

Proverbs 29:25

Sunday 2/9/2020

I talked to Gail this week, and she wanted me to personally thank all of you for your prayers. I know some of you have gone over there and spent time with her, encouraged her, and been there for her. She is headed down the final phase of this, and we just need to get through all of that. She wanted me to personally tell you and thank you for everything that you have done and all the prayers. We appreciate that and wish her Godspeed as she gets back here as quickly as she can, her and Futsi.

Last week, we looked at one of the most incredible passages in all of the Bible that will force us to look inside ourselves. I have given you the little outline before; it is a great sermon if you want to develop it, but it is also a great devotion. It talked about the three things that God's people should always do, and I have given it to you for years: look behind, look around, and then look ahead. After last week's message, and really all the way through the book of Proverbs chapter 29, I have kind of added a fourth one to it: look behind, look around, look ahead, and then look inside. That is really what last week was about.

It was what I would call a looking glass message out of James chapter 1, where it talks about the fact that we look into the perfect law of liberty as the Word of God as a looking glass and see what manner of person we really are. Every once in a while, we need a reality check message, all of us, that we may not all like, but we certainly all do need. A couple of weeks ago, in Habakkuk chapter 2, we were looking at the vision. One of the aspects of the vision was that God was going to see how you and I react once we are reprov'd, what we are told that we need to change some things. He wanted us to see how we responded to that.

I appreciate so much your response to the text, the calls, and the kind words last week, that everybody appreciated what the Lord did through that message. I know that we all needed it from time to time. There comes a time when you need preaching all the time, but there comes a time when you just need to clear off a spot and lay things out. That was a great passage and a great verse. Unfortunately, we are facing another one today, so bear with me on it.

I have said it for almost 50 years in the ministry that the ministry is people. It is taking care of each other. I have preached all my life about investments as God's people. The book of Proverbs is about a wise man and a foolish man. The wise man makes good investments; the foolish man makes bad investments. I have told you over all those years that we should invest everything we have in the two eternal things for all of eternity. One of them is obviously the Word of God, and the other one is the souls of men. Those are the only two things that will last for all eternity.

Very frankly, I am not saying you should not have fun. I am not saying you should not do things, should not have things, should not go places, and should not have a great time. Certainly you should. But the main focus for all of us always needs to be those two eternal things that we need to stay focused on and invest in: the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever, and the souls of men. This allows, through plain preaching of God's Word, to first change us, and then we have the ability to change others.

It has always been amazing to me. I have been a Baptist all of my life. It has always been amazing to me that Baptists love to talk about how we love plain preaching until it becomes plain to us that there are some things we need to work on, and we do not like it anymore.

Proverbs 27:7

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

That is really the acid test for our relationship with Christ and the Word of God: how we take the bitter things. We can be happy about the great things that we hear in sermons. It is the things that impact us, the things that force us to look on the inside.

Last week, you will remember, I gave you seven key areas that, as we get older, really need to be developed and need to be a process in our lives. It is the end product of our love for God and really developing a relationship as His Son, or just becoming a hard servant that does everything because of obligation.

I. The Value of Age and Experience

In life, and this is so true, most things get better with age. Almost all things. Take movies. The movies that were made back in the 30s, like *The Wizard of Oz*, made in 1939, still holds as a classic today. It is one of those things that the older time goes, the more classical it becomes. I think of Cecil B. DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* from the 50s, starring Charlton Heston. I think it is one of the greatest, and they try to make a remake of that, but it just falls flat. There is a difference today when you computer-generate 30,000 people into a scene than when you actually had 30,000 extras. It brings the thing to life.

Gone with the Wind is another one. There is talk from time to time about having a ladies' night and watching *Gone with the Wind*. Another one, you are going to laugh at this one, *The Night of the Living Dead*. Most people do not even know that came out in 1968. I think it had a total budget of \$1.98. It is a cult classic. They made two or three remakes of that; they will never beat it. It is the goofiest thing you ever saw in your life, but people are just, it is incredible. How about *King Kong*? *King Kong* was made in 1933. Fay Wray, the heroine, died a couple of years ago. She fell in love with *King Kong*, and he fell in love with her. *Beauty and the Beast*, that is how they go. They have made at least five remakes of *King Kong*. Nothing will touch the 1933 one. Back then, most people do not know this, they did not have the special effects like they have today. When *King Kong* moved, they had to do it one frame at a time, moving one inch at a time, and then putting 10,000 frames together for him to move 20 feet. It was incredible, and it is a classic.

Music is the same way. You look at the classical stuff with Beethoven and Chopin and all those guys. It is the older stuff. How about in my era, the 50s, *The Beach Boys*? Elvis Presley, *The Beatles*. Most of you guys do not even know who *The Beach Boys* were. It is true of music. Painting is the same way. I was laughing, thinking about this, and I thought I would have to throw this in. 20, 30 years ago, I was in Holland, in Amsterdam. I went through the museum there, and Rembrandt was a Dutch painter in the 1600s. His most famous painting is called *Night*

Watch. I do not know if you ever saw it or not; you can look it up, Google it up, it will come up. In the painting, he has all these guys who were the night watchmen that guarded the city. He painted a portrait of them. There are 20, 30 guys in it, and all this stuff is symbolism. You have a woman with a chicken that symbolized something. He had a little girl there that symbolized something. It is an absolute multi-billion dollar masterpiece today. But if you know the truth, when Rembrandt painted that, he painted it for a bunch of drunken soldiers who wanted to hang it up in their bar where they drank. It was just like going to some place and seeing the Chiefs team up on the wall with a picture. But over the years, things become classic. They just get better with age.

It is true of automobiles. Talk to Gary Potter back there. Somebody asked me the other day, "Have you ever seen Harry Potter?" And I said, "I do not need to. I got Gary Potter, that is all I need." Talk to Gary about cars. He buys all these old cars. A while back, he got, I think it was a '55 Cadillac. Absolutely brand new, mint condition. The cars that were, and somebody talked about the old cars versus the new cars. Like the new cars do not rust. No, that is because they are all made of plastic. When I was a kid growing up, then I was a teenager, a little older teenager in my 19 and 20s, my first hot rod was a '64 GTO. Then my next hot rod was a '67 GTO. After that, I got a Z28 Camaro. Back then, those cars are classic today. You take a GTO from the 60s or the 70s, or a Chevelle Chevy, Chevelle '69, '70. They were \$2,500 brand new back then. They are \$60,000, \$70,000 now. Because with time, things get more valuable. Things get better.

You talk to Steve in the gun world. The old Smith and Wesson that you made back in the 60s that you could buy for \$100, they are \$900, \$1,000, \$1,200. A Colt Python back in the old days cost about \$220. It is probably \$1,800 now for the same gun. Your house, if you have lived in it for a while, your house now is worth a lot more than it was when you bought it, unless you live in Raytown like me, and then it is worth less. They just raised our property taxes in Jackson County. My house this year went up to be worth a million dollars. Are you kidding me? I get these, maybe you get them too, phone calls from these, I do not think they are really Americans, they are having an ethnic talk, and they want to buy your house. You get those too? They will call me up and they will say, "It is Robert Alexander." And I said, "Yes, it is. I can speak his language." And he says, "Do you live at 8308 Woodson Drive?" And I said, "Yes, I do." "Would you be interested in selling that house?" I said, "Absolutely, \$1 million. Bring the money over this afternoon in small bills, and we will make a deal.

Everything gets better. I am not kidding you. Even booze. I saw on the Internet the other day where an 1890 bottle of bourbon sold for \$6,000. That is incredible. It is amazing. In time, everything in the world gets better except God's people. We just get worse. We become more miserable. We become more unhappy. And yet the Bible says the older we get, the better we should be in every aspect of our life. We should be, and I see people who get saved, and some of you come up here, and one of the things I like about it is you come up here, "This is my spiritual birthday. I was saved 20 years ago, 13 years ago." And yet to you, maybe out there, you do not see it, but to me, I see how you have gotten better. That is why I do it.

Proverbs 20:29

The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.

The older you get, the more valuable you should become.

Proverbs 16:31

The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

Simply put, the older we get, the better we should get, the more valuable we should become.

Let me show you another little analogy here. We are blessed in this church. We have some great cooks. We really do. Men and women. We just have some really great cooks. I am not much for deer meat cooked on a steak. Steve Bracken can take a deer steak, and you think you are sitting at Ruth's Chris Steak House. It is incredible what some of these guys can do. You want spaghetti? Lorenda Gregg. Best spaghetti on the planet. Mexican food? Phil Christie. Have you ever had Phil Christie's Mexican food? It is absolutely, "Ole!" Lasagna? Come over to my house. Barb makes the best lasagna in the world. It is good stuff. You want a good bowl of chili? Norbert. Norbert makes all the chili for our Halloween deal, and he will make it hot. He will make it medium hot. He will make it not so hot, or you just have an empty thing there with nothing in it. It does not matter, but it is incredible. So I always eat something and take a big thing home.

Christians are like a good bowl of chili because if you really want chili to get good, let it sit for two or three days. Let it develop. Put all the ingredients together and let it just sit for a day or two, or put it on the pot and simmer it on the fire, take a thing and stir it. That is what God does with us. God makes us like Norbert makes a good bowl of chili. He puts all the ingredients in, and then through life, he wants to stir you a little bit. Through life, he wants to turn up the heat a little bit, bring you maybe to a boil, and then he wants you to simmer. Then in time, when he is done with you, we walk out. It is worth waiting for. God takes some time in life to develop us. He does not just do it the moment you get saved. He will put you on a back burner for a little while and turn up the heat. He will add some ingredients to it over the years. He will give you some things. He will put all the components together, but at the end of the day, you are something special, and you are ready now to really be used of God.

II. The Ministry is People

People will see it, and they will seek you out. This is what I am trying to get across the last couple of weeks. People in our church, I do not think I have given somebody to work with somebody for the last couple of years. You know why? People ask for you by name. They watch you. They see what you do. They see how you invest yourself with people. Somebody will get saved, and I will talk to them, and they will say, "Would you like to be discipled?" "Yeah, can so and so do it? I have watched him, and I really like to have him do it." Absolutely. God builds you, and the people see it. They seek it out because they see that you understand the Word of God, but you have the joy in their life, and that is what they really want.

I watch you guys. I really do. Somebody new comes in, and you are all over them. You invite them to this, you invite them to that. When we had the craft things the other day, some of you

invited your neighbors. Some of you invited people down. Steph's mom came all the way down from Iowa. I guarantee there is not another church in this city that people travel from Iowa to come to a craft show. I promise you. But it is the point where you have a tremendous opportunity, and people come, and they see the difference. They see what you have, and you can use anything. We use volleyball and softball. But you know what? You come up to be a leader instead of fighting about the ups and the reps and everything that you do not like. You just show them what is different about you. You can do it even in a little crafts thing. You can do it in every aspect, and people see that.

I watch you work the crowds. I watch when we have something over at Jamie's house or we do something, and there is somebody new there. You are talking to them. You are investing in them. You are letting them know you are the first one there and the last one to leave versus the last one there and the first one to leave. You spend time with them. You talk to them. You encourage them. You find out about them. You do not do it just because that is what you are supposed to do. You really care about people. When you care about people, people know you care about them. That is just the way it has to work.

Talking about pastors for a moment, most pastors today, they get to the point in their life when they are 60, 65 years old, and they think they have done what God has called them to do. Now it is time to turn their church over to a younger guy, and then they retire. Let me translate that for you: "I have no idea what I am doing, so I am tired and frustrated. So I will turn it over to a young guy who really does not know what he is doing, and then I will minister to the golf course and pretend I did a really good job for the Lord."

I want to tell you something based on the Bible.

Ecclesiastes 8:8

There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

The ministry is unlike any other vocation you ever take because there is no retiring. There is only a refiring. You do not get to the point where you are done. In fact, when most guys are ready to quit at 65 or 70, that is when a child of God or a Christian really comes into their prime from the Bible standpoint. Now you have all the experience that you have learned through all the mistakes that you made, all the things that God has showed you. Now, from what you have learned, you have the ability to add the wisdom of the years to what you now know that as a young guy, you may have known the Bible, but you did not have the experience. Now you can take that and spend the rest of your life giving that to younger men and women.

You cannot play volleyball anymore. You cannot play softball anymore. You cannot get to the point where you can do all the things you used to do. But that is just part of life. Men and women whom I can send other young men and women to, that you have been through some things that they are going through, that I know that you can help them. You give me a church that has 30 or 40 older men and women who have learned some things in their life, and now they are in their

years of 50, 60, 70. You have got something because now you can mentor the younger ones. You can bring them along when they are struggling with something. You went through it 20 years ago.

Now we have a predominantly young church, and unfortunately, when I am talking about the 70-year-olds, I am talking about myself or your dad. So I kind of point the fingers, but because I am probably the oldest guy here this morning, other than a buddy back here. How old are you, Marty? 77. Wow. Marty has been around for a long time, and he knows his Bible, and he is a good guy. I appreciate him being here. You have got me beat, Marty. I am not quite 70 yet, but just slow down a little bit, and I will catch up to you here just a little bit.

I know we have a young church, and that is a good thing, but let me just say something to you here. Learn this lesson, kids. All my life and all my ministry, and all the churches and the people that I have in association with, and that is been hundreds and hundreds of people, I have seen men and women who could have been a great value to God when they got older in the glory years. But because of the bad choices and the bad investments they made when they were your age, they are sitting on the sidelines now. They are on the sidelines of ministry. They are out of this race. I tell you, do not let that happen to you. Come to the place where you really understand the value of getting better as you get older. Give it all that you have got as long as God gives you the breath to put it out. When you get older and you cannot do it all like you used to be able to do, I get it. It just comes with the time. Use your own children and your own family first that you are training up right now. Then look to the scores and the scores of other people that you have invested your life in that you are still connected to. All those young ones that you are dealing with and helping solidify in their life, let them do it for you. But it all starts with family ministering teams together. That will be the key.

Proverbs 17:6

Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

That is true physically, but it is also true spiritually. In doing the Lord's work, use every angle. Squeeze every drop out of everything that you can do for the Lord. Every aspect, every commodity, every resource that God has given you, or better yet, has entrusted you with. Use it now to pay off later as you get older, but you get better, you can better be used in a greater way.

Last week, I left you with an illustration on the interview that I saw with Patrick Mahomes. When they asked him about how he felt like where he is at, he took all the credit and gave it to Alex Smith. We talked about how there is a guy, Alex Smith, who never won a Super Bowl, but invested, and here was a kid that was going to replace him, and yet he thought more of the two and what needed to be done than he did himself. He brought that kid to where he is and taught him. Then we all watched the game together. We had a great crowd here. It was an incredible time. What can I say? One more time, the kid found a way to come back and get the job done. You cannot deny the fact that the kid has some great leadership skills, even at 24. The team rallies around him. You can see him walking up and down the sidelines and motivating them and encouraging them. The second thing is his athletic ability with the football is quite incredible. I think the greatest thing that he has, which probably every quarterback needs, and there have been

some great quarterbacks, he has the ability that when that ball is snapped, in an instant, to size up the field, size up the situation, know who is going with it, know who is going where, and within two or three seconds, get rid of that ball and make the contact.

I came away, watching that and then thinking about it all week, I came away with another great analogy. Every Christian in this room ought to have a goal in their life. I am not saying maybe you can be there right now. Some of you should be. But I am saying that that will be the goal to every child of God in time for you to do with a Bible what he does with a football. Be a leader. Be able to rally. You know what he does? He has the ability, what every Christian ought to have the ability to do. He takes what looks like a defeat and can turn it around through his leadership, through the use of the football, and through seeing the situation, he can turn it around to victory. That is what every Christian ought to be able to do with the Bible. You ought to see in an instant every circumstance the way it really is. You ought to use the biblical principles that we talk about in people ministry and all of these things, and in a second, you ought to be able to see and understand which way you are going to go. You ought to have the ability to drop the bomb way down on the 10-yard line when nobody else can to get the job done. Then you need to know how to motivate people, how to be a leader. He says, this is right out of the Bible, he says, "We win our games by one play at a time." I am telling you, the victory in the Christian life is one circumstance at a time, using the Bible to get the victory.

Most people do not see this. I tell it to you all the time. How everything in the world comes back to the Bible, even sports. You take baseball. Dr. Ruckman one time preached a message. I actually had a picture of what he called the game of life. He had the Christian up at bat, and the devil was the pitcher. What the devil wants to do is he wants to get you up at bat, and then he wants to strike you out and throw you fastballs, curveballs, and everything else that you cannot hit. It is called the game of life. I remember he preached it one time, and he said, "In baseball, you have a final authority, just like you do in Christianity. It is the umpire. It does not matter what you think, what the call was, what you think it was, the ultimate final authority tells you what it is." All baseball, all sports go back to a fundamental concept.

Football is the same way. Most people, when you watch a football game, you watch Chiefs versus whoever. I watched the Reformation. Because all the football game is a picture to me of what the Reformation was under Martin Luther. You had the Catholic Church as the bad team. You had the Protestants that were the good team. Then you had the King James Bible that was the quarterback. Then you had the Bible-believing Christians that were the tailbacks and the guys that run the ball. What happened in the Reformation was simply this: everybody thinks the Protestant Reformation changed the world. The Protestant Reformation only changed the world, not because the Protestants did anything. It is because it blocked the Catholic Church.

Have you ever watched a football thing where the coach is up there, he has got X's and O's? The O's are the bad team, and the X's are this. Then he draws where it all goes. That is what the Reformation was. The O's were the Catholic Church. The X's were the Reformers. They are lined up on the line just like that. When God snapped the ball back to the Waldensians and the Baptists and the Albigensians, the Protestants and the Catholics collided on the line. They blocked it. You know what the Holy Spirit of God did? He snapped that ball. The old Baptist ran a corner. He

flea-flickered it out. While the Protestants and the Catholics were on the line, the King James Bible ran to the ends of the earth. Every time I watch a football game, I just watch the Reformation. Because that is how it worked. Every child of God, you ought to get better as you get older. You ought to be able to use the Bible, your leadership, your skills, just like that kid can do it in a game. You ought to be able to do it in a game of life.

III. The Fear of Man: A Snare

Today, we are going to look at just one verse. But it will be another blockbuster verse. Verses like this, I think, need special attention. For it deals with, again, the missing element in Christianity today. I keep saying that because there are a lot of missing elements to it. Yet, it is one of my favorite subjects to preach on.

Back in 2 Samuel chapter 10, verse 12, you have a great story. It is a story of Joab and his second in command, Abishai. They are faced with two opposing armies. Joab pulls him aside, and they are greatly overwhelmed. Joab pulls him aside and says, "Now here is what we are going to do. You take your guys, they are in front of us and they are in back of us. You take your guys, and you hit the back guys. I am going to take my guys, and I am going to hit the front. Now, if you get overwhelmed, you call me, and I will break off and come and help you. If I get overwhelmed, you break off and come and help me." Then he looked him right in the eye in 2 Samuel chapter 10, verse 12. One of my favorite verses.

2 Samuel 10:12

Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.

That is what God's people need to do today. They need to play the man. That verse is a powerful verse in church history. On October 16th, 1555, there was a British pastor by the name of Hugh Latimer. With him was a young convert by the name of Nicholas Ridley. In 1555, Bloody Mary was on the throne in England, and she was killing everybody because she was Roman Catholic. She was killing everybody, hence the name Bloody Mary. She had Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley burned at the stake. The story goes that as they put him on there and lit the fire, the fire began to engulf both of them, but it was burning Ridley only on the bottom. He was in great pain and great suffering and great agony. Latimer looked over to him in the midst of that fire, and he was dying himself, and he said these words: "Play the man, Master Ridley. We shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England, and I trust shall never be put out around the world." Four years later, Bloody Mary is out, Elizabeth is in. Here comes the King James Bible and James I, and the light goes on. You never know.

I am going to preach to you on courage this morning. You never know when God will take a moment of courage and through it change somebody's future.

Let us look at our text today, Proverbs chapter 29, verse 25.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Verse 25 is one of the truest principles of the Christian life that you will ever find, or you will ever study, and nothing will impact Christianity in a negative way more than the fear of man. The Bible says that it is a snare to us. Yet the Bible says in 1 John chapter 4, verse 18:

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

That is a great verse to go along with it today. Yet God's people today are afraid of everything. They are afraid what other people are going to think about them. They are afraid what other people are going to say about them. They always want to keep an alliance with people that may be completely off the line of the earth. They are afraid of the people that are going to be in love with God. Maybe completely off the line in the Bible because they do not want to cause a problem. They do not want to, so they will keep those alliances, they will keep those friendships when in actuality, you need to dump those things. But they cannot.

When our kids are in junior high or high school, we call it peer pressure. Kids who are afraid of other kids and just going along with the crowd instead of taking a stand. That fear is a snare to them. It snares them. I have seen God's people in a restaurant, eat a meal, and never bother to thank God for it and ask the blessing for it. They are afraid. They are afraid what other people around them will think, "Oh, there is a Christian over there." You are afraid of those things.

I have seen dads lose their whole families because they were afraid to lead them spiritually. I have seen husbands lose their marriage because they failed to be the spiritual leader. They were afraid to. I have seen moms lose their kids because of a deadbeat husband spiritually. They have the opportunity to change that. Let me tell you something. If you are a wife in a bad marriage situation, and you have a deadbeat for a husband and he is not spiritual, you have all the cards in your hands. You have the winning hand. You can do more to turn that thing around than anybody else. You know why you will not? Because you are afraid. I have seen it.

I have seen pastors afraid to preach hard messages or deal with issues because they were afraid of the people, the repercussions that would come. "Well, I may make somebody mad," or "Somebody may leave the church over a message that I preach." The greatest passage in the Bible for anybody who is going to be a preacher is found way back in the Old Testament in Jeremiah chapter 1. I have it down there. God's call to me as God's preacher. In verse 4 and 5 of chapter 1, you see God's calling to him just like he will call you. Then you see in chapter 6, his response to it. Jeremiah says, "Oh, I cannot do that." He has got the Moses syndrome. "Oh, I cannot do that. I am just like a child."

In verse 7, 8, 9, God says you can do it because I am going to put your words in your mouth, and I am going to touch your mouth, and I am going to send you out, and I am going to tell you right now, "Do not be afraid of their faces when you have my words in your mouth." Then he says in verse 10, "Now you go to work. You root out, you pull down, you destroy, you throw down." If you want to put that into a New Testament concept: root out bitterness, pull down strongholds in

our lives, destroy the flesh, throw down imagination. They are all defined in the New Testament. After you do that, then, but those things are not popular. But after you do that, then you can build and plant. The problem is that most pastors today, they want to try to build and plant before they root out anything, before they destroy anything.

Today, God's people are afraid of everything except what they should be afraid of: showing up at the judgment seat of Christ empty-handed. I do not necessarily want to preach to you today so much on the fear of man. I can accomplish what I want to accomplish just by preaching on one word: that is courage. Being courageous for God versus being a coward for God. The snare that entraps us all.

IV. Courage: The Antidote to Fear

As far as I am concerned, and again, this is not only a great message, but it is also a great devotion if you ever want to use it, the greatest passage on courage is found in Joshua chapter 1. It is a great lesson for any nation, and it is a great lesson for any Christian. It is when Israel is crossing over Jordan and going into the land. They are in a land now that is filled with the enemy. The devil has had 400, 500 years while they were down in Egypt. The devil has fortified the promised land to keep them out. It is a picture of life. While you and I were yet unsaved, the devil was fortifying this world that once you got saved, he wanted to keep you out of the blessing of God, and the land represents God's blessings.

He tells them three times in verse 6 and verse 7 and verse 9 that they have got to have three types of courage.

Joshua 1:6

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Joshua 1:7

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

In verse 6, he says, "You have got to have courage to believe the Word of God." Because in the world that we live in, it is hard to believe it. Then he says in verse 7, "You have got to have courage to obey the Word of God." That is even harder. Then he says in verse 9, "You have got to have courage to rest in the Word of God." That is the hardest of all three. But it takes courage. If you are ever going to be the courageous young man or young lady, the mom or dad, that God wants you to be, it is going to take courage in three areas. You are going to have to have courage in a world that does not want to believe the book that the book stands when it says you are going

to have to have courage that is even that in a world you are going to have to discipline yourself to obey it. Then through your relationship, you are going to have to come to the place where you rest in it.

Years ago, I am talking 30, 35 years ago, I had a young man in my, I was a singles pastor back then. I was teaching the college and career class, and I had a young man in my group. Some of you real older people may remember him. His name was Jim Coffee. Jim Coffee was a nice kid. He was a good guy. I do not know what happened to Jim. I know he married one of our gals there, and I know they got a divorce later, and I heard he had moved to Florida. I have lost track of him 30, 35 years ago. But way back in the day, Jim was in the binding business, books. I had the foresight to look ahead to know that if I was going to work in my Bible for the next 30, 40 years, I was a young guy back then, that this Bible was not going to make it. What I had, I had an Oxford wide margin that I had from way back in the day. It was wearing out. I had put hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of hours in it. So I bought me two, you could not get them now, back in the day you could, I bought me two Oxford wide margin Bibles, and I took them to Jim, and I said, "Jim, I do not care what it costs. I do not care what it takes. Ironclad bulletproof these Bibles. I want you to take them apart. I want you to reglue them, rebind them. I want the best leather on them. I want them to endure for a thousand years if Jesus does not come." He took two of those Bibles for me, and he did that.

For years and years and years, one became my study Bible. About 17, 18 years ago, I had to transfer all of my notes in. So I used that one for that. That is the one I will use on Thursday night Bible study. Then the second one became my preaching Bible. I brought it today, and this is it right here. It is all battle-scarred and torn up. It has had over 35 some years of preaching. I preached, it has got over 100 sermons in it. I was looking at all the illustrations I had in it this morning. I do not much use it anymore because I preach here, and the other one I use on Thursday night. But this became my preaching Bible. I preached this Bible all over the world for 30 years. I was in some of the Bible conferences, revivals, mission trips. This thing has been in a thousand battles, and it looks all scarred up, beat up, and still intact 100 percent.

I did that because as a young man, I did not want to be a coward for God. I really did not. Cowardice has always been a thing that I just cannot deal with. I do not present myself as any hero in any shape or form. But at the same time, I just cannot stand being a coward. I do not care. You may get your rear end whipped up one side and down the other. But that is okay. Let him go home and know that he got it. You got a piece of him. You just, you have got to stand up for something in your life. I did not want to let the fear of man change me or my preaching. I want to tell you, they tried to.

Years ago, there was a music director by the name of Bob Johnson, and I was getting ready to come to Kansas City. He hated the King James Bible, hated Mel Sabaka, hated everything about it. He is dead now. He finally got the King James Bible figured out. Anyway, he pulled me aside when he knew I was coming out there, and he told me, "You are never going to be successful going out to Kansas City, working with the people you are going to be working with in this big church out here. You will never be successful where you make it preaching the way you preach." He says, "You are not going to get results doing that." He went on and on and on. At the end, I

said, "Well, I appreciate what you said." And I did. I took it with a grain of salt. But at the same time, I said, "That is the difference between me and you, Bob. You are interested in results. I am interested in truth." That is where it lies for me.

When I got out to Kansas City, there was the elite crowd who were the Calvary Bible College, which is the cesspool out here on Grandview. Calvary Bible College was the absolute armpit of the world. I would use another analogy, but I will not do that with all the kids here today. But it was an absolute mess. It is worse today. These guys, it was this guy, I had a Sunday school class back then. I was running about four or five hundred in it. This great Bible scholar who was the expert of the world in the book of Daniel. He had 12 in his Sunday school class. He came up to me one day and he says, "Bob," he says, "If I could give you some advice, I would like to help you." And I said, "Well, that is great. I would like some help." He said, "You know what? Why do not you go to Calvary Bible College? Why do not you pick up and get a degree there? They can help you knock off some of the rough edges and really get you in a presentable fashion." I said, "Well, I really appreciate that." I said, "So let me see. I get this straight. I go to enlist in Bible College out at Calvary, and you probably would go and help me do that?" "Oh, yes, I would." "I am going to take the classes, and you would actually pick the classes that would help me knock off the rough edges?" "Oh, yes, I would." "And then you would work with me and encourage me?" "Oh, absolutely." And I said, "Okay, I go to Calvary. I get the rough edges knocked off, and I listen to you. And then I can run 12 in my Sunday school class like yours. Is that what you are telling me?" He did not appreciate that, nor did he fail to see the humor in it. Maybe there was not any humor, and it was a lot of truth in it.

They have tried to change me all my life. So I am not going to sit here and stand here and tell you that I was not afraid of those things because I was a young guy, and I did. But I put myself in situations that I cannot go back on. When I got, before I got saved, I was working at the Hoover Company. I was, it was a factory to make vacuum cleaners. I worked there for a little while before I went in the army. Even when I came back, I worked there for a while. Before I got saved, I was just like everybody else. I was telling dirty jokes and laughing and doing all the things that they were doing. Then one night, I went to a service, and I got right with God. I mean, I got right with God. I knew me. I knew that if I did not make a big splash and a big hole at work the next day, I would just get sucked right back into it. So I got me a little Bible. I got me a fistful of tracts. The next day, when I showed up on a Monday morning, I was passing out tracts. I stood at the gate as people were going in and giving out tracts. I witnessed all my life. I cannot tell you over the years how many people I wanted to cry. But I just knew that if I did not make a big splash and blow myself into a situation that I could never go back, that I probably would.

I used to drive a forklift, and there are those propane things, and that blows the hot air out the back. I used to have the swing parts in, and I am a drone day working there. I am swinging in there, and all the line workers are here. I am stepping on the gas to raise and drop everything. The hot air is coming out, and they are saying, "That is so hot. That is so hot." I got a great idea. The next time, next morning, I put a little sign on the back of my forklift. "You think this is hot. Wait till you die and go to hell without Jesus Christ." My boss did not let me leave it on more than a day or two. But when I swung around, and they said, "It is hot, it is hot," they saw the

sign. "You think this is hot. Wait till you die and go to hell without Christ." Great witnessing tool. But I knew me, and I knew that if I did not just make a splash and blow a hole in it, that it would never change. So years later, I got my Bible, and Jim Coffey did it.

V. Paul: An Example of Fearless Preaching

There is a hero of mine in the Bible in 1 Kings chapter 22, verse 14. His name is Micaiah. Micaiah went up against Ahab and Jezebel back in 1 Kings. Brother, if you wanted a husband and wife team to be afraid of, that was the crew. They were the two most wicked people Israel ever had. They were giving Micaiah a tough time. In 1 Kings chapter 22, verse 14, when they are at the moment that they are going to really blast him and after him because of what he is preaching, the greatest verse, my hero:

1 Kings 22:14

And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.

I took that and put that right on the front of my Bible. It is all beat up now. You can hardly see it in gold letters. You know why? Because the last thing I wanted to see before I stepped in that pulpit to preach God's Word. You know why? Because the last thing when I saw people out there that did not like what I was saying and did not like what I was preaching, the last thing I did not want to be afraid of their faces. The last thing I wanted to see before I stepped in that pulpit was that verse. That verse served me well for many, many, many years. I will tell you, never let the fear of man stop what God has given you to do because it will snare you.

I may be a lot of things, and my faults are many. I do not claim to be in any way, shape, or form perfect in any fashion. I have all my issues, the same ones that you do. But I will tell you one thing that I have never wanted to do or never done is ever was a coward when it came to the book and God and the truth needs to be put out. I know. I do not have to defend the book. I get that. I did not do it because I had to defend it. I did it because I needed to do it for me, for all that he has done for me.

Please take what I am about to say in the right spirit here. I get it. When it comes to the ministry and God and the Bible, I am nothing. I get it. I understand. I do not have any false illusions about myself. Never have. But having said that, let me just say this to you in the context. You would have to look a long time to find a pastor who would preach a message like I preached to you last week because they are afraid you are going to get mad. Or even this week, any week, because they are there. Now I can get away with it here. I can because most of you are in the Proverbs 27:7 crowd that the bitter things are sweet to you. So I get it. But try that in the churches that I preached about last week. Try that with the good old boys. Try that with the deacons that are totally against everything that God is doing.

One time I preached. I preached a really hard message years and years ago. It was on faithfulness. I still have the message in my Bible. I nailed it, and I did not pull any punches. I put it right to him. The next week, a guy called me, and he wanted to meet. He said, "I am upset." When we sat down and talked, let me just say he was a good guy. He was not a bad guy. He had

just got to the place where he had gotten his goofy stuff all screwed up with some things. But he was a really good guy. He started out by saying, "I just wanted to meet with you, and I wanted you to know that I was upset with what you preached last week." And I said, "Jerry, why is that?" He says, "Well, I felt like you were singling me out." And I said, "Well, Jerry, I was. You and everybody else in that service today, me included. If you would think that I would preach a hard message and not love you enough, and I would exclude you when I am preaching to everybody else." I said, "I was. This is not the way you are thinking I was." I said, "Hey, Jerry, did I use your name?" "No." "Did I give out your address and say, 'I am not telling you it is, but his phone number is 81...?'" "No, no." I said, "Look, Jerry, if the Holy Spirit of God convicted you with something that I said, that is between you and Him. How do you make it you if it is not you?"

If you are doing what is right and everything, last week, there were messages that I preached, and I am sure everybody looked inside. But the majority of you, if not all of you, you said, "You know what? That is exactly right. I am sure glad I may have been there one time in my life, but I am doing what I need to be doing now." You have got to, if you take it in personally, why is that? Is that my fault? No, no. If God convicts you about me, what do you matter me for, Jerry? He was a good guy. He really was. He just got off beam a little bit, and I told him, "Okay, here is the deal. Here is last week's sermon. Show me one thing I said in that that was wrong or not right." "Well, there was not anything, you know, it is just me." God used that message, and he got that thing squared away, and he was the best guy I had for the next five, 10 years of my life. Sometimes. And I said to him, "Hey, you know, come on, Jerry. I love you enough to tell you the truth." I said, "You know, one time Paul got in the same jam in the book of Galatians." You know what he said to them?

Galatians 4:16

Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

He got it. He got the best guy I ever had after that. Sometimes you just have to get mad before you can get right.

I preached one time, and a lady came up to me. Oh, I love this one. She was, you could tell it was not any, I was preaching in the church, I forget where it was. But anyway, you could tell she is one of these ones who, she is one of these real prideful ladies, real, she is like a lady one time that Bob Jones Senior was preaching. Before he preached, this lady got up, just an old prude, and she was speaking, and she gave her testimony. She says, "Touch not, taste not, and handle not." Bob Jones Senior gets up and preaches, "Thank you, sister. That is easy to see you have never been touched, tasted, or handled." That this lady. That is what she was. She was a prude. She comes to me, and she says, "Well, I want you to know that I am offended by what you preached today." And I said, "Okay," I said, "First of all, Psalms 119, verse 165:

Psalms 119:165

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

I said, "Now, what are you offended about?" She had nothing to say. If the Bible is the Bible and truth is truth, take it. But as a preacher or whatever, I am not saying you get up and you just

make an idiot out of yourself. I one time I told you this story before, I was up in New York in Boston. I was preaching at a church up there. One of the guys in the church, he was a nice kid, but just as goofy as could be. He is taking me someplace. I even forget where we are going. I am riding in his car, and we are down the middle of Boston on a Saturday night. There are people all over the place. He has got a PA system on his CB. It has got a speaker under the hood. He gets on there. People at the red light are walking across the street. It is just this nice-looking lady, well-dressed, just walking wherever. And he says, "God knows where you are going tonight, you hussy!" And then this guy is walking across the street. He says, "God is judging you. He knows where you are going tonight, sir!" And he is laughing like he is really doing God's work. He does that four or five times. Then he hands the mic to me and says, "Hey, have a try at it." I said, "No, I am losing my voice. I have got to keep it for preaching tomorrow." I wanted to sink down in that seat so far. I am not talking about stupid stuff like that. I am talking about preaching the truth. Obviously, you are sensitive to people, obviously, you know, but I am just telling you.

Years ago, I preached my first sermon. I preached to 600 people. I did. There was an old boy there. His name was Phil Ward. Phil Ward was one of the guys that hung out with Tommy Thomas, who really was one who mentored Mel Sabaka, who mentored me. Phil Ward, back in Canton, Ohio, in the 30s and 20s, there was an underworld haven. Gangsters all over the place. Phil Ward was a gangster. He had got, how he got saved was, he got rival gangs, and somebody machine-gunned a bunch of them. He got about 945 machine gun bullets in his body, almost died. But it was from that that he got saved. He had matched up with an old guy up in Akron. He worked with Tommy Thomas in the mission up in Akron, Ohio, was a guy by the name of Bill Denton. He was the mission director up there. These guys, these are the guys that I got to hang out with. Bill Denton was an incredible, these guys were the last of the grandchildren of the Philadelphia preachers. Bill Denton was in World War One. He was an unsaved man. His mama was praying for him every day and trying to get him saved. He wanted nothing to do with it. He got into battle over there in World War One when a shell went off, and it knocked him unconscious or whatever it was, he was conscious, but he could not move. He was totally incapacitated, could not move, could not blink, could not do anything. So after the battle, they are picking up the bodies, and they lay him on a stack of dead bodies. For two days, he lays on that stack of dead bodies. He cannot move. He cannot talk. He cannot look. His eyes are open. He can see, but he cannot make any move. They come the next day to pick up the bodies to put him on a truck to bury him. One of the guys picks him up. What he notices is a tear runs out of his eye. He found out he was still alive. That is how he got saved. These guys were something else. God had to use radical means in saving them because they were a bunch of radical guys. But I want to tell you something. When those radical guys got saved radically, they became radical for the Lord Jesus Christ. They were brave men.

Phil Ward pulled me aside after my message, and he says, "Kid," he said, "You have got a gift." He says, "You have got some style." He says, "Now let me give you this." And he says, "You build this in." And he says, "God will use it. Remember three things when you preach." He says, "When you preach, you preach it powerfully. When you preach, you preach it plentifully. Give him a lot. And when you preach, you preach it personally. You get right to him. You always want

to let your crowd leaving wherever you preach, thinking about something that you said." I never forgot that. That probably influenced my preaching more than anything else.

Two or three years later, before he died, we were out at the fair out there in Canton, Ohio, where the church would always get a booth to win people to Christ. Me, him, Mel, and I forget who else, we are walking through the midway. We took a break. We got something to eat, and we were just walking through the midway. There was this guy who had a lady spread eagle on a big round board. Then he spun the board. He was blindfolded. Then he threw knives at the woman spinning, and he perfectly outlined her body with those knives and never hit her. I am sticking to myself now, and it shows the difference between a young guy and an older guy. I am sitting there amazed saying, "How in the world did he do that?" Phil Ward says, "Oh, dear God, help me never to preach like that. That guy hit all around her, never hit her." A lot of guys preach all around a thing, never hit you.

I think of Ian Paisley. Ian Paisley was a guy over in Northern Ireland, and he was a preacher. He was caught up in that Catholic Protestant fight over there that you were told over here on NBC and ABC was a war. It was a religious war. It was the Catholics trying to take over the Protestants, the Protestants saying no way. Ian Paisley was a great, great leader. He is trying. In fact, this country would not even let him get in the country because they looked later. There was a terrorist back in the day. Bob Jones University hooked up with him. They got him over here and got him preaching around. I actually heard him preach one time. Billy Bartlett, who is a great Dr. Vic's grandson, who was a staunch King James Bible guy. He pulled him aside one time, and he says, "Dr. Paisley, Pastor Paisley, have you ever read Dr. Peter S. Ruckman's stuff?" And he says, "Yes, I read it all the time." And he says, "What do you think of his stand on the King James Bible?" Now, here is a guy who took on the whole Irish Republican Army. Here is a guy that took on everything in Ireland for a stand for the Word of God. When he is asked about the King James Bible and what he thinks about it, he says this, "I believe he is absolutely right. I believe the King James Bible is the Word of God. But do not tell Dr. Bob I said that." Bob Jones University, because they were against it. Coward. Here is a guy that is a lion over in his own country. But when it comes to the book, he puts a tail between his legs because of somebody, what they might think about him. Cowards. And that same fear that will keep men from doing what they need to do when they hear the truth. Sometimes you have to accept failure to later embrace the victory. If you do not understand that, you have got some lessons to learn in life.

In church history, my favorite hero, I think, is John Knox. John Knox was a Presbyterian preacher. Back in the day, they were biblical. He was in the reign of Bloody Mary. Bloody Mary killed everybody. He stood in her court, poured his finger in her face, and preached hellfire and damnation to her and lived to tell the story about it.

In the Bible, it would be the Apostle Paul. It always amazes me how people like to equate themselves like you are Paul, when actually, when you really know Paul, we are nothing like Paul. He was absolutely fearless in his preaching the Word of God. One time in Acts chapter 23, verses 1 through 3, it said:

Acts 23:1

And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

Acts 23:2

And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.

Acts 23:3

Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

He put it right to him. He was not afraid of anybody. Have you ever seen him deal with the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians and later on in 2 Corinthians? Every chapter, he spares them nothing. He puts it right to them. In chapter 2, he says, "You know what? You guys are not working in the power of God. You are working in the power of man." He says in chapter 3, "You know what? I would like to talk to you like spiritual people, but I cannot. You are a bunch of babies." Try that in your church. He says in chapter 6, "I speak to your shame. Is there not a wise man among you?" That is a rough sermon. In chapter 10 and chapter 11, he says, "You guys are absolutely ignorant of the truth." And yet, here you are. In 2 Corinthians chapter 3, he made some people mad. They did not like him. They did not want him telling them what they needed to change. But he never feared their face. He never backed down. He always gave them the truth.

In 2 Corinthians chapter 3, this group of people that he made mad, they come to him and they say, "Now, who do you think you are? Before we listen to any more of your preaching, we have a committee here. We would like to have you present to us some letters of commendation that would tell us that you have the right to say what you are saying. So give us letters from other people that tell us that you are qualified for what you are saying to us." You know what he said? He says, "You want letters of commendation? Do you? Is that what you want?" "Yes, that is what we want." "Is that what you really want?" "Yeah." Then he said, "Go look in the mirror, because you would not even be here if it was not for me. You would not even know there was a Bible if it was not for me. You would not even be saved if it was not the start of this church. You be my letters." Stock them, boy. Stock them. He is something else. He is something else. Absolutely fearless when it came to the face of man.

Brother, he let you know whether the person was in or was out. He gave out names, addresses, and telephone numbers and emails. He said in 2 Timothy chapter 4, verses 14 through 17:

2 Timothy 4:14

Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

2 Timothy 4:15

Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

2 Timothy 4:16

At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

2 Timothy 4:17

Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

You know what? Paul did not care if all men stood with him as long as God stood with him. He gave his name for the next 2000 years in the print. Everybody knows not only who he was but his occupation. He said in Romans chapter 16, verse 17:

Romans 16:17

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

He says, "Mark those people." You know what? I am not going to do that. Anna put together, how would you like it? Anna put together the directory that has got all your pictures in it with your information, and somebody wants to get a hold of you. How about if I told Anna next time you do that, "Let us put a section in the back of all the people with their pictures you will want to stay away from." Well, you get killed. But the greatest Christian that ever lived, I am a coward when it comes to him. The greatest Christian ever did said mark those because if you do not, if you do not, they are going to cause you problems. He said again in 2 Timothy chapter 4, verse 10:

2 Timothy 4:10

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world; and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

He said, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." Now he is attacking worldly Christians. Now I would never do that. I would never get in a pulpit and do that. Maybe I should, I just, I would not, I could not. Maybe I am just a coward, mark me down. Okay, put me in that category. But I am not going to do that. But the greatest Christian ever lived did. Old Paul put it right across the plate. Never one time did he not defend the gospel for what it stood for. He did not care who got their feelings hurt. He did not care who got mad. To him it was, "Let God be true and every man a liar."

It only gets better. In these verses, we see how he is dealing with the Christians. In churches now from on here, we see how he gives us a model how to be in the world. From Acts chapter 22 to Acts chapter 28, when he goes down to Jerusalem, it is the model of how we should stand to the world. In chapter 22 and 23, he stands before the council. He takes them on. In chapter 24, he goes before Felix, who everybody else would tremble and fear. He takes him on. In chapter 25, they take him before Festus, and everybody else would be scared to death of his power in his position. Paul just takes him on. Finally, in chapter 26, he takes him to King Agrippa. You have there one of the greatest stories and pictures of his courage when he is in, he is a prisoner. He is

held in jail and chains. When you read these passages, it is hard to see who is the prisoner. He got old King Agrippa. He says, "King Agrippa, you know what I am telling you is true." He says, "You know the testimony." He says, "All the things that God has done, all the things that Jesus done, it was not done in a corner. You know it is true. You know it is right. You know around you what you know what old King Agrippa said." Here is a pagan Roman king. You know what he said?

Acts 26:28

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Almost. I am telling you, he was fearless. He was not afraid of anybody. Absolutely, totally fearless.

VI. Trust in the Lord: The Only Safe Place

Now look at the last part of verse 25.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

I will tell you right now, there is no safe place on this planet. You can go down to a restaurant, and somebody will pull out a gun and kill you. You can drive, pull up to a stoplight, and somebody will hijack your car and take your car and then just shoot you for fun. You can jog down the street on a Sunday morning, and some gang banger is going to come down and just shoot you to get initiated into his gang. There is no safe place. But it says, "Whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." Notice, anywhere you go, it always comes back to that relationship and that fellowship and that joy that we have or we do not have with Him. When it comes to the ministry, I am going to tell you right now, the only safe place is in that book that God gave you.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 3:6

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

It used to be, not the three safest places for anybody to be, a child to be anyhow, first of all was the mother's womb. That is all gone now, babies ripped out by abortions by the millions. There was a time when the family should have been the safest place for a child growing up. It is gone. There should have been a time when the church was the safest place for a kid to be. It is gone too. Yet you go to QuickTrip, pulling there to get you a coffee or a donut or whatever you are going to get, and there is a sign, "QuickTrip is a safe place for your children." We have taken the three things that God made safe and replaced it with QuickTrip. But I am telling you right now,

all you have got left to be safe in this whole world is the book that God gave you and the principles in there.

Let me tell you something. If Israel would have, in the Old Testament, put their trust and faith in what God gave them, Joshua chapter 1, they would be in the land today fulfilling all that God gave them, and they would be safe. They would be safe from Europe, they would be safe from the Catholic Church, they would be safe from Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust, they would be safe from the nations of this world. But they are not safe today because they did not do what the Word of God said.

Listen, if the Jews in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John would have followed what God gave them through His Son, instead of crucifying Him and denying Him and linking up with Rome, they would have been safe today. They would have been safe from Titus in 70 AD when he came down and destroyed the city. They would have been safe from the Roman Empire for the next 300 years, but they are not.

Let me tell you something. If the church in the New Testament would have played it safe and stayed with the book and the world and the Word that God gave us through the founding fathers, we would not be in the mess we are in today. We would not be in the land as he and church say. We would be safe. If husbands and wives trusted in the book, their marriages would be safe today. If moms and dads would have trusted in the book, their children would be safe today. I am telling you, there is no safe place anywhere in this world today other than the Word of God that God has given you, and that is the only place you are safe.

If you and I will stay faithful to the Word of God as His son through a sonship relationship and fellowship and take the position that we are His son and build ourselves into that world. If we will grow daily, let God be true, as the Bible says, and every man a liar, and take what He said and just by courage, by courage, believe the book, by courage, obey the book, by courage, learn to rest in the book. We will be safe, and we will never have to fear anything or anybody except God all of our lives.

I will leave you with that great verse: "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." You want to be safe? You want your family safe? You want your kids safe? You want your marriage safe? You want everything in your life safe? Get in the book. Learn to believe it, to obey it, and to rest in it. It will get you through in a world where there is nothing that will get you through.