

Proverbs 6

Sunday 3/24/2019

We continue to pray for Sam. His dad passed away, and we need to pray for them. I'm sure they're getting all that finalized and ready to go. I want to pray for Nate and Neil. He's in the hospital here in town now. I heard this morning that Jan Hill fell down last night. They were supposed to go to Wichita today and evidently canceled. I don't know how bad it is, but just pray for them. Our guys are down at Bear Creek today, ministering down there and preaching and singing. So pray for them. They get back safe. Keep those on your prayer list, and we'll keep you informed on that.

Last week, we were in Proverbs 26, and we saw a verse that really talks about the greatness of God. When it comes to God and God's greatness, there are three important aspects of God that every Christian ought to know and understand.

1. God is omnipotent, which means God is all-powerful.
2. God is omnipresent, which means He's everywhere at once.
3. He's omniscient, which means He's all-knowing.

We looked at that aspect of how God is such a great God, yet understanding how He brought you and me into His plan. He could have done it any way that He wanted to, but He chose to do it by bringing us in. We talked about how 2 Timothy 2:19-21 talked about the vessels of honor. We saw how God wants us to be a help meet, just like Eve was to Adam. Eve is a type of the church. Adam, we saw last week, is a type of Christ. Not a helpmate, as animals have, but a help meet, because our job is to help meet the need that God wants us to do, which is putting out the Gospel.

We also saw, unfortunately, that there are vessels of dishonor. That's really been the concept of chapter 26, really all the way through the book of Proverbs. We saw, based on 1 Corinthians 3, 2 Corinthians 5, and again in the book of Romans, that God is going to get the honor and glory out of both. The end game is that God is going to always get the honor and glory of everything. We get to choose which it is. We get to choose to give ourselves to God as a vessel of honor, and God will take the honor and glory through what we do for Him. Or we get to choose to be a vessel of dishonor, do our own thing, and at the end of the day, God will get the honor and glory out of that too, in dealing with us.

We looked at two great verses: Romans 14:12 and Philippians 2:8-11. Both basically say the same thing: that every knee is going to bow and every tongue is going to confess to Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Two different verses: Romans 14 is for Christians, and Philippians 2 is for the unsaved world, vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor.

We looked at Romans 9. I've said it many, many times, what a great book the book of Romans is. Somewhere in your journey in life of building your relationship with God and learning the Bible, you're going to have to get down to the book of Romans. The book of Romans is fundamentally probably the key book in the New Testament for everything that we believe. It's absolutely paramount at some point that you get that book down. We have it online that we've broken it

down chapter by chapter. I've done it many, many times for you, and I know many of you have followed that and have got a good handle on it.

If we looked at Romans 9, 10, and 11, what three great chapters they are. Romans 9 tells us how the Jews got messed up, how they got into the problems they got into, and why God audibly forsook them then. They stumbled at the stumbling stone, which was Christ. We know what happened: they go into captivity, and to this day, they are outside God's fellowship.

Then we saw in chapter 10 that once God was temporarily finished with the Jew, He moved to the Gentiles. That's the great salvation chapter in Romans. When I win somebody to Christ, as you do, we always call it the Romans Road.

Started in Romans 3, talk about how all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. God has none to do good, no, not one.

Jump over to Romans 6, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Then jump into Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

That's the Romans Road. Right there. When the Jews rejected, then God brought in the Gentile church, us.

But then we have Romans 11, which shows us this great concept that the Jews did get messed up and became vessels of dishonor. God did bring in the church age, but Romans 11 is that great chapter on the restoration of the nation of Israel. There, He explains what God is going to do and how He's going to bring the nation of Israel back to Him. All through this, what we saw last week was God using the Gentile nations in the Old Testament and how He'll use them in the Tribulation Period and even in the Millennium to bring honor and glory, not only to God's nation, the nation of Israel, but to God Himself.

Three key chapters on God dealing with His people and how they started out as a vessel of honor in God's plan, but they wound up as a vessel of dishonor. The great study in there is for you and for me, because I've seen many of God's people in my lifetime that started out being a vessel for honor for God, but wound up being a vessel for dishonor. It's a great spiritual application to us: a wise man and a foolish man, and they both get their reward. One is fit for the Master's use, to be God's help meet. The other one, the Bible says, is fitted for destruction.

We get to choose. It's not one of these things that you don't have a choice in. It isn't that God looked down and chose you to be a vessel of dishonor or a vessel of honor. God chose all of us in Christ Jesus to be a vessel of honor. We choose to step outside that and become the vessel of dishonor. Times like last week, for me anyhow, and I'm sure for many of you, it helps put everything into perspective. That's really what the Bible is all about, what Christianity is all

about, and really what we try to do. We try to take everything that God does, the Bible He's given us, your life, your family, your kids, your marriage, and simply try to put everything into perspective. Today, you'll see it again as we move on through chapter 26.

I. The Fool and His Folly

Today, I want to look at two more verses and put them into our study of a fool that we've been looking at. Today will be, remember, I told you there were 11 direct references to a fool in chapter 26. We're going to look at 10 and 11 today. We talked through that to stay away from the fools of vessels of dishonor. 2 Timothy 2:21 says to purge ourselves from these things.

I want to begin reading Proverbs 26:11-12.

Proverbs 26:11-12

As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly. Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus, and we love You. We thank You for all You do for us and thank You for loving us, for the Word of God that You've given us. Lord, we thank You for the plainness of Your Word, Lord, that we don't have to worry about the Greek or the Hebrew or getting some ecstatic language that nobody understands or reads anymore, that it's right down where we can grab it. It's clear. It's plain. It doesn't leave anything to the imagination. We thank You for that because we're needy people today. We don't need to sit around and figure out what You're trying to say. We need to just sit down and read it and know what You're saying to us. Help us today, Father, in all that we do. We'll give You the honor and the glory in Jesus' name for His sake we ask it. Amen.

This message is rated M.A. for mature audiences. I'm going to tell you, this message is going to be a little rough for some of the brethren. Maybe not so much here in the church because you guys are pretty solid on things. But I would think twice about preaching a message like this in a mega church someplace. It's just too graphic for most people. We're going to have to do today, and I've actually known pastors when they got to this thing, they just skipped over it. They knew the people were so stupid that they would just think that they missed it or something. They don't listen anyhow. You guys would never do that. If I tried to do that, somebody would say, "Hey, why didn't you do the other two verses?" I know what would happen.

We're going to have to talk about some unpleasant human behavior today. I know, and I'm sorry about that to a point, but I'm not, because the book is the book. I think as graphic as some of this is, you would think less of me if I tried to hide it or sugarcoat it. Honestly, if I had my way, I wish to use the word "regurgitate." "Disgorge" would have been a great one. But it's the word "vomit." That's not a pleasant word. When you sit around a campfire or a retreat someplace and somebody gives you a favorite Bible word, it is "vomit." In our text, it even gets worse. I'm kind of sorry about this because he's talking about not just vomit, but a man that is eating his own vomit. If that wasn't bad enough, he keeps going back and eating his own vomit. I could see it already, some of you getting green around the gills. This is a great illustration. It's a graphic

illustration. But I've learned the graphic things in the Bible are usually great things in the Bible for us to learn from. We're going to do that today.

II. Man Likened to Filthy Animals

In the Bible, a man or a woman are likened to two of the most filthy animals on earth. In the Bible, an unsaved woman is likened to a pig. That's not very flattering. The Bible says in 2 Peter 2:22 that when you take a pig (talking about a woman), she gets washed. She doesn't get saved; that's not that kind of wash. She just goes, gets a shower, gets cleaned up, gets washed. Then the Bible says that she goes right back to the wallow. She enjoys the filth. She has no conscience about it, just like a pig. You take a pig in and scrub him up, put a bow in his hair, put him out in the yard. He'll head right back to the slop. That's what pigs do.

Adding to that, Proverbs 11:22 says, "As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion." Discretion means that she has no Bible truth. She has no understanding. She has no perspective. When I read verses like that, it helps me because I always like to know why everything is. There are a lot of things in the Bible I don't know why they are. But I like to know why they are. You women don't understand, and what I'm about to say, please allow me to say this, it's okay. I didn't walk up and down here looking for targets today. I don't care. I love everybody. But I like to know why things are because whether you know it or not, there's a reason behind in the Bible why we do everything we do.

I think a woman who wears lipstick, I think that's a good deal. It keeps your brain alive deciding out of 9 million different colors and shades which one you want to pick. That's good. But I know in the Bible why a woman wears lipstick. It's in the Bible. I've watched you ladies, most of you don't dress up to come to church. We're casual here. But when we have a, I watch you girls go to prom. You don't wear your sneakers. You go to a wedding and you're in the wedding party. Well, that should be true. I've had many weddings where the people wear sneakers in it. But anyway, you wear high heels. I think high heels are neat. I think they look good. I think they call them pumps. Is that right? If I get out of line here, just tell me. I'm trying to stay within it. But I think it looks great. High heels. I don't know how you, I've seen women working places at the mall that work all day. It's got to hurt your feet. Anytime you get your feet up in an angle like that, I mean, I try walking on your toe, a man. I get cramps in my calves, of course. But anyway, forget that. I know why women wear high heels. It's okay. I'm not saying it's anything wrong with it. I'm just saying I like to know why things are the way they are. What's wrong with that?

Women wear makeup, and I'm good with that. I'm like old Bob Jones Sr. If the barn door needs paint, you paint that sucker. But I know why women use makeup. I do. I like to know where things started. The idea of a woman putting a diamond or a jewel or gold something in her nose. I don't care. I'm not fighting it. But I'm saying, please, you know, don't, I'm careful here because I don't want to affect anybody. I'm not criticizing anybody. A lot of God's women do that. They put those little things in their nose. I don't care. But you need to understand that adding or deforming yourself, because it gets really bad sometimes. It's where we just start. It's a pagan thing. I'm not saying you shouldn't do it. If you got it, it's okay. Now, I know everything has to be in

moderation. I get that. I've never understood some of the weird stuff that goes on. Now, piercing your ears, okay, it's all right. I mean, it's, I'm not fighting any of it.

We had a guy here, it's been a while back, he was in the NFL. He wasn't a football player, it was "not for long." He had his earlobes that hung down to there. I mean, them suckers, you could put silver dollars in them. I've been to Africa. I watched the Maasai. I watched all those tribes. They do it. Stretching out your earlobes to the point, and then you put some kind of ornaments in them. I look at that, and I ask myself why. As a Christian, how does that help me be a witness? Unless you're going to Africa as a missionary, how does that enhance us? Me, you. Does it make you better? I've seen guys and girls, but guys wear these big nose rings. I got to say, if I ever get in a fight with, I hope he's got a nose ring, but that's what I'm going for. Or his earlobes. I'll take those suckers, and you think they're stretched now. I get it.

Then I see this all the time, these little silver rivets you put through your tongue. What is that? That has got to hurt. I want to see the little wrench kit that comes with it to put that sucker in and ratchet that in there. That's got to hurt. If I was going to have one, I'm Mr. Practicality here. If I'm going to have one, I'm going to have one that lights up. When I can't find my car key, and the light comes on, I can get what I need. That's got to hurt, man.

I went to Subway last week. I like to eat at Subway. It's got some good stuff there. I'm in line, and there's this girl in front of me. She's probably in her early twenties. She's in front of me, and she's ordering, and I'm not paying attention. Then she got her boyfriend with her. All of a sudden, she turns around to look for something. I kid you not, she had in each eyebrow four or five of those piercing things in each one. She had two in each of her noses. She had one, two, I was like, wholesale man, one, two, she had four or five across her lips. She had ears, and I'm saying, no, please. This is not, please bear with me, I'm not being critical or cruel here. She wasn't the prettiest girl on the planet to begin with. In fact, she looked like she fell out of the top of the ugly tree and hit every branch coming down. I'm saying to myself, I'm asking myself, why? Does that really make you look more attractive?

I go to the workout place. There's women there with, got to be all over, I got to make sure. Purple hair. Purple. Purple. I mean, it's purple. I saw one gal there one time, her hair was so reddish orange, I thought she looked like a ball of steel wool I left out in the rain and it rusted. Why? I'm just asking. I ask myself, why? Why would I want to do that? Do I think that endears me to Christianity? Does that make me closer to God? I had a guy said one time, and then, you know, there was a deal a while back. I don't know, I hear these things and I forget about it. But guys in the earrings, there was a time years ago, and you guys could probably fill me in on this, where gay guys displayed they were being gay by which ear they put the earring in. If I remember right, it was a little phrase, "right was wrong," because if you put it in your right ear, you were gay. Then I got really confused because sometimes they put them in both ears. I guess they're bisexual. I don't know how that works. But I ask myself, why?

The Bible is the Bible. I told you this was, I told you, I told you before we started, I told you on Thursday night, Bob was like, "This is the good morning to get sick." Because you are going to be sick by the time you leave. I never understood it. This girl turned around, and I couldn't

imagine trying to kiss this girl. If her boyfriend would have had the same thing in, it'd given a whole new meaning to locking lips. You got tangled up forever in that mess. I asked myself, why do people have to do that? God made you the way He wanted you. He could have put those rivets in your mouth. He could have created you with the extended earlobes. You know why people do that? Honestly, and I know it is funny, it is funny, but I'll tell you, I had one of those guys one time I was witnessing to, and I was telling him about the Lord and the Bible and all the things. He says to me, he says, "Man," he says, "you sure are peculiar and weird." I said, "Really? Look in the mirror, guy. You look like a cast out from the Wizard of Oz." And I'm peculiar. But you know what? He was right because Israel was to be a peculiar people. As a Christian, you're either going to be, here it comes, you knew it was coming, didn't you? As a Christian, you're either going to be peculiar for God, or you're going to look peculiar for the world. You can't mix and match the two. You just can't.

I'm not fighting anybody. I don't care. I would never, if I saw somebody, I'd love on them. I'd be nice to him. I'd be kind to him. I'm just preaching what the Bible says here. It's just that simple. You take a pig, any pig, you dress that pig in a thousand dollar gown and put a gold jewel in its nose. At the end of the day, you just got a gold studded pig. Nothing has changed. But we, because the world leaves us so incomplete and the world doesn't satisfy what we need, we think we got to embellish ourselves to the place that we do something to us because we're so incomplete on the inside. We actually think that becoming peculiar like the world is going to give us that completeness. I got some news for you. Forget the world and just be peculiar for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Don't get mad at me. I'm trying to help here. You say, "Well, I like ornaments." I don't know what's your big deal. Hey, I like ornaments too. If you really want to put an ornament on, how about 1 Peter 3:4? It says, "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." There's one for you. Try that one. That's screwing in your nose.

III. The Dog and His Filth

We're in Proverbs 26. Where a woman is likened to a pig, a man is likened to a dog. A dog who, again, is one of the most filthy animals on the planet. He eats his own vomit here. He keeps returning to it time after time. That's a great illustration. It may be graphic, and it may be for the weak stomach person, but I'm going to tell you, it is a great principle. Most people get, they like the flowery stuff of the Bible, but when the Bible gets down to the nitty gritty of what life is really about, then they have a problem with it. The Bible says that an unsaved man is likened to a dog.

In the Old Testament, you find them, the Gentiles are called dogs. I've been asked this through Bible study over the years, many times. The Bible says back there in 1 Samuel 25:22 and other places like 1 Kings 14:10, it talks about "he that pisseth against the wall." People read that, and they go, "That's a bad word." Really? The Bible just lays it out where it is, and it says "he that pisseth against the wall." You know who does that? A dog does that. When he's using that reference, he's talking about the way God viewed Gentiles in the Old Testament, like a dog.

They're always going up against the wall. Gives whole new meaning to the Wailing Wall, you know? That's why those Jews are going, they're going to get close to it, but they can't.

A dog, though, man's best friend. You ain't kidding me, man. Yeah, I'm with you, son. I get it. It's the thing where it, I'm a dog guy, okay? I just had to put my male lab down last, not this Friday, the Friday before. 17 years old. Hardest day of my life. His name was Buddy, and he was my buddy. Don't tell me. Every time I have to put one down, I tell myself I'm never getting another one. Then six weeks later, I get another one. I still got three left, so I'm working on those for a while. But I'm telling you, don't tell me about dogs.

One time, Phil Harrington, who was the chaplain of Bourbon Street, this is back in the 60s, in the late 60s, in the 70s. He was debating the famous atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair. They were going out of the debate. It was on the Phil Donahue show. She was making fun of God and making fun of him being a preacher. He was as fast on his feet as anybody I ever met. He said, "Madalyn," he says, "why do I do what I do?" He says, "God, you can't spell 'go' without G-O, God. You can't spell the Gospel without 'go.' Why do I go?" She says, "Oh, oh." She says, "Yes, yes, yes, yes." She says, "You know what? You take God and spell it backwards, and you got dog." "What's your point?" He said, without missing a beat, he says, "You know what? Anyway, you spell him, he's still man's best friend." Don't tell me about dogs.

Bob Jones Senior used to have a message, and I preach a massive version of it. I haven't preached it here. But he preaches that out of that same passage, "Just Some Dogs That I've Known." He actually lines up people that he meets in the ministry to dogs. Boy, I'll tell you, I heard that lesson years ago, and I thought, "Wow, that's incredible." He talks about some Christians are like German shepherds. They're stalwarts, strong, steely-eyed, looking at everything. He says, "Those are the kind you want to have in your church." He says, "You got some men, some Christians are like little Chihuahuas." All the time. That's a great message. That's a great message. A dog, though, man's best friend. We've all had them. Let's face it. They are one of the most filthiest animals on the planet. I know this is really gross, but you know what? There's a great lesson here.

There's three things that dogs do that we got to talk about here. Then we're going to make the parallel. Oh, yeah. You want to get these notes down. Absolutely.

4. They, in our verse here, they eat their own vomit. I'm even intending to change that when I'm talking about now, but I can't because that's the Bible word. I've had dogs that done that. You've had dogs that done that. It's the grossest thing on the planet. I learned, like everything else, I throw up and say to Barb, "Well, Buddy threw up," or "Daisy threw up downstairs." She said, "Did you clean it cleaned up?" I said, "No, I just waited. He took care of it." The Bible is the Bible.
5. Second gross thing they do: they eat their own stool. I had a dog one time that I didn't have to buy any food. It was incredible. It was terrible. I went to the vet and I asked the vet, I says, "What do I do?" He says, "This may help you." He said, "They do that because they have a vitamin deficiency in them, and they do that." You have a dog that way too. You're shaking your head. Okay. Okay. Thank you. I said, "Well, what do I do?" He says, "Here's what I do."

He says, "Go to the store and get some really ground hot pepper. I mean, the hottest pepper you can find, and just go out in the yard and sprinkle it all over again and just let him go." So I did that. He liked it better with the pepper on it. Without the pepper. That didn't work. Dogs are the grossest thing you've ever seen in your life. We're going to make some great parallels to you and me here in just a moment.

6. The third thing that they do, they always lick themselves. That's the grossest thing you ever saw in your life. Yeah, I agree. I'm with you.

When I was a little kid growing up, I've never forgot this. This is the funniest thing that ever happened to me. When I was a little kid growing up, I was about 10 or 12, maybe 14. I don't know. My grandma, my mom and dad worked during the day, and the school that I went to was here right up around the corner on the next block. My grandma and grandpa lived. We'd get out for lunch. Kids don't get out for lunch. I went to school when you had an hour lunch and you went home to eat. Remember those days? Not. So anyway, I would go to my grandma's and my grandpa. I want to tell you right now. My grandma was the worst cook on the planet. She's terrible. I love my grandma too, but my grandpa, he was typical old grandpa. When I'd go in there, the table would be set. He'd always put two quarters underneath the plate for me to go to the store on the way back. He hid them because grandma'd have a fit. She was something else. Nobody liked her. So, you know, I would say, "Thank you." So she would make me lunch. She would make me hot dogs. Now I love hot dogs. You can't get me a better meal. If I got it between Ruth's Chris or a Shalani hot dog, I'm taking a hot dog. She butchered. She boiled them. You cannot go to heaven if you boil hot dogs. They were the most terrible things in the world. They blowed up. They split. She put them on my plate, and I'm thinking, and they taste terrible. Nothing better than a fire grilled hot dog, man. You boil them. So she put them on my plate, and my grandpa was sitting there. He was eating whatever he was eating, and she went on upstairs, and I'm kind of working at it. He says, "Pretty bad, ain't it?" I said, "Yeah, it is, grandpa." He says, "Here's what I do." Called a dog over. Dog ate him off his plate. He says, "Go ahead. It's okay." I said, he said, "I put you some money and get you something on the way back to the store." That's okay. So doggy ate that stuff up. This is absolutely the truest story I've ever told you. So my grandma comes down the steps. The dog is over in the corner, and he starts licking himself. Got me going nuts. My grandma comes down. This is my grandma. "What's that dumb dog doing over there in the corner?" You see a grandma talking like that? "What's that?" She used another word in there. "What's that dog doing over there in the corner? Licking himself." My grandpa looks up and says, "I don't know. I think he's trying to get a bad taste out of his mouth." True story. Dogs are filthy. We love them. Hey, and we're all guilty of it. They'll go throw up and eat it, and then they want to come kiss you. And you know, the real test of you're a dog lover, do you let them? Yeah, I do.

IV. False Teachers and Their Folly

2 Peter 2:22

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

If you don't have this note along this verse, you want to put this in here. The context here in 2 Peter 2, first of all, will be false prophets. Men, saved or lost, who will corrupt the Word of God by teaching a bad doctrine or teaching false things in the Bible. We're told, and remember now, he's warning the church in Philippi about these things. He says in Philippians 3:2, he tells them to "beware of dogs." Now he's not saying if you go door knocking, be aware of the dog in the yard. That's not what he's talking about. He's talking about the kind of dogs that he's talking about here. He says, "also beware of evil workers." Then he says, "beware of the concision." Now the concision is a word for circumcision. What he's saying here is that there are people out here who were fitted into the category of 2 Peter 2:22, who are a dog teaching false doctrine, who are telling you that as a New Testament Christian, you have to be circumcised under the law. That's what he's saying. False teachers, false doctrine, false teaching. The Bible says it's like a pile of vomit. This proverb is true in any unsaved man, but in particular, and we'll look at that in a moment, and religious Bible teachers who will pervert the true Word of God, whether they're saved or whether they're lost.

There are a number of good principles here. Once we get past the slime pit of talking about vomit, number one, a man or a woman who will always be regurgitating the vomit in their false teaching will be somebody who has never learned the lessons of history. They'll never see the real truth that God has clearly established historically that you can follow through history that clearly leads you to the right place that you need to be if you want to learn your Bible. Instead, they're always getting caught up in the unestablished truth that man has come up with to discredit God and get around the truth of the Word of God. Proverbs 26:12 says that they become wise in their own conceit.

There's nothing funnier to me than some little PhD pipsqueak trying to take out his little microscope or a little magnifying glass and making a so-called living off of finding out where God made His mistakes with the Bible and then correcting Him. After last week, the great God who was all-knowing, omnipresent, and all-powerful. You kidding me? And you with your little studies and your education, you are going to undo all that God did down through history with His book and His people just because you want to play in the big leagues. You're a little boy with your little toys, and you want to attract yourself as somebody who really is knowledgeable. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:7 that they're "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." I'm going to tell you something. Rule number one for you and for me: beware of anybody who just takes a philosophical approach to the Bible, who, when you're done talking with them or they're done teaching, cannot give you some definite answers. All this stuff about, "Well, yeah, it could be this," "What do you think?" or "What do you think?" or "This think" or "That think?" Let me tell you something. Who cares what you think? Who cares what I think? What saith the scriptures? You get somebody that can't give you a definitive Bible doctrinal answer on the issues that you're looking for in life. Stay away from them dogs.

You see it in history. The history of the world is like a sick dog. Christianity, the latest in church period, is the same thing. It's a sick church. He said in Revelation 3:17, he says that "thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." You're poor spiritually, you're blind, you can't see anything in the Bible, you're wretched, you're sick or throwing up, you're

miserable, you're unfulfilled, and you're naked. That's the gentleness to Christ. All they do is vomit over and over and over again all of this filth.

You see it in government. Government never learns the lessons of history. We are paying the price in America right now and have been for the last 30, 40 years because we never learned the lessons in history. We never do. We never learn the lessons because it's never really about you, it's about how do I stay in power. You see it in nations. You see it with Bible teachers. You see it with pastors. You see it with churches. You see it with Bible colleges, and you certainly see it with Christians. They never learn from history.

There's a teaching out there right now that I taught a lot of boys the Bible over the years. Let me tell you something, I've taught many, many kids, young guys, the Bible and taught them the right way. You know today you find a lot of these guys are buying into this new pile of vomit that has come out of the neo-evangelical world. A teaching that the text of the King James Bible came from is not reliable and it's connected like all the other corrupt Greek texts. All of these guys, not all of them, but a lot of these guys are buying into it. They're buying into it because they're wise in their own conceit. They all want the notoriety of a big mega church. So they're going to go with the flow, whatever the mega monster out there, whatever he's regurgitating up today is what they're going to chow down on. They don't even have a clue.

When Westcott and Hort in the latter part of the 1800s, when they did their 20-year work to destroy the King James Bible and ruin the text by taking the Sinaiticus and the Vaticanus, it was very clear to everybody back there the difference between the two. That's why they never meshed with ours. They went and got the Roman Catholic one because ours was, you couldn't do it with ours. They wouldn't let you do it. Well, they come out with that. Of course, we know from their work came the New Greek New Testament, which now the first translation came from, all the other translations have come from.

During that same time with Westcott and Hort, there was a guy by the name of Dean Burgon. Dean Burgon lived in about the 1880s. He was an unparalleled scholar when it came to Greek and the text and everything. He did the work that was so devastating to Westcott and Hort's theory and their work that it was unrefutable. Even to this day, some over 120, 30, 40 years ago since he died, you have what is known as the Dean Burgon Society, men who are members of it who hold the line. He destroyed Westcott and Hort, the very guys that these wannabes are going back to.

I think in the 1880s, there was a guy by the name of Sir Robert Anderson. He was a master of dispensationalism. That's another thing that everybody questioned today, as we get farther away from the Word of God. He did a number of works. The six that were my favorite was the first one he wrote was called *The Coming Prince*. There has never been another book in the history of the world that laid out the Antichrist out of the book of Daniel like he did in *The Coming Prince*. Then he wrote one called *Forgotten Truths*. Boy, is that prevalent for today. Then he wrote one called *The Gospel and the Ministry*. Then he wrote one called *The Lord from Heaven*. Incredible in the rapture and the second coming from Christ, which everybody's just counting today. He wrote a book on *The Silence of God* that deals with the 400 years between the Testaments.

Incredible book. Then he wrote a book on the types in Hebrews, the book of Hebrews. Incredible. Incredible.

We got guys like Sir Robert Dick Wilson, 1900. He was the professor of Semitic languages at Princeton Theological Seminary. He taught Old Testament and was his primary deal. He spoke 45 different languages. He was completely versed in Greek and Hebrew and Aramaic. He knew every language and understood every language the Bible was written in up till 1600. His work has been unrefuted. Clearly laying out as the Bible does that you have three families of manuscripts. Nobody could ever argue with him. Nobody could ever even touch what he did. My question to all you young wannabes, have you ever read these works? I guarantee you haven't. You know why? Because they got the vomit dripping out of the sides of your mouth of where you've been eating.

You have a David Gregory. Talk about dispensationalism, the rapture of the church. He was the math professor at Oxford in 1710. He laid out the approximate date of Christ's coming based on the book of Daniel and the dispensations. His work ran over 650,000 words and has never one time been rejected. How about George Wilson? 1887. His work on dispensationalism ran 1,055 pages, over 700,000 words, and never in 150 years has it ever even been challenged, let alone somebody refuted it. All these guys laid the foundation for Clarence Larkin's works in there. You see, you're worse than a fool. You're wise in your own conceit and have rejected those before you who knew way more about it than you do, but you bought into the pile of vomit that these guys are putting out today. You like it and you keep going back to it. These men that I just mentioned followed a long line of established truth out of the Bible that God has given us that lays all the way back.

The second great aspect to the fool that is wise in his own conceit and keeping everything as the world has it and just destroying everything with the vomit that he puts out: they defy and question everything that God does. The second thing is that nobody can teach them anything. They're unteachable. They think they know it all. You've never built anything for God. You never invested in your life in any ministry that God is doing through a New Testament local church. You'll never make yourself accountable to what you teach to other people through a New Testament church. You're always out there flapping on your own, doing your own thing. You never paid any price to get out of that book. You never paid any price to put out that book. You're always playing it safe, and you just glean from everybody else that you can and then turn around and criticize them to make yourself look good. These guys couldn't lay out the established truth that their life depended on it. It's just the way it is. According to Proverbs 26:12, you're worse than a fool because your wisdom lieth in your own conceit. I'll tell you something about conceit. Conceit is the anesthesia that dulls the pain of our stupidity, shedding a judgment of that book or the men who God clearly used to bring it down to history to us. That's the context of how we find it. Fake and false wannabe Bible teachers who forsake the established truth, never able to come to the truth because they're always setting themselves above as the final authority.

V. The Cycle of Sin

Here's the second aspect to this. Get away from the religious crowd. Here's the practical application for you and me. It's just men and women that we work with. Why men and women just keep coming back to their sin over and over again. The Bible will do many things for you. But one of the great things the Bible will do, it will break that cycle of sin in your life. We had a great time with the brother this morning. Got his breathalyzer taken out of his car. You know what God's done for you, son? He's broken that chain out of your life. I commend you for that. Everybody here, you know how rotten some of you were before you got saved? Amen. You know what God's done with all of us? Because you got in the book, because you were just dumb enough to believe what God wrote you and put yourself where God wanted you to be. You know what God, God has set you free from it. The Vomitators will be a man or a woman who never learned the lessons from history, but they'll never learn the lessons from their own mistakes. So they'll constantly repeat them, and they're always going back to the same old problem.

I know this isn't easy this morning. I get that. But you know what? The Bible's plain truth laid out in a plain way. God is driving home a point here. I've tried to lighten it up a little bit and give you a little laughter to make things a little more tolerable for you. But at the end of the day, it's the plain truth of God. This explains why a drunk keeps returning to his bottle. He keeps returning to the booze that he drinks. What we do in society, there was a time when we called him a boozehead or a drunkard. Now we make a professional name for it, a chronic alcoholic. Sounds great. Almost want to be one. Now we understand why he keeps returning to it. Try to deal with somebody at some point who's involved in that. Who's got themselves locked into that. Try to get them just to quit drinking on their own or just to walk away from it. It's impossible. They'll keep going to that bottle just like a dog keeps going back to his vomit.

How about the dopeheads? The marijuana smokers, the heroin, the crack addicts. We can't call them those things anymore. Back in the 30s, Gene Krupa was a drummer. Gene Krupa was a good drummer. He got hung up on marijuana. When he got hung up on marijuana, he got busted for it. They played a lot of colleges, a lot of sororities, and a lot of dances. He tried to make a comeback, and he tried to play with a couple of bands in the colleges. Because he had the reputation of being a marijuana smoker, they booed him, they laughed at him, and they ridiculed him back in the day. Now they'd all be doing the same thing. But they keep going back to it. They keep returning to it. Because they can't break that chain. There's something that holds them there. The seducer of women returns to his conquest. The gambler goes back to the casino. The child abuser returns to his abusing children. The man with an abusive anger nature issues keeps on abusing his wife. The fool returns to his folly. The young man or young lady who continually makes bad choices just keeps on making them. Or as the point being made, the dog will return to his vomit over and over and over again unless something breaks that cycle. That has to be the Word of God. It has to be God changing your life to the point that you want to be peculiar for God, not for the world. You go out there someplace and you see somebody that looks like a painted up for folksberry season possum hunting, and we all laugh. But at the same time, we see somebody that's a Bible believer, loves the book, and stands for the Word of God, and the world will laugh at you. You know what the question is? Which one do you want to be laughed at? You want to look like a freak for the world and let everybody laugh at you, or you want to look like a

peculiar person for Christ and let them laugh at you that way. Some things you don't have to pray about.

VI. Samson: A Case Study in Folly

There's no greater example of this in the Bible that illustrates this absolutely incredibly well than the life of Samson. Samson is found first time back in Judges 13 and comes all the way up to chapter 17. Yet, not one time in his life did he ever follow or apply God's plan in his life. It never did. Yet, Samson, if you go over there in Hebrews 11, he's a picture of an unsaved man. He's found in God's Hall of Fame. Are you kidding me? Here's a guy that all of his life disobeyed everything that God told him to do. Yet, he wound up in God's Hall of Fame. He's such a graphic picture of you and me. It's scary.

You know what his problem was? He wasn't a bad guy. Samson was, you know, we got Samsons around today. They're good guys. He wasn't out there taking a 9mm AK-47 and shooting down a neighborhood. He's just a good old boy. He's hanging out, doing what everybody does. You know what his problem was? His problem wasn't the fact that he was out there doing terrible things and hurting people. His problem was that he was weak. In his weakness, he could not make the right choices. I've seen so many young men and young ladies like that in my lifetime. They're nice kids. They're nice people. But you know what the problem is? They can't make the right choices. They're weak. They'll get into a crowd of people, and whoever leads is what they follow. I've seen people like that all of my life.

He's a man with a mission for God. God had him from birth. God said, "I'm going to make him a Nazarite because I've got something special I want him to do." As a Nazarite in the Old Testament, there were three things that a man could not come close to or touch.

7. He couldn't come up against a vine tree.
8. He couldn't touch a dead body.
9. He couldn't cut his hair.

All three of those, if you want to put those in a practical application, he's a perfect picture of you because God has a mission for you to do. For you to fulfill that mission, I'm going to tell you something. You got to stay away from the vine tree. I'll tell you something, please ask. You got to stay away from dead people, unsaved, dead in trespasses of sin. The long hair, what is that all about? Back in the Old Testament, every Jew had to cut his hair a certain way. If he didn't, he became ashamed. So when a guy became a Nazarite, he didn't cut his hair like the rest of the Jews did. He let it grow because in that picture of his shame was his humility to serve God. You ought to bear the shame and the reproach of Jesus Christ as a child of God.

God had a mission. Not one time ever did he ever accomplish anything that God intended for him to do. He just keeps going back to the vomit. He falls into that cycle of sin that was his flesh that he could not break. His life, just like a lot of God's people's life, is one continual disaster after another. One failed situation after another. One miserable heartbreak after another. Finally, he winds up a complete captive to the Philistines, a picture of the world. He loses his freedom now to do whatever God wanted him to do. There will come a time in your life when you thumb

your nose at the Word of God so long, and you do your own thing that the world will come down and shackle around you, and you will lose your freedom to ever do what God wanted you to do. You will be bound to your sin.

We'll see here in a moment, God miraculously comes down and does some things. We'll talk about that in a minute, but we don't want to miss where we're going here. The great lessons of his life are for our lives, if we will learn from history and learn from our own mistakes by looking at his mistakes. As I said, he's not a bad guy. He's not some gang member. He's not peddling dope to high school kids on the street. He's not molesting children. He's just a good old boy who is just weak. He follows the crowd wherever that crowd goes. He just keeps getting into the mess of it. But the great lessons here will be that he was a conceited fool, and he kept returning to his own sin.

We find, look at his life, three things that were his problem that will come into your life, in my life, if we don't break that cycle.

10. His sin blinded him. He couldn't see it because he got wise in his own conceit. He thought he knew more about life than everybody else did. This is where your kids are going to come as they grow up a little bit. They're going to start challenging your authority that they know more about life than you do. Every parent that ever lost their kid to the world, it started out right here by them getting blinded by their own conceit that somebody told them that they knew more about life than you do. Samson falls into that. His mom couldn't tell him. His dad couldn't tell him. His friends couldn't tell him. More importantly, God couldn't tell him. He wouldn't listen to anybody. He was unteachable. His sin, his vomit, blinded him to the truth about life and his becoming wise in his own conceit. In time, it destroyed him just like it will you and me.

11. His sin bound him. I think this is very interesting. You all had to learn a lesson from this. Here's Samson, who would never listen to anybody, who made every wrong choice in life that was to make, and wouldn't take any rebuke from anybody. Not only did he get blinded to it, he got bound to it. Yet the thing that bound him was the very thing that he loved, Delilah. He wouldn't love God. He wouldn't do what God wanted to do. But oh, boy, the first words out of his mouth is, "I have seen a woman." I always thought it was interesting. The first thing he saw, words out of his mouth, "I saw a woman." The last thing he says, he can't see anything. The world put his eyes out. The very thing he thought he loved, oh, more important than that, the very thing that he thought loved him. He was blind. He was the very thing or the very person who betrayed him and sold him out to being bound by the world system.

I'll tell you kids something, tell you young, single something. You better listen to the people who understand a little bit more about life than you do. Because it only takes one or two bad choices and you're off the market. We all get to the place. I know I think back in my life when my dad tried to tell me, and I thought nobody knew, when I was 16 or 17 years old, I thought my mom and dad were the stupidest people on the planet. When I turned 21, 23, I couldn't figure out how they got smart so fast. They were smart all along. I was the idiot. We go through life thinking we know more about it than those that have experienced it in life and can guide you the right way. But oh, no, no, no, no, we're going to do it our way. The very thing that his mom and dad, in fact,

when he says, "I saw a woman," you know what his dad says? His dad says, "Why can't you get a woman from Israel, your own people? Why do you got to go to the world system?" He says, here's his response, "Get her for me." A human with a she-weakness. It killed him. All his life, he thought the things that he was putting his life and investing in his was the right thing. They were going to, he loved it. He keeps going back to it. When he loses his dad, he loses his mom, and they get burnt. He keeps going back to it because he loves it. He looks at it, and he actually felt, got blinded to the point where he thought that she loved him. She didn't. Whatever you think you love the world. Whatever you think in the world is more important to you this morning than God is and what God has for you. I won't tell you something. It may be 20, 30, 40 years from now, but it'll happen. The very thing that you're going to think you love are going to wind up betraying you in the end. Wise in his own conceit. He trusted in himself. He trusted in his beauty. I'm sure he had nose jewels and braided hair. We know it was into seven locks. Beautiful flowing hair. I'm sure he took time to have that all braided and just right and looking in the mirror and saying, "Oh, I'm going out downtown tonight." His beauty, his hair, his great strength. He all trusted in his flesh. So not only is he a great example about being wise in your own conceit and returning over and over and over again to the vomit. He got blinded. His sin blinded him. His sin bound him.

12. His sin will grind you. It'll blind you. It'll bind you. It'll blind you. It'll bind you, and it will grind you. Here he is. Here you will be betrayed by what you invested your life in. Betrayed by what you thought you loved, and you really thought that it loved you back. Betrayed by Delilah through the Philistines. Now the world system takes the child of God. Puts out his eyes. He'll never see another woman again. Puts out his eyes. Strips him naked. Ties him to a grinding wheel that probably weighs a thousand pounds. Now he's lost his strength because he got his haircut from Delilah. That was the source of his strength. By the way, those seven locks in the Old Testament, a picture of the seven spirits of God that God dealt with Israel, it is a picture that when you and I get sold out to the Philistines, you lose the power of God in your life.

There he is, bound, chained, naked. While the Philistines, the world system, laughed at him. The Bible says they made sport of him. They laughed at him. They made fun of him. He was bound now for the rest of his life. Instead of grinding himself out for the mission of God, he's now grinding himself out for the world system. Bound, chained to it, blinded by it. For all the rest of his life, it looked like that's what he was going to do. He pushed that big old grind wheel around as he ground the grain and made it into flour for the world to eat. He's the most miserable person on the planet. Yet he's found in God's Hall of Fame.

You see, Samson could have been one of the great heroes of the Bible instead of one of the great vessels of dishonor in the Bible. But I want you to know, God still used him and got the honor and glory out of it. You see, he came to himself while he's grinding out for the Philistines, blind, naked. It shows me that every child of God, no matter how far you get from God, no matter what you do with your life or you don't do when you wind up in a mess like that, I'm going to tell you something. At some point when you get so far down, you're going to come to yourself. Maybe nobody will ever know it. Maybe you'll never be able to tell anybody about it. Nobody knew it in

Samson's life. We wouldn't know it unless the Holy Spirit of God told us the story. He's grinding that thing out and he's saying, "Lord, I sure screwed up. I sure made a mess out of things." God said, "Yeah, you did." He says, "What am I going to do? You gave me a mission. I can't do that mission. I'm chained here. I'm blinded. I can't do a thing. I don't have any strength at all anymore." God says, "Well, let me tell you something, Samson. There is something you can do. I'll tell you what we're going to do. I'm going to have these Philistines put you away. I'm going to have these Philistines put you over here between these two pillars. I'm going to give you your strength back. You're going to do for me what you should have done and got the honor and glory out of it as a great vessel of honor. But now you're going to go down in history that hundreds of years down the line, some goofy preacher in Independence, Missouri will preach to his people about your vessel of dishonor and how I got the honor and glory out of it." The Bible says that he put him between those two things, laughing to make in front, and he pushed on those two pillars. The Bible says that that whole building came down and he killed more in his death than he ever killed in his life. God got the victory out of it. But at what cost?

I'm going to tell you right now, you'll go back to your vomit, back to your vomit, back to your vomit, back to your vomit over and over and over again. You'll do your own thing. You'll never learn the lessons from history. You'll never learn the lessons from your mistakes. You'll never let anybody teach you or help you. You're going to make one bad choice after another, and then you're going to suck other people in who are dumber than you are with your bad choices. Someday, when you're bound to the grist mill of the Philistines, and your toe spiritually blinded, you can't see anything. You're naked because you're headed to the judgment seat of Christ. You're bound now grinding out for the world, for their mission instead of the mission God had for you. God will deal with you. Some of you may have turned this message off this morning. Some of you young kids may have blew it off. Let me tell you something. God gets you pinned under a car three or four o'clock in the morning. You'll hear the rest of the message. You'll go out there goofing around and doing something stupid, jump off a high dive someplace and hit the water wrong and become a paraplegic the rest of your life. It'll come across loud and clear. Boy, that whole thing just came down. God got the honor and glory out of it. Yes, he did. It's one of the great stories in the Bible, but it cost him his life to do it.

You see, you're much better off to give up your life for Christ than you are to give it up without Christ. You're much better off to grind out for Him the ministry that He's called you to than to forsake that, make your bad choices, do your own thing, and then grind it out for the world. Because at the end of the day, and Samson is such a great lesson, the world system, his own conceit, he's returning to his vomit like a dog over and over and over. Not one time will he listen to anybody. You would think after the mistakes and the graphic disasters in his life that he'd get a clue, the light would come on. He'd say, "Hey, there's something wrong with me here. I can't quit blaming my problems on somebody else or my deficiency. It's me." Oh, no, no. Right up to the point where the world took him. His sin blinded him. His sin bound him. His sin ground him. It was all by his choosing. Nobody forced anything on him. He just all thinks he's smarter than somebody else.

You know how he lost his Nazarite position? He knows he's not to have anything to do with a vine tree. So he'd be bopping from his house over to see his little lovely lady. Big night plan. You know how it goes. He's be bopping over there, and he's smarter. He knows what God told him. But he thinks he's smarter than God. So he can't wait to get to his sweetie's house. He knows there's a shortcut, and the shortcut goes right through a vineyard. Instead of staying on the path to get there, he took a shortcut of life through the vineyard. Guess who he met in the vineyard? A lion. The Bible says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." When he met that lion, yeah, he's strong. He killed that lion. But when he killed that lion, he touched a dead body, and he lost the Nazarite concept. I'm going to tell you, you take the shortcuts of life. Listen to me. Listen to me. You take the shortcuts of life through places that you shouldn't go. The devil will meet you there. End of story.

Got through the message though, didn't we? All right. Let's have a word of prayer. We'll be lined up at the bathroom to throw up. Father, we do.