

I. Recap: The Importance of Choices

Last week, we were in Proverbs 27, where we have been for the last year and a half. We looked at verses 11 and 12, which contain great material focusing on making the heart of your father glad. We took some time with these verses and looked first at how they deal historically with the nation of Israel and God as their Father, and how they disappointed Him. God had a plan for them; He made it very clear to Abraham what He wanted to accomplish with the nation of Israel, and He gave them everything to do that. Of course, they did not do that.

Then we saw the second application: to you and me as Christians. Here again, God has a plan for each of us, and the gladness in God's heart only comes when you and I submit ourselves to the Word of God and fulfill all that God has for us. Many times, God's people do not do that.

Then we saw another application: to our earthly father and mother. We, as kids growing up, and your own kids today, can make or break your heart based on what they do with the Word of God and the things they do in life. We basically talked about following the course of wisdom and understanding, and that is what, in all three of these cases, makes the father's heart glad.

If I have learned anything in my time on earth—and I have tried to learn the lessons of life from my own mistakes, and certainly by the mistakes of others listed out in the Word of God—if someone were to ask me, "What is the number one thing you have learned from everything you have experienced in life, everything you have dealt with in your own personal life, and dealing with all kinds of people?" It would be easy for me to say, without any hesitation, that the number one thing I have learned is that life is about the choices we make.

It is an incredibly simple concept. We like to make life very complex many times. When we get into circumstances or situations, we often think that by making it more complex, it gets us out of the accountability of it. But life is not complex; life is very simple. Life boils down to this: your life and my life are simply about the choices that we make. In most cases, when we make a bad choice, we do not see at the time—I do not think most of us do, anyhow—we do not see the long-range consequences of it.

Last week, in Proverbs 27:12, it talked about the prudent man, how he will see evil coming long before it gets to him. Before it impacts him, he sees it and stays away from it. The reason for that, within the book of Proverbs, is that he has understanding. The great attribute of getting the Bible in your life will be understanding. Understanding is wisdom applied the right way, letting the Word of God change us in our lives to be everything that God wants us to be. The goal for every one of us should be that every day we see things on a different level. We should understand things on a little different level as God changes us, and it leads us to making good choices in life.

I want to tell you, making good choices just does not happen. You do not get saved, then just go to church someplace, and then wake up 12 years later, and while you slept last night, the angels of heaven rolled the roof back on your bedroom, and a big dump truck of understanding dumped

it into your brain. It is a process. It is a process of understanding from the Word of God and understanding the consequences of the choices that we make.

I totally get it: in most cases, one bad choice will not be the tragedy of tragedies. Now, there are some that will be, but in most cases, that is not true. Let us face it, we all make dumb moves and make mistakes. But the problem is the continuation of making bad choices that will destroy you. This includes being unteachable and never learning by your own mistakes, or even the mistakes of others that you see. I am not saying that you are judgmental of them; I am just saying that you see the cause and effect of things and you allow it to correct your course in life.

Having a life of wrong and bad choices will lead to a life that is a heavy burden and gets out of control. We talk about strongholds and how somebody can get a stronghold in their life. There certainly are some strongholds in life that really take people off the chart as far as God being able to use them, and it all comes back to the bad choices that we have made.

We will see them in our own personal lives. I have known people that God wanted to use and probably had great potential to be used, but because of the choices they continued to make through life, it just canceled it out. You will find that marriages fall apart because of the bad choices that people make. They get into relationships that they never should get into. There are very clear principles in the Bible before you marry somebody. Thinking in your mind that you are above that, or you can go around that, or you can pretend that it is happening when it is not, are all bad choices.

You find it in your own kids. Many parents—we talked about this last week—make the tragic mistake with their kids by making a lot of bad choices. Those kids become subservient to the choices that the parents allow, and the rest is history.

We all know and understand, and I was looking at the thing up here, and they have all the different things that they are going to overcome. I guess that is supposed to be Rocky or somebody. I do not know. He has the shorts on. Rocky did. It says, you cannot see this, but it says, this is what they are going to talk about: air pressure, anxiety, negativity, bullying, bad attitude, school shootings, depression, social media, and then the last one here is suicide.

Suicide is a terrible sin. There is a lot of confusion on it today by people. I have met a lot of people who think that if you commit suicide, that is the one sin that will send you to hell no matter what your relationship is with God. The reasoning behind it is because they think that it is a sin that you commit that you cannot ask God's forgiveness for because you are obviously dead. Of course, the answer to that is just shoot yourself really bad and ask God to forgive you, and then die 15 minutes later, and you are good. But anyway, if you want to get around it, it is so stupid. Let me tell you, once you are saved, you are saved. But people do not know their Bible today. The key to understanding it will, again, be the Bible.

Most people do not even realize that in the Bible there are seven suicides listed for you in the Word of God. If you want to know what leads to suicide, just get into those seven in the Bible, and it will lay it out for you. To make a long story short—and that is not my message today—you will find that there are two main components of a person who commits suicide. The first one is

selfishness. All they are seeing is their own self and their own personal problems. They are not seeing the big picture of anything. The second one will be bad choices.

Somebody said one time, "Suicide is a terrible choice." Yes, it is. But in reality, suicide is just another choice in the long life of bad choices. Unfortunately, it is the last choice somebody is going to make, but they did not just wake up on Tuesday and decide, "I am going to take my life today." You have a life of bad choices that puts you in a scenario and in a circumstance where you thought there was no way out. The truth of the matter is, whether you are saved or whether you are lost, there is always a way out. If you are unsaved this morning, your way out is the cross of Jesus Christ. I do not care where you are at, what you are going through. You may have the pistol in your hand, listen to me on this: put it down, open up your Bible to Romans 10, and get saved.

It has always been inconceivable to me how a child of God could want to commit suicide. But I get it. Being in the ministry as many years as I have now, I see it. Some of God's people get so far out of touch with God, so far out of reality, that even though they are saved, they are living a lifestyle like an unsaved person. It is not the fact that one is saved or one is not saved that brings them to the point of suicide. It is the bad choices in each case, because bad choices are what life is all about. It is a terrible thing.

You learn very quickly, or you better learn very quickly, that life is choices. When you build into your own life or the life of your child self-discipline, accountability, and truthfulness, then you have the ability to make good choices, and life will be about those choices that you make. I do not know how many times over the years somebody's son or daughter has made some bad choices in life and gotten married to some idiot, or got this or that, and it is just a bad situation all the way around. Obviously, the parents have made the mistake of teaching discipline or accountability and truthfulness.

A lady said to me one time, "Well, it is the guy that she married that made her life the way that she is." I immediately asked her, "Who taught her that value system?" I mean, okay, she got a goofy guy for a husband, but who taught her the value system, or did not teach her the value system, of how to pick somebody? Because it all comes back to choices.

The last part of the verse says, and it will speak for itself, "but the simple pass on, and are punished." We see it all the time: the unbreakable, the unhappy, the unfulfilled, the unfruitful life of a man or a woman without the wisdom of God and without the Word of God, going through life making those bad choices over and over and over. They compound, they compile, and they get to the point where if one bad choice weighs a hundred pounds, by the time you live 10 or 15, 20 years with bad choices, you are carrying around about nine or 10 tons of it. That is what breaks you. That was last week; we talked about that.

II. Introduction to Proverbs 27:13 and a Lost Doctrine

Today, we are going to move right on to a great verse, one that I think highlights a great, unknown teaching in doctrine today. I can understand why this verse was put right in the middle of everything we are looking at, because what we have been looking at up to this point is a

relationship with God through wisdom, making good choices, making the heart of your father glad, and all those great things. Now we come to this verse that is stuck right in the middle of all this.

This doctrine today, I must confess to you, is so foreign to God's people that it is unbelievable. Yet, just a hundred or 120 years ago, it was one of the mainstays of Bible preaching and Bible teaching. Our last couple of weeks, we have had some really good inspirational stuff, which I think has been good to help you in your walk with God. I am not saying today will not be either, but I need to preface what I am going to say by stating this: we are going to get into a little Bible today. It has been nice inspirational stuff, and that has been great, but we are going to go a little deeper today.

The last couple of weeks, we talked about how when you love the honeycomb, the Word of God, even the bitter things are sweet. You are going to see if that is true today. What we are about to look at has been lost to the Laodicean church age, and obviously, those of you that know your Bible, that is the church age that we are in, the last one before Christ comes.

Proverbs 27:13

Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

If you are listening on YouTube this morning, I just want to say this: after you hear this message today, you need to examine where you are at, your church, and your pastor. I am going to tell you, if you are in a church that, in at least a year, has not had one message on this, you need to find another church.

Perhaps you will not, because I have found this to be so true, especially with men. Men never want to go to the doctor. I know, I am the opposite; I will go to the doctor for everything. I am not one of these guys who will die of things that all the other guys die of. But do you know why guys do not want to go to the doctor? I have talked to a lot of them. I have tried to get some of you to go to my doctor; I have the greatest doctor on the planet, Dr. Bouye. He is a great guy. I try to get all you guys to go because you guys are important to me; I do not want you to die of something. Some of you guys have never been to the doctor, and you will not go. Do you know why you will not go? Because you do not want to find out if something is wrong with you. Someone told me that one time. I said, "Why do not you go?" He said, "Because I do not want to know." I said, "You may have prostate cancer, you may have this, you may have that." He said, "I do not want to know."

There are a lot of Christians who go to churches that do not preach the Word of God who feel the same way about the truth of the Bible. Do you know why you stay in those churches? Because you do not want to know. You do not want to know the truth. You are like the ostrich that wants to stick its head in the sand and pretend it is not there. Well, I have news for you: it is there. The message I am going to preach to you today—I am sorry—we are going to get into a little Bible today. I will try to take it easy on you, but I probably will not.

That verse says, "Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman." That is not talking about your first wife, guys, so let us put that aside here, and

we are going to look at this thing. Get some notes in your Bible this morning that will help you here.

First of all, doctrinally, this will clearly be a Tribulation passage or a verse. From the verse, just reading it from our past times in Proverbs, you should be paying attention now. It automatically lays out some things for you.

➤ Surety for a Stranger

III. Doctrinal Application: Salvation in Different Dispensations

Now, we are going to look at this, and I want you to focus on the key word here. I have told you this before: the key to the Bible is key words in the Bible. You will find one word, and whenever you find it, you will always want to pay attention to it. There are some words that, when you find them, 100% of the time, they are going to mean one thing. There are other words that can be used in a different way, but the majority of the time, you want to pay attention because it is focusing you towards something. In Proverbs 27:13, we want to look at the word "garment." We want to follow that through here for a little bit, and then we will shift gears. Take a deep breath now, because we are going to go down deep where the whales live, and we are going to try to get some things done.

The standard teaching is that everybody in the Old Testament looked forward to the cross, and we in the New Testament look back to the cross. That is the standard teaching taught universally across Christianity today by guys who know nothing about the Word of God. One of the things that you get into when you get into dispensations in the Bible, which we are going through in our Bible Institute right now, is that you are going to find that God deals with men differently down through the periods of time in the Bible. One of the key things that I want you to leave today and understand about this verse is understanding salvation in the Old Testament and the Tribulation, and how it is different from the Church Age. The key word is going to be "garments."

There are guys that will teach you that in the Old Testament, they are saved just like you and I. Now, I understand grace and faith are, without a doubt, through the whole scope of the Bible; I get that. Now, you are going to take somebody who is going to tell you that in the Old Testament, they are saved just like you when they were looking forward to the cross. Let me tell you something, let me tell you about four or five things you have a problem with.

1. In the Old Testament, there is no Holy Spirit of God. He did not come until Acts 1 and 2.
2. There is no new birth, which was initiated when the Holy Spirit of God came.
3. There is no church, because they are first called Christians at Antioch, and that is the first church mentioned in your Bible.
4. There are no Christians, because Acts 11 tells you they did not start until Acts 11.

So, God revealing Himself to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament and in the Tribulation period, you are clearly told that it is dealing with them on the basis as a nation. When you go to

Romans 11, you will find clearly laid out the difference between Israel's salvation as a nation and your salvation as an individual. The key word will be "garments."

Break down in your notes there Isaiah 61:10. In Isaiah 61:10, he is talking to the nation of Israel. Do you know what he says to the nation of Israel? He says to the nation of Israel that God has given them, listen now, "garments of salvation." You never find that term given to the church. You have a robe of righteousness and you have fine linen, which is the righteousness of the saints. But you do not find the word "garment" ever connected to the church. Do you know why? Because it is exclusively used for Israel's salvation in the Old Testament and again in the Tribulation period. Isaiah 61:10 clearly says to Israel that God gave them garments of salvation.

If that was not enough, turn over to Revelation 1:5. I want you to see this. We are going to have a little Bible study first, and we are going to get into a little preaching, then we are all going to feel really bad. Revelation 1 is the introduction to the book of Revelation, and John is writing to you and me in the church. I do not have time this morning to lay out how the book of Revelation breaks down. If you have been around here long enough, or you stick around long enough, you will get it; it is on the website. But the bottom line is simply this: in Revelation 1:5, the intro into the book of Revelation, John tells us that in this dispensation, the Church Age, it says that Christ washed us from our sins in His own blood. The emphasis I want to put on there is the fact that Christ washed you.

Revelation 1:5

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

There are a group of people around the world today that claim to be Christians who say that you have got to do something to be saved. Let me tell you something, if you think you have got to do something to be saved, you are going to split hell wide open. There is nothing that you can do to be saved in the Church Age, certainly if your salvation is based on the cross of Christ and His death on Calvary's cross. It kicked off the Church Age and started the Holy Spirit of God coming, and it entered into the dispensation of the Church Age where you and I have to come to the cross, and anything you bring for your own good works for your salvation, you better leave them outside. Because Revelation 1:5 clearly says that you and I, if you are saved this morning—are you saved? Amen. I do not think you are. Are you saved this morning? Amen. Well, if you are saved this morning, you are saved because Christ washed you in His blood. Amen. "What shall wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." "There is a fountain filled with blood." I am not really preaching yet; I am going to get into it in a minute. "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel's veins; and sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stain." If you are saved this morning, it is because He washed you. Amen. I want to make that point. I think I did.

Now turn over to Revelation 7. This is what you call Bible study. This is what you call studying to show thyself approved. You will find that when I preach to you all the time, certainly today, I do not have my own opinion about anything. I just simply go to the Bible, and you will not be

here saying, "Well, I read Fawcett and Brown over here, and he thinks this," or "So-and-so thinks this." I will not ask you what your opinion is and give you my opinion. I do not care what your opinion is; I do not even care what my opinion is. When it comes to the Bible and life, let God be true and every man a liar. We just go to the books, and I am telling you, that is where we are going today. So, if you have a problem with me, you have a problem with the Book, because all I am giving is the Word of God.

We saw in Revelation 1:5 that in the Church Age, you and I got washed by Christ. Now look at this. In Revelation 7, we are now in the Tribulation period. The book of Revelation chapters 1, 2, and 3 is the seventh period of church history. In Revelation 4, doors open in heaven, a voice like a trumpet says, "Come up hither." I think in the first three chapters of the book of Revelation, you find the word "church" mentioned like 21 times. Once you get past chapter 4, you never find the word "church" again, raptured out until you get to the end when He closes the book. So now, by the time we get into Revelation 7, we are in the Tribulation period. Do you all follow me on that? Okay, good.

Now look at Revelation 7:14. We are talking about Tribulation saints now, not Church Age Christians.

Revelation 7:14

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

You see the difference? A blind man can see it. You see Revelation 1:5: in the Church Age, you and I got washed in His blood. But in Revelation 7:14, they have to wash their own robes. Those are the garments of salvation, Isaiah 61, given to the nation of Israel.

If that were not enough, look at Revelation 14. Again, we are in the Tribulation period. This is real Bible study. This is not some tickle-your-toe, give-you-a-nice-feeling. This is getting into the Book, going down deep, and seeing some things in the Word of God that are not taught very much today.

Now look at Revelation 14:12.

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Mark that word "patience" in your Bible, because wherever you find the word "patience," you want to look at it very carefully, because the definitive passage on patience is James 5:7-8. You are going to find that the word "patience," when you find it, in most cases, will be a reference to the Tribulation period. In James 5, that is exactly what you have got. A little bit later on, you have got Moses and Elijah showing up. He is talking about the patience of Job. We know from last week and other times that Job is the type of the Tribulation period, the book of Job. He is on the ground, persecuted by the devil for 42 chapters, while the Tribulation is 42 months. I gave

you all that last week. So, we see that this is a great example. So, when you find the word "patience," pay attention.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Is there anybody here keeping the commandments of God this morning? Your faith is found in nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. If you are saved here this morning, you are saved because you trusted the Lord Jesus Christ in His death on Calvary's cross. Colossians 2, for you and for me, says that when He died on the cross, He put away and nailed the Old Testament law on the cross, and it means nothing to us now.

But here is somebody in the Tribulation period who has the garments of salvation, who had to wash their own garments. Now we are told that they have to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Mark the word "Jesus" there. Sometime, as you grow up in the Bible and you get a little farther down there, you will start to look at the way that the name Jesus is used in your Bible. Sometimes you will find it "Lord Jesus." Sometimes you will find it "Christ Jesus." Sometimes you will find it "Jesus Christ." And sometimes you will find it just "Jesus." Every time you find that name, in whatever form it is, it means something. Here, you need to ask yourself the question: "Why does it say 'the Lord Jesus'?" "Why does it say 'Jesus Christ'?" "Why does it not say 'Christ Jesus'?" "Why, in this particular passage in Revelation 14:12, does it just say 'the faith of Jesus'?" There is a reason for that in your Bible. There is a reason for that.

This is called real Bible study. I am sorry. I wish that we could pretend that those things really do not matter. They matter because all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. Every word in that Bible is vitally important, and that is why we do not talk about, and we do not suggest, and we do not propagate all the new Bibles. Because the first thing they do is they change all the words, and then you cannot follow any chain reference of anything. That is what they do. So, there is a reason why you have somebody in the Tribulation period who has to keep the commandments, the Old Testament, and also the faith of just Jesus. That is one for you to work on for a while; I am not going to give you the answer to that.

Getting all of this together, our verse says, "Take his garment that is surety for a stranger." In the Tribulation, the Jew, the foolish one, will not have the wisdom and understanding of God, and he will go along with the Antichrist. He will not see what is coming his way clearly, as in Proverbs 27:12 last week. The Bible warns him in Revelation 3:4. It talks about somebody in the Tribulation period who is warned not to defile their garments. There it is again.

Revelation 3:4

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

And Revelation 16:15 says:

Revelation 16:15

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

You will find these folks in Matthew 25:1-10. There is a great parable there of the ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. You find in that story that five have the oil and five do not have any oil, typifying the Holy Spirit of God, or they will lose the oil. Then, when they are told to go and buy and get some oil, typifying the Holy Spirit of God, you need to stop and figure out how somebody in the Tribulation goes and buys the Holy Spirit. That is a good study for you; it will take about 40 years, but you will get there. When the Bridegroom comes—the Lord Jesus Christ, at the Second Coming of Christ—the five wise go with Him. The five that are foolish, that did not do what God said, did not have the understanding, who defiled their garments, they lose their garments.

Let me just pause here for a minute and talk about the stupid Charismatics, the stupid Baptists, and the stupid Neo-Evangelical crowd. They will get into Matthew 25 here, and they will start reading about the ten virgins—five were wise and five were foolish. Because they know nothing about the Bible, they will try to put this into the Church Age and prove by this passage that there is proof you can lose your salvation. Of course, it is not even the same dispensation. Of course, in the Tribulation period, they do not have the Holy Spirit of God. There is no Holy Spirit of God in the Tribulation. Then there is no church in the Tribulation. There is nothing in the Tribulation that would lend them to anything in the dispensation of the Church. That is why they are told to keep the commandments and faith in whom? Why just Jesus? But that is a jaw-breaker for you. Why just Jesus? Why is it not the Lord Jesus? Why is it not Jesus Christ? Why is it not the Lord Jesus Christ? Why is it just Jesus? Work on that one for a while. I will not say more about that because that is not where we are at today. As Gary Potter, who is out of town, said, "You cannot fix stupid," so we will not worry about that today.

You guys in Bible Institute—and that is about 100 of you here—you know that we have started going through the dispensations. You know that I have told you before that that is the key to putting your Bible together. You may learn a lot of things about the Bible just by coming to church or going to a Bible study, or just whatever, reading books on it, or just reading it yourself. You may learn a lot of things about the Bible, but if you want to learn the Bible, you have got to learn how to rightly divide the word of truth. There is only one way to do that. If you do not rightly divide it, you are going to wrongly divide it. When you wrongly divide it, then you come up with all this goofy stuff. All I am doing for you today is just taking you to the Bible. How can anybody argue with Revelation 1:5 and Revelation 7? It is not the same, it tells you. Nowhere in the Bible is what you and I have as a Christian ever called a garment. But in Isaiah 61, to Israel, they are "garments of salvation." They are told that no man should take their garment. They are told not to defile that garment. That will be the doctrinal application to Proverbs 27:12. That is not where I really want to go today. I wanted to give you that because many of you are Bible students, and you want to get that stuff down. So there you are. I will help you through it if there are things you do not get. Thursday night Bible study would be a great opportunity.

IV. Practical Application: The Judgment Seat of Christ

Now, let us look at the practical application. Here is where we are going to find out if even the bitter things are sweet. In the practical application, what we have here is a warning for you and

me in reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ. In the Bible, when you rightly divide it, you will find that there are seven judgments laid out in the Word of God. When we started our Bible Institute, the first year we talked about defining some things. The second year, we got into what we call God's systematic theology, and that is the seven series found in the Bible: seven judgments, seven resurrections, seven baptisms, seven periods of church history. We have learned in the Bible that there are seven distinct judgments.

Here is the problem: three of those judgments are for you and me in the New Testament Church. You can get them on the website. The main one for us will be the Judgment Seat of Christ. The old guys used to call it the Bema Seat, and there is a reason for that; we will not get into it this morning. In your Bible, you are going to know that the last judgment for unsaved men will be the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20:11.

Revelation 20:11-12

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

That is the last judgment for an unsaved person. The last judgment for God's people, you and me, will be the Judgment Seat of Christ. The thing that I want you to see is that they are both by fire. Let us follow that.

When you come to the Judgment Seat of Christ—and I say, churches do not preach on it anymore; I do not even know if they believe it anymore—but I want to tell you something: the Judgment Seat of Christ is the most impacting day of your life after you get saved. It is a day that you are going to stand before God, and you are going to give an account for what you did with what God gave you. I am telling you right now, if you are going to a church, and you are listening to a guy who is talking about everything else and trying to do all of this and all of that, and he is not concerned about warning you about the greatest judgment in your life, you better check some things out. Maybe you are like those guys who do not want to go to the doctor.

In the Bible, there are two definitive passages on it, and the Judgment Seat of Christ is the number one doctrine the New Testament Christian should look to. Let us look at these quickly and examine the first one. The first one will be in 1 Corinthians 3:11-17. You see, we have the doctrinal laid out now. We know now that that is dealing with the nation of Israel in the Tribulation period. Now we want to see how this verse applies to you and me.

1 Corinthians 3:11-17

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

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

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" That did not happen to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, nor does it happen to them in the New Testament. You know very clearly, in the Old Testament and the Tribulation, the temple for the nation of Israel was a literal building. They built it; Solomon built it. In the Tribulation period, it is going to be temple worship again. We know 1 Corinthians 6:19 says:

1 Corinthians 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

In the Old Testament, the whole world was to come to a literal temple. In the New Testament, you take your temple to the whole world. See the difference? "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

I want you to look at some things here. First of all, look at 1 Corinthians 3:10, which is right above verse 11. It says in verse 10 that we are to be a wise master builder. When you want to build a house, you will look for a builder. In building, of course, you are going to find, when you go through the ads, that some of them are just builders, and then you are going to find some of them are certified master builders. That means those are the guys you want to hire. The truth of the matter is, most of them are no different from the other guys. If you do not mind me saying so—and I will just not because I am prejudiced—but if you want to really be a wise master builder in building your house, Baba and Donny. What Baba does not know, Donny does. And what Donny does not know, Baba does not care. I am making my point.

We had a guy who built our house that we live in now that was supposed to be a certified master builder. Yet, years later, we found out that he did not do everything he was supposed to do. He put in cheap two-by-fours; the termites loved it. He did not do everything that he was supposed to do. I have come to the conclusion that most guys who build houses that want to bill themselves as wise master builders are just like a lot of God's people that bill themselves as somebody that is a wise master builder. They are not.

I am going to tell you what a wise master builder is. If you are already there, praise the Lord. If you are not there, then I will help you get there if you want to get there, but you may be like that guy that never goes to the doctor.

First of all, he says a wise master builder. The second thing I want you to see is in 1 Corinthians 3:11. He says, "If any man build upon this foundation." The foundation here is the day you got saved. When you got saved, you laid a foundation in your life which is based on the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross. When you got saved, you are God's temple, you are God's building. You are going to build on it from that point on. But the foundation starts with the day that you recognize you are a sinner, turn from your sin, and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior and lay that foundation in your life.

Now, for the rest of your life as a Christian, on that foundation, you are to build three things. Actually, you can build six, but my advice to you is to build the first three. He says you build upon that foundation as a wise master builder: gold, silver, and precious stones. Let me break that down for you by going through the Bible.

- Gold represents the deity of Christ.

So, the first thing you build on that foundation is an understanding and a relationship with Christ.

- Silver represents redemption.

In the Bible, Christ was sold for 30 pieces of silver. Silver represents the redemption money back in the Old Testament. So, the second thing you build on that foundation, after you know who He is, then you know what He did for you: gold, silver.

- Precious stones represent people.

Malachi 3 and many other places in the Bible liken precious stones to people. Here is the simple of it: when you find out who God is and you find out what He did for you, you cannot help but tell somebody else about it when you build that on the foundation. That is a wise master builder.

Or, wood, hay, and stubble. Wood is a dead tree, hay is dead grass, stubble is dead wheat. Dead things for dead Christians. 1 Corinthians 3:13 says your works are going to be made manifest, and they are going to be tried by fire. When the fire hits the gold, silver, and precious stones—especially the gold and the silver—fire only purifies it. But when it hits the dead hay and the dead wheat and the dead grass, it burns up.

1 Corinthians 3:14 says that there is going to be a reward for the faithful. 1 Corinthians 3:15 says that the unfaithful are going to suffer loss, but I want you to see this: 1 Corinthians 3:15 says they are still saved. Look at 1 Corinthians 3:16-17: your body is God's temple. We learn from Proverbs 31:22, looking at the virtuous woman, that it talks about how she makes her own clothes with her own hands by the thing that she does. The Bible will talk about that in a moment as the robe of righteousness, which is fine linen, which is the righteousness of the saints.

Proverbs 31:22

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

A robe of righteousness is found in Revelation 19:7-8. It is a white robe, and I want you to notice that those things are passed out after the Judgment Seat of Christ, after your salvation. With the nation of Israel, it is dealing with her salvation, Isaiah 61. Your robe of righteousness, you get after the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is not your salvation.

Revelation 19:7-8

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The Bible says in Revelation 19:7 that the bride, you and me, has made herself ready. What does that mean? You have been to the Judgment Seat of Christ. You got all the spot and wrinkle out of everything. Now you are ready to go to the marriage. The Bible says she is arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. Revelation 19:8 says to her that it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen. This is not salvation; this is long after the day you were saved. That is the first definitive passage, and that sets a base for us.

Now we are going to go to the second one, 2 Corinthians 5. Before we read down through this, I want to draw your attention to 2 Corinthians 5:10 so we can get the context here.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

So now there is no question of what the context is here. Let me read it for you.

2 Corinthians 5:1-11

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

That is your soul. You have inside your physical body a spiritual body. If you are unsaved, when your physical body dies, that spiritual body, which is eternal, has to go to the lake of fire. First, it goes to hell, then Revelation 20, it is your last judgment, it is dumped into the lake of fire. I could take time this morning to tell you why God has to have a lake of fire, why somebody is going to burn for all eternity. But we do not have time for that this morning, so suffice it to say, if you are lost, turn or burn. That is where it is going.

Now, if you are saved, you have an eternal body inside you, which is your soul. When your body dies, your spiritual soul goes to be with the Lord. It is that soul that he says here, "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."

"Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him."

That is a great question for all of us this morning. If the Lord would come right now, this very second, and we would be raptured out, and you would stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, would you be accepted based on what you have done for Him? I am not talking about your salvation. If you are saved this morning, you are in Christ, and He is in you; there is no acceptance to it. What I am talking about is, after He saved you, He had a purpose for our lives. He had something that He wanted us to accomplish and do. In that, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, is our acceptance as stewards for God.

"For we must all appear," 2 Corinthians 5:10, "before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." I have always thought that was a great verse. I do not mean to knock anybody, and I am not trying to; I do not have anybody named, I just know it from life. It says you have got guys who are millionaires, rich guys, and all their life they keep their money, they do what they want to do. They know when they die, they are not going to get to use it or anything. So they keep all their money all their life, buy what they want, do what they want to do, and when they die, they leave it all to some charitable organization or some church, and they actually think that now that is

going to cut them some slack. God knows where your mind is; He knows what your motive is. That verse tells you right there that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, you only get credit for the things you do in this body, not after you are dead and gone, cannot use it anymore, and you got everything you wanted out, you do not want to give it to somebody else. I am going to tell you something, God has got a wrench that will fit any nut in this world.

Therefore, look at 2 Corinthians 5:11: "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." The Judgment Seat of Christ is called for you and for me, "a terror of the Lord." Someone told me one time, "I am not going to worry about serving God; I will take my chances at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and then I will be okay, because they have to go to heaven to be with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:11 says it is "the terror of the Lord." "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences."

Do not get mad at me because I am preaching to you today. If you do not like it, do you know what I am trying to do? I am trying to persuade you that there is a day coming that you are going to stand. Let me tell you something, as a preacher, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, I will be some of your best friends. Amen. Because your life was headed down the road that you would have been in a mess in your life. Amen. And God, some of you, some goofball. Thank the Lord. "For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart." Do you know what he is saying? He said there are a lot of God's people that like to glory before God in appearance, but not really in their heart. Amen.

This is the second definitive chapter here. I want you to know 2 Corinthians 5:1 is talking about your spiritual, glorified body that you get after the rapture of the church. In 2 Corinthians 5:2, 3, and 4, I want you to note, somebody is worried about in that day being naked in verse 3. In verse 2, somebody is earnestly desiring to be clothed that they do not be found naked. In verse 4, it says somebody is afraid that they will be unclothed. 1 Corinthians 3:9 says that our labor, our work, is what gets accepted of Him. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says that we are all going to appear. Mark that verse in your Bible; that is another word, man, the word "appear." We will see that in a moment. Then 2 Corinthians 5:11 says it is "the terror of the Lord."

Revelation 14:10 says we shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. Revelation 14:8 says that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Let me tell you something, when God saved you, He died for you, He had a plan for you, He had something He wants you to accomplish for Him. Many times, we do our own thing. We do not get the wisdom of God. We are the fool of Proverbs. We go do our own thing, and we think that we do not have to give an account to God. We think that we can do whatever we want to do. I want to tell you something: in your life, it is not a matter of when you will or if you will; it is only a matter of when you will. We all will bow our knee, and our tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. You either do it now and accept the blessings of God, or you will do it in that day as you stand naked. I am telling you.

I know why guys do not like to hear stuff like this. We do not go to the doctor. We do not want to face the reality that we are going in life. There is going to be a disaster, whether it is in a relationship, whether it is in a job, whether it is in a marriage, or whether it is in our own relationship with God. We want to pretend we are okay. God's day of reckoning for the church, God's day of reckoning for the child of God who paid the price, who counted the cost, who no matter what, bore the shame and the reproach of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you do not bear the shame and the reproach now, you will bear it over there. But you will bear it. You will be able to get down on your knees by your bed, or you will get down in your car driving someplace, or you will get struck by the Holy Spirit of God, and you will get on your knee and you will confess that He is the Lord of your life and make Him Lord in your life. Or, in that day, that stiff neck with all the things you have got in your mind and your life, or you are going to do it your way. In that day before Him, you will bow that knee and you will bend that stiff neck, and you will say, "Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." How about doing it now?

In Revelation 3:14-22, we have—and I told you already—seven periods of church history. In Revelation 3, we have the last one, the one that you and I are part of, the Laodicean church, around 1900 to the present day up to the rapture. Here is the problem, Revelation 3:17-19:

Revelation 3:17-19

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

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.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

That is the megachurch today. They have everything that they need. They do not need anything from God. They have everything they could ever want. They are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing. He says, "I counsel thee," Revelation 3:18, "to buy of me gold tried in the fire." There it is. That gold is going to show up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. "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." There is that word, back to the Judgment Seat. This church period, you and me, has lost its way and thinks that it has everything, but in reality, the Bible says it is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Judgment Seat of Christ, there it is.

In Revelation 3:20, this is called the church of the closed door. The door is closed, and if you read the verse, God is knocking on the door, Christ is knocking on the door trying to get back in. He is locked out of His own church.

V. Seven Areas Leading to Nakedness at the Judgment Seat

In the few minutes I have left here, I feel like I need to do this, because we have laid it out very clearly to you, and you can see the difference now. Based on the verse today and what we have

seen today, I think it is my duty to warn you and to give you the seven areas of our lives that will get you naked at the Judgment Seat of Christ. I want to be honest with you this morning: I preach messages that you may not like, because I do not care what you like, I just care about the truth. It does not matter to me whether you like it or you do not like it; I have to listen to it too. You only have to hear it once; I worked on it all week; I am more sick of it than you are. But I want to give you seven areas of our lives that for sure will get you and me as naked as a jaybird at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

5. Losing Emphasis

This happens to us all at some point or another. We come to the point as a child of God where we lose our emphasis. We are not a wise master builder. In fact, I am not sure what we are building. The great example of this is Solomon. Solomon was chosen to build the temple of God. David was not allowed because David is a picture of Christ at the Second Coming, and Solomon is a picture of Christ in the Millennium. So David could not do it because he is the warrior, and Solomon got to do it because in the time that he reigns for 40 years, it is the greatest picture of the Millennium anywhere in the Bible. So he was chosen to do it.

When you look at that, 1 Kings 6:38 says that when he built God's temple, it took him seven years to build it. Now, just think in a spiritual application, that would be your body. I will tell you something, I will just be honest with you: you come into this church, hook up with me, get into where I push you, give me your life and your undivided attention for seven years, I will build you into a temple. By the end of that seven years, brother, you will be something. It may not even take that long for some of you. On the other hand, if you need an extension on your contract, it is going to be a little longer.

When he built the temple of God, that is his great model. It shows that in the physical temple that took seven years, that means that if you and I do what we are supposed to do, and we get in that Book, and we clear out the spot, and we give God everything He wants in seven years, you could be there. Here is the problem: 1 Kings 7:1 says Solomon took seven years to build God's house, but he took 13 to build his own. You see, he is a perfect example of you and me who spend more time building the things of our own world than we do the things of God. My question simply is, what are you building in your life today for God? Do not tell me about your house, do not tell me what you mean by a remodeling project, do not tell me about all the things you do, all the places you go, and all the... I am not talking about that. In your life, what are you building for God that is more than you are building for yourself? You say, "What is wrong with me?" You have lost your emphasis.

6. Wrong Doctrine, or No Doctrine

Are the bitter things still sweet, children? I love it; I beat myself up with this one. 2 Timothy 3:16 says the number one thing the Bible is profitable for is for doctrine.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That is what it teaches. Then for reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness. The Bible will only change you into what God wants you to be, or transform you into what God wants you to be, with these four things in your life. You have got to learn what is right, you have got to learn what is wrong, you have got to learn how to fix it, and you have got to learn how to keep it fixed.

7. Wrong Attitude

Our attitude of heart toward God, our attitude of heart toward the Word of God, our attitude of heart toward the ministry of God, our attitude of heart toward each other. I will tell you a story here. You girls that play softball, we have four girls' teams? Okay, you know your ump who umpires you, Bill. He came to me last night after the game. I was up there getting ready to leave. Bill is unsaved. He said, "I want you to know, you have got the greatest bunch of people I have ever met in my life." He has umped for you girls for 15 years, do you know that? Time flies, 15 years. And he is unsaved. Have you ever noticed when you guys play there, he will call you together to pray? Now he is unsaved. He will call you together to pray. You will start praying. He will take his hat off. He will cross his hands and close his head. You have made an impact in his world. He says, "The one word that sums up your people is the word 'love.' They say they all love each other."

I laughed. I said to him, "You know, I bet this is a real refreshing time to come do this, and all the city leagues you do it." He said, "Oh, you have no idea. We get cussed at, we get thrown things at, people threaten our lives and all this stuff." He says, "It is so good to come here." This is an unsaved man. He says, "It is so good to come here, and see the love that is in your church with these people." You did that. You did that because you love each other, genuinely. It is not fake.

Now I have something else to tell you. This Saturday, it is his birthday. I want each one of your teams to get him a card and a little birthday present and take it up to him when you play, and say, "Bill, happy birthday. Thank you for being here." I will tell you what, here is an unsaved man who, I guarantee you, when he goes home, he does not forget the ball game and the people that were a witness to him. Nobody has ever given him a tract. Nobody has ever said a word to him that I do not think they ever have. But you know what? It is like I have said many times: every Christian is a witness. Sometimes you should even use words. It is your life. It is what he sees in you, loving each other, caring about each other. It is what he sees, their attitude.

1 Corinthians 3:13 says that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, He is going to sort it out. He is going to sort out the attitude, the motive by which we do what we do. It is not going to be, "What did you do?" We do all these things, taking them to the Judgment Seat of Christ, "Boy, I am going to come out clean because I have got all the things that I did." It is not about one thing that you did; it is about why you did what you did. In Job 1 and Job 2, there is a great lesson. When the devil attacked Job to God, he went after Job's motive for loving God. Some of God's people get naked at the Judgment Seat of Christ because they have the wrong attitude.

8. Wrong Goals

I will not waste any time here. The goal for all of us should simply be to stand unashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The goal for each one of us should be to get a full reward in that day. After what He has done for us, after the price that was paid, after the agony He went through, and you are afraid if you serve God, you will break a fingernail. The riches of this life are not to be compared with the true riches that the Word of God has for us. Many times in our life, we have the wrong goal; we want all the things for ourselves.

9. Wrong Perspective

2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. When you got saved, in the Bible, we have this as our discipleship too. There are seven things that changed about you, that you got new, the day you got saved. Seven things at that moment. The moment before you were saved, you were dead in trespasses and sins. The moment you got saved, you now become a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away, and God adds seven new things to your life. The tragedy of some of God's people sitting here this morning, saved on your way to heaven, is that they have to face that Judgment Seat of Christ, and they do not even know what they are.

10. Wrong Bible

Where Laodicea is the worst church and the last church, and the one that we are part of, when you come through a great study of the periods of church history, the seven of them, you will find that the one before that, which started around 1600 and actually goes up to about 1900—about 350 years total—is the Philadelphia church. Philadelphia means brotherly love. Where the church of Laodicea is called the closed door, the church of Philadelphia is called the open door. That church, you are told in Revelation 3:7, God says:

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; "I set before you an open door, and no man can shut it." It is a lot like this church here. We get opportunity after opportunity with people. We get opportunity after opportunity in ministry. Do you know why? It is not because of anything I do; it is because of the Book that we have and that we love, and that Book is the Book of the open door. God will give you open doors. Open doors are opportunities in the Bible.

Then he says in Revelation 3:7 that that church had the key of David. Do you know what the key of David is? The key of David is in Psalms 119. Find out what David's key was that God says he is a man after My own heart. In Revelation 2:8-10, he says this about this church:

Revelation 2:8-10 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

You see, you do not have to worry about somebody taking your garment because your

garment has nothing to do with your salvation. What you get at the Judgment Seat of Christ is crowns. You better be careful that some man does not take your Book and then take your crowns.

11. Wrong Relationships

Wrong people in your life. The people you hang out with. If the Bible is clear about anything at all, it is clear about the relationships we build and the people we have contact with. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says:

1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Psalms 1:1 says:

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. The moment you start walking with God and start walking with one crowd, pretty soon you are standing with him, you are not walking anymore, and then pretty soon you are sitting with him, and you are scorning everything about God that you once loved. Do not tell me. Fifty-some years, almost fifty years in a ministry, I have seen it over and over and over again. I am telling you. Do not get mad at me; I am trying to persuade you this morning. There is a day coming where you are going to stand, and I do not care if you have never heard it before. Get out of that church and get to a place that will teach you the Bible. I am telling you, there is a day coming when you are going to stand before God, and if a preacher, your pastor, has denied you that and not told you that, he has defrauded you. How dare he send you to that day, that is a terror of the Lord, and not prepare you for it. I do not want you to be naked there, and I do not want you to lose rewards, and honestly, I will do everything I can in my power. But I want you to know this: if you get there and you lose everything you have got, it will not be because I did not tell you the truth. It is because you did not want to go to the doctor to find out what is wrong.

2 Corinthians 6:14 says:

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? This is being unequally yoked together with unbelievers, marriage or any relationship. I know you use that for marriage, but it is any relationship. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 tells us why they do not have the same value system. There is a great principle taught all through the Word of God, and it is an example of Lot and Abraham. Abraham was not perfect, but Abraham loved God, and he believed what God said, and God took Abraham, and because of his family and what he knew he would do, He built from him God's nation, the nation of Israel.

Lot, on the other hand, where Abraham believed God and went the way he went, Lot went down to the world of Sodom. You know he is a picture of a saved man because the Bible calls him in the New Testament "righteous Lot." Are you kidding me? He is down in Sodom and Gomorrah, which is the equivalent of the homosexual environment and community today. I know, I know, I know. The community today wants to believe that homosexuality is wrong. I get it, I get it, I understand. I know, and I have heard them get on there on TV and on the radio and read their books when they say, "Well, you know, everybody, all those Bible thumpers"—that would be me—"all those people up there, they want to talk about God destroying Sodom and Gomorrah because of the fact that it was for

homosexuals. It was not that; it was because in Sodom and Gomorrah they had a lack of hospitality." Yes, and I guess when they are over there, those guys are beating on the door wanting to get Lot out. And Lot says, "Hey guys, you cannot do this." He says, "Bring them out because we want to know them." Oh, I get it. "Hi, my name is Bob, and you are Drake. Good to know you, welcome to Sodom." That is not the knowing they wanted.

Do you know what Lot's value system is? Lot says, "You cannot do that to these guys. I will tell you what, I have got some daughters here that never knew men. You take them instead." What a value system! There are a lot of God's people just like that. I will tell you what, I said it before. You take my glasses one more time, you are in trouble. I have told it before. We all have problems in our world. We all have problems in our life. Nobody is free from them. We all struggle with things, every one of us. But I want to tell you something right now. I want to tell you a dying truth: changing geographical locations does not solve your problems. The problem was not—I mean, I know Abraham wanted him out, God got him out, and God got Lot out of Sodom—but the problem was not getting Lot out of Sodom. The problem was getting Sodom out of Lot. Our problem has to change from what is inside us: you and me, and who we hang out with.

I have seen it all my life. I have seen people get into relationships. They want a relationship so bad they totally justify it in their mind that this woman and this guy are okay. They are going to be fine. It is great. They violate every principle in the Word of God. They never see what has actually happened. They are so caught up in what they want that they lose the reality of what the Bible says they are really in. I am telling you, 99% of them never see what is coming. That is why they have one bad marriage, two bad marriages, three bad marriages, a four bad marriage. We had a lady in this church one time, years and years ago. She was married 10 times when she left here. Ten times. She may be 11, 12, or 13, or 14, or 15 by now. I think she probably wants double digits; it is probably close to 20. But in every case, she never would follow what the Word of God said.

VI. The Unpayable Debt and Accountability

There will be no greater doctrine to the body of Christ than the doctrine of the Judgment Seat of Christ. Salvation may be free, but it comes with a price. You and I just did not have to pay it, and it is a price that you and I could never pay if we had to pay it. Jesus says in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 that we are bought with a price.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

That makes you and me a debtor. Most of God's people never understand that we have a debt to owe to Christ because of the price that He paid for us. It blows my mind. You understand about being in debt with your credit cards, MasterCard and Visa. You understand that debt, and you

have got to pay that every month. You understand you have got a debt to the bank for your car, for your house. You have got to take your dog to the vet, and they charge for everything today. Now they want to do senior screenings on your pet. For \$300, they will give you a report that says, "Your dog is getting old." We are in debt to everything and everybody, but as God's people, we have forgotten, we have written off the debt that we owe to Him. It is a debt that you and I could never pay if we had to pay it. That is why it is a lifelong thing.

There will come a time when your house will be paid off. There will come a time when your car is paid off. There will come a time when your vet bills are paid off after the dog died and they cremated him. There will come a time in your life when hopefully you will get your MasterCard paid off, and you can say, "Man, I am glad. I am out from under that." But I am going to tell you something: there will never be a time you will get the debt paid off that He paid for you. Never. It is a lifelong debt. It is something that I have to pay every day. There will never be a time when I can go home at night and say, "I do not owe Him anything today." It is just the opposite. I go home every night, and I understand how much more I owe Him today than I did yesterday. The debt. The debt. The debt.

When we do our discipleship lessons, we have 10 lessons. You will notice, those who have been discipled, the last lesson is on the perspective of the Christian life. Do you know what the last lesson is? The last lesson we leave you with is a lesson on the Judgment Seat of Christ because that is a day it is coming in your world. It is just that simple. For the unsaved man, his judgment will be held accountable at the Great White Throne Judgment. For you and for me, our accountability for all that God gave us and the debt that we owe to Him will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

We talk about our liberty in Christ, and that is one of the most misused things anywhere in Christianity today. We think that our liberty gives us the license to do whatever we want to do. It is one of the most misunderstood, misapplied, and misused concepts in all the world today. I heard a sailor one time, in fact, he was a Navy SEAL, a Christian, a great guy. He gave a devotion one time, and his devotion was on the Judgment Seat of Christ. He used an example that I have never forgotten, and only a Navy guy could use it. He said, "In the Navy, when you are on a ship for six months, a three-month deployment, and you finally come into a port, they give us what we call liberty." Liberty means we get off the ship, and we do not have to report back for a week, maybe two weeks, or four or five days, whatever. He says, "You are pretty much on your own." He says, "You take a bunch of guys that have been cooped up on a ship for three months or six months, things get crazy." There are always bar fights, there are always things, there is always shore patrol involved, there is always everything that goes on. He said, "There is not one of us, no matter what we do under liberty, we all understand that when we get back to ship, we will give an account for what we did when we were on liberty." He made the connection just like the Judgment Seat of Christ. We have liberty right now, but do not kid yourself. There is a day coming when old Mount Zion, the ship of Mount Zion, comes into port that we will give an account for our liberty. The Bible says it is "the terror of the Lord."

So, when the Bible talks about in Proverbs 27, and it talks about taking a surety for a stranger and losing some things, I know for the nation of Israel, that is their garments of salvation. For

you and for me, it is winding up naked at the Judgment Seat of Christ. God giving you a glorified body, but you make the clothes that you wear by the things that you do. Proverbs 31.

I will tell you what, at the Judgment Seat of Christ—I know it does not bother you now; some of you already turned me off about an hour ago, and I have not been preaching that long—and I know you do not want to hear it, but I am telling you this: at the Judgment Seat of Christ, there will be people that in that day, when you stand there and you look at Him standing up there, and for the first time in your life, you realize the price that He paid for you. You see, you have too many things now to block it out. You have your car, you have your house, you have your boat, you have your this, you have your that, you have all the money, you have all this stuff, you have your garden, you have this, and now you can put all those things in. In that day, that is all gone.

You stand there, and there He will be. You will see the eyes that He loves you with. You will understand now, like we talked about Thursday night, Song of Solomon 2. You will understand, you will see Him, you will understand all that He has done for you. In a moment, in a fraction of a second, you will look back in the flash of your life, and you will see every turn of event that He was there guiding you, taking care of you. You will see His agony and understanding on the cross. For the first time in your life, like a hungry giant coming home for lunch, you are going to realize everything that He did for you. Right behind that, you are going to realize that you did nothing for Him. It is all about you. It is all about what you want.

I guarantee you, folks, I am trying to persuade you, you better listen. You better just shut it out for a second, and I will be through, and then you can go on to your joys of life. But I am telling you, there will be people in that day that will be begging to go back to planet earth for just five minutes to serve God because they never did in their life. Nobody is going back. It is what you did in this body, or you did not do in this body. The Judgment Seat of Christ for you and for me, losing the garments for the nation of Israel, you and I being naked before the great judgment seat. At the Great White Throne Judgment, the unsaved man gives an account. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, you and I will give our account. We have bowed and are at a close.