

Proverbs 27

Sunday 8/25/2019

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want to invite you to turn to Proverbs 27. You will know that so far we have come through a section of verses in the last part of this chapter, about verse 19 on, that really deal with us as individual Christians in our relationship with Christ and our relationship with each other. We are going to close out Proverbs 27 today. In doing what I want to do today as far as closing it out and preaching these last verses, I want to kind of recap the last part of what we have looked at from verse 19 on, because it all kind of goes together. I want to give you a context of where we have been, and where we are going today.

Remember in Proverbs 27:19, we saw a great principle where it talked about, as in water, when a man sees his reflection face to face, you see who you really are. We talked about the Word of God being a looking glass that we look into. Then it talked about not only face to face, but heart to heart. We talked about getting honest with ourselves and seeing ourselves as we really are. Most of the time in life, we go through life projecting ourselves not only to others, but in our own mind, that we have it together when we really do not. Getting honest with ourselves, seeing ourselves in our reflection of the Word of God, and then in the lives of the people around us, that we are all the same, and we all have problems and issues.

We talked about never trusting in our heart. Jeremiah 17:9 makes it so clear that our heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Rather, we should trust in God's heart, the Word of God. Psalms 119:11 says:

Psalms 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:9

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

We talked about never getting to the place where we become self-righteous in our attitude about people.

Then you remember we learned from Proverbs 27:20, it talked about that hell and destruction will never be full. What it was meaning by that, and we talked about this, is as long as man's heart and spirit goes against God's heart and His spirit, it will never get fixed. Nothing will ever change. This is the number one reason why man is incomplete, why he does not find self-satisfaction, he does not find contentment, he does not find all the things that he is looking for. When he does not, then he foolishly tries to fill that void with the things of the world. Of course, he winds up destroying everything around him because that will not work. It is a common thing that we see all the time in dealing with people. We see it in relationships, we see it in marriages, we see it in families, you will see it in life in general. People destroying themselves and everything that they have simply because they will not do it God's way. It is just that simple.

Then the third thing, we talked about the great concept of getting the right spirit, God's spirit, joined to your human spirit, and how the two spirits have to become one. Then we talked about

getting the right mind, God's mind, the Word of God in you, based on your communing with God's spirit and lining it up with your spirit. Then that right mind would determine your attitude. We talked about attitude and action. Your attitude of heart toward God or the world. We talked about it in four key areas that are absolutely vital to all of us:

1. The right spirit, which will produce the right mind.
2. Which will produce the right heart.
3. Which then will produce the right action.

This is God's simple four-point plan for all of us. In time, as we do these things, Romans 12:1-2 says this will be the transformation process.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

This will be a transformation of when you get the right spirit, the right mind, the right heart, the right action. Then in time, it transforms itself into, as the Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7, a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Your mind is sound because it is built on sound principles. Then it leads to, as we talk about in Titus 2:8, a sound speech.

Titus 2:8

Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

What you talk about has a basis of truth in it. Then it leads to, as Titus 1:13 says, a sound faith.

Titus 1:13

This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Your faith now is based on the soundness of your mind and the soundness of your speech. Those things, the mind is inward, the speech and the faith are outward. Everybody sees it. Of course, it all goes back to 1 Timothy 1:10, and based on sound doctrine.

1 Timothy 1:10

For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

Meaning the principles of the Word of God. This is what we do here. This is our job. Our job is one-fold: it is to get the Word of God into you and let it do what it needs to do.

Then the fourth thing that was last week, we looked at Proverbs 27:21-23. What a great set of verses that was. It talked about the refining pot and the furnace to purify gold and silver of its impurities. I talked to you last week on how God will use all the things in our life to make us better. We get an idea that it is only the good things that God takes and uses, but that is not true. Many times all the good things in our life will not dig deep enough into where the problems are. Sometimes you have to get down deeper than that. The only thing that makes you look into that water face to face, or the mirror of the Word of God, and see yourself the way you really are, is the tough times we go through.

Most of God's people think that tough times are bad. Tough times in our life as a Christian are the best thing that can ever happen to us because it brings us to a reality check of where we are. Sometimes that is the only way God can straighten down our course in life. It is one of the greatest processes in the Bible. It is how God will use everything, the good and the bad. It is the basis, as we talked about last week, for the book of Romans. Romans 8:28 says:

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

It is everything together. We have a tendency to isolate things in our lives that we do not like and just focus on that when we do not look at the whole picture of what God is doing and how that fits into the context. When you just look at the one piece of it, then that can destroy everything you are trying to do because that is where your focus is. But when you see it in context of all that God is doing and you understand the great principle that all things do work together for good, if you love Him, that is the key.

I showed you that when I talked about the refiner's pot and a furnace for gold and for silver, how that from 1 Corinthians 3, when the day you got saved and laid a foundation in your life, the gold represents the deity of Christ and the silver represents the price of redemption. It is simply purifying ourselves daily to be more like Him. You do that through spiritual maturity. We talked about the five levels, and you guys asked a question Thursday night, and I kind of walked you through that. It is a purifying process in our relationship with God in simply two areas. If every child of God on planet earth would just work on these two things, it would literally solve every problem you have because every issue that we have, every problem that we are going to get into, will fundamentally come back to a failure in these two. When you purify these two every day of your life, like the gold and the silver in the refiner's pot in the furnace, it makes you purer. It gets you closer in two ways. There are only two fundamental ways. You can talk about all the parameters, "Well, you will get really close to God reading the Bible." Well, Jehovah Witnesses read it all day long, and it is not working for them. We think that all these parameters of these terms that we use make us closer to God. I am not saying they are not important in your life, but you want to scrape it off to the bottom level foundation. The two keys in your life that are going to make you closer to Him and keep you closer to Him are the gold and the silver.

4. Understanding in your life and purifying it every day who He really is in your life. Every day of your life, you are getting closer to that idea. You see it a little better, a little deeper, a little broader, a little wider.
5. Understanding every day what He really has done for you.

Those two things will keep you in line and keep you where you need to be in every aspect of your life. These two concepts form everything in our life for every way we go in life and whatever we do for Christ. It will come down to those two. Those two produce a right attitude: a right attitude about God and a right attitude about what He has done for you. When you put those two in, it makes your attitude, I guarantee you, your action will be right on target.

Then in Proverbs 17:3, it says:

Proverbs 17:3

The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

There it is again. A great principle, the fining pot for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord trieth the hearts. That process that purifies your attitude of heart with the Lord. Simply God revealing Himself and proving Himself through the struggles that we go through. Many times, we focus on it. The book of Job is a great book on this, and I do not have time this morning to get into that, but the book of Job is a great book. It shows one great concept that God had a message for Job. God sometimes has a message for you and for me. In Job's life, God used the devil as the messenger boy to deliver the message. So, at times in your life and my life, sometimes God will use the devil to be the delivery boy of what God wants you to see. What happens is we get so focused on the delivery boy, we never get the message. That is God revealing Himself and proving Himself through the struggles that we go through.

One way or the other, the older we all get that claim to be Christians, the more we define ourselves and who we really are in those two areas. It is just that simple. Time is one of the greatest assets in any aspect of the world. I call time the great definer. I say that when nobody else or nothing else will tell, time will tell. It will tell you who is right and it will tell you who is wrong. You have situations where you want to prove somebody out and see if somebody is real. Time is the essence that proves that because time proves all things. Somebody says, "Well, I got saved." You want to see if the change is real. You do not go by what somebody says. You watch it in time. When a person makes the change in their life, then you begin that time, they will put them on the clock. The way that anybody proves anything about God to anybody is through the consistency of time. It is true whether you are a pastor, it is true whether you are a Christian, it is true whether you are working with somebody. That is why you do not take young Christians and throw them into the mix of the ministry on a level that really requires a lot of maturity. Yet many times, many churches do. They are so short on people to do things and help that as soon as somebody gets saved, you just throw them right in the mix and literally throw them to the wolves. In any given situation, time will reveal where God's hand is really at in any issue. I am giving you some of the most absolute important material you will ever get your hands on. You never define anything or anybody in the short term. Allow them to say what they say. Allow it to

be what it is. But down through history, in the long term, you will see where God's hand is really at.

I have seen churches that claim to be literal churches and claim to be doing what God wants them to do. Many of those churches, back in the day when the Bible was still relevant to our society, many of them were good, solid churches. You would look at that church and you would say to yourself, "Man, that is a really good church." But 30 years later, time has revealed what it was really all about. It was a lot of talk. It was a lot of Barnum and Bailey's circus. It was a lot of programs. It was a lot of things that sounded really good, but there was no substance to it. Though they may have mega churches, they may have great crowds of people, they have failed the test of time of being steadfast in what they once believed.

I told you Thursday night that the two or three great things that destroyed America and put us where we are at today, at the turn of the century, the devil had it all mapped out and planned out to take the Bible from you. The three great things that he concocted and he used are three of the most damnable heresies that ever came down out of the pit of hell.

6. The first one, obviously, was the Charismatic Movement, totally against everything in the Word of God. It takes the facts out of everything in your life and puts it into feelings.
7. The second one was the Neo-Evangelical Movement. You see that they have completely taken over Christianity today. They are not the non-denominational churches. They are the churches that, back in the day, my day in the 60s and 70s, they were called Bible churches. Now they have all kinds of names, and they are not associated with any denomination because they do not want, many of them took "Baptist" off their name because they did not want to be associated with a denomination because they think that would limit them to reaching people. The stupid idiots did not know that by leaving "Baptist" off their name and ending into another whole area, now they just formed another denomination. Of course, it takes the position that it wanted to take the Bible, and you see this, their goal was to take the Bible out of the hand of the common man and put it back into scholarship. That is why you find them all using the new Bibles. That is why you will find them having a problem with any church that believes the Bible is the Word of God because their whole satanic mindset going back from when they started was to take the Word of God from you and put it back into Greek and to Hebrew, put it back into the colleges, put it back into the scholars, so to speak. That was their function.
8. The third one was, and I talked about this Thursday night, was a Neo-Orthodox Movement. The Neo-Orthodox Movement came over from Europe and it hit this country in the last part of the 1800s and then into the 1900s, and it simply was a progressive movement. It was a movement that said that the Bible in Christianity has to move up as society changes. Their mindset is that we change the message. We change. There is nothing, the Bible, it is a Christian evolutionary process. It is nothing different than Darwin's origin of the species and evolution in an unsaved world. Churches have an evolving Bible with an evolving agenda. This is why in these churches where 50, 60 years ago if you were a gay or a lesbian or a homosexual, it was painted in the Bible for what it was. It was not a personal attack on the individual. It is just like if you are a drunk. You are a drunk, you are a drunk. You might be

the nicest guy on the planet, but you have a stronghold in your life. Now today all those things have changed. We have moved through all of this to the point where now they accept all of that, and they bring drinking into the services. They bring the world's music into it. The thing that you will always want to step back and look at is time. Time proved what they once were, and if you believe the Bible and you know about the holiness of God and you know what God accepts and what God does not accept, it is a piece of cake. Nothing else will tell. Time will tell.

I have a message that I preach that I have never preached to you guys. I preached it in places that needed to be preached. But it is simply called, "Where Are They Now?" They were once here. Where are they now? Of course, time shows you that they have lost their way. Some of the great preachers of 50, 40, 30 years ago do not even believe the Bible anymore. There are pastors that once stood in the pulpit and preached the Bible. Now they believe that homosexuality is okay. They give you a thumbs up on the internet when you say, "I have come out of the closet." It has all changed, and it is a great question because time is the element. Many times those who claim to be the good guys, in time wind up being the bad guys, and the people they said were the bad guys, in time wind up being the good guys because time proves all things. You see it in every aspect of Christianity. This is the dilemma we are in today. If you want to know where you are at and what is real and what is not, just get the biblical principles, be steadfast with them, and let time prove things out. It is the greatest asset that anybody ever has. That is why the study of church history is so vital and understanding even in our own last 50 years. How did we get in the mess that we are in? Of course, the answer is found in time.

Then we saw how the Bible told you that when you are dealing with a fool, no matter what God does to get his heart and his attention, it just simply does not work. We saw the example in Proverbs 27:22 of the mortar and the pestle, a mortar being a bowl, the pestle being a stone grinding, and you put it in and you grind it up. It is a picture of God's chastisement in somebody's life of grinding him for the purpose of trying to separate that fool from his foolishness. We saw how that in most cases it will never work. I talked at great length, got a little emotional about it last week, about this Laodiceanism and salvation. You cannot lose the truth to the degree that we have lost the truth and still claim that people are getting saved left and right in these churches. The church does not have any truth, I doubt how you got the truth. But it is mostly based on emotions and feelings, and we talked about that.

We saw how a great verse in Proverbs 27:23 for any pastor, how knowing the state of your flocks, looking well to your herds, to be in a better position to help them, becoming one with your people, both a pastor and his people becoming one together and having a lifelong commitment to the work of God that is lifelong, goes on forever. Because you realize that the work of God goes on forever, we are to occupy till He comes. As Proverbs 31:16 says, I pointed out buying the field together. That brings us up to the point where we are at. We are going to see today with that little review, and we will add these final truths to it, and we will close out this great section of Proverbs 27.

So I want to read the text for you today. It says:

Proverbs 27:24-27

For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.

Paul Matthews, would you stand up and ask God's blessing on the service for us this morning, buddy? Amen.

I. The Fleeting Nature of Worldly Riches

Now we are going to tie the last four verses of this chapter together with the last couple of verses today. I want to draw your attention out of Proverbs 27:24 here. It says, "For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?" That is a question. With what we have seen so far, the fool will trust in his riches of his worldly possessions. We know that. We have talked about that quite often. For sure we know also that they will fail him, and oddly define him as a fool. We have seen that. This is the guy who is so consumed with himself or herself, and all that they have, that God can never get their attention. Again, Laodiceanism in salvation. Matthew 7:21-22 makes it very clear that in that day there will be some that did everything for the Lord, that everybody else did, and they will look at Him and say, "Lord, Lord, have we not done all things in thy name?" And He will say, "Depart from me, I never knew you."

Matthew 7:21-22

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

It is a thing where there are some requirements for salvation, and there is evidence of salvation. We talked about that last week. Our fool here has settled for the riches of this world instead of the true riches of God, which we are talking about in Luke 16:11, which I think is very ironic that the true riches are found in Luke 16:11, and are found in your Bible, which is a 1611, but that is just me.

Luke 16:11

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will ye be faithful in the true riches?

Mark 4:19 says that the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches, and it says that it chokes the Word of God.

Mark 4:19

And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

It keeps the Word of God from getting into you. It chokes you.

II. The Importance of Spiritual Investment

I have talked to you many, many, many times about life being an investment. Most people today that are maybe, not my generation, but maybe the younger generation, you are in your 40s and your 50s, most people do not plan for retirement. "I am just going to trust the Lord." Okay, that is good. That is fine. We will give you a hot dog down on the street when we see you. It is a thing where that is the standard answer, and it is not a very good answer. God allows you to do things in life that will help you prepare. Most guys, you young kids, I know, your kids are now 18 or 19, even you 20, 25 year olds. For you, 65 and 70 seems like a thousand years from now. Can I give you a little bit of advice? It is right around the corner. Yesterday, I was 20. Look at me today. I am telling you. Suddenly you wake up and you have health issues, or your job, you cannot work anymore, or you get to the point where you want to retire, but you cannot. It is because you made no investments in the physical things of life. I am talking about like 401Ks or whatever they are. You have never made any provision for that because all your life you just thought where you were now, and you did not think about investments. That happens all the time. You hit 65 or 70, your wife gets sick or you get sick, and you have to work through on that, or you are destitute, you lose everything. Why? Because you did not plan ahead and did not make any investments in anything that are going to be there for you when you need it.

Now that is all in a physical sense. I understand that. I realize you have to trust God and faith and everything. I understand. I am not certainly somebody up here that is trying to say, "You cannot trust." What I am saying is that you use the things that God has put in your life to help you down the line someplace. It is just stupid. We talked about this Thursday night, we have people who will not go to doctors, and they do not like doctors or whatever. You have some people who are against all kinds of medicine doctors. I have met all kinds of people like that that said, "You know what, I do not go to a doctor. I do this kind of medicine. I do this home medicine. I do the remedies. I do the pills. I crush up the marijuana leaves, and it relieves my pain." I want to tell you something. I believe there is great value in that. Back in the Bible's day, back in the Bible times, I guarantee you. The Bible tells you they had herbs. They had things that they, I guarantee you. When all else failed, it was a little wine for your stomach's sake and often infirmities. That would work good for most of God's people. It is today too. What I am saying is this: you have got to use what God has given you. You realize that Paul carried a physician with him? Luke the physician? Because he had issues? He had postpartum depression and all those things. He had issues, and he carried a trained physician with him. That is a good example for me to know that God gave us those things.

Everybody who ever took a stand, and I have seen it all my ministry. Everybody who said, "I do not go to doctors, I am going to trust this person." And when I get cancer or I get this or I get

that, "I am going to try all this stuff." I am not arguing with you, but I want to tell you something. Every one of them wound up in a hospital and died. They were not even consistent in their own thoughts because when it got so bad, you know where they went? They went to the hospital, which is what they talked about against all their life. People do not use what is around them. I know everything is a balance. If you do not want to take Tylenol and you crush up some okra leaves and it helps your head, I am good with that. Bring some over to me. I will try it. I loved Andy Griffith with little Opie and Aunt Bee. I love those things, man. It is okay. What I am saying is a lot of that stuff, there is a lot of value to it. I am not going to discount that, but you get a real problem in life, and there are doctors there that will be preventive in things. My whole point is simply this, and I made this Thursday night, you have got one body to serve the Lord with. Limiting your options is not good. I am just saying you have got to find a good balance in the thing. But most people will not do that. When it comes to their physical investments, they have not done it.

I say all that to bring it around to the spiritual side, that life for Jesus Christ and the Word of God is an investment. Just like most Christians will not invest in the things they should, they do not invest in the spiritual things that they should. You have heard me say it a million, million times. There are only two things in life worth investing your life in because they are the only, as a Christian, because they are the only things that are eternal.

9. One of them is the Word of God.

10. The other one is the souls of men.

Everything else does not matter, but everything else needs to be in balance.

Then he asked a great question for each of us concerning who we really are and what God did for us and do we really understand it, where he says in the last part of that verse, "and doth the crown endure to every generation?" Wow, what a deep searching question. Last week I talked about the five crowns listed in the Bible at the Judgment Seat of Christ that you get, and how Revelation 4:10-11 talks about at some point we lay those crowns at the feet of Jesus.

Revelation 4:10-11

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Simply put, here is what he is saying. What are we doing? Investments. What are we investing in? What are we doing to ensure that our children will carry on the crown to future generations of our family right up to the Judgment Seat of Christ? That is what he is saying.

III. The Family as God's Heritage

I say it again, in the Old Testament as in the New Testaments, God's plan for salvation of planet earth was through the families. He tells it over and over again. Any church will only be as strong

as the family units in that church. Your children, our children, are God's heritage. Psalms 127:3 says:

Psalms 127:3

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

When God picked Abraham, Genesis 18:19, did you ever notice what the basis was he picked him on?

Genesis 18:19

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

He said, "I have seen this guy, and you know what? He will do what is right with his kids. He will do what is right with his kids." God knew that He was going to reach the world through the nation of Israel that is made up of families when He picked the guy who was the father of the Jews to start the whole process that He was going to separate out and in time make the nation of Israel. He looked for somebody that was going to carry that crown of the kingdom of heaven through the generations of his family.

In this church, many of you young couples and young singles, you really have got a good handle on getting it together, and I am really proud of you. Your spirit, your mind, your attitude, and your actions, and you are moving up through those spiritual levels. Many of you, some of you did, but many of you, you did not come from a family that helped these biblical values. You had to get them here. What you did was an incredible thing. What you did was, going along with this verse, is now that you are here and now that you have got the Bible, now that you know where you are, you have broken that cycle. I did not mean that you have just discarded your family. I am not meaning that. I do not mean that you have never talked to your mom and dad again because they were not spiritual, and I am not talking about that. I am saying in a spiritual sense, in your spirit and your mind and your attitude and your action, you have broken the shackles of that chain, the way it was. Now that you are here, you broke that cycle of the world and your family, and your future family, you will get married, many of you are having kids, some of you are going to get married, some of you, you will grow up, be older just like the older folks here. Your future generations of your kids. You are going to make sure that that legacy continues on.

Yet, it is true of every church, it is true in any situation. There are going to be some of God's people that will stop right here with you. You will never take it any farther. For whatever reason, and I do not, I mean, I am sure there are many reasons, there are different people. Your attitude, your mind, your spirit, your lifestyle ensures that the crown will never get past to the next generation in your family. I am just talking out of the top of my hat here. I have seen this too many times in all my years. I have seen men who have built great, they were great preachers. They built great churches, but they lost their kids to the world. I am just going to tell you something. I do not care how big a church you build. I do not care what a great preacher you are, and I do not care if you are running 50 million, thousand, hundred and sixteen octillion billion on

Sunday morning and have to have 9,443 buses to get them in. You lose your family, you failed, because the first church you have is your family. It is a disaster. I have seen it. I could list off guys that you would know their names, that you would know their churches, and it is unbelievable. In two or three generations, from when those guys died and left kids, and those kids have kids, and those kids have kids, grandkids, great grandkids, great great grandkids, two or three generations from now, those kids will not even know what that man ever did, what church he ever built. They will never hear one sermon he ever preached. I have watched them. I have watched them. It is the craziest thing you ever saw in your life. The devil knows exactly. Listen to me. It is not about building a hundred mega churches. It is about a million families making sure the crown is ensured that it goes to the next generations. That is how you do it. It is about families. It is not about big churches, little churches.

If this church right here, this little, in Podunk basement, on Podunk Apple Center, right across from Tim's Pizza, right across from the coffee place, that you have to have, they will never deliver packages here with a drone because they never find the place. But the moment there is an atomic attack, half the city will be down here with us. With this little body right here, if you, and say God gives us another hundred years, if this little church right here, if every family in this church would take that verse to heart and you would ensure that not only your kid but their kid down the line, you know what? This church right here would be responsible in a hundred years for reaching the whole world for Christ because that is the way it works. It is not about churches. Who cares if you get a mega church of 10,000 people if the families are not understanding their responsibility? Who cares? You attract people with your smoke screen, your black and blue lights and all your things you do and the breakdancing on the platform and your Bible and a beer ministry. You attract people, but that is not how it is done. It is how through families, the crown being passed down through the generation, the crowns that are going to show up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. That is where the investment has to be. Their kids, they left God. They do not go to church. They married an unsaved spouse. What do you think is going to happen when you marry an unsaved spouse and you lose the whole concept and their kids down the line, marry unsaved spouses? You have a bunch of people now that know nothing about God, not caring about God, that five, four, five generations later, if you would say, "Do you know your great-great-grandpa was a great preacher and he did this and he did that and he did that," they would say, "No, I do not know anything about that."

"Doth the crown endure to every generation?" They are dead in the water. What we do with the Word of God, the choices we make, they do not just impact us. You think it does because it is all about you. It does not just impact us. It impacts for sure our children and in time the future generations of a family who should be dedicated to God's work through the family ministry together of an unbroken line that you just pass that crown from family to family to family till you all get to the Judgment Seat of Christ.

IV. Feeding God's Lambs and Sheep

Proverbs 27:25 says:

Proverbs 27:25

The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

It says the hay appeareth and the tender grass showeth itself. They give forth what the herbs give forth and is gathered. That is a very good but a very simple concept. The hay and tender grass are the young Christians in our church, the young children in your family. At some point God is saying that He is gathering the fruit of them all together on a mountain. That is spiritual Mount Zion. Hebrews 12, Jeremiah 31, Revelation 14. That is when the Lord comes back, and the question is, "Does the crown endure to every generation?" Your kids are like the tender hay and the grass that is coming up, showing itself. At some point God is going to take that and He is going to gather it. They will have a relationship with God and a ministry to carry on the family crown to future generations.

I have said this many, many times, and we have taught church history here many, many times, and I make a reference to this every time we talk about the issue of the King James Bible. It is an issue of the fact that you want to know the Bible that you have in your hand, the King James 1611 Authorized Version, is the right Bible. How many times have we taught you that there are two lines through history? There is a corrupt line which produces all the Bibles that the Neo-Evangelical churches hold to and all the Baptist churches hold to today. Then there is the true biblical line that can be very easily traced through history. It does not take anybody with much of an education to be able to do that, and you find the true biblical line from which your King James Bible comes from. Paul said the same that I have committed to you, you commit to faithful men. In church history there is an unbroken line of Bible truth that has been committed to every generation of Christians through churches. My point is simply this, families ought to be the same way. You ought to have an unbroken line in your family. I am not going to suggest that you do everything right as a parent. I am not saying that. None of us do. I am just saying we do not make some stupid mistake. Boy, I made some. The bottom line is on the whole consistency of your life, the whole consistency of your life. You look at what the investments that you have made, and you can, it does not matter. It does not matter what family you came from, how dysfunctional it was, how bad it was. It only matters that here you are now, and you can break that cycle. You can break that chain. You can break that stronghold, and you can guarantee that from this point on you are going to take a personal responsibility that the crown endures to every generation.

Proverbs 27:26 says:

Proverbs 27:26

The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

You all know this from all of our times in the Bible, how God will use animals to illustrate what we should be. Some of the greatest studies in the Bible are studies about animals. Job 12:7 tells us that the beast will teach you.

Job 12:7

But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:

They will show you, and God uses them. You have eagles in the Bible. You have horses in the Bible. You have oxen in the Bible. You have sheep in the Bible. You have lambs in the Bible. You have goats in the Bible. You have asses in the Bible. It is a thing where you take the ass when Christ went into Jerusalem in a triumphal entry there over in Matthew 24. You have an ass and an ass's colt. That is a young ass. I love it. I love when you can cuss in the pulpit and get away with it. The Bible says, and they saddled, He said, "Saddle me the ass." Then so they saddled Him the ass, and He rode into town. You look at that, and you have the ass and the ass's colt. When Jesus went into Jerusalem, He would not ride on the ass. He rode on the ass's colt. You look at that, and I have had people say, "Well, what is that all about?" It means something. The ass is a picture of the nation of Israel. The ass's colt is a picture of the Gentiles or the church. At that point Israel had made the rejection. They are unrideable. So He is riding the ass's colt, which came from the ass because salvation is of the Jews, and we came out of the nation of Israel. It is a great illustration, a great picture. You go back to Genesis 22 with Isaac and Abraham where he is going to sacrifice his son. There you see the great picture of the animal taking its place, a ram and a lamb and a sheep and all of those things, what they represent. In the great studies in the Bible, and note here in Proverbs 27:26, it says, "lambs and goats." Lambs are pictures of young Christians or our children. They are little lambs or little baby sheep. The goats are the picture of the older Christians that are mature people.

There is a great illustration of this found in John 21 that I want you to turn over to. It is kind of an interesting story. It is one of my favorite stories in the Bible. Most people are not drawn to it. It may even look a little complex to some people, but it is a great little story. It is a story when Christ is resurrected and all the disciples were scattered. They ran for their lives. Now this is the first time when they have all been back together. We know that Simon Peter denied the Lord. This is the first time not only all the apostles have seen Christ, but it is the first time that Peter has seen Christ. It is an incredibly tender, unbelievable story.

John 21:15-18

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

You have got to get the story here. Peter loves the Lord. There is no question about that. What follows here is a great lesson for all of us because Peter is impetuous, and he does a lot of dumb,

stupid things, much like all of us. Here is the deal, and I love it. It says after they dined. I did not get into the dining part yet. Here they are. Peter is dying because he denied the Lord. I guarantee you. Here is the guy that wanted to get a sword and cut everybody's head off. He was such a lousy swordsman, he missed his head and cut off his ear. You do not want Peter in the foxhole with you. He could not hit his mom in the rear end with a bass fiddle. He is not very accurate with things like that. But here it is. They have all had dinner now, all eaten now in the upper room. Peter is dying. The Lord is sitting down here. You have John next to Him. You have the disciples. Peter is about four down, five down. Peter, he is not eating. He knows he has denied the Lord. Him and the Lord have not spoken since the denial. I know how it goes because I know I have been there. He is sitting there, and he is thinking, "Oh, I am dying." And they are all happy, "Oh, the Lord is, oh, Peter, are not you glad that the Lord is back?" "Yeah, praise the Lord, I am just really," oh, he is dying. The Lord has not said a word to him yet. He is sitting there, and he kind of looks down the road and sees the Lord, and there is the Lord. Peter goes. So finally they break up and go for coffee and dessert. The Lord scoots down a couple to Peter. The Lord loved Peter. He says, "Peter, do you love me?" And he says, "Yeah, Lord, I love you." "More than these?" "Yes, sir, I do." "Well, feed my lambs."

The reason why He says lamb, sheep, and sheep is because we know that Peter was given the keys to the kingdom of heaven. He becomes the key apostle in Jerusalem. He brings them along where Paul goes out. We will talk about that in a moment here. He says to him the second time, "Peter, do you really love me?" Peter says, "Yeah, Lord, I do." He says, "Feed my sheep." "Okay, Lord, I will." Then He looks at him, He says the third time, "Peter, do you really love me?" The Bible says that it grieved him in his heart. You know why? Because he denied Him three times, so the Lord asked him three times. See how that works? God will always meet you where you are at. You know that. He will always meet you where you are at. That is a great concept. He asked Peter three times because he denied Him. But the answer the third time is priceless. It is priceless. He says, "Peter, do you love me?" He does not say this time, "Yeah, I love you." He says, "Lord, thou knowest all things." You know what he means by that? He says, "Yeah, Lord, you know I cussed, you know I lied, you know I deceived you, you know I was a coward. And yes, Lord, you know I love you." "Feed my sheep." It is priceless. Because we have all been there. We have all been there when we have tried to get back, and the Lord, He lets us come back, but He holds us accountable to it. Three times he denied Him, three times before the cock crowed, three times he denied Him. Now he has to be faced with what he did. He responds. When he responds and does what is right, oh, I will tell you.

He said unto him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?" And Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, "Lovest thou me?" And he said unto him, "Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus said unto him, "Feed my sheep." At this point the Lord is done with it, and it is all good, but now watch, the Lord gives him a great piece of advice which is a piece of advice for all of us today.

John 21:18-19

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Sticking is right now with the Lord. Christ talking to Peter after his denial, He asked him three times. Now Peter is a great example of a lot of God's people. He has got a good heart, but he operates on his emotions. He is always sticking his foot in his mouth. He gets to the point where he is actually a good man, loves the Lord, but in Matthew 16 he is used by the devil because God says to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan." He is always sticking his foot in his mouth. He listens but he does not hear. Christ now ready to go back to heaven in Acts 1, and He gives Peter his final instruction, and this is important to note how important he was. As I said earlier, Peter will become the main apostle in Jerusalem after Christ goes back to heaven. It is going to be Peter and Paul. If Peter is going to be the key guy down in Jerusalem, in Matthew 16 he is given the keys to the kingdom of heaven. So he is handed down in Jerusalem. Paul is the apostle to the Gentile church. He gets the keys to the kingdom of God. What Christ is saying and He is telling him to do, "Peter, you need to understand you cannot be the same way you were anymore. I want you to feed my lambs." That is the young Christians. "I want you to feed my sheep." "Feed my sheep." "Know the state of the flocks." "Feed the babies and feed the older ones."

Then in John 21:18, a great statement to Peter and us as to taking responsibility in feeding the lambs, the sheep, and the goats, whether it be the young Christians in this church or the young ones in your family. "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not." You know what He is saying? It is simple. He says, "Look, Peter, when you were young, you could go wherever you wanted to go and you could do whatever you wanted to do. It did not matter. You had the freedom to do whatever you wanted. You did not care about anything. You just did, said, went wherever you wanted to go. Now that you are older, now that the events have transpired that have changed the dynamics of the world, it is time for you to grow up, Peter. It is time for you to realize and take some responsibility with the keys of the kingdom of heaven that I gave you back in Matthew 16. You cannot do whatever you want anymore. You cannot go wherever you want to go anymore. You cannot say whatever you feel like saying. You cannot act on your emotions anymore. You have got to grow up and take responsibility. I set you up for the kingdom of heaven to be the leader in Matthew 16. Because you cannot operate on your feelings or your emotions. Your life is no longer your own. You now have to take care of the nation of Israel. So feed my lambs and feed my sheep." Peter does. He learned his lesson. He grew through the travesty of the crucifixion and his own denial. I am telling you. He grew through the mistakes that he made to be what God needed him to be.

Now Proverbs 27:26 says, and I want you to see this, you feed and take care of the lambs, the young Christians, but the goats, the older Christians, will in time help you, the pastor, buy the field. That is what happens. You get saved. You start to grow up. You get some maturity under

your belt. You grow through some things like Peter did. Then you realize that my job here is to buy the field, Kansas City. You realize that you now are here for that same purpose to help me pay and buy for this field that God has given us. That is our job. That is what we do. The lambs for thy clothing and the goats for the price of the field. We pay the price for the field that we have chosen that God has given us together.

V. The Sustenance of God's Word

Lastly, look at Proverbs 27:27:

Proverbs 27:27

And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.

Looking to the state of thy flocks and taking care of them will give you the Word of God, the milk here, for three things.

11. The first thing, it will be food for thyself. Because it all starts with you. It starts with every mom, every dad, every teenager, every single, that you are going to say, "I am going to dedicate myself to the Word of God, the ministry of God, and I am going to make sure that the crown does not pass through my generation. I will get whatever help I need. I will get a hold of Bob. I will get a hold of whoever. I will get whatever I need to make that thing happen." Building spiritual maturity in our lives. We talked about it the other night, going through those five levels of spiritual maturity. Bringing you to the place where you can help buy this field. But it all starts with you building on the foundation of who He is and what He did for you and purifying that every day of your life.
12. Then the second thing he says is food for thy household. There are your children. As you get little kids and they start to be born and grow up, and you talk to your young parents, so they get about six or seven as you go through those stages of raising your children, and we have talked about, you are all they ever know about God. Whatever they learn about Christ, the rest of their life, they will see in mom and dad in those early formidable years. They cannot read the Bible. They are not saved. They do not understand how it all works, so they have to go by association. When you live a godly Christian life, they see God in you, and then at some point you can transfer that over to the Christ that they can build a relationship with. But it has to start with us. Passing those crowns from generation to generation. Grasping how important your family is and how important our spiritual maturity and leadership is to your family. The family has to look to a rock. It has to be the father. In too many cases, it is the mother. It has to be the father. He has to be the rock. He has to be the cornerstone of that family. He has to be the one when everything is falling apart. He is rising above the rubble saying, "Follow me." That is the way it only happens of where you made your investment. You either invested in the goofy things of life or you invested in the eternal things of life. As we get older, it defines where our investment was. It is just that simple.
13. Then the last thing he says, the third thing, food for the maintenance of thy maidens. That is the people God will give you to minister to. I like the word "maintenance" because that is

what the Christian life is. It is a maintenance program every day of your life. Oil the wheels, check the tension on the belts, make sure the gears are greased, make sure everything is running smooth. It is a maintenance program. We call it Discipleship One, Discipleship Two. We call it Thursday night. We call it Bible Institute. We could just put it under one big lump, and it is a maintenance thing. It is maintenance. We maintenance ourselves every day. You know why? Because we tend to break down. You get a flywheel go off here, your belt slips off here, and we have to be maintained. But note, I want you to notice going back to our first one, it all starts with us as individuals. The Word of God, the food for you first, and then your family, and then, and I might say only and for others, that you find the true riches and that your crown endures through all your coming generations. God using your family now and in the future to be God's witness to the world.

VI. Building a Lasting Legacy

Listen to me. You cannot be responsible for what your family was in your life as you grew up. Nobody can ever hold you accountable for that, and I know some of you work in bad situations. I get that. But now that you are saved, now that you have got the right book and you are here, you can take charge and ensure your future generations when you get married or if you are married and you are raising kids or whatever you are at in this thing, you can guarantee and ensure your family's heritage to God that that crown will go on to future generations. You are building a lasting legacy of God within your family. Generations from now, they will never forget who you are. They will never forget what you taught them. They will never forget the principles that you instilled in mom and dad or great mom and dad or whatever. I do not care if it is five, six generations. People will still talk about how you broke the cycle, how you decided that you were going to make a difference, and that crown just keeps getting passed and passed and passed.

Most people do not ever think of it this way, but I have a weird way of looking at things sometimes. When you study history, especially European history, certainly not American history, but in European history, no matter what country you are in, there is nothing more than studying of dynasties and monarchies. It even started with the Roman Catholic Church. As bogus as the Roman Catholic Church is and as goofy and as untrustworthy as everything that they say is, they believe that they have an apostolic succession from Peter, that every pope is in that line from Peter. Of course, we know that is not true. We know that Peter would have made a lousy pope. He was married. We know that Peter was never in Rome. It is all bogus stuff that they make up like everything else, but the concept is they have to have an unbroken chain through Peter. Yet we see that in the world too in every country. France, Russia, England, Austria, Hungary, Italy. They all had monarchies. One of the greatest studies that you will ever take, boring I might add in some cases, is the history of the kings of England or France. I have always been partial to England myself because there is so much history connected with the Bible of what God was doing. But you look at those kings and those queens, how they are all interconnected to a family. You had Henry VIII that had more wives than he knew what to do with, but he had kids, but the two are Mary who became Bloody Mary and Anne Boleyn who becomes this and then Elizabeth, all connected and then all of them tied together, Edward V, Edward VI. All of these guys, they are all related. In Europe it was an insurance that nobody could—you see it today in England.

England, we still have the queen of England. Now I have got to say, she has nothing. She walked into the thing and said, "We are going to do this." They put her in a cab and sent her over to Burger King. She has no say in anything. They do not run into the queen and say, "What do we do?" The parliament handles that. She is a figurehead because England cannot live without their king or their queen. But you ever notice how she is the queen right now, and then you have Prince Charles and Prince whatever his name is, the other kids that are coming up, and they are princes, and one of them is in the line for the throne, and you never notice how that when one of them marries a commoner like they just did, that it just ruffles everybody. You know why? Because they do not want that crown to pass outside the family that has held it for what? 1200 years? They do not want some and what is his name over here or Jimmy what is his face coming in and getting in the line. He is not royal blood. He is an outcast. He is an outsider. He is a commoner. How would you like to be told by the king you are a commoner? I will tell you what I will think of you king and your kingship. That is how they look at it. They cannot allow the crown to pass outside the dynasty of their families. You saw it in France. You saw it in England. You saw it in Russia. In Russia you had the Czars. It was family. In Austria or Hungary you had the Archduke of Ferdinand. It was the family and a monarchy. It was a kingship. The crown passed down through secular history from family to family. Yet that is the great model for the spiritual application. A monarchy of your family. Never allow the crown to pass to an unsaved person. Never allow the crown to step outside the structure of the Word of God. A monarchy for your family to the world system to win them to Christ. A monarchy of Christ in your family for God's witness to the world.

Through high school kids. Thinking about who you are going to marry or pick a boyfriend or a girlfriend. Most of the time it is all short term. You do not look at the depth of where it may be five or six years from now. You are single. You know what? You are going to get married, and that is a good thing, and you want to find a spouse, and that is a good thing. But sometimes you are so pressured by everything that you do not stop and consider how does that going to impact the crown? You young married couples. You have kids, and the kids are wonderful. We have babies all through this place. If we never won another person to Christ, we would be running ten thousand in about five years. But I am telling you. We get those babies, and we pass them around, and we enjoy them, and we have fun, and we think how cute they are. But I am telling you. You have to look and think. My responsibility to this is where this crown will go in the generations to follow. Moms and dads. Some of your moms and dads you came in here and you made some mistakes with your kids. You got in some bad churches. Some things happened that did not work right. Basically most of it through no fault of your own. But when you got here you saw the truth and the reality. So what you wanted to do now is you broke that cycle. We have worked together to get that back online because you understand it, and you want to guarantee that from this point forward everything that you do in your family is going to guarantee that the crown endures forever.

Then putting it right on me. This church. Everything I do. Every person I talk to. Everything I try to help you through. Everything I do. At the back of my mind it is that the crown of this church will endure for future generations. If Jesus tarries His coming. That we will be here strong and doing everything that God wants us to do long after I am gone if that is the way it works. And

have it to the point where we know that we ensure that we are steadfast. That we will not be taking "Baptist" off our name anytime soon. We will not have social drinking anytime soon. We will not be having bingo on Thursday night. We will not be doing all this goofy stuff. There will never be a rock band up here. We will never have people up here breakdancing. We will never have flashing lights. We will never have all the things. We will stick with a thing that will work when all the batteries and the power goes off and all your flashing light and the smoke machine breaks down. We will stick with a book that will change somebody's life. It worked in Acts. It will work today. The difference is you and me. We have to make it work in our lives. Husbands, you have to be the spiritual leaders. I will help you. I will be there for you. I will do everything I can do for you. But I am telling you. Moms, you have to, wives, you have to follow that. You have to work together. You have to take every issue that comes up and make it a team process. That is how you solve it. You work together on the thing. You pull it together. The overriding goal is that your family has broken the cycle and your crown that you have right now with Christ you are going to pass on to your family. That it does not stop with you. It rather starts with you. Every head bowed and every eye closed.