just like he did up against Pharaoh, a type of the Antichrist. Elijah, he shuts up heaven when the Antichrist comes on the scene and that three and a half year mark and goes after Jerusalem. What he does, Elijah shows up, he shuts up heaven that it does not rain. The Bible says it does not rain for three and a half years and then he opens up to heaven at the end of that three and a half years. It rains and the rain brings in the Second Coming of Christ and brings in the Millennium. That is what you have. At the end, the latter rain will come. The Second Coming will take place and God, that is why it says the rain will drive away. The rain will drive away. The north wind will drive away the rain. That rain is the Second Coming that establishes it all. In James 5:18, it says that the earth will bring forth the fruit. Israel now as God's nation will bear the fruit that she has been unable to bear all down through history. We know from our Bible that is a reference to the Millennium.

Now you want to get that down because that is a major piece of your Bible. If there is any confusion on it, we can talk about it Thursday night and I will be glad to help you because I want to move on through this. But make your mental note and if I can take you into more detail, I will be glad to on Thursday night.

III. Practical Application: The Royal Law and Dealing with Enemies

Now that we have laid that doctrinal out, let us go back and let us see how it fits to me and you. Here is some great practical material for all of us. There is some really important stuff here.

Now let us look at Proverbs 25:21. He says this:

Proverbs 25:21

If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

Quickly, doctrinally this will be the Jew in the Tribulation and somebody helping them or somebody not helping them. You will find that in Matthew 26. But inspirationally, now we are going to be for us here. He is basically saying, "Don't do unto others like they do unto you." That is a great principle. We use the common phrase, "turn the other cheek." In the Bible, in James 2:8, you find what is called the royal law. Sometimes it is called the law of Christ. It simply means that you love your neighbor as yourself. In our Christian relationship with each other, there should be no revenge in a Christian's heart to get back at somebody who has done you wrong. No getting even.

Because when somebody does you wrong, and I am going to tell you right now, in the Christian life they will. If you get saved, this new life that is so wonderful, and it is, this life that now is a new beginning for you, and it is, just understand that this is the day the Lord hath made and you are going to get it in the neck. You learn to be happy with that because you understand that in reality, no matter what anybody does to you, says about you, if you do the right thing, they cannot hurt you. I am going to show you that as we come down through here.

When somebody does you wrong and when you do something back just like they did to you, that makes you just like them. Somebody in a confrontation has to be different. Somebody has to follow the principles of the Word of God. You will never win that person to Christ or you will never fix the problem if you cannot show the people that your life is different. When somebody lies about you, attacks you, or does something to you, I know our first thing is to kill them all that God has wrote about. I get it. Our first inclination is to attack them back. That is the old nature.

Romans 14:1 says, "You that are strong." How many love the Bible this morning? Say amen. Do you study the Bible? Amen. Do you fancy yourself kind of strong in the Bible? Amen. That got a little weaker. Let us try that again and this time just lie for the sake of my message, okay? Well, and I speak for you. I would say the majority of you, and even the ones that are not, it is not because you are a bad person, because you are learning and you are just not there yet. I do not think we have any bad people in our church. We got rid of them. The big bad bus pulled out front, we put them on it and sent them away. It is okay. I do not think we have any bad people in our church. Well, wait a minute. I just saw one. We do. I do not think we do. We have people that are in different stages of spiritual growth, but I am going to say this. I think that most of you that have been around here, you are in the Bible Institute, you are in the people, I think you have a strength in the Word of God. I do. Now you may not see it, but I see it and I do. Maybe the rest of you are going to get there.

So what I am saying is this. You that are strong, bear the infirmities of the weak. The mark of a true Christian who has got the book down is you are a problem solver. You are not a problem causer, but it takes a while to get there. But the verse is saying, "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat." I know, I know. Yeah, I will get the moldy bread with the worms in it. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

IV. Practical Application: The Balance of Self-Defense

Now let me say this because you have got to make yourself clear today because in the world we live in, people do not listen and the ones that do listen do not pay much attention. So allow me to say this, and I know you already know this. In everything in life there has to be a balance. This verse does not mean that you just roll over and let the world kill you. So I want to make that clear. I mean, somebody breaks into your house at three o'clock in the morning. If somebody comes in here and starts shooting a place up, God forbid, this is why we have in my pulpit an iron grate in front of it. I will disappear for a few moments. There is a tunnel underneath that leads to the parking lot. Or somebody comes into your home, a home invasion, which happens all the time. God forbid that somebody would try to rape you or abduct one of your children. I

mean, you know, you have got to understand this verse, "If an enemy be hungry," you are feeling, there has got to be a balance in it. I am trying to show you the balance today so you understand because I do not want you to think, go out of here, you know, and somebody breaks into your house and gets one of your kids and he is walking out the door and you say, "Go with God, my son." Well, now that I think about it, in a couple of cases, that probably would be true.

I just told my kids, they said I was afraid. They called them, they call it kidnapping. My kids called them man stealers. Remember that, man stealers? They always were worried about somebody was going to come in and steal them. I never worried about it because I knew if they did, they would have them back in about an hour and we would be okay. I mean, if somebody comes in and they are going to break into your house and they are going to do you bodily harm, just forget that bodily harm, break into your house. You do not drop down to your knees and say, "God, protect me." God gave you more sense than that. You have a right to protect yourself. I do not ever preach them out as much because I do not care one way or the other.

But, you know, in Luke 22:35-38, you have God's official position on gun control. The NRA does not even know it is there. You have God's official position on gun control. In Matthew 10, when he was sending them out to preach the kingdom, he told them, "Don't take anything with you. No script, no this, no that, no sword." The reason why is because the kingdom was going to come. They did not need that protection because when the millennium came, if Christ would have established his coming and his kingdom, there would have been no need for that. So he says in Matthew 10, "Don't take those things with you." But in Luke 22, it is all changed. Now the kingdom is not coming. In Luke 22:35-38, he clearly tells them, "If you don't have a sword, you go get one." Because he is saying in essence, the kingdom is not coming now. There is going to be no protection by me being here in the millennium. So you are going to have to protect your own family and yourself. Not only does he tell them to get a sword, he tells them, he even tells them how many they should have. One of the disciples say, "Well Lord, we have two swords right here." He says, "That's enough."

Now I am a literal Bible expositor. I believe everybody either have two ways to protect yourself, a 9 millimeter and a 357. I am a peaceful guy. But I am telling you, in the world that we live in today, this idea that you can just, God expects you to protect what he has given you. I mean, if somebody came in on Thursday night and tried to destroy my, and get up in front of everybody and destroy what I have taught you to the King James Bible, you would see a shootout. You would see a gunfight, spiritually speaking. I am telling you, you have got to defend what is precious to you. I know, I know, I know. In your garden variety, inky dinky problems, he would come in. I am going to talk about that in a minute. But in the real issues of life, when somebody is threatening your family or threatening you in your home, I mean, I know the Bible has a historical application, a doctrinal application, inspirational application. We teach it all the time. The rules of defending yourself are three point outline too. Good, steady grip, good sight alignment, and squeeze the trigger.

Then David's prayer, David's prayer. David's prayer when he went out to fight Goliath. Because Goliath was a lot bigger, a lot stronger. He had all this stuff. All David had was a slingshot. So they thought. David had a 45 caliber slingshot, but he had the power of God and truth on his side.

David's prayer, even though it is not in the Bible, I will tell you what it is. Allow me this liberty. David's prayer in the Bible was, "Dear God, steady my hands, steady my mind, steady my spirit and put that slug right between that Philistine's eyeballs in Jesus name." I want you to know that there has to be a balance in everything. The world is no friend of yours and the devil would like to use some of his people to take from you what God has given you. I will tell you right now, the only two enemies that guns have is rust and politicians.

You can break into your house. You can say, "Take one of your kids." You can say, "Stop, halt." If they do not speak English, "alto," "next season." Whatever language, the big muzzle pointing in their face is a universal language. Our society is so involved in saving the planet, saving gay sperm whales. They are not interested in saving your family. You as a child of God, you have a right and you have a mandate from God to protect your family.

Now just remember what I always tell you. Never forget this. I know what it is in Raytown since we left all the police officers. I know it is probably true in Kansas City because they are overwhelmed. I have all the most respect for the police on this planet. They have a terrible job and they have my endearing respect and prayers. Every time I see one, I tell him, "Thank him." Just like I do a soldier, "Thank you for your service." I will tell the police officer, "Thank you for putting your life on the line to protect us and be safe." But I face it in the world and I know in Raytown, the 911, put it out, the 911 response for if you were in an emergency in the middle of the night is 15, 12 minutes. You know a lot can happen in 12 to 15 minutes. The 911 response is 12 to 15 minutes in Raytown. But the response time of our 357 Magnum is 1200 feet per second. You figure it out. You figure it out. Well, I guess I am done with that.

Hey, do not misunderstand me. If you have to shoot somebody in your house and they break in and you shoot them, call 911, get a thing and if you shot him bad, try to win him to Christ before he dies. No, I would. I would get down there with him and I would say, "Look, you now know that crime doesn't pay. Jesus died for you and you're about to meet him." Oh boy. So there are times when you have to take your stand. You have to defend yourself.

V. Practical Application: Overcoming Evil with Good

In the ministry, there will be times that people will lie about you. You do not lie back about them. There were times when they lie about your ministry. Any pastor who has been in the ministry for probably more than five years will tell you, I am telling you every aspect of this is true. But you do not return the favor by saying something nasty about them. That makes you just like them. No, all you have to do is lay out the truth. You know, we have in this country a freedom of speech, which is a great thing, but I want to tell you something. If you say something, you have to be held accountable for what you say. You just lay out the truth.

I tell everybody you work with people all the time. The number one thing I tell you, document what you do. Document what you say. Document what you give them. I mean, you know, in this world that we live in today, it is hard to get away with a crime. There are security cameras everywhere. I do not know where you can go that you are not on candid camera. They had that guy that blew up those bombs at the Boston Marathon. Do you know how they found him, them

two guys? They put a grid together and put the put it and then they brought in a cop off the beat there with the Boston Police Department. They saw in one camera which direction he came. So they commandeered every camera going down for a mile on that side, on this side, and tracked him where he came from, walking down to where he got when he shut down his bomb. Unbelievable. Unbelievable. Greg was telling me he took a class this week about blood splatter. You can shoot somebody and you can say, "Well, it's suicide," and they can go in and look at the splatter of the blood and it tells you if it was a suicide or not. You cannot get away with nothing. I am telling you, the truth, the truth will always hold the line in anything that is not true. But you do not want to get your emotions involved because you do not have to. Because in any altercation, the truth will always be evident of who is right and who is wrong. Let God be true and every man a liar.

That is why people with issues, and it has been true in my whole ministry, this is why people with issues will never sit down and try to work it out. Because somebody lied. Shutting down with an open Bible and bringing the principles in will come away with liar pants on fire. You know, the pastor's job has many, many dimensions to it. There will be times in any church, in any pastor, where an issue will come up, church-wide, some problem. Many times people will leave or people will cause problems and they are simply lying about it. They are not telling the truth. But the pastor realizes that he is in a tough position. He is in a tough position. Because he knows that the devil will use people like that to bring about what we call collateral damage. Because young Christians out there, they will make sure that the devil makes sure that they hear their side of the story. It can hurt, you know, it is like throwing a rock into a pond. It has that ripple effect and each farther it gets out, the more people that it touches. The pastor's job in those situations, and I have been in it times in my life, every pastor has. The job of a pastor is in those moments, lead the church through those issues. Keep the collateral damage to a minimum. You do not attack the person, you do not go after the person, you do not counter by lying about them, you simply walk your church through telling them the truth. Offering those people a chance to come in and fix it. But in common, everyday issues, you just do what Jesus would do. You would be a problem solver, not a problem-causer.

There were times like in Matthew 23 that Jesus took the scribes and the Pharisees to task. There will be time that you have to do it. But he did it with truth. You know what his favorite line was? "You do greatly err." Finish it, Kelly. "You do greatly err, not knowing the scriptures." She knows that because I said that to her many times when I was getting ready to paddle her. "You do greatly err, not knowing the scriptures." Why, if on the cross, when Jesus is being crucified, he was lied about, he was attacked, his ministry, they said he had a devil. If on the cross he could say, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do," shouldn't we be able to do that? I mean, 98% of these petty life problems that people have, if it was just dealt with simply by the Bible and holding people accountable to what they say, it would be over.

Look at Proverbs 25:22.

Proverbs 25:22

For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

Now let us talk about those coals of fire. You see, when you get into a situation with somebody, the coals of fire will be the principles of the Word of God that you hold them accountable with. You follow in dealing with any circumstance. I never let my emotions get involved anymore. I am older now, I understand more now, I see the big picture. I realize how things go, and I realize how powerful the truth is up against somebody that is not telling the truth. I realize that if you want to burn somebody bad, if you want to stick them harder, faster, and stronger than any nasty thing you could ever say about them, just sit down with them and open up the Bible and see what sayeth the scriptures.

Matthew 18. We had my Lincoln Bible study this last week, and we are going through Matthew. We were in Matthew 18, and I showed them the format in Matthew 18 that God gave if you have a problem with somebody. He says you go to that person, and if that person will not hear you, then you take somebody with you that every word is established, documentation. If that will not work, then you take it to the church. If that does not work, then he says after the third time you treat them as a heathen and a publican. If they want to act like an unsaved person, then treat them like one. He says down here that those coals of fire upon their head, that is the principles of the Word of God that in any given situation when you bring in the principles, it will solve the problem if they want to solve the problem. He says the last part of that verse, 22, "and the Lord shall reward thee." God will bless you for following the principles and using them, and He will protect you through it. In any situation, God will always bless the one who follows the principles and stays with the book. That is just the way it works.

Now, a great example of this in the New Testament will be the Book of Romans, in particular Romans 12. I have told you before that, you know, when you come through the New Testament the way it lays out, you have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are fundamentally historical books. They will bring you from the Old Testament up into the beginning of the New Testament, and then you have the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts is an incredible book. Most people do not see the value of Acts as its true value. They look at it as a bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament, no problem with that. Coming from the Jew to the Gentile, I get it, 100 percent. But I will tell you what the Book of Acts does even more for you if you are paying attention. The Book of Acts defines for you. Remember now, the church age officially does not start until Acts 20. So you have all this intermediate period of time here, and over in Revelation when you have the seven periods of church history, it tells you clearly that the one begins with Ephesus. In Acts 20, Paul, before he goes to Jerusalem, he is right there at Ephesus, and that is where fundamentally, technically speaking, the church age begins as far as God's time ticker or taking off the time. He says there when he comes up there, you will find that everything in the Book of Acts will define for you where it is all going. The Book of Acts is written around three cities, Alexandria, Egypt, Antioch of Syria, and Rome. So when you get down a little bit farther into your manuscript evidence, you will want to find your Bible. You will find there are three families of manuscripts. You will find there is the Alexandrian manuscripts, they are called the Hesychian text. You will find the Western text, which is the Roman text. Then you will find your King James Bible comes from Antioch out of Syria, the Syrian Byzantine text. It is all right there in Acts. Acts defines everything for you. So Acts is key.

Ah, but when you come to the Book of Romans, where Acts defines everything, now Romans will be the Christian handbook on doctrine. Where Acts tells you what to look for, Romans tells you what we are going to believe. Chapter by chapter, he lays out to the church the doctrines that we are to believe that Christianity is built on. So in Romans 1, he shows you that the Gentiles are a mess. In Romans 2, he shows you that Jews are in the same mess. In Romans 3 and Romans 4, he shows that the Jews following the law and the Gentiles following their conscience will not solve the mess. When you get into Romans 5, he tells you why following God and God's righteousness is the answer to the mess. Down you go.

When you get into Romans 12, Romans 12 is the great living sacrifice chapter. Romans 12 tells us that you and I should be a living sacrifice. Christ became the dead sacrifice for you and for me on the cross of Calvary. He will not ask you to die for him other than maybe in special cases, but most of us will never be, God will never ask us to die for him physically, but he does ask us to die for him spiritually and become that living sacrifice. In my life, in my ministry, my personal guide to dealing with people, I call them my people principles, are found right here in this great chapter because I know that my life needs to be a living sacrifice. I know it is not, but I know what needs to be. I know it needs to be that I am not worried about what I get from you. I am only worried about what I can give you and what sacrifices I have to make to give you that. I am willing to do that based on the sacrifice that he was willing to do to give me what I have got.

He says in Romans 12:9, I will just give you a few of them.

Romans 12:9

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

By definition, dissimulation is hiding under a false appearance. We tell people we love them and we really do not love them. We tell people, "I will pray for you," when we have no intention of praying for them. Our love is all feigned. Our love is all conditional. Most pastors' love for their people is based on what they can get, he can get from them, not unconditional. If God had to love you and me on what he was going to get from us, we would be in hell this morning. God's love had to be unconditional. He had to love you the way you are. He had to love me the way I am, and I separated me from you because he had to put a lot of overtime on me. He took us where we were and yet I find that God's people are not willing to take people where they are at. We all want one thing in Christian life. We want people to be perfect except us. Now you are going to find perfect people. You are going to have to love people imperfectly because if you wait to find the perfect person, you are never going to find them. He says, "Let love be without dissimulation."

In Romans 12:10, he says:

Romans 12:10

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

You know Christianity is a family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. I am Father Bob. You know as well as I do, you all have families. Is there any perfect family? Let me tell you, I will

not ask about yours. Let me tell you about mine. Volumes could be filled. Everybody has got a crazy aunt. Everybody has got a crazy uncle. Everybody has got crazy in-laws. Everybody, no family is perfect. Yet you know what? You have got to, unless you want to just have some real hell on earth, you have got to learn to live in that situation.

Now I do not have the best relationship with the other side of my family. My sister and my brother-in-law, we are cool. I love them to death. But I, you know, I do not have the best relationship. But I will tell you this, I extend myself to work on it and I just, I realize that that is what I am up against. I do not like the things that they do. I do not like some of the things they say. I certainly do not like some of the things they believe. But you know what? That is where they are at. You know what? I have been in situations where I extended myself because I thought I would have a chance maybe to reach them. I do not have any illusion of that here. I just do it because that is what Jesus would do. I try to be the best testimony I can to them. I am going to go through tough times. I will be sympathetic for them. I may be thinking something else in my mind, but I am not going to say that to them because they are not, they do not want to hear that. They need to know that I am family. Families stick together. It does not mean that families do not have their issues. We all have our issues. My sister and I love each other now at this point in life. She is one of the finest women on this planet. She would do anything for anybody. She likes dogs too. But she is one of the greatest women I have ever met in my life. I have never had any problem with John, her husband. He is one of the finest men on this planet. I love him to death.

But my sister and I did not grow up that way. We had many knockdown drag-outs. My sister went through her wild time just like I did. My sister was very rebellious as she was growing up. She would tell you this. She could not tell her anything. She was a genius. She was so smart. She graduated from high school when she was a junior. I was so stupid. I had to bribe the sixth grade teacher to get out of the seventh grade. It was a thing where she was a genius. You know, but she had a wild side to her back in the day. I remember, nobody could tell her anything. I remember one time she wanted to dye her hair, you know, yellow blonde because that was the rage back then. You know, Marilyn Monroe and Jayne Mansfield and all that. This is back before the internet. My mom did not want her to do it. She would not do it anyhow. I do not know what she did, but it turned out green. Now if that would have happened today, it would have been okay. Well, you see some wear and tear colors out there. I will tell you what. I saw one lady, her hair was so rusty red. I thought me and a little WD-40 would take that rust right off of that. But you know, and then, but today, she is incredible. I mean, we have a genuine love for each other because you know what? Families ought to get over everything. I feel bad when you see families that cannot get together. I get that. Sometimes it happens. Sometimes it is no fault of yours. Sometimes you have done everything, but the circumstances are out of your control. But we need to be kindly affectioned to one another here. I mean, we need to work. We all have the same Bible. We escape. We believe it.

Then he says in Romans 12:13:

Romans 12:13

Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

That is taking care of people the best you can. That is seeing what people's needs are. That is not being such a world unto yourself, you know. Most people cannot see the big picture in life because they will keep looking at a self-portrait.

Then he says in Romans 12:14:

Romans 12:14

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

You know, you have got to learn not to take it personal. You have got to realize that people go through issues. They go through struggles. You know, I mean, I absolve other people's stupidity through my own stupidity.

Then he says in Romans 12:16:

Romans 12:16

Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Now it says there that we are being of the same mind together. You know, when two Christians have the same mind, the mind of Christ, and using the principles, where they are going, the problems go away because you will use the principles. You will use the principles.

Then he closes out this great chapter with Romans 12:17-21 where we find here our verse in Proverbs 25:20.

Romans 12:17-21

Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

That is a great principle. Be honest with people. Do not tell them one thing and then do something behind their back. When somebody does something evil to you, do not get even. Do not get even. He says in Romans 12:18, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." That is a great principle. I am going to tell you right now, you cannot always do that. But if you cannot do it, it needs to make sure you cannot do it not because of something that you did. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath." I like that. That is a great principle. Give place unto wrath. You know what that place is? In the principles of the Word of God. That is the place you put your wrath. There are things that people will do that

will frost you, irritate you, anger you. I will be the first to tell you, people I have done in my life, they have done things that have angered me and I will process it for a while, deal with it for a while, and then I will just simply think about all the times I have angered God and it kind of just goes away.

Therefore, here is our verse, Romans 12:20. "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." Now there is the principle. This is a great example of Paul taking an Old Testament passage and an Old Testament principle to Israel and then giving you the inspirational application how it crosses over right into our world today. He closes out Romans 12:21 with a great verse. "Be not overcome of evil," because evil can overcome you if you let it. But I want to tell you something, no evil will ever overcome you unless you allow it to. Nobody has control of your emotions. Nobody has control of how you respond or how you react. Nobody. You have complete control. The Bible says over there in 1 Corinthians, I think it is 13 or 14, it says the prophets have rule over their own spirit. You have your own rule. Nobody can take advantage of that unless you allow them. "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

I remember one time when I was in the army years and years and years ago and I was not a Christian back then but there was this kid, his first name was John, I cannot remember his last name, tall kid from California, good looking kid, blonde hair. He was a committed Christian. Everybody gave him trouble. They would laugh at him and make fun of him and when everybody was playing poker at night doing this or whatever they were doing, you would see him in the Bible and before he went to bed, he would kneel down and he would pray before he went to bed. He was not one of these guys who said, "Oh God bless all these sinners." He just got on his knees with his Bible and he prayed. You know the guys did, they threw their combat boots at him. They laughed at him. They turned the lights out, everybody go to bed. You know in the morning, he shined every one of those combat boots. Now how do you go against that? What do you do with that? I mean here you are, you threw your boots down to make fun of this guy because he is praying and then he polished your boots for you. You know what he did? He overcame evil with good. Now I know it is a balance. When somebody breaks into your house, you overcome evil with a good shot. In the petty everyday stuff, you overcome evil with good. The principle is the Word of God.

VI. Practical Application: Observations for Ministry and Life

Now back to Proverbs 25:23-24 here. Move through this thing. "North wind driveth away rain." Simply put, the Word of God, the Spirit of God, which is likened to wind in the Bible, will clear any air of right and wrong and any problems. It will clear it. The north wind, the Holy Spirit of God, driveth away any rain. You have got problems in your world, you are down to deal with problems, you could just get down on your knees and pray together and after the Holy Spirit of God opened up the Word of God, it will go away. It will expose who is right and who is wrong. Truth and the principles always will.

Proverbs 25:24, "the housetop." That is a vantage point to see trouble coming. Doctrinally, historically too, because historically it was going up and seeing Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar

coming down, but doctrinally and historically they are going up on a literal rooftop and they are seeing what is coming their way that is going to try to take them captive. From a practical application, the housetop will be your vantage point of the principles of the Word of God that God will show you what is coming your way before it hits you. I mean that is probably hard for the average person, but any preacher that has been in the ministry 10 or 20 years, you learn the patterns of things.

Over the years I have seen people come in in my ministry, not so much here, but in times past and based on their attitude, their lifestyles, and their approach to the Bible, I would say to myself that person is going to be a problem at some point. Usually it is people that have a lot of money. I have had all my ministry people that had a lot of money. I thank God there is anybody, no millionaires in this church. I really do. I had a guy one time that we were trying to start a church in a little town here in northern Missouri and he wanted a pastor up there and all that stuff and there was a little group of people up there and the guy going up was going to have to get a job and all this and this guy come up and he said, and I did not like this guy, I did not trust this guy from the get-go, just something about it. He stepped up in a meeting and he said, "You know what, I've talked to my wife and we're going to pay this pastor's complete salary for the first three years he's up here." Everybody went crazy. I thought to myself that I am never going to work. Sounds good, does not it? It sounds good that the first time you have a problem and then he pulls your money. I know how it works. It sounds real good that he does not get his way in something because it is nothing better for a rich guy than buying a preacher. I know how it works. I know how it works. If he really wanted to do it, you know what he would have done? He would not have said anything to anybody. He would have got a check someplace that nobody could have traced and he would put a note in there like the kidnappers do where you cut out to paste the things on the paper. I watch too many Criminal Minds episodes of telling him. Nobody knows it.

I will tell you something else. I have had in my years over the ministry parents and their kids could never do anything wrong. It is always somebody else's fault. When I see that, I know that sooner or later Zach is going to have a problem. Zach is going to have to deal with somebody and they are going to run home and tell mommy. Mommy is going to call me and that I am going to have to get in the middle of it. It is a thing where I just know those things happen. We do not have those problems today. Your parents let you kick those kids all over the place. That is good. But it is a thing where you work so well good with all the parents. I get that. But I have been in my situation. I was a youth pastor. I had two people in a church years and years ago. They are both dead now and I do not even remember their name. But anyway, Steve would know. Steve Bracken would know. Steve probably knows his story because Steve was in the mafia back then and he was part of that whole system.

This kid, he was a high school kid and I was a youth pastor. He got over to his girlfriend's house or one of those girls. I do not know if it was girlfriend or not. But he was a very spoiled brat. This is back in the day when I still had my white horse. This girl called me and she says he is over here and he is acting really crazy and he says he is going to kill himself. Well, what I should have done, just so you know, what I should have done is called mom and dad and say, "Your son is over at so and so's house. They're having some issues. He's threatening to kill himself. Now,

you need to probably go deal with it." Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no. This was about 11:30 at night. No, no, no, no, no. I could hear him in the barn. Cowboy up. I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy. I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy, too. We see by our outfits that we are both cowboys. You get you a cowboy suit and you can be a cowboy, too. I know how it goes. So I went out to the garage. Ho, ho, ho. I could hear at night. I could hear those metal cleats on the street. Nothing back in the day. Nothing motivated me like steel hooves on the cobblestone streets of Raytown. My wife still says as I rode off, she could see sparks flying out from those hooves as I rode to save this young man from himself.

So I get there. He is obstinate because he is busted. See? So I says, "Get in a car to take you home." I know you thought I was going to say, "Get on a horse. We're going home." So I am taking and I can see now I am starting to see this kid has changed completely. Now he is saying, "Well, why don't you just run into that pole in a freeway and kill us both?" I said, "Because this is my wife's car and if I survived, she would kill me for sure." I do not think so. I am not going to break my horsie's neck for you. So I get him home. Okay. I get him home. Mom and dad. This is now like midnight. Lights on the front porch. Walk in. I explained to them, dad and mom are not looking happy. Now I am thinking they are not looking happy because of the fact that, you know, that he has done wrong. No, no, no. They are not happy with me. The first word that other dad's about. I said, I explained it to dad. Said, "Well, we'll have to see about that." I knew I was busted right there. You see the boy played his parents because he had been playing his parents for years. So now the parents, the boy said to the parents, "I ain't going back to church." He never did come back to church. They went to see the pastor the next day. Pastor called me and he was cool about it. He knew what was going on, but he said, "We got a problem here because the parents are blaming you because he's not coming back to church." I got it. I mean, I understood. I learned my lesson. I, you know, I stepped, I actually stepped over the bounds. I should have called the parents and had them come and get him. If the kid had killed himself by then, you can use two big Glad bags to the body bags. Get there. Hey, I am telling you.

I over the years I have seen people, you know, they come in and you just know you are going to, there is going to be a problem here. I have had people in my ministry that you could not teach them anything. They always knew everything. You know what? When you think you all know everything, when you are coming up against a guy who does not know everything, you are going to be in trouble. Not really. Kind of. I know I am in trouble. I am going to, you are going to have problems. What is the Bible will put you on a rooftop. Through insight of the principles, perception to the Word of God and discernment, you begin to see everything, how it works out. You just keep preaching the book, the truth. You know, you, but you have got to remember this. Always be willing to sit down and work something out. You have to, you know, with husbands and wives, you have to. With you and your kids, you have to. With brother and sisters in Christ, you have to. With me and you, you have to. I cannot tell you how many times that we could have solved the problem if somebody would have just brought me the problems that are going to everybody in the world. That is because there should be nothing that two Christians cannot work through the truth if the truth is the same mind.

You know, over the years I have given you key principles that I have found based on my time in dealing with people and learning the patterns and all the situations and actually the mistakes that I have made. I have watched people for almost 50 years. I have watched them. I have studied them. I have seen them at their best and I have seen them at their worst. I have had people that I have honestly unconditionally give everything I had to them and get a sharp stick in the eye. I have seen people that I have given them everything unconditionally and they do something with it. I have seen both sides of the fence. These things that I have learned over the years and I give them to you from time to time. I just never gave them to you in one setting. But these things have saved me a lot of time and a lot of energy and a lot of grief. I call them my ten absolutes in ministry or my observations from a rooftop.

The first thing I always tell myself, and I have told you this before, you do not need to write these down. They are not that good.

1. The first thing I always tell myself and never forget that the ministry is people. We think that because we get into ministry with people that people will not have problems. People will not always do what you want them to do. They will not always do what is right. I know there is accountability of factored or has to be a spaces of truth. I get it. I get it. But you are going to realize as you know and being human there is no perfect human being. I have people all the time that they got this illusion that they are looking for, you know, no church is perfect. But they get this illusion. I do not like this one. I do not like that. They are looking for the perfect church. I got news for you. There is no perfect church. I will tell you something else. If by some strange phenomena you would find the perfect church, do not join it. It will not be perfect anymore. We all have issues. We are family. We do not go trying to find the utopia church that does not have any issues. We do not need to do that. We know where the ministry is. People, we are going to have issues. We use the Bible, the principles, to resolve those issues.
2. The second thing I have learned. Boy have I learned this. Time proves all things. When nobody else will tell, time will. The hand of God in a person's life will reveal itself. The Bible says if any man loved God, the same is known of him. I have seen people that claim to be right with God claim this brother in five, ten, fifteen years. I got a message I will preach to you sometime. I have never preached it. I got it done for 25 years and this never felt like preaching it. But it is a great message. I keep adding to it. So it probably takes us four or five hours to get through it now. The name of my message is, "Where are they now?" Where are they now? Where are the people that you started to disciple that did not like the way you did it? You stick in the book. You are still working with people. Where are they now? Is their life better?
3. The third thing. Oh boy this is a good one too for me. Short term versus long term. Look at the short term decisions you make in light of the long term consequences. Not a great principle.
4. The fourth one. This is so true. You cannot make somebody do right more than they want to. You just cannot. You know you find people that you work with strongholds in their life and you all work with them. I have worked with them all my life. They are in the drugs. They are in the alcohol. They are in the, they are in the whatever. You know life must be about the

choices that we make. When you start to work with somebody you have got to be very careful because you want them to do right more than they do. So you will violate the biblical principles because you think you are helping them and then you will wind up getting taken advantage of. People with strongholds will lie to you about everything on this planet. People that are alcoholics, people that are drug addicts, people hooked up a drug, they will look at you and lie to you and just go out and do whatever they want to do. You have to understand that there has to be a basis and accountability of truth. And anybody you are working with.

5. The fifth one. Well I know you have heard all these before but you know you remember me this morning. You cannot fix issues with the same thinking process that caused those issues. You have got to change your thinking patterns. Patterns of thought will lead to attitudes and attitudes will lead to action. If you want to fix the action you have got to attack the attitude. You have got to change how you look at things and how you think about things if you are ever going to change the long-term outcome of the action.
6. The sixth one. Be smarter than the problem. You want to see it as it really is. Any issue. The way you do that is through the principles because there are so many examples and models in the Bible to show you exactly what you are dealing with. I give them to you in people ministry all the time. I give them to you at an institute when we run across them. You want to see things as they really are not as they appear. When you have a problem in your life you want to be honest about it. You want to follow the principles not the feeling.
7. The seventh one. I have heard you guys preach all this and devotions and everything. It is a simple three-point concept. Look behind, look around, or look ahead. In any situation you have to deal with you want to first of all ask the person, have the person understand how they got where they are at. That is important. Once they understand how they got where they are at then you want to know and want to help them understand what they can do to get out of it. Then you want to put a plan where you are going to go from here to get out of it. You have got to look behind. You have got to look where you are at. Then you have got to look away out of it.
8. The eighth one. I have watched this over the years. Good people do not leave good churches. Now I know you move away. We have little Lisa and her husband that gets transferred to the Marine Corps down there but she is on this morning I guarantee you. She is even in one of the prayer groups on the phone. She is in discipleship on the phone. So there are exceptions to that. I get that. I get that. I get that. But you know most people leave churches because they do not have any real investment in it. I look at some of you out here who, which is most of you. If you left next week because you got your nose bent in a joint, who would pick up all the people you are working with? Will you just leave them? You know what when push comes when shovel you do not always get your own way and maybe you get a little nose bent out of joint about something. You know what the thing that will hold your feet to the fire. The investment you have made in the place that God has put you in here. The investment of you, your family. I mean let me ask you a question. What little petty problem could it come into your life that would cancel out all the blessings that God has given to you in working with somebody and seeing God change their lives? Really. Come on. Really. You know why they do. You do not have any investment. It means nothing to you because you did nothing with it. It is just a better deal for you. I get it.

9. The ninth one is so true. We have talked about this all the time that if it starts wrong it will usually end wrong. Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain to build it. You get hooked up with a guy or a gal and you do not do it biblically. It is probably not going to work out the way that God wants you to. You do not change your kids right and train them in the principles of the Word of God and hold them accountable. Probably not going to work out for you the way it should.
10. The tenth one based on what we are talking about today. People who will not work to solve a problem are the problem. It is just that simple. It is a simple formula. The person who is willing to sit down and fix any issue has nothing to hide. They are open and honest. The person who will not knows that they do not have the truth on their side. I am telling you right now they are Christian in Christianity. The love and Christianity will be with dissimulation. It will be false, phony on the outside but when it comes down to really rubber meeting the road and dealing with the principles in any given situation you will not do it.

Our job, you said over there in Romans 12, "If it be possible as much as lies within you live peaceably with all men." That is what we do. Because we are supposed to be like-minded. We are supposed to look at our enemies and understand the big picture why our enemies are the way they are. We try to help them. Maybe you can, maybe you cannot. But becoming like them is never the answer. Because somebody has to stand for what is right. Somebody at the end of the day has to go to the Bible in any given situation and point out book, chapter, verse of why I do what I do. When you cannot fix someone, somebody, when you cannot get something worked out with somebody, then simply make sure that truth and the principles of truth are on your side. "Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good."

This brings us back to Proverbs and everything we have been looking about, people ministry, Bible Institute, your involvement and investment with people's lives. It simply comes down to the point of an importance of a principled life. Giving your life by the principles of the Word of God. Every decision you make, everything that you look at, have a principle that will carry you through. Document what you do, document what you say, and let it all fall back on the Word of God. You can never go wrong with the principles. Well, we will hold up there.