

I. The State of Christianity in America

We were ordered to Proverbs chapter 29, and we talked about the roots of Christianity in America. Without a doubt, Christianity, as is our country, is a lunatic asylum run by the inmates. It is a disaster in every aspect. We talked about how we got a good look, based on Proverbs 29:25, at how the system works, both in the world and, unfortunately, also in New Testament Christianity.

Fundamentally, we knew the world would do it, but Christianity is forsaking the favor of God and going after the favor of man. This establishes a non-biblical system that will fundamentally circumvent the local church and that which is God's structure. It has really put an end to any meaningful work of God on a national level today. There hasn't been a revival in America for almost 50 or 60 years. There are a lot of things that people call revival.

In the old days, you would go by churches today, and their marquees would say, "Come March 1st through March 20th, revival in our church." That is a clear thing you want to stay away from—a church that thinks you can schedule God on His calendar for a revival. The truth of the matter is, we do not have revival services here, and probably never will. If I had a guy come through who was a really good preacher, I would have him preach for you just so he would stir you up a little bit, but I would not call it a revival. Why? Because God's people need to live in a revival every day of their lives. You ought to be in a state of revival today because of what God is doing in your life.

We saw it in Proverbs 19:21:

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There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Nowhere is that more prevalent than in New Testament Christianity today. I showed you, based on the verse and the concept last week, how all the favor of man that the world tries to get, and Christianity gets, God talked about the two judgments that are coming. For an unsaved man, a lost man, it will be the Great White Throne Judgment. Obviously, for you and for me as a saved man, it will be the Judgment Seat of Christ. In that day, nothing that you have worked out or made a deal with anybody here is going to cut it.

II. The Two Judgments

We get the idea that the Great White Throne Judgment, which is the last judgment in the Bible, is something everybody believes in some form or another. It is hard to find somebody today that does not believe that someday, having nothing to do with the Bible, we are going to have to give an account to something or somebody for what we did. The guys who do not believe in God or heaven at all, they believe that if you live a good life, you are reincarnated and come back as an

eagle. If you do not live a good life, you come back as a pigeon or a duck. That is judgment to them.

But we know that for a lost man, the Great White Throne Judgment is not going to be you getting up there with a big set of scales where God puts all your good works on one side and all your bad works on the other. If your bad works outweigh your good, you go to hell or wherever, and if your good works outweigh your bad, then you go to heaven. That is not going to be it. He is going to put you in one hand and Jesus Christ in the other hand, and He is going to read your meter. That judgment is so clear for an unsaved man.

For a saved man, it is the Judgment Seat of Christ: What have we done with Christ once we have taken Him as our own personal Savior?

III. The Flesh vs. The New Creature

In life, a lost man and a saved man will both have to deal with their old sin nature. In the Bible, this is called the flesh, the old man. Paul talks about it in Romans chapter 7. For an unsaved man, there is nothing he can do about it. His spiritual condition, his eternal soul, is stuck to his sinful flesh. You find it in the Old Testament; this is why you find the word "soul" and "body" used interchangeably, because in the Old Testament, the body, the flesh, is stuck to the soul, so the word is used interchangeably.

It is not that way once you get saved in the New Testament. The Bible says in Colossians chapter 2 that the operation of God made without hands takes place and separates you from your flesh. Now the Bible says that you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. But in both cases, an unsaved man will have his sinful nature all of his life. A saved man, once he gets saved, now has the ability to change everything about him. Praise the Lord! He now has the ability to be a new creature in Christ Jesus. All things are passed away; all things become new. But he still has to contend with that old nature. This is Romans chapter 7.

2 Corinthians 7:1 says that on a daily basis, with the promises of God, we are to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. That is a daily thing; that we stay in the Word of God and we control the old flesh. An unsaved man has no control over anything. He is a victim of himself, and the devil and the world and the flesh will do with him whatever they choose to do. He could not stop it if he wanted to.

I have seen guys who were rank alcoholics who were unsaved. They go to AA or some therapy training, and they get over alcohol, and they get over alcohol, and they have a great victory in life, and they are happy about it because they once were an alcoholic and now they are not. By the end of the day, you wind up going to hell anyhow. What is your point? There has to be something that changes you that you have nothing to do with, and you cannot change yourself. I cannot change myself. I cannot change you.

I tell people all the time, they come in, they have issues they want to work through, and they want to change some things in their life. I tell them, "You know what? I can put 10,000 people around you, but nothing will change until you decide you are going to change." In many cases,

most cases, God's people simply choose not to do that. They do not want to change. Christianity today, as we said last week, has married itself to the world, unfortunately.

IV. The Need for Change and Being Equipped

I also tried to show you last week the mess that we are in out of Proverbs chapter 29, verse 25, and maybe you could see how we got here. I think it is always, I know everybody gets themselves into a jam, and we all want to get out of the jam, and I want to help you get out of the jam. But you will never completely get out of the jam until you understand what got you in the jam in the first place. You cannot solve a problem with the same stupid thinking that got you into the problem. Things have to change.

In a man-made system like we have, it is a political system, both worldly and Christian, as I showed you last week. I tried to give you an understandable history of Christianity in America and really the death of Bible preaching and Bible doctrine, and why we are in the situation that we are in today. I told you last week that I felt like I did not do it very good justice trying to put all that material into a short time, and how in time I would like to put that into a series of lessons or at least a book form that would be out there where people could get it.

Joe Skitch came out to me afterwards and he says, "Well, you know what? You are almost through with Proverbs. Once you do Proverbs 30, why don't you just take three or four months, take a break before the next one, and lay all that out?" So that is what I am going to do. Then we will have a manuscript, it will be on the tape, and then we will be able to take it from there and put it into a format.

We, as a church, need to be informed. I want you informed. I want you not only informed, I want you equipped. You people do a tremendous job with other people. This church is filled with people that somebody else brought because you cared enough for them, and God put them in your world. It is an ongoing basis, and you need to be equipped to deal with things in the world that we are in and give intelligent answers to the situations that we face today.

Our children need to grow up with an understanding of who we are and why we are who we are, and why we believe what we believe, well equipped. Most of you probably do not do this, but on Thursday night Bible study—oh, while I am thinking of it, Gary told me that we are completely out of hot dogs. So we need—this has nothing to do with the message, we are not going to take an offering up for hot dogs here in a minute, but good idea, do not—but next Sunday, we are completely out, so bring them in. I am telling you right now because I will forget and then I will kick myself this afternoon without telling you. So bring hot dogs either Thursday night or next Sunday, and make sure that they are Jewish, the kosher ones.

On Thursday night, all the people on the internet come in on the YouTube deal, and there is a really little Bible study that goes on. I always go home and read the comments and the questions that people ask, and there is really another little Bible study. They all cannot get their questions in, so it is really good. You have some really goofy people out there, not too many, a couple, but the majority of them are really solid guys who have a handle on the Bible. But what impresses me is the fact that the guys who work at the table back there, they will field and answer a lot of

the questions that are not going to get up there. I know Aaron does it, I am sure Woody does it, and I am just impressed out of my mind. In fact, one guy last week asked a question, Aaron answered him the question, and then it got up to me on the forum, and I answered it. The guy said, "You guys answered it word for word." He was right down the line with everything that I said. To me, it shows me that it is working here. There are men and women who really care about the Bible, who want to learn the Bible, and it really pays off. I know I could put a hundred of you in that scenario, and you would do with the Bible what needs to be done. But I am just telling you that comes from being well equipped. That comes from somebody spending the time to give you everything that you need so we cross all our T's and dot all our I's.

I want you to know what is going on in the world. I do not want you to be just the kind of Christian who walks around praising Jesus all the time. I want you to be informed so that you can take what you know and put it into a workable format and deal with people.

V. Introduction to Proverbs 30 and the Study of Solomon

Today, we are going to enter into chapter 30. We have now come up to the last two chapters in the book of Proverbs. In these, we are going to get into some incredibly deep material. When Solomon writes, or in the Proverbs anyhow, as you get closer to the end of his books, it really begins to pull a lot of things together. Yet, if you would read any commentary on Proverbs, and there are hundreds of them out there, you will find that when you get to all the Proverbs, really, but certainly the last two chapters, they have not got a clue what is going on. That is so sad, but it is so true.

For us, as always, we will just stay with the God-honored text in the English that God gave us in the Bible. We will allow God to compare Scripture with Scripture to give us everything that we need. John 5:39 tells us to search the Scriptures, and that is what we do here. I am not interested in my opinion or your opinion. I am interested in searching the Scriptures and seeing what the Bible says.

Scholarship, when it hits places like we are going to look at today and in the weeks to come, they run to their Hebrew lexicons, or they look at the passage and say, "Well, it is an unfortunate rendering or a bad translation." In many cases, what they do is take it out completely because they do not want to deal with it. We, on the other hand, know that if we cannot get it, it is our issue, not God's. Thursday night again was another great example. Somebody asked a question on 2 Kings chapter 22, verse 19, and compared it with Chronicles, where you have a guy, an evil king, Ahaziah, who in one place says he is 22 years old when he began to reign, and another place says he is 42. It seems like a discrepancy, and I walked you through things like that. God's Word is absolute. There are no mistakes in it. There are no mistranslations in it, just a lot of people who want to overthrow God and try to be smarter than Him.

I want to start today because we are going to get into this stuff. I have been waiting to do this, and I think where we are at right now, it will put a lot of things into perspective for you. But before we get into the last two chapters, I want to take just a few minutes. This is not the message, but this is an adult, this is a freebie. This is like getting a cupcake, and you got

sprinkles on it, you did not pay for the sprinkles, you just paid for the cupcake. I want to talk to you a few minutes about Solomon himself.

Solomon, without a doubt, will be, in my mind anyhow, the greatest study in the Bible outside the Lord Jesus Christ. He is one of the most complex studies that you will ever take. The reason for that is that there are so many angles to his life, and without a doubt, God used his life in so many different ways to show us so many different things. Give me a few minutes just to show you just a few of them, what I am talking about.

1. His Reign and Humility: Go back and sometimes start at the beginning of his reign when he becomes king. It is one of the most amazing things you will find in 1 Kings chapter 3 and down through that chapter. I always looked at what he asked for. Here is a guy who was a king, much like putting himself as a president of the United States or the Queen of England or whatever, and yet he has total sovereignty and total reign over everything. When he comes to God, it shows his attitude toward the people of God. He knows who he really is. He does not come up and tweet all over the place, or do all the things about how great he was and what he knows. He simply went before God and said, "These are your people, but I am a child, and I do not feel like I am qualified, and I am going to need everything from you." He understood he had no ability on his own. He sees himself as a servant more than a king. Incredible stuff. I think it is in 1 Kings chapter 8 where he dedicates the temple. It is one of the most amazing things that you will ever study. His prayer is one of the most incredible prayers. I look at that and I see within that prayer—I do not have time to go through it this morning—but in that prayer, I see him laying everything out, understanding the temple of God, what it means, how important it is to God, and then the dedication of everything that he did. I will be honest with you, 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? I see the parallels very clearly how we dedicated our temple like Solomon did. It is incredible stuff.

2. His Wisdom: God gives him his wisdom, and he becomes the wisest man that ever lived. He reigns around 1000 BC, and his reign lasts 40 years. During that time, there are no wars; the land is at peace. Throughout the world, God establishes him as the wisest man. In 1 Kings chapter 4, the Queen of Sheba comes all the way up from Africa, and she sees his kingdom. You have to read her account; she is overwhelmed, she has no breath left in her. She sees the magnitude of the glory of God. It impressed her so greatly that a thousand years later, in Acts chapter 8, an Ethiopian eunuch coming up from Africa was still believing down there how great Jerusalem was and was coming to Jerusalem to find God like she did, even though he had no idea that it was all gone now, no clue. Incredible stuff. When you go over to 1 Kings chapter 3, you see a little picture of his wisdom. You have the two harlots come in, and they both had a baby. One rolled over and killed one baby and then took the other baby. So they come in there. The real mother says, "It is my baby." The mother who is not the real mother says, "No, it is my baby." Solomon—this is a great picture of his wisdom; we use this in our people ministry all the time—Solomon did not know who was telling the truth. They are both harlots; that means they have suspect character. He did not know who was real, who was right, who was telling the truth. So, he calls for a sword, and in his immaculate wisdom, he is

going to cut the baby in half and give half to one and half to the other. I know that sounds really stupid, does it not? What good is half of a dead baby? You are missing the point. The point is, when he threatened to kill the baby, it brought to light who the real mother was, because the real mother would rather give the baby to the woman who was not the mother than to have the baby killed. The woman who was not the mother of the baby said, "Kill it, I do not care." Here is the point we use this all the time: Solomon used a sword, and in Hebrews chapter 4, the sword is a type of the Word of God. When you want to find out where the truth is and who is doing what is right and who is not, you really want to know what the bottom line is, just put them under a sword. If somebody says, "I want to do right now, I want to change my life," you want to find out if they are real or not, put them under the sword. See if they are here on Thursday night. See if they are in a prayer group. See if they are studying their Bible. See if they are getting in it, or they are just putting that line out because of the fact that that is what they think everybody wants to hear. Incredible stuff. 1 Kings 4:29-30 says that his wisdom excelled all of the countries in the East. It has always been amazing to me. We look at the Middle Eastern religions like Buddhism and Shintoism and Confucianism and Baal, and even Muhammadism too. All of those come into play after Solomon's reign, none of them during his time. Why? Because he was the man who hauled the mail, and everybody copied off of him.

3. His Writings: He writes three of the five wisdom books: he writes Proverbs, he writes Ecclesiastes, and he writes the Song of Solomon. The other two wisdom books, of course, you are well aware of, are Job and Psalms. Somebody said one time that Job deals with the suffering of Christ and shows you Christ in His suffering, which it does. Somebody said one time that Psalms represents the heart of God, especially Psalm 119, and it does. Then somebody said, "You know what? You have the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit." The three books that Solomon writes represent the mindset of those three. Proverbs represents for us, we have talked about it many times, the mind of God. Ecclesiastes represents for us the mind of the Spirit. And Song of Solomon represents for us the mind of Christ. Incredible stuff, and the rest of your life just on that one.
4. Type of Christ and Antichrist: Here is where it gets interesting. Solomon is the only man in the Bible—in the Old Testament, you have 21 types of men who foreshadow the Lord Jesus Christ; we call them types of Christ. Along with that, there are 18 men in the Old Testament that foreshadow the Antichrist; we call them types of the Antichrist. Twenty-one for Christ, three times seven, that is His number, perfect seven, three because of the Holy Trinity. And then you have 18 for the Antichrist because that is 666. So it all kind of works together there. But Solomon is the only man in the Bible who not only is a type of Christ, but he is also a type of the Antichrist. When you go back to 1 Kings chapter 10, you will find there where it talks about in the first 12 verses, it talks about Solomon, and he is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then it gets to verse 13 on, and it says that the weight of the gold that came to Solomon was 666 talents. From that point on, he is a type of the Antichrist. Incredible stuff. Somebody said, "Why is that? Why would God do that?" Because in a basic form, He wants to show you—there is something that God wants us to see in all of this. He is the only man God could have picked, and He took this guy, and He gave him His wisdom, then He allowed him to experience everything in life, and then this guy wrote about it, and it is for us.

So when you see him as a type of Christ and a type of Antichrist, you are going to find out that it is showing you and me how close the Antichrist is going to be to the real thing, that he is an almost perfect imitation. You find 666 three times in the Old Testament. You find it in 1 Kings 10, you find it in 2 Chronicles 9:13, and then you find it in Ezra 2:13. There is a reason for that. Most of God's people, they have no clue. They have no clue. So everything about him.

5. His Departure and Return: Here is where it kind of gets confusing. Solomon is allowed by God to experience everything in life: the good, the bad, and certainly the ugly. It leads him away from God into a pagan lifestyle. In 1 Kings chapter 11, it says that Solomon loved many strange women. He had a thousand wives from all the different nations, which he was told by God not to do. The Bible says that they turned his heart from God, and he winds up in paganism. He winds up following the false gods and burning incense and the fire of Moloch. He allows it to be. It is incredible, and people look at that and say, "Well, how can that be? Why is that?" God deals with him in 1 Kings chapter 11, verses 9 through 13, on the sin that he got into. At some point, at some point during the time that he is out way out in left field, he writes the book of Ecclesiastes. In that book, it is the only book in the Bible where you find the word "understanding" is not found because it represents the world. He goes through in that book 33 or 34 different psychologies of man, or theologies of man, the forms of government, the vices that we have talked about. He talks about capitalism, he talks about Bernie Sanders and socialism, he talks about Nikita Khrushchev and communism, he talks about Bill Clinton and liberalism. Their names are in there. No, I am just kidding, of course. You do know that Barack Obama, that was the name of Muhammad's horse that went up to heaven in the translation. Just stay with the old man, I will get you through, I promise I will. It is confusing, but at the end of the book of Ecclesiastes—now I am going to tell you something, I have looked for this all my life, I have never found anybody who could ever put his three wisdom books in an order that they were written. They all have their ideas. I have never bought any of it, and I do not even know that my idea is right, but mine fits more into the Bible. I think personally that when he was early in life, he wrote the book of Proverbs, and maybe before that, he wrote the book of Proverbs. When he got away from God and got under all the things that he did, God allowed him to do that. That is when I think he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes because he is into the world. The book of Ecclesiastes is about everything that is under the sun. There is no mention of God in it. There is no mention of God doing anything in it. It is purely a book that shows you the world system that he is in. But at the end, in chapter 12, he says this: Ecclesiastes 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. He has gone through all of these things. He has lived his lifestyle evidently, and now he says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." He comes back at some point, and that is when I think he wrote the book of Song of Solomon. Now, I may be clear off on that, but at least that fits in the scheme of his life as I come down through here. It is incredible.

6. The Purity and Preservation of God's Word