

I. Introduction to Proverbs and Dispensationalism

If you have your Bibles this morning, I invite you to turn to Proverbs 27. As you know, we have been in Proverbs for quite a while now, and we are making our way into probably the last section, getting up to chapter 30 here. Last week, we were in Proverbs 27:13, and we took that one verse and saw how it was a message to the nation of Israel, but in a practical way, it is a great message to us. We saw how basic dispensationalism lays out in the Bible.

We started that in Bible Institute a couple of sessions ago after we got through the first two years of laying out. Bible dispensations are absolutely crucial if you are ever going to put your Bible together. In the Bible, there are four references to dispensation. There are more than four dispensations throughout the Bible; there are 11 or 12, however you want to count them. But in the Bible itself, there are four direct references to dispensations:

1. Ephesians 1:10
2. Ephesians 3:2
3. Colossians 1:25
4. 1 Corinthians 9:17

It has been amazing to me that most people never understand dispensations or never understand how they are laid out in the Bible. They certainly do not understand the definitions of them, but if you would simply look at these four places that it is found in the Bible, it defines for you what a different dispensation is, by the Bible's definition, not man's. We are what you would call a moderate dispensationalist.

In dealing with dispensations, as we talked about in Bible Institute, you have people who do not believe in any dispensations at all, and they are against any kind of dividing up the Bible in any way, shape, or form. Most of that is your neo-evangelical churches, churches that have taken "Baptist" off their name and went into that gray mush that exists without any real Bible doctrine. But then on the other side, you have what we call the hyper-dispensationalist. They are individuals who cut up the Bible so much that they do not leave anything left. They reject anything in the New Testament except the writings of Paul. Some of them even narrow it down more than that. They reject New Testament baptism for Christians. They get so messed up that they completely destroy the Bible in any way, shape, or form. That all starts back with a man by the name of Bullinger, and a little bit later on, a man by the name of Cornelius Stam, who are just heretics when it comes to trying to put the Bible together.

You are what you call a moderate dispensationalist. What does that mean? It simply means that we rightly divide the Bible where the Bible rightly divides itself. We do not go in and try to make something happen. The Bible will always follow a natural dividing system. Once you see that and you stay with that, then you need to keep your hands out of the Bible. You do not need to get in there and think, "Well, this does this or this," and make something happen.

In Genesis 1:4, you do not go four verses into the Bible before you see God divides. He says He divides the light from the darkness. Actually, the key to God in understanding how He works will be one of division, not putting together. That is the problem today. We have a Bible that divides. It will divide you from the world. It will divide you from sin. It will divide you from everything that is against God. But in Christianity, the Christian world today is a Christian world that wants to get everybody together. Christians today want to bring in the world in their music and in their preaching and everything because their mindset is to get everybody together, where the Bible's mindset is to separate yourself. It is just the way that it has always been.

You are going to find that in the Bible, sanctification is a great Bible doctrine that is lost today. What is sanctification? Sanctification is the day you got saved. God sets you apart from something. In Christianity today and churches today, it is hard to see God's people separated from anything. Just because you take worldly music and put Christian words to it does not mean that it honors God.

You are going to find that the Bible will always follow a natural dividing system and the key to God. Hebrews 4 says that the day you got saved, God divided you. You are complete in Christ today if you are saved. But the only way you got completed in Christ is Hebrews 4 says that the sharp two-edged sword of the Word of God divided you first. So you see, as you come to the Bible, you will find that the Bible itself will have some divisions in it. You do not make them happen; you just follow the natural line of the Bible, and there they are.

You will find that the books in the Bible will divide themselves up. Again, you just follow the natural division. Every book in your Bible will have a natural division in it, every one of them. All you have to do is just follow those natural divisions. You do not have to make something up. You do not have to look at it and say, "Well, I like it this way." Just follow what God did. The chapters in the Bible will have their natural divisions in them. You get into those chapters, and you have to see how God divides it up historically, inspirationally, or doctrinally. From Thursday night, and of course, other things that we do, we now know that even the words will divide out the context of the Bible.

When God gave us the Word of God, He put natural divisions in it. When you rightly divide it, as 2 Timothy 2:15 says:

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

When you do it that way and follow the natural divisions, then you will learn it. It is true in the Christian life. The moment you get saved, do you know why some of God's people have the problems they have after they get saved? Because you never followed that simple biblical process. You got saved, but you left some things in your world that God said you should have left out. You did not divide. You left some people. You left some circumstances. You left some habits in your life that you could have been divided out the day you got saved. It is very simple.

We go through our whole lives as Christians. If I have learned anything in all my years, I have watched this happen. As Christians, what we work 24/7 is taking the simple things of the Bible and trying to make them so complex. Do you know why? Because we can live and do what we want to do within the complexity of the Word of God when we make it that way. It is hard to not do what is right when the Bible is so simple about it, isn't it? When it is black and white and it lays out what you should be and what you should do, it is hard to get around that. But we all do it. We make it so complex that we can live within its complexity. The Bible is very simple: either you are rightly divided or you are wrongly divided. It is just that simple.

We saw how in Proverbs 27:13, doctrines are applied to the nation of Israel. Through our book in Proverbs, we have found the study of this strange woman. We know her to be the great whore of Revelation 17 and 18, connected with the Antichrist in the Tribulation. We saw in Proverbs 27:13 how we have seen it a couple of times in Proverbs, the warning of somebody aligning themselves with this strange woman. We know it to be the Antichrist and his system. We saw last week somebody in the Tribulation defiling their garments. I showed you back in Isaiah 61:10 that for the nation of Israel, their salvation is likened to garments.

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Then I showed you that it talks about somebody defiling those garments and being warned against that. Then somebody's nakedness, losing their garments, showing up at the Great White Throne Judgment. We also looked at it from a practical standpoint, how it will apply to you and me at the Judgment Seat of Christ: us hooking up with the world system, the strange woman, and losing all rewards in our clothing at the Judgment Seat of Christ. We went through it very clearly in 1 Corinthians 3, 2 Corinthians 5, and Romans 14:10. As I showed you, we wound up with that thing last week in Revelation 3:18. He talks about for us in the church that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, our shame of our nakedness does not appear.

Revelation 3:18

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

That was last week. I go through that because all these verses connect together. I want to lay out a flow for you so you can follow it, for those of you who really want to put the book of Proverbs together. So today, we are going to look at the next couple of verses and again, see how it ties into what we have been talking about this last month or so in Proverbs 27.

II. The Problem of False Piety

Let us read these verses.

Proverbs 27:14

He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

Proverbs 27:15

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

Proverbs 27:16

Whoso hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which bewrayeth itself.

Now Proverbs 27:14 says, "He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him." Most people would look at that and think that is a really weird verse. It is a really weird verse, no question about it. Somebody would think of that and say, "What possibly can you learn from that?" Well, here again, we will give it our best shot today. Verses like this, places like this, as far as I am concerned, will separate the men from the boys when it comes to the Bible.

He says, "He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him." Inspirationally, that is the easy part. We can all identify with this person here. We can. Someone who walks around praising God all the time and clearly has a false piety about them that is just not real. It is like they have no real depth to them, so they become very vocal and animated to make you believe that they are really spiritual. They think that the louder they yell "Glory to God" or shout "Amen," the more spiritual you will think they are. Every church has them. Some more than others, believe me, and I have had my share of them over the years. Fortunately, we do not have any at the moment, but I am expecting one to come in any time now. So I will let you know when they get here. They are always the loudest Ameners, the loudest "Glory to God."

Let me just say this: Amen is as much a part of Christianity as anything. It has been down through history; it has been something that the congregation agrees with what is being said, and it is a good thing. Churches are either so cold and so dead and all pruned up like they have been baptized in dill pickle juice that they never say anything. There needs to be a balance. I am just going to tell you, you have to enjoy what you have with the Lord. If you are saved this morning and glad for it, compared to what the world has for you, it is okay. It is okay to enjoy it. It is.

I have preached many, many places many, many times over the years, and I get it. You get a bunch of people that love the Lord and love God. They do not want to stay quiet about it. I get it. But there is a rule of thumb that you always follow. Do you know what it is? You never Amen it louder than you live it. That is the problem with a person like this. I do not want to, by saying something like that, take away from your exuberance of enjoying what God gave you. I do not want you to be the Episcopalians this morning or from the Presbyterians or Methodists. I want you to be Bible-believing Christians that are saved by the blood of the Lamb, and you are happy about it, and praise the Lord for it. You are glad you are here today. That is two of you. I appreciate it.

Years ago, I did a lot of Bible conferences up in upstate New York. Dr. Ruckman was part of those, and we would do Bible conferences up there, probably 15, 16, 17 years worth. Dr. Ruckman always had quite a following. I found through observation, there were two kinds of people that followed him. This certainly was not his fault in any way, shape, or form. Everybody has groupies. The first crowd was the serious Bible students, men and women who really wanted to learn the Bible. They knew where to go to learn the Bible. When he showed up, he gave you something. Some of the greatest messages I ever heard in my life, I heard that old boy put out there, and those places were packed. He would come out there, and you would find people who were Bible students who saw what they could get. They were strong in their Bible, and they were really good individuals.

Then the second group that you had was what I call the wannabes. Men who never in their life would do anything for God. But at Bible conference time, here they come, like bugs at a nightlight. In fact, it is one of the great principles I learned from those years: wherever you have light, you are going to have bugs. That is just true life. It just is. It is true in churches. These individuals were the worst fathers. These individuals were the worst Christians. They were the worst husbands. They were worthless.

One night, this place was packed. There had to be 3,000 people there. The place was rocking. These people knew how to sing. They loved the Lord. A lot of them up there, being in New York, were saved out of the Roman Catholic Church. One night, Dr. Ruckman, who was Catholic in his life, asked how many were former Roman Catholics. Almost everybody in the place. They were glad that they got saved out of the Roman Catholic Church, and they were happy about it. When you started talking about the Bible and singing about the Bible, they got into it.

I remember we were up there. They used to sing the song, "And Can It Be," and they had lifted the ceiling off of that thing. Then they would sing, "Hold the Fort, for I Am Coming." When they waved their Bibles, they waved the answer. The sea of 3,000 Bibles just waving back. It was incredible. It was really incredible. All great. You cannot preach after that; you are in trouble.

All of a sudden, right out of the front row, this individual comes leaping out into the front. He does what we call in Christianity, "runs the bases." Do you know what that is? He starts going around the whole auditorium, which has 3,000 people. It is a big place. He is walking back and forth yelling, "Praise God, God of God, oh, praise Jesus," all the way around the place. He is just going nuts. I am sitting up there, getting ready to preach. I am going to preach next. A pastor leaned over to me and said, "You see that individual?" I said, "Yeah." He says, "He only shows up at Bible conference time. He will not be at church for another year. We have Bible conference. He has lost his wife. He has lost his family, but he is here every time Dr. Ruckman shows up for Bible conference, and he does the exact same thing."

That is our individual in Proverbs 27:14. He is a no-go in every aspect of his life. He has no real church. He has no Bible. Oh, he is waving the right Bible, but if you think he knows anything about it, he has no power in his life, no ministry, no nothing. But let him tell you how great God is. These individuals are drawn to that. It is like you have nothing in your life, but this is my 15 moments of fame that everybody is really going to believe because I am running the bases,

screaming at the top of my lungs about "Glory to God," that everybody is going to say, "Gee, honey, look how spiritual he is. Why aren't you like that?" That is not how it is going to work.

But they can talk. I get two or three phone calls a month by individuals like this. They will want to go on and on and on. They will want to say, "I really need to meet with you." I say, "Well, I do not know what to tell you." "I have a special secret doctrine that God gave to me that I only want to give to you." I said, "Well, I appreciate that. But number one, if it is a doctrine that is outside the Bible, I am not interested. If it is a great doctrine already in the Bible, I probably already know it, so it is not a secret. So I do not think we are going to meet." I get them all the time. They want to go on and on and on. There are times when I wish I could get my dog to answer the phone. Once it happens once or twice, you get smarter. If you look at my phone, you know how you can have contacts in your phone? I just put the number in and say, "Put the name for the specific name: Don't answer, idiot." When it rings, "Don't answer. It is an idiot." I do not answer it. Now, do not get nervous; none of you are like that. I do not have any of your names like that. But I am just telling you, it is crazy.

I have seen them where they talk and they never do anything for God. They are never in any real church. They do not have any ministry. They do not do one thing. When you hear them talk, you think it is the second coming of Elijah. The great illustration here is this "rising early in the morning." It illustrates that while you are trying to sleep, some big mouth is talking and waking you up when you want to sleep. We have all been identified with that, especially at camp when you want to go to bed at night and you are a counselor and those kids just keep going. I will tell you, we will get a little closer to camp; I am going to tell you how to handle that. This is why I do not ever go to camp as a counselor. We do not want the church getting sued, but I guarantee you there are things that you can do. I guarantee you after the first night, they will go beddy-bye at 4:30 in the afternoon if you tell them to.

That is the illustration. It is irritating. You are trying to sleep, and some big mouth is over there talking about this or that, talking about her boyfriend or his girlfriend, hopefully not a girl talking about a girlfriend, but you never know. They are going, and you are trying to sleep. You had a tough day at camp, and they are just all on the day. You say, "Look, try to go to, we need to go to bed now. Lights out at 10 o'clock." They just keep on going. Then they start, you just get them quiet, and then they start giggling. That means they have those little lights that they are sending messages across the thing with them, and they are giggling about it. Then the giggling keeps you awake. That is a great illustration because when you are trying to focus on the preaching the Word of God, some loudmouth idiot will distract you, and it is irritating. I get it. Nothing is more distracting when you are trying to focus.

The verse says, "it shall be a curse to him" because he winds up deceiving himself. He actually believes that the Christian never gets involved in ministry, never really goes to church, never really has any relationship with his family in the Bible, never really does anything. Real Christianity is showing up when Dr. Ruckman is here and letting everybody know how you are praising the Lord on that day, but we will see you in a year. Everybody knows he is an idiot. Absolutely no credibility. His life and family will be a disaster. No substance to him, just a lot of hype. When Dr. Ruckman came to town or anytime he had a great preacher over the years that

was, they all show up. Inspirationally, that is a great verse, and it really lays out something that we can all identify with.

III. The Contentious Woman and False Religion

When we get into the next two verses, we see how all this fits into a doctrinal context within the Tribulation period. Because the next verse says this:

Proverbs 27:15

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

Too bad this did not fall on Mother's Day. We are going to have some fun with this one, but we will not. Inspirationally, a continual dropping in a rain, that drip. Did you ever try to go to sleep at night when you are camping someplace, and it is raining slowly, but just enough that you are under a tree where that tree is dropping a 20-pound drip on you every 10 seconds, and it hits the top of your car? You just go to sleep or a tin roof. It is just irritating. It keeps you up all night long, and it will drive you nuts, that drip, drip, drip. I will tell you, so will a contentious woman who will just keep things going all the time. That is what he is talking about here. We will see who this woman is in a minute.

The book of Proverbs clearly defines her in the Bible.

- Proverbs 7:11 says that she is loud, she is stubborn, and she is obnoxious.
- Proverbs 7:11 says that she is a busybody and will not abide in her own house.
- Proverbs 22:14 says that her mouth is a deep pit.
- Proverbs 21:9 says she is a brawling woman.
- Proverbs 9:13 says she is a clamorous woman.
- Proverbs 11:13 says she is a nagging woman, a gossiping woman.
- Proverbs 30:23 says she is an odious woman. That is hateful.

Doctrinally, we know this woman to be the strange woman of Proverbs 27:13 in this chapter. We know that this strange woman has the attire of a harlot. We have studied her in Proverbs 5 and Proverbs 7, and she has really worked her way in and out of Proverbs many times, showing you the difference between somebody with understanding who stays away from this religion or someone who is foolish who gets taken up in it. In general, it is a reference to the Roman Catholic Church, who is so clearly laid out in Revelation 17 and 18 as the great mother of harlots, Babylon mystery religion. If anybody could read those chapters, there is no question in your mind who he is talking about there.

Doctrinally, the loud blessings that bring on a curse, Proverbs 27:14, would be your priest or your pope on Easter Sunday or Christmas, or all through history through the church councils like the Council of Nicaea, the Council of Trent, the Council of Constantinople, the Council of Lyons, where they progressed great things for Christianity, but wound up becoming a curse. The Council of Trent, 1500 or so, was supposed to be a council that worked out all of the issues in Christianity, and the Roman Catholic Church was going to define what Christianity really was. All it was, when that big swelling word like Proverbs 27, they put out over 155 curses on

anybody who believes exactly what you and I believe. That is what it is talking about. Her public display of false Christianity and the demonic spiritual piety that in the end will curse you to send you straight to hell.

You see it on the holy days over there in St. Peter's Square, 100,000 people that show up for Pope Pepperoni to come out and give them a little sermonette and give them a blessing, put them under the sign of the cross, and everybody thinks that they just got a blessing. No, you have got a curse that is going to send you straight to hell if you do not get saved. These individuals in Matthew 23:9 are called fathers, where they wear robes. The Bible says they are like white sepulchres. They are clean on the outside, pretty on the outside, but inside they are full of dead men's bones. Matthew 23:15 says that when they find a convert, they will make him two times more the child of hell than he was before they got their hooks in him.

Now, once we get that, look at the rainy day. Proverbs 27:15, "a continual dropping in a rainy day." I want you to notice, first of all, by careful observation, it says "in a rainy day," not "on a rainy day." That means it is a specific day. If you know your Bible, you know what we are dealing with here. It is called in the Bible, the former and the latter rain. Built into your Bible in a specific day, the Day of the Lord, which is a rainy day. Joel 2, Matthew 24:37. It is a rainy day.

You know how it works, the definitive chapter on the former and latter rain will be James 5:7-20. You will want the Old Testament passages on it, and there are many of them:

- Joel 2:23
- Job 37:6
- 2 Chronicles 6:26
- 2 Chronicles 7:12
- Proverbs 16:14
- Psalm 68:8-9
- 2 Samuel 23:4
- Hosea 10:12
- Jeremiah 14:22
- Isaiah 5:6

The way it works is this: In the Tribulation, you have Moses and Elijah showing up. What God does in the last three and a half years in the Tribulation period, He sends a nation of Israel who, as we saw last week, are keeping the commandments of God and the faith in Jesus. We found out Thursday night why it is just Jesus. These individuals show up, and Moses represents the law, and Elijah represents the prophets. The Old Testament is divided up in the law and the prophets. So these two individuals show up to the nation of Israel, and they begin to do the miracles in the last three and a half years in the Tribulation that they did in the Old Testament.

You will find that in the Old Testament, Moses turned the waters to blood. So in the Tribulation period, yes, the waters turn to blood. You will find that the plagues taking place around the world in the Tribulation. Moses brought in those plagues in Egypt, Egypt a type of the world, which brings up an incredible deal because now you have to be faced with dispensationally that all of those things back there that actually did happen historically are a future picture of something that

is going to happen. So you learn what is going to happen by what already happened. Tremendous way to learn your Bible.

Then we have Elijah. He represents the prophets. Over there in James 5, you are clearly told that in Elijah's prophecy in the Old Testament, what he actually did was he shut up heaven that it rained one time here. Then he shut up heavens, and for the next three and a half years in the Old Testament, it did not rain. At the end of that three and a half years, he opened up the heavens, and it rained. Hence, it is called the former and the latter rain. In James 5, which is the Tribulation context, it talks about those key words we talked about last week, the word patience. We are there to have the patience of Job. It is all geared toward the nation of Israel in the Tribulation period. It tells you right in that chapter that in the last half of the Tribulation period, when Moses and Elijah show up, Moses is doing his thing. What Elijah does is he stops heaven at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, which is the midpoint, after the first three and a half years, he shuts up heaven. For that last half of the Tribulation period, three and a half years, it does not rain at all. This time when it rains, it is the Second Coming of Christ. Christ comes Joel 2 in a rainstorm on a cloudy day. Hence the former and the latter rain.

So Proverbs 27:15 is talking about a continual dripping, dropping, a continual putting out of the garbage that is going on. This strange woman will rule the world from around 400 A.D. in the New Testament up through the Rapture of the church and up into the Tribulation period with her loud mouth. She will be an irritation. She will be spewing out blessings to the world that will damn and curse the world and send them straight to hell. She will mix her religion with politics. So back in Kings, you have the great picture of Ahab, the King of Israel. There is your political side. Jezebel, the prophetess of Baal worship. You have a great example of Ahab as the type of the Antichrist. Jezebel is the type of the religious system, and the two of them are linked together politically and religiously. There it is. Guess who shows up with Elijah and Jezebel? You guessed it, Elijah.

All of this is an incredible picture, mixing her religion and her politics, getting kings and queens and presidents drunk with the wine of her fornication, just like Revelation 17:2 tells us. Nothing is worse than a big mouth woman unless it is a big mouth man. When you get a big mouth man and a big mouth woman, one representing the religious side, one representing the political side, you have something special, and I do not mean in a good way.

In an inspirational sense, we all know women just like this. You cannot go through the course of life if you are 20, 30 years old, you have been around for a while, we have all seen it. If it was not bad enough, the jokes about them are endless, timeless, most of them are not very flattering. A man said to his neighbor one time, there are hundreds of them, a man said to his neighbor one time, he opened up the window, stuck his head out, and the man says, "Oh, that was not a sonic boom you heard, my wife just called me home for supper." A man said, "My wife has real character." The other man said, "Yeah, mine has multiple personalities, and every morning you get to meet a new one." A man said, "My wife is so loud when she opens her mouth, the factory across the street breaks for lunch." They go on and on. A man said, "A woman marries the first time for love, gets married the second time for companionship, gets married the third time for support, and the fourth, fifth, and sixth time will be out of habit." A lot of truth to it. Either way,

doctrinally or inspirationally, we all know who this woman will be. It is a great unfolding of not only what we have to see and deal with in a practical way, but in a doctrinal way, we know how it all fits.

My goal is for you to understand the book of Proverbs. Get this wise man and foolish man laid out. Get this strange woman and this wicked man laid out. Get them laid out from a doctrinal standpoint, but more importantly, get them laid out for your own personal life so you can stay away from them because they are around.

IV. The Hidden Wind and the Ointment

Look at Proverbs 27:16. This is a good one.

Proverbs 27:16

Whoso hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which bewrayeth itself.

Now the key word here will be the word "bewrayeth." That is an old English word, and it means to make something visible that you could not see clearly. To make something understandable by being able to see it clearly, and now you understand that where before you could not. Here again, when it comes to teaching the Bible, we just stick with the Bible. I know everybody has their personal opinion about verses in the Bible. I never have a personal opinion about a verse in the Bible because I learned a long time ago my opinion about the Bible is as worthless as yours. What I want is what the Bible says. I have made enough mistakes in my life to fill Noah's ark with animals ten times over. My opinion about what God says does not matter at all because my whole life was a track record of bad choices until I got saved and got into His book. So I will just stick with what the book says. So I do not have an opinion about reading something like that. I just go to the Bible, and I will tell you this. It says, "Whoso hideth her hideth the wind."

In your Bible, wind will be two things when you lay it out in the Word of God and you study it. First of all, it will be a picture of the Holy Spirit of God. Over there in John 3, we have the story of Nicodemus. Nicodemus was the ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and talked to Jesus about who he was. Jesus makes a reference back to him and his nation by saying, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." They have a little dispensation here, and Jesus tells him that you have to be born by the Spirit. He is talking about the nation of Israel, which they do get born again at the Second Coming of Christ at the latter rain.

John 3:8

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

He says, "So is everyone that is born of God." You can hear the wind, you cannot see it. You do not know where it is coming from, and you do not know where it is going. That is what the Spirit of God is like. Ecclesiastes 1:6 talks about the cycle. You have the Son, a type of Christ. Then you have the wind, a type of the Holy Spirit of God.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

It says there in Ecclesiastes 1:6 that the wind goes by its circuit, by His circuit. The wind is a male personality. It is the wind by His circuits because the wind is a type of Christ, the Holy Spirit of God. It shows you in Ecclesiastes 1 that the Holy Spirit of God has a pattern. Now if you want to find that pattern, obviously the law of first mention. You go back to the first place in the Bible where you find the Spirit of God. It will be Genesis 1:2.

Genesis 1:2

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

In Genesis 1:2, the Holy Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. The first time you find the Spirit of God in your Bible, it moves. That Holy Spirit of God never stops through the rest of your Bible. In other words, in Genesis 1:2, the Holy Spirit of God filed a flight plan. Then through the rest of the Bible, you can follow that flight plan of where the Holy Spirit of God is going. It gives you the direction. You can follow it through the Bible where it goes. It shows you the nations. It shows you everything that God is trying to do and what He does. You just follow it. You do not have to have an opinion about it. You find the first place that it is found once you know it is wind or likened to wind. Then you just follow it through.

Again, in Acts 2, we have the famous Day of Pentecost, the fulfillment of the promise of the coming Holy Spirit of God. That is what Pentecost was. John 16, a great definitive chapter in your Bible on the Holy Spirit of God and what He does, was promised to you and to me and to Israel that the Holy Spirit of God would come. In Acts 2:2, it says:

Acts 2:2

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Now the stupid Charismatics get into that thing, and they want to make the Day of Pentecost something for the church. I have some terrible news for you. That is making it up, somebody making your own opinion. Do you know what the Day of Pentecost was? Somebody says, "Yeah, it was the beginning of the church." No, the Day of Pentecost was an Old Testament feast. You say, "Well, it is where the church started." Show me that in Paul's writings. Paul was the apostle of the church. Do you think he missed that? Why would you take something here in Acts 2, which is the Day of Pentecost, make it something into the church age when you never find it again, and certainly the church age in Acts 2 has not started yet? But that is what you do when you make the Bible your own opinion instead of just staying with it.

Somebody said, "Well, what do you think the Day of Pentecost was?" I do not think anything. I just go with the Bible. It was an Old Testament feast. In Acts 2, on the Day of Pentecost, it came, and I know the Charismatic wants to make this a great day. But do you know what happened one year later on the Day of Pentecost? Nothing. Do you know what happened the year after that?

Two years later? Not a thing. Do you know what happened three years, four years, five years, fifty years, twenty years, a hundred years after that on the Day of Pentecost? Not a thing. Because it is Israel given to them on an Old Testament feast to illustrate to them what God was doing. Of course, that is a reference to the picture of God's Holy Spirit, and certainly the Holy Spirit of God came that day, and as you go through the book of Acts, if you understand how to rightly divide it, you see how it fits into the church age today. No question about it. But I am going to show you that that is a reference to the Holy Spirit of God likened to wind.

In the Antichrist world and in the Roman Catholic Church and in our world today, you have another spirit. It is likened to wind, and it is a counterfeit spirit. You have a Bible over there in 1 John 4:3, a reference to the spirit of Antichrist. It is also going to be likened to wind. That is the wind we are talking about here. Somebody hiding this wind, trying to put it off as the real deal, but it gets betrayed. You get to see what it really is. Now this one will come and deceive you. 2 John 4:7 is talking about this spirit.

2 John 4:7

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

It is a false wind that somebody tries to hide and show you that it is the real thing when in reality it is satanic. This is why we stick with the Bible. This is why we do not form any opinions about anything. We just stick with what the Bible says and it teaches. The Bible will always reveal to you what is right and what is wrong when you are rightly divided. So that is the first thing.

The second thing is the wind will be likened to false doctrine. This will be found in Ephesians 4:14. Again, nobody's opinion about it. Just taking the Bible scripture with scripture, laying it out.

Ephesians 4:14

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

So we have that there is a false Holy Spirit of God because the Holy Spirit of God is likened to wind, and when God's Holy Spirit, the true Spirit of God, when it came, it came like the wind. Then we have a Spirit of Antichrist that will be a false wind to try to get you to believe that it is the true thing. Then we have false doctrine, and false doctrine is likened to wind and is built on the satanic wind that will just toss you to and fro.

Do you ever notice that in all of the false religions, Roman Catholicism, Charismatics, Methodists, every one of them, do you ever notice how there is no real peace? If you have a mom or dad that dies and they are saved, and I preach their funeral, and we know they are saved, you can take comfort in that. You have a Bible that promises you that not only are they up in heaven, but you are going to see them again, and you can take comfort in that. But if you are a Roman Catholic, there is no comfort in the death of a loved one. They go to purgatory, and now the money, how many bucks, no Buck Rogers, how much you pay or the candles you light,

whether you get them out or not, and you never know if you do get them out or not. There is no comfort in that. There is no peace in the fact that you know that you as a Catholic or whatever, a Charismatic, every one of them runs around thinking they are going to lose their salvation. What kind of peace is that?

"No, I know where you go. I know. Well, you Baptists, you think that because you are saved, you can do whatever you want." Well, that is true. That is true. If I killed somebody this morning, I am still going to heaven. If I went out and got drunk tonight and ran over somebody down in the plaza or down at Westport and killed 19 people, I am still going to heaven. I get it. You want me to say it? I just said it. Now here comes the real kicker: because I am saved, I never do that. Do you see the difference? You take that position, "Well, you think you are saved, you can do whatever you want." That is because you are not saved, and you want to do whatever you want. In other words, when you get saved, it does not give you a license to do whatever you want to do. When you get saved, you fall in love with the book of the Lord Jesus Christ, and you do not want to do those things anymore. Do not tell me about how it works. You will never see me down at Westport running over a bunch of people because I have plenty of them down the end of the cul-de-sac I can run over if I want to. Amen. Amen is right. Thank you, brother. Get your car and be at my house at 9:30 tonight.

That is what happens. We get sucked into those things, and we get blown apart. There is no peace in those other false teachings. There is no peace being blown about by every wind of doctrine. There is no peace getting up in the morning and thinking, "Well, I have to really be careful today because I do not want to lose my salvation." Well, let me tell you something. I think you ought to be really careful in the morning, but not because you are going to lose your salvation, but because you do not want to disappoint the One that died for you on the cross. How about that working for you? That is where it is at.

I have watched this thing for years and years and years, these individuals who claim to have the great healing power and a great power in the charismatic movement, the great power of this and a great power of that. "And all we got the victory and all you stupid Baptists." Yeah, but you know what you do not have? You have not got one little thing that ruins everything that you do believe. You do not have the assurance of your salvation. The truth of the matter is if you could actually lose your salvation, you are going to lose it. The idea that you are somebody special, that you can make, every man in that Bible, every one of them from the Old Testament to the New Testament, the devil found out their weakness, and he got them. There is only one man that kept that never lost that the devil could not get. He is the one I believed in. Do you know why I believed in Him? Because I screw up 10 times a day. If me getting to heaven depended on me holding the line, we are in trouble. I lose my car keys 10 times a day. I came out of the house this morning and forgot every cell phone I have. I am going to hang on to my salvation? I walk around the house looking for my coffee. I have to find it by smelling. "Where did I put that cup?" Are you kidding me? I cannot find my jackets. I cannot find my shirts. I cannot find this. I cannot find my shoes. I showed up the other night at Bible study, had two different gym shoes on. Now you are expecting me to hold on to my salvation? Are you kidding me? I thank God I do not have to do it. I am not perfect. None of us probably. I will do stupid things. But thanks be to God, my

salvation is not something I have to hang on to. David said, "Restore to me the joy of thy salvation." It was not his.

There is no peace when you get blown about by every wind of doctrine. When you worry about this and worry about that. You are going to go through your whole life, and you are just going to be in the hospital, and you have about 15 minutes left, and you are going to be there, "I am going to make it. I am going to make it. I am going to make it. I am going to keep my eyes closed. I am going to make it. I am going to make it." Here I am at about 10 seconds before you die. You are going to have an impure thought in your mind. You are going to die and go to hell. He is going to get you. If you are counting on you to keep your salvation, you are in trouble. Every man in that Bible who tried to do it by their own righteousness could not do it. In the Old Testament, they had to have a lamb die for them. In the New Testament, the Lamb of God had to die for me.

That is false wind. That is false doctrine put out by a false spirit likened to wind. He is saying, "henceforth, no more children tossed up to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine." I like that. Tossed to and fro. When God back in Job 1 and Job 2, and the devil walked in, and He said, "Hey devil, where have you been?" He said, "Oh, I have been down in the earth walking up to and fro." There he is. Now what is he saying in Proverbs 27:16? This strange woman and her church and her doctrine are a counterfeit Holy Spirit of God. The Word of God in its truth will manifest it for you exactly what it is. Of course, the great passages on it in the Old Testament are Job 40 and Job 41, and in the New Testament, Revelation 12 and Revelation 13. We talked about God said, "I will not, I will not, the face of his garment." He will show you who he is.

Then it says here, "the ointment bewrayeth itself." Again, ointment defined in your Bible, not my opinion, ointment defined in the Bible will be likened to the Word of God. Back in the Old Testament, you had what is called in Jeremiah 8:22, the balm of Gilead.

Jeremiah 8:22

Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

Historically, the balm of Gilead was a plant that grew in Gilead that, taking the properties of it and whatever they did with it, produced a healing agent that you put on a wound or whatever, and it healed you. It is a picture of the Word of God. Back in Jeremiah 8, when Israel is in a real mess and they need a healing, he is telling them that there is no balm of Gilead in Israel. I always thought that was instructive because they could go in Revelation 3:18, talking about the Laodicean church. We talked about it last week. He says they are spiritually blind, they are spiritually, and he tells them, he tells them to get eyesalve that they might clearly see. Do you know what that is? The Word of God. When you take that book, the balm of Gilead, and massage it into your eyes, whatever eye disease you have to keep you from seeing the truth goes away, and that book reveals itself to you.

The Bible does a lot of good things, but the Bible will heal you. I do not care what your life is, what your mess is. I tell you all the time, I do not care what you did, where you have been, it

does not bother me. All I care about is where you are right now today and where do you want to go from here. Sure, you may have messed some things up in your life that you cannot repair. I get that, I understand that. You cannot go back and change the past. All you can do is build a foundation for the future, and many times that is what you have to do, but it is the Word of God that will heal you. The Word of God will take you when the world breaks you, and there is a brokenness in your life, and you are just in a mess, in a quandary, and you do not know what to do, and you are simply tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. It is the Word of God, the balm of Gilead, the eyesalve that you put to your wounded spirit, and it will heal you.

What he is saying here, this false ointment from this false spirit who is blown about by every wind of doctrine, has absolutely nothing that can heal anything in your life with. There is no cure. Your problems will continue to be your problems. Your issues will never go away. They will only get worse. This is so true of God's people when they have the balm of Gilead, they have the truth, but they will not apply it.

One time, back in the day when I was a younger kid, I had strep throat. I think I set the Guinness World Book of Records for strep throat because I went to the doctor, and the doctor said, "You got strep throat." He put me on antibiotics. I took those antibiotics for about two or three days, and I started feeling better. I did not take them anymore. The next week, I was back in the doctor's office again. That happened for three weeks until I figured it out. That was pretty stupid back then, not much better now. But I figured, if you have something wrong with you, if you just take the medicine until you start feeling better, you are going to get sick again. You have to take the whole prescription. When you have a problem in your life and you have something in your life that you are dealing with, and you come in and get the Word of God, you have to take it all the way to the end. You cannot get going until you feel better, until you start feeling out from under the pressure, and then just dump the Bible again. That is exactly what people do.

There is a false and phony church religion, just like there are false and phony Christians, like the individual in Proverbs 27, who talk big and loud but have nothing in their life, nothing in that particular church or religion that has anything to do with God. The so-called blessings are really curses. The wind that they try to hide and tell you that it is of God, in reality, it is from the devil, the spirit of Antichrist, 1 John 4:3. In both cases, whether it is an individual or whether it is a religious system or a church, there is a continual dropping of garbage that will be annoying to any real child of God.

In the ministry, you have to have a lot of patience with people. You really do. You do not have the luxury, maybe in a few cases, to write somebody off if it is something that is really a bad deal that is dangerous to others. But I have to tell you, if there is any characteristic of the body of Christ today in this lackadaisical, Laodicean church that we are in, it is the fact that people long term do not want to do what is right. You do not want to solve your problems. You want to treat your symptoms. You want to get feeling better and then hopefully you can get back to whatever lifestyle you lived before.

Through your life, you can look like Hansel and Gretel trying to find their way out of the forest by leaving little breadcrumbs. Your life, you look back, there are a lot of crumbs. Your whole life

is crumbs of bad choices and garbage and everything that you have done. I am going to tell you something. At some point in your life, you have to change that. I am not criticizing you for doing that. We all have blood trails in our life, trust me. But what I am saying is this: at some point in your life, you have to change that. You cannot change the problems in your life with the same thinking that caused those problems. You have to come to the place where you get past those things.

I see people all of my ministry, all my life, and it is the job that I chose. If I do not like it, go sell used cars someplace. But I have seen it all my life where people will not change. They do not like the way they are. They complain about the way they are. I have seen it all my years in this business. I have seen it. I have dealt with them, thousands of them. They simply do not want to change about them what needs to change for whatever reason. All of their life, there are no blessings to it. It is just a curse. Everything around them gets damaged. The wind that they try to hide and tell you is of God, it is really not. All you have to do is look at the breadcrumb trails. In both cases, whether it is an individual or church, there is a continual dropping of garbage that will be annoying to any real child of God because it is always a mess to clean up. Churches and individuals. Churches have done it all down through history. We are seeing it on an unprecedented scale today, and individuals all their lives. The Word of God through the Spirit of God will bewray the false ointment. For anybody who is in the book, it will show you exactly what you are dealing with and what you have.

V. The Wisdom Books and Their Application

These three verses are incredible verses. You have an understanding of inspirationally how they fit in, but doctrinally they are incredible. It will be a reference, doctrinally, to the Jew and the Tribulation who gets the false blessing and turns out to be a curse. The book of Proverbs is an incredible book. I have told you this before. The book of Proverbs is literally the mind of God.

There are five wisdom books in your Bible in the Old Testament. There are also five wisdom books in the New Testament. These five wisdom books in the Old Testament, if you just wanted to begin to get a complete understanding of everything that God is and He is doing and how you fit into it, you start, they are not called the wisdom books for nothing. When you go through the book of Job, you find that Job is on the ground seven days, persecuted by the devil. Yet when you start coming through that, you will find that Job not only is a type of the nation of Israel, but prophetically you find Job is a type of Christ going through his sufferings, and some of the greatest verses anywhere in all of the Bible for the child of God to understand the suffering of Christ on the cross is found in the book of Job.

We want to talk about getting the heart of God. I talked to you about the Apostle John who laid his head on the breast of Jesus and heard the very heartbeat of God. We talked a lot about the heartbeat of God. But I want to tell you right now, if you want the one book in the Bible, and I know the whole Bible is God's heart, I get it, but if you want the one book in the Bible, the wisdom book that is seemingly singled out as the heart of God, it will be the book of Psalms. In particular, Psalm 119, 176 verses, and every verse in Psalm 119 gives you a different aspect of something the Word of God will do for you.

We talked about the Spirit of God today. We talked about the book of Ecclesiastes and the Spirit moving to its circuits. If you want to understand the mind of God's Spirit today, it will be the book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes gives you a picture of the world system from God's Spirit standpoint, showing you everything that is wrong with it, and then at the end of the book, surely coming back to this, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter," what whole matter, the whole book of Ecclesiastes. "Fear God, and keep His commandments."

We talk about as Christians our relationship with Jesus Christ. We talk about how, yes, we are saved and on our way to heaven, and yes, Christ is my Savior and all this stuff, but really, let me tell you something. If you really want to understand what your relationship should be with Christ, then you have got to get the book that is the mind of Christ. I know, again, the whole Bible is the mind of Christ, but if you want one particular book that tells you exactly how God, Christ looks at you and how you should look at Him, it is the book of Song of Solomon.

When you want to understand the mind of God, you come to the fifth wisdom book, and that will be the book of Proverbs. The book of Proverbs will show you everything that God is doing. It is an incredible book. It shows you what He thinks about everything in life on planet earth. We are, as Philippians 2:5 says:

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Somebody said, "Well, I am really upset with Him, and I am going to give Him a piece of my mind." We know what he means by that. Yet the Bible says that when God gave us the Word of God, He did not give us a piece of His mind. Praise the Lord, He gave us all His mind. We know how the phrase works. God gave it to us in a book, preserved, perfect, inspired, and without error. He gave us His mind because He wants us to understand what He thinks. He gave us the Song of Solomon as a wisdom book because He wants us to understand what a real relationship with Christ is, not this phony hype that we think we have today. When He wants us to look at where the Holy Spirit of God's flight plan is and the circuits by where He is doing and what man is doing, He gave us the book of Ecclesiastes. When He wants you to get God's heartbeat, He knows God's heartbeat is truth. So He gave you the book of Psalms. But all that will mean nothing to you if you do not have a context to put it in and a context by which it drives you through your Christian life. Do you know what that is? That will be the book of Job, His suffering for you and for me. Once you understand the price that was paid, there will be no price too big to be paid for Him, for you, with your life.

Inspirationally, when you do not get that mind, then you will become the man of Proverbs 27:14, 15, and 16. You will become a curse to everybody around you instead of a blessing. A curse to your wife, a curse to your kids, a curse to your job. Everybody will look at you as a joke instead of a blessing. The Christian life, and I cannot be more serious about this, the Christian life, last week, we talked about it and this week too, last week with the Judgment Seat of Christ. But based on last week and this week, the Christian life will never be just about who you are with God, though I understand how important that is. But in reality, looking at your whole life and seeing what you built for God with your life. What big deal is it that you have a relationship with

God if you never took that relationship and built anything for Him? You are already told last week in Proverbs 3, you are to be a wise master builder. Building yourself first, building your family second, and building your ministry third. We talked about last week, built facing the Judgment Seat of Christ as a child of God who in this life never built anything for God. Plenty of stuff for ourselves.

Life is so simple. But we spend all of our lives trying to make it so complicated so we can get around what I just said. We do a lot, but it is always with the wrong motive. We do this, we do that, we say we do this, but the fruit of it just is not there. You have this, you have that, but it is all the Spirit of Christ does not flow through it. We go through our whole life trying to keep life so complicated, bringing everything in, bringing everybody else, bringing all these things in and saying to ourselves, "This is why I am the way I am," when in reality life is basically so simple. It is just simply fear God and keep His commandments. It is about letting this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus and allowing God to change you.

You can get in the Bible 24/7, you can understand all the great things in the Bible, but if that Bible does not change your own personal life and the way you view things in life, you are not going anywhere. It is not all about you, it is about Him. It is not all about me, it is about Him. It is about understanding in the five wisdom books I have everything I need. If that is all I had in the Bible, I would have enough to have everything I need to have with Him. I would understand the sufferings, I would understand His heartbeat, I understand where the Spirit is at, I understand my relationship with Christ, I understand everything in life, how God sees it from His viewpoint through the book of Proverbs. That is why the book of Proverbs is so important. That is why we have not hurried our way through it. We were joking earlier, earlier in the year whenever it was, that people complained because we have been in Proverbs too long. My answer to that is yes, if I were you, I would want to get out of the mind of God as quickly as I could too. That is why I am not in a hurry.

Anybody here want to skip through? If God said, "I am going to open up my mind and give you everything I got," anybody here would run through it. We would spend the rest of our lives doing it. Unfortunately, Proverbs will come to an end, and then we will glean some other aspect of it. But the truth of the matter is that book is for you and for me. Maybe now as we come through it this far, you begin to see the magnitude of it. You really begin to see that I know, doctrinally, that wise man, that foolish man is the nation of Israel. I get it. But inspirationally, it is us. Your life and my life will be everything that God wants it to be based on the understanding we get through the wisdom of God by getting God's mind and how we see every circumstance in life. Not how you react to it, but how you respond to it biblically. That is the key. That is the great value of that book. So we will stay with it as we come through it. Next week is going to be a great verse. I cannot wait until next week, and we will have a great time with it. Let us have a word of prayer.