

# Proverbs 30:1-9

Sunday 3/1/2020

We talked about the first six verses of Proverbs chapter 30, verses 1 through 6. We saw again another reference to the two men that are predominant throughout the book of Proverbs. The whole book of Proverbs is written about two different kinds of men. One is a wise man who gets the understanding of God. The other one is a foolish man who cannot be taught anything.

In particular, last week we saw verses 1 through 6 talked about a fool and defined for us who was defined for us in Proverbs in eight different verses, clearly showing you what a fool is from God's standpoint. We came away last week knowing that this guy was a man completely void of any spirituality whatsoever. The Bible calls people like this men and women; it calls them a natural man in 1 Corinthians chapter 2, verse 14.

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

That's the kind of guy we talked about last week: no understanding, no real truth, and no ability to see the hand of God in anything. Therefore, usually in life with their families and everything that they do, they really don't have a very good value system.

As last week, unfortunately, it's not just true of an unsaved man, but it's also true of saved people who get to the point where they don't get into the Bible either. If you're saved, I always give people the first five years of their salvation just to figure things out. But if you've been saved 10 years or more and you don't have a good handle on the Bible, there's something fundamentally wrong someplace in your process.

## I. The Bible as the Key to History

The Bible throughout history, and I love history. When I was in high school, I wasn't a very good student, but two things that I really liked were history and English class, and we've talked about that before. But history always just really intrigued me. I have spent most of my adult life from that point on investigating history. History to me is the key to the future because the great biblical principle is that history always repeats itself. The only thing that men never learn from history is the fact they never learn anything from history. So I saw immediately the importance of being able to see and understand the historical aspect of things. I wasn't just interested in America but around the world, what happened.

I came to the conclusion a number of years ago, and it just fueled my ability to try to learn more. I began to see how all through history the Bible has been the key to every development that man has ever achieved. We don't get that when we look at or hear things on the news and all that stuff. We don't get that even in school, whether it's college, and honestly, most Bible colleges won't teach you that. It's certainly not taught in most of the churches today, simply because these guys just never go there. They never understand the depth of that Bible.

We talk about the Bible being God's Word. That's such a term that we use. If we really believe it's God's Word to us, then it ought to be worthy of us investing the rest of our lives figuring out

what God is saying to us. If God actually, He wouldn't do this, but if God came down and spoke to someone like He did with Moses and met before them and told them all those things, that person would be going around the world telling everybody what God told them. Now He's not going to do that, but He doesn't need to do that because He's given you a more sure word of prophecy, and you have everything that God is.

When I saw that, I began to understand a little bit better man's inability to see the hand of God. All through man's time on this earth, and this is a great truth that's lost today in just about every aspect of not only the world but certainly in Christianity. I've watched the development of the Bible, and here we take a stand on the King James 1611 Authorized Version as the absolute perfect Word of God, and there's a reason for that. If you don't or you have another Bible, it's okay; nobody's going to grab it from you or beat you over the head with it. You take your time. But this is where my stand on that is for a reason. Everything I try to do when I teach you the Bible is to give you all the information.

You see the importance of the Bible going back to the development of the European continent. It's incredible. The nations that embraced God's Word versus the ones who did not. When you go back and you look at the history of Europe, Europe was pretty much in the Dark Ages for a thousand years, from 500 to 1500. The Dark Ages are called the Dark Ages for a reason; it's because it's a time when Europe was in an incredibly bad situation. The Roman Catholic Church obviously had taken over Europe and suppressed everybody and told everybody that the life that they were having in Europe was the best life of any place on the planet, and that's not true. Once the Crusades happened and a lot of the people went to the other countries to fight in the Crusade, they saw that wasn't true.

For a thousand years, Europe was stillborn. It was an absolute mess of poverty and disease, and it was the rich class living over the common man. It was the feudal system. If you were a lord or born into the nobility of any country, and you were a guy on the bottom, that's where you stayed. There was no moving up the ladder. It's a terrible situation.

## II. The Renaissance and Reformation

Then we began to see around 1400-1500, the light started coming on in Europe. It's so prominent in history, in secular schools and secular thought of Europe during this period of time. It's called the Renaissance period, and the word Renaissance means rebirth of knowledge. We see when the Renaissance, every year up here in one place in Kansas, they have the Renaissance festival, and people dress up like the period of time. I went one time, and I just went for that big turkey leg, man, that's good. When people dress up, you have lords and ladies, they do fake jousting and sword fights, and all that goofy stuff that they did.

The Renaissance was a great advancement in European thinking and the things that they did. A cultural advancement in Europe that changed the whole face of Europe. The reason for that, and they'll never get this, the reason for that is by 1392, Wycliffe had begun to translate the Bible into English that was going in time move into Tyndale's in 1522, and then Coverdale's in 1537,

Matthew Henry's in 1537, Coverdale's Great Bible 1539, the Geneva Bible, and then formulated finally into the King James Bible in 1611, which is finally finished seven years later in 1616.

It was during this time period that the Bible was now being accepted in Europe. The Catholic Church got its back broken because along with the Renaissance period came the Reformation. Martin Luther broke with the church in Germany, Zwingli and Calvin broke with them in Switzerland and Scotland. All across Europe, the lights were coming on, but the lights were coming on because the darkness had taken away, and now the Bible was beginning to be established in Europe. The lights came on, and the greatest period of time in history of man's advancement took place, not because of the idea that man just woke up one morning and decided, "Let's make something new." It was because, as the Bible says, "The entrance of thy words giveth light," and the lights began to come on in Europe, and you see it. You see the hand of God in everything.

### III. God's Hand in Nations and Discoveries

Back in 1500, there were two great seafaring nations. One of them was Spain, Roman Catholic, and of course, the other one was England, which was basically Bible believers, Protestants if you want to use the term. It's a thing where England had just thrown off the Roman Catholic Church, got rid of Bloody Mary, Elizabeth now was on the throne, and she's pro-King James Bible, pro-Reformation. England now has taken the Bible that you're holding in your lap around the world, and the devil didn't like that, so he brought his nation Spain. Under Spain, he's going to come down, and he's going to bring England back under Roman Catholic rule. So Philip of Spain sends a great Spanish Armada over to England to try to defeat them, and England doesn't have a navy. She doesn't have anywhere compared to what Spain had. But that's okay if you study history, you know why? Because she had a Bible, and in 1588, as the big Spanish Armada sailed into England and the English Channel, God whipped up a typhoon and sank the whole Spanish fleet. It's incredible what you learn in history.

We see God's hand in the discovery and the relevance of America, in the development of America. On October 12th, we celebrate Columbus Day. Columbus Day is pretty much a joke. Columbus never set foot in America. A better thing would be Vikings Day. They were here long before Columbus ever showed up. There's a bill in Congress right now in the Senate to get rid of Columbus Day and rename that day after Mother Cabrini, who is a Roman Catholic nun who started the Queen of Heaven orphanage in Denver, and they want to replace him with her, which that's just a weird joke.

But in 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue and wound up discovering America, as we are told, and of course, who sees the hand of God in that? First of all, he never touched American shore. He landed in a little Bahama, Banana Bahama Republic down there off the Bahama Islands. But it's an interesting thing because when you look at the hand of God and the scheme of things with God, we begin to see that God had a purpose for America. He was going to save America for the pilgrims when they came over and established this country away from Europe, away from the church-state religions, where a man could teach the Bible and preach the Bible and teach his

family without somebody knocking his door down at three o'clock in the morning. He was saving America for that.

But Ferdinand of Spain, here again, the Roman Catholic Church wanted to control everything in the known world. So all of the great explorers are Roman Catholic, and he sends with Isabel, his wife, she liked him, and she said, "Give him a ship and give him the provisions," and he goes. If you study his life, it's an interesting thing. He's sailing and sailing and sailing, and the crew is close to mutiny. They've got no water, they're out of food, they're in bad shape. He's about ready to lose his whole thing. And then he sees one morning some land-based birds flying in that direction, and he sets course and follows them. If you look at the course that he was on, he would have hit America in just about a week. God sent those birds and sent them down into Central and South America, and everywhere he landed from that point on became Roman Catholic. God preserved America. Incredible. It's incredible. God saved America for what He wanted to do. People cannot see the hand of God in any of that.

#### IV. The Bible's Influence on Music and Art

We see it in the development of music in Europe. From 1100 to 1400, music was basically non-existent. It was called the Baroque period. It's where music really found its fundamentals, the harmonics and everything that was going on, but there are no great composers during that time. It's not until we get into the 1500s to the 1700s, when the King James Bible is being laid out across the world, that music in Europe is so influenced by everything that's happening. It's called the Golden Age of Music, the Classical Period. Guys like Bach and guys like Handel and guys like Haydn and Mozart, all of their songs, all of their music, is man expressing his love for God. Why? Because the Bible's now hit Europe. Reformation is taking place. The Renaissance period is now in full swing. The influence of that Bible across the nation, across the continent, was unbelievable. People look at that and can't even see the hand of God in it if they even think God had a hand in it.

The moment we move into the 1700s and past that into the 1900s, we move into what is called the Romantic period. It's during this time in Europe that the Bible begins to lose its influence. Now the great mind of the German rationalists, the great humanist mind, began to, Kant and Hegel and all those guys began to come up in Europe, and the Bible begins to lose its power in nations. So we see now called the Romantic period, and all the music that's written during this time will be guys like Beethoven and Schubert and Chopin and Mendelssohn, and now they're focusing not on man's love for God but man's love for himself. It just goes downhill from there. The farther we get away from the Bible, the worse music gets.

Then we move into what is called the Natural period, which moves into the Modern period, moved into the Natural. Now we see man feeding his sexual, spiritual side to himself, the fleshly side. This leads to the complete breakdown of music. You can watch as the spirit toward the Word of God in Europe and in America is at its best, everything is at its best, and as it declines, everything goes. Now during the Natural period, it's a complete breakdown. Now all the songs have animal names. Now you do the Foxtrot, the bunny hug or bunny hop, I don't know. Now even the musical groups all take names. Now you got the Bats, the Buzzards, and the Beatles.

You got Three Dog Night. Where do these names come from? They come from a natural man and his natural spirit that has rejected the Word of God, and when the Word of God's impact is out of a country, you're in trouble. It ends with where we're at today, the satanic groups who actually kill animals on stage. I mean, it's unbelievable.

Used to have a guy, I don't know where he's, remember a guy by the name of Gallagher that used to kill fruit? Thousands of people were paid to go fill up an auditorium, and this guy would get up here with a big sledgehammer and crush melons and beat them, and people on the front row would have to wear raincoats. They would just love getting splattered all over with fruit. One time in Wichita, Kansas, this is years ago, you know, Wichita, Kansas, the town too tough to die. Anyway, I was there, and they had this, they had me down to preach at a big youth day, and they had an amusement park down there, and I don't remember the name of it, but it was, they must have had, what was it? What is it? Yeah, that's it. That's it. It must have had 500 kids there from all these churches, and I'm getting ready to preach, and I, you know, and I'm already tired and cranky because I've been waiting all day to do this, and they're out there just dinking around doing all kinds of stuff. So I'm ready to preach, and now they bring on this guy who's another youth pastor, and he's going to kill fruit like Gallagher does, and I'm sitting there, I've got to preach, and these guys are up there, and the kids are screaming and they're yelling, and he's smashing cantaloupes and smashing this, and it's splashing all over everybody, and everybody in that place is going nuts. Then when he's done, I mean, try to preach after that mess when he's done. "Now Brother Bob's going to come, and he's going to preach to you." I, I, I'm honest, this is what I did, I came up, and I said, "You know what?" I said, "I just stood here, no offense, brother, but I just stood here for the last 30 minutes watching you guys just get all excited and screaming and yell over somebody smashing fruit. Let's see how excited you're going to get now that I'm going to open up the living Word of the living God and preach to you." And I said, "You know what? Five hundred years ago, they were doing that kind of stuff to Christians. We're more sophisticated now; we just do it with the fruit and vegetables, do it with the fruits and vegetables." So I went up to your Bible, and I said, "I want to hear some excitement." There's no excitement. Nobody cares about the Bible today. It's just that simple.

You see it in art. Leonardo da Vinci and Van Gogh and Picasso, they're great. The Mona Lisa, the Mona Lisa just was valued at a hundred million dollars. That is the stupidest picture you ever saw in your life. You know how many Jeeps you could buy for a hundred million dollars? It's nuts, but you know who sets the value on those things. First of all, the moral condition of any society. You ain't going to believe this, just in time for my message. I was watching the news this week, and Channel 9 goes and interviews different places. They had an art institute down there in town now that's having what they're called queer art. No, no, no, no, that ain't homosexual queer art. That'll be next week. No, it was just art that looks absolutely ridiculously stupid. It was artwork that you look at and you think, "What is that?" I mean, I've seen better things on the sidewalk when a guy drunk all night and pooped on the street. Are you kidding me? It's the goofiest stuff to me, and it's called queer art because it's queer in that sense. Don't read into that. That's queer in that sense.

It's crazy. You look at it, and the second thing is the fact that the Vatican art critics are the ones who really set the standard for what things are worth. Their artwork by Michelangelo or Van Gogh, Picasso, all the Catholic guys, they all painted in essence of the Catholic church. So it's always going to be valued at that. Then you got a guy like Norman Rockwell from 1984, who painted some of the greatest pictures of family values, and nobody cares about them. Everything in history, whether rise or fall, be good or bad, is based on the country's attitude and their spirit toward the prevailing spirit of the time. You see it, two prime examples are the United States and England. God's hand in having the favor of God, and then how they lost the favor of God. I'll come back to the Word of God.

## V. The Natural Man and Science

Now the natural man cannot see that. He falls victim to the natural laws of sin and corruption. In science, they can't get it either. 1 Timothy 6, verse 20 says, "science falsely so-called." There's a true science, and then there's a false science. Your science can't get it. It just can't. Evolution is the biggest baloney cut off that you ever made a sandwich out of. Now there isn't a, if you got the facts down and pinned a scientist down, every scientist on this planet believes the first and second law of thermodynamics. The first law of thermodynamics says matter can never be created nor destroyed. So there goes evolution out the window. The second one is that the law of enthalpy, that things left to a random state don't run up, they run down. The whole universe is not evolving up; it's evolving down.

Some of you people just bought houses. Ten years from now, I'm going to see if your house is in better condition than it was when you bought it. Tell me, you buy a car, brand new car. You come up here, and you're happy about it. I am too. Hope you don't wreck this one. But the minute you drive it off the lot, it's worth less money. You know why? It's the law of the second law of thermodynamics. Things don't run up; they run down. Everything in this world, everything in the universe.

I don't know if you know this or not, but I used to speak at colleges years ago doing my gospel and the star thing. I always started out by this: "You know what? I know what your professor teaches you, and I know what the school says, and they're kind enough to invite me in, and obviously, I'm on the other side. I believe the Bible and God." I said, "But I want you to know something, just keep this in mind no matter who says what. We only got here by one of four ways:

1. We either came from nothing, which is against the first law of thermodynamics and second law.
2. Or we came from here, something that was already here, which is against the second law of thermodynamics.
3. Or the third alternative is God did it.
4. The fourth one is it ain't really here; you just think it is.

But there's only four ways. But you see, when God has to be the absolute alternative, even the men who believe in the laws of science, which are fixed laws, will violate their own scientific

principles because they don't want to trust the Bible and God. That's human nature. That's the natural man. That's the way it works. That's exactly how it works.

## VI. The Law of Human Collapse and God's Intervention

This is the state of the human race that we all are dealing with. What all men try to do is Proverbs 19:21 last week, because there are many devices in a man's heart. They keep coming up with ways to get around the Bible when they don't understand because they have no spiritual discernment that all down through the history of Europe and the history of the world in the Old Testament, Israel, every nation that ever survived, every nation ever prospered, is a nation that had the spirit toward the Word of God that was the right spirit, and when they lost it, where are they today? Where are the Babylonians? Where are the Persians? Where are the Greeks? Where are those great nations in the times of the Gentiles that ran the world but hated God? Where are they today?

Let me tell you something. One of the greatest, truest lessons in life. In the Bible, there are seven absolute fundamental laws that this world runs by. Seven absolute laws. One of those laws is the law of human collapse. You find it illustrated in the book of Judges in chapter 21, verse 25. The book of Judges runs the course of about 225 years. Five times in those 225 years, God has to come down and inject Himself into the nation of Israel to keep them from going any farther down into apostasy. The law of human collapse is simply this, folks: if God does not keep injecting Himself, and I like the word injecting, you know why? Because we all need a good injection because we got a disease. That disease is terminal. It's going to kill us all and put us in hell if you don't get saved. So you get saved, the Bible says you still have three infirmities, and you need an injection daily, hourly, minutely, whatever the case may be. So I like the word injection. If God does not keep injecting Himself into you and me, into Christianity, into nations, that law of human collapse takes over, and they go into apostasy. The end result is Judges 21:25.

*In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

You see it. Genesis chapter 1, 2, and 3, God had a plan. God put that plan together; it was a beautiful plan; it was a perfect plan. It was a plan without any flaws. In chapter 3, man messes it up. Man completely scraps it. He completely puts it on the junk pile. Now man enters into that downward spiral because of the law of human collapse. God injected Himself back into man in a guy named Noah. A little bit later on, a guy by the name of Abraham. Then as time went on, God brought it to the nation of Israel, and God injected Himself into the whole world through a nation of people that He called out that said, "You want Me, and you want to have everything that I am, that's where you got to be."

What happened? In 606 BC, Israel had gone into apostasy. She too had rejected the Word of God. She too had become the natural man in the mindset that God, she had gotten into everything else out there except God. What happens in 606 BC with Nebuchadnezzar, a little bit earlier, 721 or so with Sennacherib, king of Assyria, she goes into captivity, never, never, never to be any force again. The times of the Gentiles roll in. You know what the times of the Gentiles are? It's a time when God is not doing anything. Man is running the earth through Babylon, then Persia, then the

Greeks, and then finally Rome. What does God do? His thing spirals down into depravity. All those nations are gone today.

I'll tell you what He did. God again injected Himself into this world with the first coming of Christ to fix man's problem by sending us His Son. How did that work out? We killed Him and we crucified Him. Now the world again is thrown into the darkness. The Roman Catholic Church comes up on the rise, and we see the Dark Ages come in. Well, one more time, God injects Himself into the world, and this time around 1400, 1500, up to 1600, God gives us His Word. The revelation of God to man through the New Testament local church. Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalms 12:7, the perfect Word of God, the mind of God, now is given to the world.

*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*

*Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*

*Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*

You and I have it today because you and I, even though we're saved, we still have an old sin nature, and we are under that law of human collapse. You get out of, Paderewski was a great piano player. He said one time, I was reading some stuff about him because he was a tremendous piano player. He said one time, "If I quit practicing," he practiced eight hours a day, "If I give up practice on one day, I can tell it in my play. If I give up three days in my practice, the music critics can tell it. And if I take off a week or two weeks, everybody can tell it." I'm telling you, you take time off from the Bible and the Word of God, everybody around you is going to know it in time. We have to keep injecting ourselves with the Word of God. Every day of your life, every day of your life, you need to have that infusion of the Word of God.

Christianity, the world can't see any of that today. No understanding. They look at America from 1700 when they formed a constitution and moved up through 1776 and up to where we're at today. They look at that and they don't see that the seven great awakenings in this country that God through the last 250 years injected Himself in seven great awakenings to keep this country from going into apostasy. Every one of those times He injected it, it's because the devil moved to bring up something that was going to take Christianity off the grid. God stepped in and injected Himself into this country. Let me tell you something, there'll be no more injections. God's done, and we're seeing the end of things at this point in time. God now has turned His attention to the nation of Israel. If you know anything about the Bible at all, we were in it in Matthew chapter 24 yesterday in Bible Institute. How you come away from that and not see where you're at and what's going on, I do not know. The times of the Gentiles are moving off the scenes, and the time of refreshing are about to come in, and it ain't with us, it's the nation of Israel.

Then I gave you three warnings in the Bible last week: not to change, not to subtract from the perfect, pure Word of God. I showed you how God put three warnings in the Scriptures: one in the beginning of the Bible in Deuteronomy chapter 4, verse 2; one in the middle of your Bible, Proverbs chapter 30, verse 5 and 6, that's where we were last week; and then of course, Revelation chapter 22. It also said that if you do, then God will reprove you, and you'll be called a liar.

*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*

*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*

*And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

## VII. The Bible as Medicine

A number of years ago, well, not really that long ago, probably before a lot of you were born, 2002, there was a Kansas pharmacist who was convicted, his name was Robert Courtney. He was a pharmacist over in Kansas, and he was convicted and went to prison because he was watering down cancer drugs. People were coming in with cancer, needed to get chemotherapy drugs. So he could spread it out, which is really expensive, and so he wanted to make more money off of it. So he watered down the drugs without ever telling the patients. I don't know how many years he did that, but a lot of people died. He finally got busted and got 30 years in prison. You see, people had a disease, and they needed the medicine that was going to give them any hope at all. Because this guy, selfishly, for the love of money, watered down the drugs, all these people died.

That's exactly what's happened in New Testament Christianity today. We have a disease, folks. Bible calls it an infirmity. It's a spiritual disease, and it's terminal. Three in particular found in Romans 8:26, Romans 6:19, and Psalms 77:10. We don't have time to preach it, but that's a good message if you want to preach it sometime. Because of this terminal disease that we all have, and I don't care if you're saved or not, you still got the disease. It's your flesh. The Word of God is the only medicine that will help you.

The Word of God in Jeremiah chapter 8 is called the balm of Gilead. The balm of Gilead, a balm was a salve that was made off a particular plant that was found in Gilead, and they used it to put it on wounds, or it had a healing agent to it. So the Bible has a healing agent to it.

I look back in history, again, chalk it up for the Roman Catholic Church. Back during the time, right after Columbus, you had Magellan, you know, and you had Cortez, and then you had Vasco da Gama, and then you had, you know, Ralph Schwartz and guys like that. But one of them is my favorite is Ponce de León. Yes, I can say it like, it means Ponce de León. That poor guy tramped around Florida in the swamps, with all the bugs and all the snakes and all the mosquitoes, and he was looking for the fountain of youth. Somebody told him that there was a fountain that if you went to it and you drank from it, that you'd live forever. Now he got some wrong information from his church. At least here, I'll give you the right information. You have the fountain of youth and the water of life right here. Now you drink of this, and you'll never die. But old Ponce de León, he tramped through the swamps and the Florida's down there, looking for, too bad he didn't get to Pensacola, Florida. He got it straightened out. That was a joke, by the way.

The Word of God is the greatest medicine for our diseases. You know that? You know why we got a lot of midget Christians? Yeah, midget Christians. No, I have nothing against midgets. I preached at a convention of midgets one time. As I told you, I got a standing ovation, didn't even know it. But you know, we got a lot of midget Christians spiritually. You got saved, you never grew. Every church has a nursery in the back, and they usually have one in the church service. That'll be all for the midget Christians. You never got past the point in your life. Everybody else is growing around you, and there was a deficiency in your growth process spiritually, and you never grew. You know what you need? You need a growth hormone medicine. The greatest growth hormone medicine spiritually is the Word of God. You want to grow? Get in that book. It's just that simple.

The Word of God is a great antibiotic. There are some things out there that you can catch from other people that are infectious. It's a thing where, you know, it's a spiritual medicine that will keep your immune system spiritually up there, will fight off what the world tries to throw at you.

The Word of God is a great sleeping pill. Some people have a tough time sleeping at night. That lady called me, oh, it's been years ago, she says, "What can I do?" She says, "I can't sleep at night." She says, she laughed, and she says, "I tried the proverbial counting sheep, it didn't work." I said, "Well, I got some news for you. If you're in about counting sheep, why don't you just talk to the shepherd?" You want to go, now this doesn't work for everybody because some of you are so dialed into the Bible that it will actually keep you awake. But for most of God's people, you want to fall asleep, just start reading your Bible before you go to bed. That book will put you out so fast because, you know, it's a thing where you're gone, man.

The Word of God is the greatest anxiety medicine you could ever get. They want to put everybody on Prozac and Xanax and all this stuff and try to get them to calm down. I'll tell you, the greatest anxiety medicine in the world is to turn everything over to God and let Him deal with it.

The Word of God is a great pain medicine. We got an epidemic in this country. We got a lot of epidemics in this country, but prescription drugs. Everybody's taking the high-end stuff that, and they get hooked on it, and it's all the painkillers. All the stuff that they give you that's pretty powerful stuff, and they get them, and they get hooked on it, and it becomes an addiction to them. I'll tell you, the Word of God is the greatest pain medicine you could ever get. I want to tell you something else. It's okay to get addicted to that one. Paul didn't say when he talked about this church over here that they were addicted to the ministry. What's your addiction?

The Word of God will cure your alcohol and drug problems. It's just as simple as that. You find a lot of Christians today that they think that smoking marijuana is okay. They think that it's a thing where if you inhaled the Word of God as much as you do that smoke, you'd be a genius when it comes to the Word of God.

The Word of God will fix your mental issues. If you're bipolar, the Bible doesn't care if you were born in the North Pole or South Pole. It doesn't matter. It'll fix your problems. Somebody says, "Well, I'm depressed all the time." Well, look at your life. I would be too. Have you ever noticed that in the Bible, anybody in the New Testament, whoever was doing what God was, there's no

depression? You know where you get depressed? When you're a saved person and you don't do what God's called you to do, and you grieve the Holy Spirit of God, depression is coming your way. The cure for depression is found in the Old Testament with Elijah. Of course, you know that.

I'll tell you something else, the Word of God will be the greatest heart medicine you ever need. Heart disease is the number one killer in America today. Kills something like 425,000 people a year. That's 1,200 a day. That is so true in a physical sense, but I want to tell you, numbers are a lot better, a lot bigger in a spiritual sense because this is where God's people's problem starts, with their heart.

Christ is called the great physician in Luke chapter 4, verse 23. He demonstrates that in John chapter 5, verses 1 through 9. He's the great physician. The Bible is the medicine. The Holy Spirit of God writes the prescription for you. Me as your pastor, I'm just a pharmacist that fills that prescription. Don't you know when you go to the pharmacy and you get your pills, he always says, "You have any questions for me?" Well, the Word of God is the medicine, great physician. The Holy Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit of God writes the prescription. I'm just a pharmacist that fulfills it for you, sits down, opens the Bible, and says, "You have any questions?"

You do the same thing I do. One time when I was a kid growing up, 19 or 20, I forget when it was, I had the flu for 128 years. I got sick, went to the doctor, strep throat, what it was. Went to the doctor, he put me on meds. I took the meds, so I started feeling better, then I quit taking them. Then a week later, I was back in the doctor's office again. That's pretty stupid back then, so I took the pills again, so I started feeling better. Finally, after about three or four rounds, I realized that if you want to get better, you got to take all the medicine. But God's people are the same way. You'll get it in the Bible until you start feeling better. Then you quit taking the medicine. Any questions? I mean, that's what it is.

Here it comes with all the doctors today and the PhDs and all the great Bible leaders who hold great doctors of divinity. There are so many doctors you'd think that they could fix a sick Christianity, but they can't because they come to the place where they do the same thing that Courtney did. They get up there in a pulpit and they water down the book that can fix your problems, just like he did by adding and subtracting and altering the Word of God.

The Bible says the Bible's like a salt, and we are the salt of the earth. It also says that the salt loses its savor, Matthew 5:13, and that's what's happened today. Salt's a preservative. Salt keeps things from decaying, and the Word of God is a preservative. The disease of sin and ungodliness and filth have not only taken over the world today but 99% of Christianity. The salt certainly has lost its savor. If you don't believe that, just ask yourself, "When's the last time you witnessed to somebody about Christ?" It's as simple as it is. It's so clear. It's where we're at today.

The problem is salt has lost its savor, and it's lost its savor because of watered-down pastors who pastor watered-down churches who preach watered-down messages from a watered-down Bible. Nobody's getting the real medicine that they need. I'll tell you something else. Most medicine that does you the best tastes terrible. So the pharmaceutical companies, they sugarcoat it. They put a little coating around it. You can't taste it till you get it down, and then it dissolves in your

stomach. But it doesn't matter by then because your stomach can't taste anything. Do you ever accidentally take a pill and bite into it? Terrible. It lasts for hours. You have to eat everything to try to get it out of your mouth. It's a thing where the medicine that does that, you get a bad disease, and they give you one of those Z-packs or they give you some antibiotics, and you just chew them down. You're more man than I ever am.

That's so true of life. It's true of Christianity. The real medicine that's going to do you the best will not always taste the best. But do you want to fix it, or do you want to just go on the way you are? Because I'm a pharmacist. I got the medicine. God will give you the prescription. But I ain't sugarcoating the medicine. I got to taste it. You got to taste it.

## VIII. Two Requests from God

Today, that was just the introduction. We're doing pretty good today. It kind of goes together today. We're going to move on in chapter 30, and we're going to develop it around last week and today. That's why I gave you a little in-depth review because we want to look at this thing, and it's a great chapter. Look at chapter 30, verses 7, 8, and 9. Here's what he says:

*Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:*

*Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:*

*Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.*

Father, we thank you and praise you for Jesus today. Thank you for what we've heard. Pray you'll weld it together, Lord, with what we're about to say. We'll give you the honor and the glory. In Jesus' name and sake we ask it. Amen.

Chapter 7 says, "Two things have I required of thee, deny me them not before I die." Now our guy here, and this will be Agur from last week, we saw who talked about the first six. He continues on here, and he asks for two things from God before he dies. I think these are two of the most incredible, interesting things that you're ever going to do, and certainly the two things we ought to be asking God for.

Let me say this. This week I showed you one aspect: how this guy is a picture of somebody who claims to have no knowledge or understanding of God or His Son. I showed you that that's the case of so many people. But there's another aspect to it. He's a picture of the world system. There's no question about that. And God's, or God's people who reject truth, and therefore they get none. We saw that last week. But there's something else here I want you to see. The second thing that he's a picture of, he'll also represent the right attitude of heart of any child of God, any pastor, any teacher who believes the Bible is the utter Word of God. That is, you always take the position that you don't know anything. A child.

Over there in Mark chapter 10, verse 15, Jesus said:

*Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.*

When it comes to your learning about God, the dumber you are, the better off you are. We had to sell T-shirts back in the back that say, "Dumb as a rock," because that's what it takes to really get anywhere with God. You see, it's not your aptitude that determines your altitude with God, but rather your attitude. That attitude has to be, "Lord, I don't know anything. I'm as dumb as a stump. I'm not only, I'm so dumb I don't know anything. I don't suspect anything." You totally, completely rely on God with a childlike simplicity, a childlike faith, a childlike trust, and believing like any child believes in his innocence without trying to show God how smart you are, without spending years and years and years in institutions that only show you and teach you, and when you come out, you've got to go back to just being a little child.

If you can develop that attitude of God, you know, and we saw Solomon do that last week, or we talked about it in times past. We saw it in 1 Kings chapter 3 that Solomon, the great king of Israel, the number one guy in a place, came before God and he says, "Lord, I'm a little child. I'm so stupid, Lord, I don't know when to go in and go out." He said, "Lord, I need you in everything." All that he asked for is what you and I should ask for once we understand that the rest of your life, I don't care how old you get, when it comes to God, you're just a child. You never come to the place that you think you're smarter than God. You never come to the place that you think you're smarter than anybody else out there that teaches the Bible. There are a lot of guys who do that. It's a thing where, you know what, we're all just students, and we're all little kids, and we all have to just follow what God says. There's no room in Christianity for guys who think that they're so smart that they hold anything over the common man in the Bible. "I'm a child. I don't know how to go out or come in."

Then he says, "Give me," like a child. He says, "I'm your servant." He wasn't the king. He was, but he wasn't when it came to God. He was the child, and he was a servant. How do you look at yourself as you do the ministry for God? He says, "All I want is an understanding heart." But he didn't even want that for himself. He said, "This is the great people that you've allowed me to be the king over. And I need a heart to discern right from wrong for them." Wow. Nothing for himself. You know what he wanted? He just wanted the truth. That's all he wanted. He wanted the truth. What follows here in these two things that this guy asked for in Proverbs will be an incredible picture of what you and I as Christians should really want from God.

Verse 8 says, "Remove far from me vanity and lies." Now that's the first thing he wants out of his life is the system, worldly or Christian, that will be all about vanity and lies. He says, "Move it far from me, Lord. Just give me the truth. I don't want all the fluff. I don't want all the pomp and circumstance. I don't want all the breakdancing on the stage. I don't want all the lights and all the smoke and all the flashing. I just want the truth."

I'll make it easy for you here based on last week in verses 5 and 6. That's every church and every pastor and every Christian who adds and takes from the Word of God. The Bible says that God reproves them and calls them a liar. The book of Ecclesiastes will show us that man will come up with 30 or 40 different devices to try to get around the Word of God. They're all listed for you.

You'll see it in the political system. The political system will be politicians talking about taking care of their people, but they're only going to take care of themselves. Washington is completely broken. Washington is worse than a broken clock; a broken clock is right twice a day. They're not. Washington is worse than a blind squirrel. Even a blind squirrel can find a nut every once in a while. They can't find anything.

Now we're all facing this. I told you yesterday in the institute, we're all facing this virus coming up here that they're telling you not to worry about. Let me tell you something. Sometime you better get it down. I said yesterday, God in the Bible, if you know your Bible, judges apostasy two ways: one for the other nations and two with plagues. This country's gone way too long throwing God out. That's just the way it's going to go. The scariest thing is not the disease. The scariest thing is that Washington is going to be in charge of fixing it. They can't even handle the Veterans Administration. Medicare. You kidding me? I agree with what President Reagan said years and years ago when he said the most terrible words that you'll ever hear is, "Hi, I'm from the federal government. I'm here to help." We're in a mess.

So the political system will tell you what they think you want to hear to get elected and do whatever they want to do and forget all about you. But Christianity is the same way. They talk about taking care of God's people, but in truth, they have nothing to do with them. Why most of these big mega churches, you couldn't get the pastor's private phone number if your life depended on it. You got to go through his personal assistant, who will get you in when she sees it, and she controls access. You can't just call him up and say, "Hey, preacher, I got a problem. Hey, can I meet you this week?" Oh, no, no, no. You got to go through a structured system because it's a self-serving system. They don't care about your problem at that moment in time. They care about not being disturbed when you're eating dinner or they're doing this or they're doing that. It's completely built on a world system.

You see it in Revelation, Chapter 18, where it talks about, it's talking about Rome there, but it's so true of Christianity, 18 verses 12 through 13. They list 27 things that are in the order of importance. You know what the first one is? Gold. You know what the second one is? Silver. You know what the third one is? Precious stone. You know what the fourth one is? Pearls. Then it goes down through wood and brass and iron and ash. You know what the last thing that they care about is? Souls of men. That'll be the first thing you care about. This should be the desire of every child of God in America today. Just give me the truth. Give me the truth about God. Remove far from me the vanity and lies that separate from me. The first thing he tells us is get out of any organization, church, or system that is going to water down the medicine that God has given you and remove far from me, vanity and lies.

## IX. The Importance of Balance

Then the second thing. "Give me neither poverty nor riches. Feed me with food convenient for me. Lest I be full and deny thee and say, Who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor and steal and take the name of my God in vain." Now the first thing he asked for was truth. The second thing he asked for is a balance in that truth. Not rich, not poor, but to be balanced and in the middle.

*A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.*

This principle will be a staple of all life. I don't care in any country or building a church. You're not going to run the country with rich people or poor people. It's going to be the middle class. When these guys are going up for election, they know that that election is going to be won by winning over the middle class. It ain't going to be the rich, and it ain't going to be the poor. It's going to be the middle class. When you build a church, no rich man ever built a church, and poor people can't build it either; it's going to be the middle class. That's how it works. It's just that simple.

The food, "feed me with convenient food," the food he desires will be the food that is convenient for him. That will be God's Word. God made the book real convenient for us. He brought it right to us. The Word of God will meet his needs, Philippians 4:19. It will take care of all his issues, 1 Peter 5:7, and give him that balance of 1 Timothy 6:6 that God lives with contentment in his great gain. It will give him the contentment, and without a doubt, keeping that balance will be the hardest thing that we'll ever do.

I've always amazed the guys that can take six plates on a stick and keep them all turning and hold them up, or the guy that can do twin balls and keep throwing them up and catching them. It's incredible stuff, but that's what the Christian life is. It's balancing a lot of things at the same time.

In the Bible, the number three will be the complete balance concept. Everything has to have three parts to it. A balance is a three-point position. Think of the teeter-totter we used to do years ago. You have a point in the middle, and you have two people on each end, and the key is to teeter-totter back and forth, but it's a balance. You get somebody real heavy on one side, you're up in the air all day. If you're equally, you can balance back and forth. The key is to get you there where you can just stay like that, and then you've accomplished something. The balance in the Bible is everything. God has built the Bible in a systematic way to give you a balance in every aspect of the Christian life.

You take the Bible. In the Old Testament, if you want a balance in the Bible, then you realize that the Bible in the Old Testament is built around:

5. The law
6. The writings
7. The prophets

There's your three balances. In the New Testament:

8. The Gospel
9. Acts
10. The Epistles

It's just that simple. You want a balance in your Christian life, and every day walk with God. 2 Corinthians chapter 13 says that we're examining ourselves, know your own self, and approve your own self. There's your balance.

1 Timothy chapter 4, verse 13 says, "give attendance." You want to balance in what you do with the Bible. It says:

11. Read the Word of God
12. Exhort the Word of God
13. Know the Word of God

That's the balance. You read it, you put it out, and you learn the doctrine. That's the balance. It's just that simple. You want to study Christ and get a balance of who He is. He's the Lord Jesus Christ. That's a balance. If you just study one of those, you'll never get the whole balance of them.

He holds three offices:

14. Priest
15. Prophet
16. King

That's the balance. He's called:

17. The Son of Man
18. The Son of God
19. The Son of David

That's the balance. There are three days in the Bible that balance your whole perspective out:

20. You got the day of your salvation
21. You got the day of the Lord
22. You got the day of Jesus Christ

Three. It's a balance. Everything's a balance. You want to balance in your completeness as a Christian, okay, and you want to have the confidence in what you do, then you've got to be sure. The balance for your confidence is three things:

23. A sure word
24. A sure calling
25. A sure reward

This is three. A couple weeks ago, I gave you Joshua chapter 1 on courage:

26. Courage to believe the book
27. Courage to obey the book
28. Courage to rest in the book

There's three. Now when you got saved, you want to be a balance in your life as far as your salvation. The Bible, when you got saved, changed you in three ways:

29. It changed the inner man
30. Which will change the outer man
31. Which ultimately changed the end of man

It's a balance. The Christian life is:

- 32. Inward
- 33. Godward
- 34. Outward

That's the balance. You want to study the Holy Spirit of God? You study Him in three ways:

- 35. You study His work
- 36. You study the person
- 37. You study the indwelling

That's the balance. I've told you a thousand times, the Bible has three applications:

- 38. Historical
- 39. Inspirational
- 40. Doctrinal

That's the balance of it. I've told you before, the Bible was written to three people groups. You want the balance? It's written to:

- 41. The Jew
- 42. The Gentiles
- 43. The church

There are three states of the Christian after you get saved, and all of these form the balance. It's the:

- 44. You're saved
- 45. You're sealed
- 46. You're separated

When you are complete and you're saved, you have a:

- 47. Body
- 48. Soul
- 49. Spirit

That's your balance. When you get saved and you start to grow in the Word of God, the balanced Christian life, when the Bible will get into your life, you'll get:

- 50. Rooted in it
- 51. Built up in it
- 52. Established by it

That's your balance. In the book of Proverbs, we've seen it as we come through. It'll give you the balance. It'll give you:

- 53. Knowledge
- 54. Wisdom

55. Understanding

A healthy Christian will have a balance in three areas of their life. They'll have a:

56. Healthy spiritual life

57. Healthy physical life

58. Healthy mental life

Balance. In the ministry, the child of God, to be balanced, should be three things:

59. He should be faithful in the ministry

60. He should be fearless in the ministry

61. He should be fervent in the ministry

There it is. Just a balance. The balanced Christian life and relationship with God in His Word will be based on the balance of just three areas. I've given it to you many, many times:

62. Faith

63. Fact

64. Feeling

Your faith, but what's your faith in? The facts, the truth. That produces the right feeling. Now, I could go on all day. I mean, those are great little devotions if you ever want to use them in softball or volleyball, but they're great sermons you can develop, too. But I could take you through all day long with those after time because the Christian life, the Bible, and everything about it comes back to a balance.

So this guy wants just two things, and so should every one of us today.

65. He wants truth. He wants away from the vanity and lies, and he wants just the truth of God's Word.

66. Then he wants a solid balance in that truth.

Every Christian in this room this morning and every Christian in the world today should want the same two things: away from the vanity and lies and a solid, good, biblical balance in our lives that keeps us where God wants us to be.