

# Proverbs 29:8-10

Sunday 12/22/2019

I forgot to announce, and my faithful compadre John Hill reminded me, that next Sunday we are going to take communion. So you can come for that, and we will do that right in the middle between New Year's and everything we are going to do. That will be a great time too.

Now, last week we were in Proverbs chapter 29. Last week we were in verses 5, 6, and 7. We talked about how the Bible uses the concept of flattery. We all like flattery, flattering people and all that. I was not trying to say that you should not flatter people. I mean, flattery is, but the Bible talks about that there are people who use that in the wrong way. We saw that last week and we talked about how it can become an issue when people will use it to deceive you, to maybe take some kind of advantage of you. Then we talked about pastors and flattery and all of that. There is nothing wrong with telling the pastor that he did a good job. That is not what I am talking about. It is a thing where people will try to get something from somebody by flattering them and saying things to them.

I told you that as a pastor, you need to preach the truth. Truth needs no flattery. It needs no propping up. I mean, you have to be careful how you use it. Grace and truth, I get all of that. We looked at three key words. These three key words are when you find them in your Bible, you will always want to take a closer look at the context.

1. The first word was the wordnet, like a fishing net, to catch something in a net.
2. The second one was the wordsnare, that you would set to catch some kind of animal.
3. The third one was the wordpit.

When you find these three words in the Bible, you just want to slow up and take a closer look at the context because doctrinally in the Old Testament, you do not really find it in the New Testament, but you find it throughout the Old Testament. Those three words will be used many times. We always know that the context will be the Antichrist and his plan to wipe out the nation of Israel during the Tribulation period. So you want to remember that.

Also, we saw how that the wicked will always get caught in their own trap. That is throughout the Bible too. The trap you set for somebody else, you are going to fall into it yourself. Of course, doctrinally, we talked about how that is a picture of the Tribulation period, how the Antichrist lures the Jew down in the wilderness and then tries to wipe him out in the valley of Armageddon and setting a trap for them. Then of course, at the Second Coming, he gets caught in his own trap. I told you how that, doctrinally, it is for the Jew in the Tribulation period during the Nation of Israel.

Inspirationally, it is for you and for me in a practical way. A great verse for either Old Testament Jew going through what he went through or you and me going through what I go through is Isaiah 54:17, where it talks about the protection of God in your life and my life where He says:

*Isaiah 54:17*

*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.*

We saw because of God's hand of protection in our lives, we saw how that we can, one of the verses, sing and rejoice in the victory that God has given us. I also told you last week, you remember that this world is in darkness and the devil likes to put those pitfalls and those snares all through, hoping that we will fall into them and many times we do. But the word of God is a light and the Bible says, and I gave you the verse of Psalms 119:105:

*Psalms 119:105*

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

It lights the way to show you where the pitfalls are. Also in verse 17, the great principle in all we do dealing with people, seeing and understanding not just the condition of people that they are in, but the cause of their condition. When you want, and we are going to talk about this in a little bit, when you start to deal with people, I know we want to make the condition better, but you can never deal with the condition until you understand the cause. What put them in that condition and do they understand that?

I tell people all the time, you have problems in your life, I have 10,000 people in this church that I can put with you that will help you, but the problem is if I had a million, unless you want to do what we tell you to do, the people are not going to help you. You have to come to that place where you understand the cause of your condition. I closed out and left you with this thought last week, which was a sobering thought, one that I have asked myself many, many times: In your Christian life or even in this church, what do we do for Christ that an unsaved man could not do? That is an incredible deal.

## I. Scornful Men and Wise Men

Now today we are going to look at a couple of more verses here in verses 8, 9 and 10. So follow with me as we read through this and then we will go from there. It says:

*Proverbs 29:8-10*

*Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath.*

*If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.*

*The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.*

Pastor Sean, would you stand up back there? I know you are back there someplace. Ask God's blessing on the service this morning for me.

[Prayer by Pastor Kevin] Father God, we thank you for your support in the community and now today we would thank you for the church and ministry to give you the authority to place you. Lord, most importantly, we are grateful for where God has been given to us for the very course of fire for what I can pray your hands on but I'll go to the preaching to you this morning to help

us to put aside everything else that may be going on in our lives and that we have going on later today so that our hearts can be turned to you more than what you have for us. That's what I'm saying. Thank you, buddy, good job.[End Prayer]

Now verse 8 says:

*Proverbs 29:8*

*Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath.*

This is a great practical principle that I want to talk about here in a moment and it is one that you will want to get down. I think that probably most of you will understand it but we will put it into a little better understandable context for you.

First of all, just like we always do, let us get the doctrinal aspect out of the way first. The scornful men here will obviously be the guys up there in verses 5 and 6 that we have already studied the last couple of weeks. That will, through their personal agenda and through their flattery, will destroy a city. Now, doctrinally, that city obviously will be Jerusalem in the Antichrist and that is exactly what he does.

Historically, that will be the kings of Israel. In the Old Testament, God's city was Jerusalem. There is no question about that. The Jews lost that back in when the times and the Gentiles came in and they are going to get it back someday. But right now, or back in the Old Testament, we saw that David and Solomon were two of the greatest kings that Israel ever had. But after they are off the throne, we start to see historically this verse come into play. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, takes over the nation of Israel and he quickly splits the kingdom. When he did that, he violated one of the great principles taught throughout the whole Bible about divide and conquer. Now, instead of the nation being unified together, they are split apart and actually fight a number of civil wars among themselves. But it certainly weakened them that their adversary who wanted to destroy them anyhow, made them a lot easier.

From that point on, we have the two Southern tribes, which we know as Judah. Then we have the 10 Northern tribes, which we know as Israel. Each one of them, up to the captivity of Nebuchadnezzar and the Shinach, the Ribbon of Syria, we have 19 kings on both sides. Judah has 19 kings and Israel has 19 kings. This is where you begin to see this verse come into play from a historical aspect. Rehoboam is a wicked king. He sets in play the disaster that is going to unfold some 300, 400 years later. We have Jeroboam who is not very good, Amasa, Ahaz. All these men are wicked kings. There was a bunch of them. I just did not take the time this morning. All of them become a snare to the city.

Then you have some good guys. You have Asa, you have Jehoshaphat, you have Uzziah, you have Hezekiah. They turn it around and try to bring it back to God. So we see historically how that verse fits there. Then we have the 10 tribes of Israel, the northern tribes, and they have 19 kings and they are all bad. The worst one of the bunch is Ahab and the Bible says that he is the worst king that Israel ever had. But all of their kings lead them and become a snare to the city. But the wise men that we find like Asa, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah and Hezekiah and some of the other ones, they try to turn that thing back around as best that they can.

## II. The Snare of the Cities

Yet we see the doctrinal and we see the historical, but the inspirational is the practical for you and for me. It is one of the most amazing parallels. I talk about all the time the parallels between the Old Testament nation of Israel and what they went through. A New Testament Christianity and what we go through. We are told in the book of 1 Corinthians that the things that happened to them were for our own samples and our examples. For our admonition, we are to learn from what happened to them. Of course, I have told you many, many times, we are not very good in America and we are not very good in Christianity by learning from history. When men do not learn from history, then men fail to learn the lessons and they repeat them. So inspirationally, this verse I want to talk about for a few minutes will fit right into where you and I are at today in this nation in the United States.

Now let me just say this before we go any farther. So I do not want to be downlined, confused of this being a political thing. I am not political in any way, shape or form. I think the Republicans and the Democrats are both crooks. I have no use for either one of them. I do not care about who gets to be president. I mean, obviously, John made a good point here. John Christensen a couple of while back, we had a decision and we were talking about discussion on Thursday night. He said, well, you want a president that is going to be pro the nation of Israel, 100%. I am with you on that one. That is a great statement. John never misses the boat. That is good, you do. But bottom line is, come on. You know as well as I do that politicians will tell you whatever you want to hear to get into office.

I have told you before how that our founding fathers way back when this country was put together, they wanted it built on the word of God. Two wise men that set this country at the beginning on the course through their preaching was George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards. Now you do not have to, this is not some Baptist history lesson, you can go to any public library in Kansas City or any city you are living in and find his information. They literally through their preaching as the proverb says, they literally through their wisdom kept this nation on track from about 1700 by their preaching. Of course they died long after, but about up to 1850.

Today our nation has through our cities like verse 8 talking about have become a snare. Where once we used to talk about the beautiful cities in our country and talk about the places to go on vacation and the nice places you can go to take your family. Let me tell you something, there is no safe place anywhere in America today. I am not sure there is any safe place in the world other than being in the arms of the Lord Jesus. But I am telling you right now that this country has got some problems and this country has got some issues. I am going to also tell you that there is not any form of government that is going to fix it. The Democrats are not going to fix it, the Republicans are not going to fix it, but let me tell you who is going to fix it. When the Lord comes back, He is going to fix it. That is the government I am looking for. See, that is the one that will get it all laid out and straightened out.

You see it all the time where we once to boast about the most beautiful city, we talk about the most friendly city, Philadelphia, city of brotherly love, that is what Philadelphia means. Now we find it all the time where we list these cities as the murder capitals of the world. Chicago, Illinois,

you would think that was the number one murder place on the planet, but it is not, it is number 10. Number nine is Cincinnati, Ohio. Number eight is Atlanta, Georgia. These are the cities that have the most, these are the top 10 murderous capitals in this country by cities. Number eight is Atlanta, Georgia. Number seven is Washington, DC. Number six is Kansas City. Yes. Right now, it is probably changed this weekend, but when I was putting this together this week, there were 145 homicides so far this year. Oakland, California is number five. Baltimore, Maryland is number four. St. Louis, Missouri, number three. Detroit, Michigan is number one and number two, and guess who number one is? Anyone want to take a shout out at it? Who is number one? Raytown. Raytown? Easy now, son. You are dismissed. What did you say? What did you say? New Orleans. Louisiana.

I remember back two or three years ago, remember we had some city workers that had a pool you put money in, and whoever guessed the right number won the money in the pool. What they were guessing on is by January 1, how many homicides there would be in Kansas City. They fired them all. Yeah, they fired them all. I do not know who won the pool, but probably the mayor, but they fired them all.

Then we talked about, hey, the five top drug infested cities. I did a little research on this, and I broke them down into individual drugs in case you want to specialize in your drug of choice here. Now, you would not believe this. Prescription drugs abuse. The number one place is Dayton, Ohio. I would have never guessed that. Meth capital of the United States. No, no, no, no, no. You are never going to get this one. Missoula, Montana. I am kidding you. Heroin. Escondido, New Mexico. Crack cocaine. New Orleans again. I got the second one for heroin. I could not pass it up was Baltimore, Maryland. I am telling you, we wonder why we have the problems that we have. These things have become a snare to our cities.

Now let us talk about crime in the US. 10 top cities of crime.1.) St. Louis2.) Detroit3.) Birmingham, Alabama4.) Memphis, Tennessee5.) Milwaukee6.) Rockford, Illinois7.) Baltimore8.) Little Rock, Arkansas9.) Oakland, California10.) Kansas City

Now see, that is the kind of attitude that you got while you are in trouble. You got here, see? You are happy about that. Shame on you. There are 17 crimes a day. That seems really low to me, but I am just, maybe that was in 1940. I do not know, but I am telling you something. This took place because evil and wicked men scorned the truth of the word of God. They did. I have not even talked about the school shootings yet. In the last 10 years in this country, there have been 65 school shootings where kids have been innocently killed by some idiot going in with a handgun. The problem is that these wicked scorned are leaders, politicians, religious leaders too. The leaders of our community. You know what? I am going to tell you something. You took the Bible and prayer out of the school and the guns came in. You are so stupid to see that. Ask yourself, how many school shootings did you have in America before you took the Bible and prayer out? The answer is zero. But as my Facebook compadre Gary Potter always says, you cannot fix stupid.

I got a friend of mine who got us into the jail down there, Ray Stewart, and I talked to him. He is the chaplain down there. We were talking this week and he said, you are not going to believe it,

Bob. He says, I have got a program down there that we get guys saved. I want to bring these people who are low grade offenders. When they get out, I want to get them into churches and I want to get them into Bible study and get them into this and get them to change their lifestyle. I have been told by the administration that no offender coming out of jail that is on probation can go to any church unless he has been court ordered by the judge. I mean, yeah, we are going to change their world and change their life, but no, we cannot do it. No, we will just send them right back to the neighborhood, right back to the gangs, right back. I am telling you, it all goes back to the scorners who have become a snare to this city.

Now, I am just telling you, it is just being honest with you this morning. You may not like what I am about to say, but it is okay. You got your opinion, I got mine. It is all right, but I will be honest with you. I do not care if it is Democrats or Republican. I have never seen nor believed any politician whoever ran on his being a Christian with Christian values. I mean, I know they say it, but I have just, I have never found one that I ever believed. You know why? Because I am going to tell you something. If you really believe the Bible the way you need to believe it, you can never get elected in this country. I mean, you get up and take your stand on homosexuality and the same sex marriages, you think you are going to get elected? You get up and you take your stand in your country, your hometown meetings, you start talking about soul winning and winning people to Christ. And folks, we are glad that you are here. Hope you vote for me. But before I close, I wanted to let you to know that if you are here tonight, you do not know Jesus Christ, your own person. You think you are going to get elected? You think you are going to get up and talk about the Roman Catholic Church or the Muslims or the Mormons or whoever the case may be. And you are going to make your, you are going to, you think you are going to get up and preach about booze and drugs? You think you are going to get up and you ever hear one get up and say, I am going to take my stand to put in the Bible and prayer back in schools? They will never get elected on that platform. I have never heard one get up and declare his position on the King James 1611 being the authorized Bible and the answer demands problems. And if I get elected, folks, I am going to do everything I can to get the Bible back into every family and the Bible back into our schools. You will never get elected.

Ah, but they have the key buzzword, do not they? I am a man of faith. My faith is so important to me. Really? Yes, I am a man of faith. I have a deep personal faith. Really? In what? In what? You realize when you go to the government and they ask you to pray, they always have a pastor come in to start off a new session of Congress and he opens the whole session in prayer. I have been asked several times and I have always been too busy taking out the trash to get there, but I am going to tell you this. You have to have your prayer that you are going to pray for this country and our leaders submitted to somebody so he can approve your prayer. You cannot use the word Jesus Christ. You can use the word God because God can be anything. But boy, when you say Jesus Christ, you make it real personal, you see? So you cannot use that name.

I have never seen a president ever won any election that ever, on his inauguration ceremony, ever did what Solomon did in 1 Kings chapter 8, where he got out and he got to study it sometimes. He is praying and he is praying before the whole nation and he starts out on his feet, but he ends on his knees with his arms wired out, asking God to take care of him. Where is that at? Well, I

have got faith. Faith in what? So did Karl Marx. He had faith in communism. So did Adolf Hitler. He had faith in Nazism. So did Darwin. He had faith in evolution. I mean, come on. Faith in what? Why, every atheist in this city has faith. He has faith in himself. Come on, boy. Faith in what? You are like the alcoholic anonymous. It used to be you brought it to God. Now they took God out. It is your higher power. Your higher power can be your walnut tree in the backyard.

I am telling you, scornful men have brought the cities of this country into a snare. It is a snare of sin. It is a snare of booze. It is a snare of drugs. It is a snare of everything that is against God. But wise men take away, turn away wrath. That is God's judgment. That is America. America is facing God's judgment and you have not seen nothing yet. Now that is a man with the truth of God's word who will declare it in his preaching. Once our founding fathers set this country on a course, God made sure that as time went on, he raised up in this country men who did not care what anybody thought, who was not part of the political system in any way, shape or form. These guys have been lost today. There probably is not a pastor in this city. Maybe there is. There certainly is not many of God's people who know anything about these guys and they have been lost.

We talk about William Booth and his beeling and the Salvation Army and we use his name but how many people really know what he did? We talk about William Chapman back around 1859 to 1918. What a great powerful preacher he was in his country. Who knows his name today? How about Gypsy Smith? 1860 to 1947. I mean, come on man. He preached across this country, Harry Ironsides, one of the greatest Bible teachers for common people to learn the Bible that you will ever find. We talk about J. Vernon McGee. J. Vernon McGee never really, he was not a real deep guy in the Bible but I want to tell you something. When he died in 1988, his radio service and his material through the Bible have been translated in 35 languages. You can still find him on the radio today. They got Beecham Vic from Detroit, Michigan. You got Dallas Billington from Akron, Ohio. You got Carl McIntyre. You got Hyman Appelman. You got R.A. Torrey, William Riley, George Truett. These were men who God raised up. They were wise men who kept this country focused on the morals and the values that we need to have that kept our cities becoming a snare. They are lost today. They are lost not known by the common man. They are lost by the pastors. They are lost by the Christians. What they believed and what they taught was all now being lost.

You have a whole young generation of preachers coming up. Hey, I deal with them every week, man. I got a Bible study tomorrow night for an hour and a half, maybe two hours with a group of guys down south someplace that got all kinds of questions about the Bible. I deal with it all the time. I see a lot of guys who know a little bit about the Bible but they absolutely know nothing about the Bible and they are lost to what God did down through history. They are just like Hosea said in Hosea 8:12 that the great things of God have now become strange things to our ears. We go through our life in pastor churches and do what we do as Christians without any understanding of the men that took their stand that keep our cities from becoming a snare. When they were gone, they were gone because scornful men wanted to get rid of it.

I was talking to a guy the other week and he did not believe that the Holocaust in World War II where they murdered eight million Jews ever took place. There is a bunch of people out there,

believe me, that do not believe that. He argued up one side and down the other that it was all a political deal. You know, it has been 70 some years now and it was documented and photographed by men because you know what they said? They said, we must document this because 50 years from now they will say it did not happen. That is exactly where we are at. I told him, I said, you know what? I said, you are talking to the wrong guy about that because I have done a great exhaustive study on the Nuremberg trials and I, you know, it was a time when I collected World War II stuff and I actually got, believe it or not, out of Dallas, Texas, out of an estate sale, a whole grouping of stuff that belonged to a guy by the name of Colonel Roy. Colonel Roy was the commanding officer of the army that liberated Dachau. I actually had the radio broadcast from Voice of America that they did a radio deal on him and he explaining what he found when he got there. I had about 300 of his photograph, not copied someplace from a newspaper that he had personally took of train cars loaded with dead bodies and rooms loaded and the ovens with half burned people in them.

I told this guy, I said, you know what? I read the report by Godfrey Lawrence and I said, do you know who Godfrey Lawrence was? He did not have a clue. He got it off some Aryan brotherhood website someplace or some white supremacist group that hates the Jews and hates the blacks and hates everybody that did not white. I said, well, let me illuminate you. Godfrey Lawrence was the chief prosecutor at Nuremberg. 20 years after the Nuremberg trials were over, they interviewed him about the Holocaust and he brought some of this stuff that was coming up and you know what he said? He said in all of the war criminals that we tried, every one of them wanted to tell us that they were just following orders. Many of them told us that they just did not know what was going on. Many of us told us that they felt persecution that if they did not go along with it, but he said, you know what? Not one person ever said it did not happen. That is the way it is with these great men of God. God, Christians today have lost their heritage. They have lost the fact that when God started this country, he bettered on a word of God, a King James Bible, and then he put men down through history up to about 1850 and up into the early 20th centuries that kept our cities from becoming a snare, but it was the scornful men that took it out.

Men like Ira Sankey, men like Oswald J. Smith, men like T. De Witt Talmage, James Taylor. I told you the story many times about D.L. Moody. D.L. Moody lived from 1837 to 1899. He is the only man outside of maybe George Whitfield that ever rocked two continents for the Lord, boy. He was something else. He established Moody Church in Chicago, Illinois. He preached there and held great Bible conferences in that city. I want to tell you something. When Moody preached on Sunday, on Monday morning, every major newspaper in America printed his sermons word for word. Years after he died, Chicago fell into the trouble that it got into in the 20s and the 30s with the gangsters and the bootleggers and all of those things. The murder of the crime and the drugs. In the Chicago Times, a reporter put into Chicago Times, he put a picture of Chicago. Over the face of Chicago was interfaced the shadow of a man, looked like Moody. He wrote underneath, Chicago desperately needs another Moody.

Little side note. Moody came over and got a job in his, he was not saved. He came over and got a job in his uncle's shoe store in Chicago, he is a shoe salesman. He started going to a little church and going to a Bible study. Everybody knows about the great Moody and he was in a tremendous

preacher and all the things that he did, but nobody knows about Edward Kimball. Edward Kimball was a Sunday school teacher. Edward Kimball on Saturday, April 21st, 1855 walked into that shoe store and talked to him, took him in the back and won him to Christ. I say that to say this, you never know what God is going to do with the people you are working with. You never know what God is going to do with the people that you are teaching the Bible to. When I try to teach the Bible, I do not have any limitations to it. I am full bore all the way. I just, you know, I put everything I have and everything I do when it comes to teaching people the Bible, whether it is one on one or here this morning or Thursday Night Bible Study Institute or people ministry or whatever, you know why? Because you never know what God is going to take and God is going to do to the people you are talking to.

The Bible says wise men turn away wrath. I think Billy Sunday, 1862 to 1935, for the ball player, single handedly brought in prohibition through the preaching across this country. He brought in prohibition and prohibition for you unlearned young kids was the fact that this country did not have any booze in it. It was against the law. Prohibition came in in 1920 that lasted to 1933 when the scornful men overturned it. 13 years of no booze in this country. All because the one man with the King James Bible got up and preached the sin and the ills of liquor. He was something else. He was something else. He was hated so much by the scornful crowd that maybe you saw the movie sometime in the history called Elmer Gantry. The lead part was played by Burt Lancaster. Elmer Gantry was made by C.S. Lewis, C.S. Lewis. And C.S. Lewis, C.S. Lewis was a movie producer. He hated Billy Sunday so bad that he produced a movie called Elmer Gantry about a fornicating, drunken slug of a preacher evangelist who was as crooked as you could ever be and made it right in the time when Billy Sunday obviously to put the damper on his ministry, of course he did not do it. Billy Sunday preached against drinking. There was no social drinking in his services. He was a preacher against drinking. He put it where it was in the pit of hell.

Now we must understand and here is my point. Most Baptist churches and certainly neo-evangelical churches would have to protest his preaching today because they all go along with social drinking. You see, now let me ask you a question. When Billy Sunday died, he laid body in state in Madison Square Garden. A New York Times reporter covered his funeral and he stood there for two days and watched people file by and he said it was amazing. He said almost everybody mumbled to themselves that that man saved my marriage, that man saved my family, that man saved my life. I would be in hell today if it was not for his preaching. Two million people. But you see, you Baptist preachers out there today, you neo-evangelical guys would like to get in your pulpit and say it is okay to drink. You disagree with what he said. Oh, I am telling you, you know why? Because you forgot. You forgot what God has done down through this country.

Down in Nashville, Tennessee. Ryman Auditorium, home of the Grand Ole Opry. Who ever knew that the Ryman Auditorium was built by Thomas Ryman in 1890 who heard the evangelist Sam Jones preach. He got saved and he built Ryman Auditorium. From 1890 to 1934, it was a place where the gospel was preached, the Bible was preached. Literally hundreds of thousands of people came to Christ in Ryman Auditorium. Who knows who? Who knows that today? Where it went for Sam Jones, now it is Little Jimmy Dickens. Where it went for Sam Jones preaching the

word of God and I was in sanctuary getting up and leading the singing, now it is Tammy Wynette. Hey, what happened? Why do not we know those things? Why did we have to replace "Just As I Am Without One Plea," "Sound the Battle Cry," "Amazing Grace." Why do we have to replace that with, "Put your sweet lips a little closer to the phone?" What happened to the great power and the preaching of the word of God and the singing you got preached with? "Your Cheatin' Heart." Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me? What happened to, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," to "Send Me the Pillow That You Dream On?" Whatever happened to "Stand Up for Jesus" to "Stand By Your Man?" Whatever happened to the great spiritual songs, how did they get replaced? "Out in the West Texas town of El Paso, I fell in love with a Mexican gal." You kidding me? What happened to that? How did the grand old book get replaced with a grand old opera? Amen. I will tell you why, men who were scorned against the truth.

We go down to the city in the mission down there and the boys preach down there. Most people do not even know, I made a reference to it last week that the city in the mission got started in 1924 with an evangelist named David Berkeley. He was holding revival services and they had prostitute, had momma in the town here had her in a house of prostitution and her name was Anna Chambers. She went to one of his services and got saved, turned her whole life around, gave everything she had for home for her girls to get them saved and it turned into city in the mission. This country is in the sad shape that it is in today, not because of the wicked unsaved or wicked politicians, Democrats or Republicans. No, no, this country is in a sad state of affairs because of the wicked preachers who will not stand in their pulpit and preach the truth. That is the problem. We got a big thing going now. We want to impeach the president. Forget him preaching the president. Just start impeaching pastors. I mean, I am not interested in the president. He is just a temporary occupant of a White House. You want to make some changes, start impeaching preachers in their churches where they do not preach the Bible. Get some people to stand up and say, you know what, you cannot stay here if you are not going to preach the truth. Never happened.

### III. Dealing with Fools

Verse 9 says:

*Proverbs 29:9*

*If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.*

Now this verse will give us a good insight into dealing with people. The book of Proverbs is about a wise man and a foolish man. You can go through that whole thing. In the book of Proverbs, it defines what a wise man is. There are nine principles in there that tell you what a wise man is. Nine being the number of fruit bearing in the Bible and you know, he is going to be fruitful. There are eight principles in there that tells you what a fool is. You want to know what a wise man is? Look at those nine things and find out if he lines up. You want to know what a fool is? Learn those eight things. It is not hard. But you will find that there are saved fools and there are lost fools. The verse is saying a real fool that you have to deal with that is 100% bonafide fool defined by the Bible. You will not win him over. Every child of God, as you grow in the

word of God and get to the point where you maybe work with people and get to the next couple of levels, you need to have the ability and time to be able to spot a real fool. You have got to know what to look for.

Proverbs 26:4 comes to our rescue again, where it says:

*Proverbs 26:4*

*Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.*

That is a good verse. But then the next one seems to be a contradiction. Where the one first 4 said, answer not a fool. Verse 5 says:

*Proverbs 26:5*

*Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.*

We look at that and we say, oh, that does not make sense. It must be a contradiction. No, he is telling you there are two kinds of fools. There are some fools that you do not give an answer to because they are not looking for an answer. I have people all the time want to get into a discussion or this or that about something in the Bible that I am not interested in talking to you about it. You know why? Because you are a bona fide fool and it is not going to do nothing but waste my time. Maybe when I was younger in life and I was stupid, I thought there was some kind of challenge in people like you. Not anymore. You are a waste of time. I have learned this. Most guys who teach heresy want to debate somebody that has got some credibility so they can give some credibility to their heresy. So you deny them that. You answer not a fool. Look at it says according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. You do not understand what you are dealing with.

Now there are people who are fools who are fools who are trying to learn. A fool is not a bad term and we always use it that way, but you have a fool who is unteachable. But then you have a fool, somebody that has been fooled by not getting the truth that wants to learn. Those are the ones you answer. Those are the ones you answer. There is a guy on our Thursday night Bible study who pumps in questions all the time. He has no, I always know by the questions that Aaron gives me when he comes in, I always know who it is. This guy has no clue of anything in the Bible and you are never going to change anything that he believes some of the most whacked out stuff you ever get in the planet. So I answer his questions because I answer them because they are in an audience there, but I never miss an opportunity to whack him.

Now I am going to give you four great principles in dealing with fools. I saw that the wives went right to their notebooks on this one. Not a good sign guys, I am just telling him.

- A wise man is defined in the book of Proverbs 11:30, that is one of the nine, as a soul winner, he that winneth souls is wise. As a wise man, you will have to contend with some things as you try to win them to Christ. The word contend goes along with the word contention. There is going to be some contention. Of course you are going to have to understand that. The example of this would be in 1 Corinthians chapter 1 and 2 where Paul is dealing with the fools in Corinth and he is dealing with the very same thing that I am talking about. He is

trying to get them back on track when they are fighting him every inch of the way. You are going to find some people who, when you start to deal with them, when they are a bonafide fool, you must realize that, you know, you are going to have to contend with some things. There may come a point where you just said, hey, you know what, this is not going anywhere.

- The second thing is as many times the man witnessed to will hate the person who is witnessing to him. But the soul winner is out to get the man's soul. So he does not take any abuse personally. You focus on the cause, not the condition. You realize that you are getting into the business of winning people to Christ, you are going to get some adverse situations you are going to find yourself in. You are going to get some people who not only hate the message, but they hate the messenger. You have got to learn to deal with that. You start taking that personal and you will quit soul winning or you will get your brain beat out. You realize that that comes with the territory. You are supposed to be smarter than the problem. You are supposed to be the wise man over the foolish man. Again, you will find in 1 Corinthians chapter 9:19-27, Paul dealing with the abuse of fools trying to give him a hard time when he is trying to give them the truth.
- The real soul winner, the wise man, will use God's wisdom to understand who and what he is dealing with to avoid needless arguments that will waste his time and will go nowhere. I am only interested in helping people who want to grow. I am not interested in arguing with somebody who already believes what they want to believe. There is no profit in that. I already know you are such a fool that nobody is going to change your mind. So why even bother with it? Why would I waste time with you when I got two or three other people in this church that want to learn the Bible that I could be talking to and dealing with? So you will avoid these situations. Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:16: 2 Timothy 2:16

But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. He says in 1 Timothy 6:21: 1 Timothy 6:21

Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. They get caught up in these things. 1 Timothy 1:4: 1 Timothy 1:4

Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. So Paul tells us that you have got to be able to discern what a fool is. Now let me just say this about heresies. Heresies are coming in two flavors. You have heresies of unsaved people without the body of Christ. Then you have heresies that with saved people that are in the body of Christ. There will be two different kinds of heresies that you have to deal with. You have saved people, you get messed up in all kinds of heresies, and you have unsaved people who do the same thing. Of course, the Bible tells us, and here again, this is the definitive verse on it. 1 Corinthians 11:19. Paul says: 1 Corinthians 11:19

For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. Now that is a great verse. Now that verse shows you the importance of heresies whether they are in the body of Christ or out. Because anybody who is teaching heresy will have to go up against established truth. I mean, I do not care what you want to teach if it is not right with the Bible. You build your Bible teaching and you build your Bible knowledge on established truth. Do not ever teach anything that you cannot go to

the Bible and get a definitive verse on. When you do, or several, and when you do, then you are just making it up as you go along. That is how heresies exist. You get a guy that comes up with some goofy idea about this and that, and he could not go to the Bible to prove it if his life depended on it. In fact, everything in the Bible just takes him the other direction. So that is the way it works. So what you are saying here is there is established truth in a person's life, what the heresy does, it points toward the truth. That is why you need them. Because anybody with any knowledge in the Bible can spot a heresy just like that, if you know your Bible. Somebody comes up and starts teaching you something, saved or lost, starts to teach you something that is not found in the Bible that is a Baptist doctrine or whatever doctrine. And your Bible clearly goes the other way. Hey, you got it. I had a guy one time, he was arguing the fact that in Genesis chapter 6, it was talked about in the sons of God saw the daughters of men and went into them in strange flesh and all that stuff. He was just dead serious that that was not fallen angels. He said, well, that is not fallen angels. I did not even try to go back over to at least 30 verses that I could show him that it was. Because I was dealing with a real fool. So I wanted to do with a little gasoline on his tail and throw a match to it. So I did not worry about giving him any truth because he was not looking for truth. He went on and on and on how that he said, no, he says, no, that is those sons of God are saved people marrying unsaved people. Well, my first question to him, well, I only have three questions. My first question was, then how did that produce a race of giants? Yeah, it was just that quiet. My second question, well, he said that it was the godly line of Seth. So my next thing is I threw in my Bible and told him to trace for me the godly line of Seth. I can trace for you the Messianic line. I can trace for you the Kingly line. I can trace for you David's line. I can trace you for Christ line. Did you ever see the godly line of Seth? Nowhere. If there was a godly line of Seth, did you ever see the characters that are in it that was not too godly about them? No answer to that one. Then my big question I asked him is, okay, okay, let us take for instance that they were saved people marrying unsaved people. Let me ask you a question. How come all these saved people did not get on the Ark? Yeah, it was just that quiet. You see, when you teach heresy, you have to step outside the Bible and anybody who knows the Bible will burn you. Because when you teach heresy, you have got to leave a lot of things flapping in the wind and all somebody has to do is know where those flappers are and you are in trouble. Because you cannot get around. That is why the Bible says heresy will always go against established truth. An established truth will prove who is right and who is not because established truth is in the Bible. Your heresy is not.

- The fourth thing is that the fool will never have any rest. Because he will never really come to the only one who can give him that rest. That is the Lord Jesus Christ, Matthew 11:28. He cannot get past himself. I mean, you know, because a fool, you see it all the time, a fool is somebody who is never wrong. You will learn to spot a real fool a hundred percent of the time. You learn those eight things in Proverbs and just look for that in people and boy, I will tell you what. Not everybody will have them all, but I will tell you, you start getting three or four or five down and you are doing pretty good. You want to remember this, a wise man talks because he has something to say. A fool talks because he needs to say something. Boy, that is so true. Now there all goes back to established truth.

## IV. The Bloodthirsty and the Upright

Now verse 10 says:

*Proverbs 29:10*

*The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.*

Boy, now this is a fitting verse for our chapter so far. It is a great verse for just about everything that we do in life and in the ministry. The greatest example of this would be found in Romans chapter 11. In Romans chapter 11, the book of Romans, it goes through chapter by chapter, laying out the doctrine of what the church should believe and what it should teach. It is just an incredible book. When you get to chapter 9, he shows us why Israel is in the state that they are in. When he gets in chapter 11, he shows Israel is going to be restored someday. Then he gives us as the church, our understanding of how we should view the nation of Israel in the church age. He says in Romans chapter 11:25, he says:

*Romans 11:25*

*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

He would not be ignorant of this brethren and most of God's people are ignorant. In fact, there are seven things in the Bible we are told not to be ignorant of as Christians. I guarantee you, when you would finally give them to you, there would be the number seven things everybody is ignorant of. He says here, blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles come in. Then he says in verse 28:

*Romans 11:28*

*As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.*

The nation of Israel, Jews reject the gospel. Many of them look at Christianity as an enemy, not everybody, but many of them do. It does not matter whether they do or do not. What he is saying here, you know, but touching the election, they are the beloved of the father's sake. The nation of Israel are still God's people. They are still God's chosen people. God is going to deal with them in his own time. In other words, they may be my enemies for the gospel, but make sure that I do not make them my enemy. Because you understand what God is doing with them. Just like the Jew, that works with the people that you try to witness to that are going to hate you. You know, they will persecute you for Christ's sake.

I am just going to tell you right now, if you are going to ever take your stand for the Lord and do something, I mean, many of you hope not, but some of you maybe, you will never get to that level. You will just stay nice where you do not ruffle anybody's feathers and you just be a nice little person all your life and get along with everybody. God bless you. But I am going to tell you something, if you are going to take your stand, you are going to cause some ripples in this world

and they will persecute you. The only way that you can do that is you never take it personal. How do you never take it personal? Because you stay focused on what God has called you to do. You do that by understanding who they are, why they do the things that they do, why they say the things that they say. Verse 7, last week we talked about, you must understand the cause, what causes people like that to do what they do before you can never understand their condition.

## V. The Shunamite Woman and Soul Winning

I was a great example of this in 2 Kings chapter 4. I may have preached on it here, I preached at Bible conferences before over the years. But it is a story of the Shunamite woman. She is not named, she is just given her nationality. I have found over the years that when you read a story in the Bible where it does not give you the person's name, it just gives you a general thing like a great woman or the Shunamite woman. But the reason he does that is because he is trying to make an application for everybody. So basically you could put yourself into that person's name. In the story there, she finally has a boy. That boy is the love of her life and that boy grows up. Then the Bible says that suddenly something happens, it does not tell us what it is, but the boy dies. What takes place then is that she knows that Elisha is the prophet of God and she knows and heard all about what God can do. So she tries to get Elisha to come and bring life back to her boy. As the story goes on, Elisha shows up and it all happens. That is the way you read the story in the Bible.

But I want to talk to you for just a moment and I want to show you one of the greatest stories and pictures in the Bible of you and I doing the work of the Lord in ministering to people and being a soul winner. Now let us talk about the dead boy first. That boy is dead. The Bible says that unsaved people are dead in trespasses and sins. That boy is a picture of an unsaved person. That boy is dead and nothing is going to bring him back. The only one who has the ability to bring him back is God. I want to tell you something, if you are unsaved here this morning or somebody you are working with is unsaved, all you can do is point him to God because He is the only one that can give him eternal life.

But I want you to notice some things. The mom here, she sees the boy is dead and she has a desperate need to get Elisha, the man of God to the dead boy. When you look at that story, I want you to listen to me sometimes in dealing with people with a saved person that is going to do the ministering and an unsaved person, God will use an intermediate person to bring that unsaved person or the dead person to the man of God and that is the mom. So she sends a servant out to the man of God and this is the great principle. The man of God at first, he says, oh okay, so he sends one of his servants back to the house to get the dead guy back to life. You know what, he cannot do it. It will not work. Now that is a tremendous principle. I am going to tell you what that principle is and you better listen to me. You cannot send somebody else to do what God has called you to do. If God has called you to be a soul winner and saved you to be what God, you cannot send somebody else to do that if God has called you to do it. It did not work.

Finally, the man of God shows up. In 2 Kings 4:32 it says that he knelt down and prayed and that is another great principle. Let me tell you something, if God is not in what you are trying to do for him, you are wasting your time. Then a strange thing. Strange thing. He goes up to this room

where this dead kid is and the Bible says that he crawls on top of him and he puts his mouth to his mouth, his eyes to his eyes and his hands to his hands. Now who in the world has read that story sometime and asks yourself, what in the world is going on here? Now if I can just be candid with you for a moment and I do not know what candid means but I heard a guy use it on TV last night so I thought it would probably fit in here someplace. That is pretty repulsive to me. That idea of crawling on somebody, a male, and putting my mouth on his mouth and my eyes and his eyes and my hands and his hands, that just does not do a lot for me. I can see most of you are glad that it does not. So that is a good deal. But I am telling you, this man of God is going to minister to this person. You know what that tells me? As repulsive as that is, I want to tell you something. In dealing with people, there are some repulsive things you are going to have to deal with. The people you deal with are not going to be all squeaky clean like you would like them to be. They are not going to have all their vocabulary down. They are not going to have everything the way that they need to be. They are not going to be that way. Every once in a while you may get an apple fall off a tree and hit you on the head that is right there. That happened to me but most of them do not come that way. Most of them, you have got to, boy, you have got to, it is not the easiest thing in the world. I have had this sit there sometimes and while they were telling about their life and the things they were into and anything to do, I wanted to go, nah, nah, nah, nah, nah, nah, not even hear it. There are some repulsive things that you have to deal with when you deal with people.

Then as I looked at that, I thought to myself, once he did that, the boy became alive. Then I saw the great picture here. Once I saw this boy as a picture of dead people, unsaved, once I saw that the man of God is the only one that had the answer to it and once I saw and understood that I could not send a replacement for what God wanted me to do. You know what? In our lives as Christians, you realize that giving will not replace living. You realize that praying will be no excuse for staying. You know that knowing will be of no excuse for not going. If God has called you to do something, you cannot send somebody else in your place.

Once I saw that, I realized, once I saw when he crawled on top of this kid and he put his mouth to his mouth and his eyes to his eyes and his hands to his hand, I saw immediately when I put it into the context, the great picture of what soul winning it really is and the key to it.

- He put his mouth to his mouth. You have to understand why unsaved people say the things the way they say it for you to be effective in dealing with them.
- Eyes to eyes. You have to understand why unsaved people look at things the way that they do that are so different in the way that we look at them.
- Hand to hand. You have to understand why an unsaved person does the things that they do that we do not do anymore. That is understanding the cause.

Elisha, by doing what he did, as repulsive as it was, it lays out everything in the perfect picture of reaching out and being a soul winning, soul winner, to change people's lives. You have to understand why they say the things that they say. You have to understand why they look at things the way that they look at it. You have to understand why they do the things that they do. Because the wise man will go after his soul. In spite of the scolding, in spite of the rebuke, I know the fact that that man, no matter what he says, because I am smarter than the problem, no matter what he

says, no matter what he rejects, there is no rest in his life. The front that many people put up falls apart in the lonely hours when the Holy Spirit of God tells them that their life is empty.

Your job and my job is to understand that, to realize that there are going to be scorners, and scorners have brought this country. I am not at any illusion that I can change anything at this point, it is not going to change. It is on its way over. But the only thing I can change is right here. I can change here with the little tentacles that God allows us to put out, our guys around the world that are watching, even this morning, it will be almost a thousand people watching and studying every week with us. That is all I can affect and let God do what he needs to do.

We were down at that old folks' retirement home Friday night. There are probably people in there, they have been in there for 10, 15, 20 years that nobody has ever come to visit them. Your little act of kindness of showing them and bringing some cookies down and being there and your singing and your songs over there, eyes lit up when the young kids sang. You see, those are things we can do. My job is to take every young man and young lady, mom or dad, whoever it may be that wants to get to that level where you can do what God has called you to do and prepare you. We do not do it halfway here. We do it by the book. We throw out a lot of things that I grew up with in my life that were with the happy move, those worthless things that I was taught that never worked because they had nothing to do with the Bible. We found the truth of God's word and everything we do based on that book. Because that is the only way to do it.

Your job and my job? Giving life to dead people. People who are dead in trespasses of sin. Then taking their lives and establishing truth in their life that for the first time in their life, I tell people all the time that come in and I work with them and we get a plan together to help them and do everything that needs to be done. I tell them at the end, I said, you know what? You are at a place now where you never have to make another decision by yourself unless you just want to. You always know if you do not know what to do with it from the Bible, you always have people you can call and we will sit down on the scriptures and show you exactly the right choice we need to make based on the Bible, not what we think or even the Baptist thing, what the Bible says. The only rest that is going to come into our life is going to be the rest through the peace that passes all understanding. It keeps our hearts and mind because our minds were stayed on Christ and his word, giving life to dead people.

New Year's Eve, you all got friends that probably are lost that maybe got nothing to do, you could bring. You be that intermediate factor, you see. You be the person that brought that person to where the man of God gave them the truth that they got the darkness of the depths of their sin or the darkness into the light of the word of God. That is what we do.

I met with Larry this morning and, you know, Larry owns the building and everything. We had a great time this morning. He loves this church. I mean, he just loves this church. He said, you know what, he is like 86, you know. He said, you know what, Bob? He almost broke down and cried. He says, you know what, Bob? He says, I drive by here every time and it just warms my heart all the cars that are here. He says, this is great. This is absolutely great. I will tell you, he is moved and there has been nobody that has been better to us than Larry. He loves this church. He says, you got some great people. I said, yeah, I do, Larry. We really do. He said, you know, he

laughed. He said, you know, he says, he said, I never understood for years and years and years you were here and you never had a sign. He says, in fact, I put the sign up for you. I asked you a couple of times if you wanted me to put a sign up and you said no. He says, we got businesses that go out of business because they do not have a good place for a sign to be up and people do not know they are here. He says, but you never cared about a sign. I put my arm on his knee and I said, Larry, I said, that is not exactly true. I said, I did care about signs. I said, but I was not caring about a sign we put up here. I told my people that you be the sign for this church. You go out and bring them in. You be what Old Path Baptist Church is. You be the sign. You see, if I put a sign up there, it just went up there, it goes nowhere. When you leave here, you are going everywhere. I would rather have 300 mobile signs and one fixed sign up there. It is all about giving life back to dead people, giving them the truth, being there for them, not just getting them saved and slapping them on the back and saying your problems are over, because you know they are not. They are a problem maybe over eternally, but they got problems they got to deal with. They got marriages they got to heal. They got families they got to fix. They got their own struggles they got to go through with. That is where we come in. I have taken them to the next step and the next level, giving them what the word of God says.

This coming next couple of weeks, Christmas after Christmas in the New Year, it is a great time. All the things we are going to do, Ohio State game, going down to where we are going down to Crown Center, all the things that we are going to do, you can invite somebody that has nowhere to go. Then New Year's Eve, bring them here. Let them hear the word of God being preached. The Old Path boys will do a great job. People are going to sing and play their instruments, will do a great job. It will be a great time. We will give them a good meal. I always like to feed you good first before I slap you. I will not be doing the slapping that night. There will be some slapping going on. I will tell you that. But anyway, that is our word of prayer, we will be dismissed. Thank you for being here today. You guys have a wonderful Merry Christmas. I love you all very much. I thank you for all that you do for us in the church here. Get up there and sign up. We have got to get the food.