

## I. Introduction and Context of Proverbs 31

It is good to have you all here today. I want to invite everybody to check in on YouTube also, and all the teams that are out there. We appreciate you being here today. As you know, we have been inching our way basically through Proverbs chapter 31. I have told you that I do not want to rush through this. I have had several people say, "Well, your sermons are shorter." Well, they may be shorter, but they are more in-depth. I told you that when we started with this chapter, I was not so much interested in how much volume of material. I mean, I could do three or four verses at a time, but I would not do it justice, and that is not what I am looking for here. I am looking for you to get what you need out of this great chapter, what it is dealing with, whether it is 30 minutes, 20 minutes, 40 minutes, or an hour. So, that is what I am looking at.

I do not know any place in the Bible that is a better reality check for all of us than Proverbs chapter 31. Most of the time, honestly, the guys that I have heard preach it, they just kind of blitz through it and blow over it and hit some really maybe good points. But if there is ever a time that God's people needed to stop and reconsider where they are at and just get a reality check of what is going on, it is the day and age that we live in. I know for us in our church here, there is no greater place anywhere in the Bible than Proverbs chapter 31 to do that.

Last week, we looked at Proverbs 31:11, and we talked about four key words. We are adding our key words, and I told you that the whole chapter is built around key words. So, we are kind of keeping a collection of them as we go through here, and we have seen how these key words really open up the chapter for us and give us everything that we really need. We looked at the word "heart." We looked at the word "trust" last week. We looked at the word "safely," and we looked at the word "spoil." Each one of those words brought with it an incredible concept that we needed to see and understand as we put the whole chapter together.

Obviously, the attitude of heart that we have toward God is that we love the Lord with all that heart, with all that mind, and all that soul. The word "trust" we normally think about us being able to trust Him, but we learned last week that is not the way He uses the word "trust." It is, "Can He really trust us with the ministry and what He has for us?" Then we looked at the word "safely," and simply, "Does God feel safe with His work in our hands?" He looks at it individually, every one of you, but He also looks at it as a corporate church here, our body, this church. Does He feel safe with what we have, that we are going to do what is right? Of course, the fourth word was the word "spoil," and we learned that that is to spoil the work of God that God has for us. Each one of these forms a key quality that we should be building in our own lives and our relationship with Him as individuals and to Christ as our relationship, to be that virtuous woman that is the theme of Proverbs chapter 31. What a great picture that is.

For us, it is as His bride. In Ephesians chapter 5, He likens the marriage in the physical sense to our relationship with Christ in a spiritual sense. He talks about husbands loving your wives even as Christ loved the church. He talks about the relationship between Christ and the church and

how that is a picture of what we should have with Him. It is an incredible model, not only for marriage, but it is a credible model for our own relationship with Him. We have seen many, many times how in 2 Corinthians chapter 11, He talks about the church being a chaste virgin. In that chapter, Paul is worried that the devil, who transforms himself into an angel of light, is going to destroy the church or destroy in the church the simplicity. That is exactly what he has done. It is really the key why all of Christianity today has lost the reality of Christianity from the Bible standpoint, because the only way you get the reality of everything about God in your life and what He is doing is to stay in the simplistic aspect of the Bible. The moment you add education to it, the moment you add Greek and Hebrew to it, the moment you add seminaries and Bible colleges and everything to it, all that simplicity goes out the window, and this is why we find ourselves in the situation that we are in. We talked about that yesterday in the book of Hebrews as we are coming through Bible Institute. Wow, what a great book that has been up to this point.

All of this that we are looking at will be built around, and you want to remember this, and I will remind you every week, it is built around one key verse. It is the one single verse that we never want to forget, and everything that we are looking at comes back to, and that is the verse in Philippians chapter 1, verse 6:

*Philippians 1:6*

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

The day we got saved, God begins that good work, and He is going to perform it up to the day of Jesus Christ, and of course, we know that to be the rapture of the church.

## II. The Mandate: Doing Good and Not Evil

Last week, my plan was to get through two verses, but we did not; we just got through one, and that is okay because it was some great concepts in it. But today, we are going to do our best to move through the next two verses here, Proverbs 31:12-13, because they kind of go together.

*Proverbs 31:12-13*

*She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

*She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.*

Now, Proverbs 31:12 says, "She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." The "her" here obviously is the virtuous woman, and it is a reference to us as the church. It is a reference to you and me, this church, getting to the place in our lives through the biblical process of getting God's understanding. We learned last week that we get there through a transformation, God transforming us, bringing us from who we are to what God wants us to be. At that point, as you go through that, at some point in your life, you are going to now get understanding. Understanding, as we well know, is the ability to see anything in life and understand God's hand in it. Look at your own life. Everything would be the reality check that I am saying that we are all missing today for the most part in Bible Christianity, is to be able to understand all things. It

is a thing where you look at life, you look at your situations in life, you look at your own self in life, your family in life, you look at everything that is around you, and suddenly you see it now from a totally different standpoint. You do not see it from what you want to get out of it; you see it from what God wants to get out of it through you.

It starts with, as we have come through, understanding God's will versus God's plan in your life. That is the number one issue that will stop somebody dead in their tracks if they think God's plan and God's will are the same thing. Most of God's people do. Reality now, we have defined that God's plan, obviously God has something that He wants each of you to do, and it will be different for each one of you. That is God's plan. But God's will for us is the same for everybody, and that is that you and I, through that transformation process, become more like Christ every day to attain that understanding, get that virtue in us that God wants us to give to others. One has to do with what God wants you to do; the other one has to do with what God wants you to be.

Understanding then the trust factor: Can God really trust us? When God looks at our church, does He safely trust in us that we are going to do what we are supposed to do as far as the Bible is concerned? Then that filters down and breaks down to each one of us today because this church will only be as strong as its weakest link. This church will only be as strong as the people in it, the family units in it. So when He looks at us, He sees more than just a bunch of people here today. He looks at it through the understanding of God that He knows that any church will only be as strong as the families and as the individuals. Can He trust us with that? It is just that simple.

Understanding the aspect of us being a living sacrifice. Each week, we are going to see a little bit more on these things to help put the whole picture together. There are some things today that I think will really help you understand that concept of a living sacrifice. God's people today get saved; they take God's salvation. That is the end of it. They do not ever want to give anything back to Him who has given everything to us for the most part. But of course, understanding helps us to realize that God has a job for us, and of course, understanding why God saved us, our real purpose in life. I hope you do not think that the job that you have or the career that you are pursuing or maybe you are in, I hope you do not stop and think that that is God's purpose for your life. We look at things that we get or things that we do in life, and we get lost because we lose the reality, and we think this is what God saved me for. God saved me to do this. No, no, no, no. God saved you for His purpose and His good work. Whatever vocation you are in is just your means of support, your missionary endeavor to be what God wants you to be wherever He has you go. When we do these things, then Proverbs 31:12 says, "We will do Him good and not evil all the days of our life."

Understanding God's "good" and "not evil." Let us talk about that for a moment. Good versus evil. That is an easy concept in the Bible. You do not read three verses in Genesis 1 that you will find the real issue in life is going to be light versus darkness. The light shone within darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. The whole Bible is built around good versus evil. Why, even an unsaved man will get up and he will say, "The world is about good and evil." They misplace the good. They think the good is the Republicans, and the evil is the Democrats, and the

Democrats think that they are the good, and the Republicans. They miss the boat; both of them are evil, and none of them are good. But that is the way it looks at it today.

Now it says to do Him good. Let me just say this to you: here is another key word. The only good in the Bible and the only good in life will be the Lord Jesus Christ. The quicker God's people learn that, the better off you are going to be.

*Psalms 25:7*

*Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.*

Of course, "remember thou me" is a reference to Christ remembering us, the Lord Jesus Christ. You are going to find in Psalms 25:8 that "Good and upright is the LORD." You are going to find in Psalms 54:6, "I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good." Romans 2:4 says that "the riches of his goodness." And 2 Thessalonians chapter 1, verse 11 says, "all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power." It shows you that when we talk about God's goodness, we are talking about Jesus Christ. There is no goodness in this world other than Christ. There is no goodness in any of us other than if you are saved this morning and you have the Lord Jesus Christ inside you. We make the expression, "My goodness!" That is a reference, if you are saved, to Jesus Christ living inside you.

We get the idea because we lose touch with reality that there is goodness out there in the world. Now, I am not saying that everything in the world is bad. I am not saying that. I mean, somebody said that you had a good day today, and you say, "Yeah, I did." Now, you could answer that in a form of whether you are lost or you are saved if things went good for you. So, that is a worldly understanding. But from the Bible's standpoint, as an unsaved man, you may think you had a good day, but you did not have a good day because any time during that moment you died, you would be in the lake of fire. So, it is really not a good day. It is a good day as far as the world sees it, but not as far as the Bible sees it. We as God's people care nothing about how the world sees it.

Of course, as we grow up into Him, Ephesians 4:15, and then we become filled through the renewing of your mind, Romans 12:2, daily. Then we get filled with the Spirit of God, and then we minister to others, and by doing that, we allow the good work. He has begun a good work in us. That good work is because of the goodness that God has put inside you the day you got saved, the Lord Jesus Christ. Outside of that, there is no goodness in any of us. Now, I know that unsaved people do good things as far as the world is concerned, but you know what? It is not going to cut any slack with God. You are going to wind up in a lake of fire just like a guy who never did anything for anybody because the only, and you have got to get it, the only true goodness in this world will be the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is simply finding out what God wants you and I to do for Him in our lives and then spending the rest of our life and our time on earth doing it. Again, we defined this last week: the aspect of ministry will simply be building the quality, character qualities of Christ in our life. The Bible calls them virtue. We build those things in our lives, and then through the good work, through the

goodness that is in us, we give it out to others. I showed you last week that every time that the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, wherever He showed up, people did not stay dead, and they did not stay sick with infirmities. He brought them back to life, and He healed them. I told you last week, the job of you and me through the ministry of healing people, through the virtue that Christ has, is to give life back to dead people, unsaved people, or to heal people who are struggling through the things in life.

### III. The Sin of Omission: Not Finishing God's Work

Then He says again, Proverbs 31:12, "to do Him good and not evil all the days of our lives." We as the church today have such a foreign understanding of God and the Bible in any kind of relationship. I choose my words very carefully with that, and I hesitate even saying it, even though I am going to say it. I am not hesitating because I am not going to say it; I am just trying to say it the right way because that concept is so foreign to most of God's people. Most churches today, they think that everything is just fine between them and God. They have no Bible. They brought the world into it. They have lost all the great doctrines that are the number one thing the Bible is profitable for, and along with losing all that, they have lost their reality. They are sitting in churches today, God's people, most of them probably saved, and they have no idea. It is really hard for most of God's people who go to church every Sunday. Churches today are filled with them. They do not drink too much; they do not drink. They live as good a moral lives as you could ask for. They drive buses, sing in the choir. They work in the food pantry. They do all things, all the churchy things. And yet the idea of me standing up here and even remotely suggesting that in all that you are doing, you are doing God evil, will be so foreign and so catastrophic in its thinking that they could never get to that point. The average mega church today, that is just about where they are all at. And Baptist churches, the neo-evangelical crowd, all of them, they are filled with hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of good people who are saved. And yet they are absolutely worthless.

We think that doing God evil, and it is true, we think the idea of you doing evil will be a worldly Christian who does all the things of the world. We think that that would be a Christian who does not go to church, who ought to be in church today, but they are down at the lake someplace, or they are out there, and they do not care about the things of God, yet they are saved. We are so lost in our perspective that we think that those are the ones who do God evil, but because we come to church, because we have the right Bible or carry a Bible, or we sing loud, or we tithe, or we show up to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, we actually have, we just cannot get to the point and grasp the great truth that somebody like that could be doing God evil. It is one of the most amazing concepts that proves to me how far we are from the Word of God. I would keep your thoughts to yourself this morning because somebody arguing that point or disagreeing that point just proves the point how far you are out there. I am going to show you in just a second.

I grew up in mainstream Baptist churches, and over the years, most churches that I have been associated with, they will have two roles that they call for attendance. They will have an active role, that is people that come to church every Sunday, and then they will have an inactive role.

That is people who used to go there that do not go there anymore. They will maintain that when a person comes, gets in the church, and starts coming regularly, then they go on the active role. When they quit coming anymore, then they move them to the inactive role. I have never understood that, but there is a lot of things about that I understand. You notice that we do not give invitations for you to come down and join the church here. I have been in churches all my life, and I thought how foolish that really is. It is not the point, and I have had people all the time, they come here, they like it here, and they will call me on the phone and say, "Hey Bob, how do you join this church?" And I say, "I think you probably already have." How ludicrous it is to think that you coming down and saying, "I want to join this church," and then six weeks later never come back again. You know when you decide this is your church? When you decide this is your church. I cannot decide that for you. You have to look at it all in its entirety, look at what we have, look at the preaching, look at all that we do, and you have to say, "I want this for myself and I want this for my family." Joining a church is not about me putting your name down on a piece of paper; it is about your commitment to a structure that God has ordained to carry out His good work. See how simple I make things?

In most churches, you have an active and you have an inactive role. I have never done that. But I do have an active or an inactive role, so do not misunderstand me. It is just not the same way. My active role is people that are involved with me in ministry in this church. That is my active role. My inactive role is people that come to this church every Sunday, every Thursday night, but never get involved in ministry. They are inactive. You are going to see as you come down through this that we think of worldly Christianity as being evil with God, but the concept is so simple. Maybe that is the problem; maybe it is too simple.

The Bible says in Job chapter 40 and Job chapter 41, those two great chapters on the devil, over there around verse 12 or someplace it says, God says, "I will not conceal his parts, his power, his company, proportion." Then he says, "Who can discover the face of his garment?" talking about the devil. Obviously, the devil wants to mask himself, so he takes the Bible from everybody, and therefore he can live within that absence of the Word of God that really defines him. That is why he hates the Word of God. But the devil's plan for mankind is very simple. He has got a two-point plan.

1. He wants to keep everybody from ever trusting Christ as their own personal Savior. He is pretty good at that. If you have done any personal work at all and you have worked with people in any way, shape, or form, you know that that is true. He has done a masterful job because a lot of people just do not want to get saved. But in spite of that, people do get saved. All of you here are saved for the most part, probably. I am sure you are. All of you, there is one back there I am not sure of, but anyway, all of you were saved this morning. So it did not work for you. Plan one got foiled for you.
2. Here is how he looks at it. He does not want you to get saved. Plan one is to put everything in your life, every person, every girl, every guy, every job, every money, every car, everything in this world to keep you from trusting Christ. But if you do, nothing he can do about it. He cannot get you unsaved, so he has got to put up with you being saved. So here is how he works. Here is plan two. He knows now that he has lost you to the eternal fires of damnation

because you are going to heaven. But plan two is if he now can keep you as a child of God who is going to heaven from impacting anybody else's life, he may lose you, but he will gain through your lifetime how many other people that you would have had an influence for Christ, but you simply will not do it. So his plan is simple. One, try to keep you from getting saved. When he loses you, he understands that, so now he goes to work on keeping you from doing that good work.

It is not hard to figure out the lost opportunities, the lost opportunities in all of our life. The judgment seat of Christ will just be a disaster enough, but to me, it will be a real disaster if He never says a word about anything that we did wrong, if He never beats us up, if He would just put on a movie screen from the time you got saved to the time the rapture came and you died, if He just puts up on the screen all the missed opportunities we had. Proverbs chapter 31, folks, is the great reality check of our Christian life. In a couple of weeks in our chapter, we are going to look at and see probably the greatest verse in all the Bible on understanding what the work of God should be in our lives. I do not know. It is one of the most incredible verses, one of the most eye-opening verses that I ever saw in the Bible. When I saw it some 30 years ago, it changed my life. It is one of those three, four things in your lifetime that you see in the Bible that just turns everything upside down. It is one of the most incredible concepts that God's people never grasp. It is incredible. We are going to look at it in great detail in just a couple of weeks.

When you understand the book of Song of Solomon, which really deals with our relationship, and you understand the work that God saved you for that we are to fulfill through that relationship to finish His work, and grasp, I mean really grasp the concept of us being a living sacrifice, and you now begin to get to your Christian life, will you really understand what that means? You will see that all the sins of the flesh that we get into as God's people, they may be doing evil to the Lord, I get that. And that is true. But I have got to tell you today, if you are a child of God, and you are out there in the world, and you are living like the world, and you are doing all the things that the world does, or whatever the case may be, those are only a symptom. They are wrong. It is true. They are wrong. It is sin. And it does hurt and spoil the work of God. There is no question about that. I understand that. But I also want you to understand that that is not the real problem. That is only a symptom of a very deeper problem. The real evil we do to Him is simply, for whatever reason, not to finish the work of God. You and me getting saved, and accepting His sacrifice for our salvation, and then saying no thanks to the fact that He wants us to finish His work, which is a living sacrifice. That is what it is going to take. Which He says in Romans 12:2, that it is our reasonable service. And we walk out there, saved, and on our way to heaven, and we look at God in the face, and we say, "To me, that is unreasonable. Sorry."

I have found in life that most people with issues in their lives, they do not want to really deal with the real problem. They want to treat the symptoms. But they do not really want to solve the problem. Of course, when you see somebody out there that is in the world and doing the things of the world, we think that that is the problem. That is not the problem. I have dealt with a lot of kids and a lot of adults that had alcohol issues or drug issues. The first thing, the parent wants to do, the kid gets busted, already got all these problems, and they all want to go the A.A. route. They always want to go to the world. All the world will do, listen to me now, whatever problem

you have, all the world will do is treat your symptoms. The world cannot, will not, does not have the ability to solve your real problem. I have had parents, I have had people that said, "Well, you know, my dad is an alcoholic or my husband is a drug addict or this or that, and he needs to get help, and we are going to put him into a rehab someplace." Unless I am involved in it personally, I just do not ever stick my two cents in, but I think how absolutely stupid you are, because here is the problem: you are wasting your time. Listen to me. You are wasting your time trying to rehab somebody's body until you rehab their heart. Because the body and the drugs are just the symptoms. You know what the real problem is in here? You will send them to rehab after rehab after rehab, and when they go out, they will go right back to the booze, they will go right back to the drinking, they will go right back to the world. You know why? Because they are the victim of the real problem, and the real problem, their heart needs to be rehabbed.

Maybe someday, I do not know, I doubt it, maybe someday God's people will learn the great truth out of Proverbs chapter 31, verses 12 and 13, and it talks about us doing Him evil, and we get the reality check that we realize that that is just not talking about you, that is just not talking about going out and living like the world as a Christian. That it is also talking about you being in church every Sunday, carrying the right Bible, singing in the choir, singing the songs, doing all the things. And someday maybe you will learn that the greatest sins that we commit against God are not the things that we do. Because that is the general concept today. I want to tell you today that God began a good work in you, and He requires you, He thinks it is reasonable for you and I to fulfill and finish that good work. There is no discharge in this war. In a ministry, you do not retire. You get old to the place you re-fire, but you never retire. You do not ever quit. There is no ending on the ministry. You do whatever you have got to do in whatever situation you have found yourself, in season or out of season. The greatest sins that we commit against God are not the things that we do; those are the things that we do not do. The sins of omission. The things that do evil to God and spoil His work is not what we do; that is what we do not do. We do not become that living sacrifice. We do not let God perfect that work in us. We get saved. We go to church. We find a big church that we can hide in. We find a big church where nobody knows if we are there or not. And then we just kind of go to church, sing the songs, talk about how much we love the Lord, and we become complacent. We become comfortable. We become lackadaisical. We become lethargic. We are Christians on Sunday, but we go right back to the world on Monday.

We are like Solomon. When you go back and look, here is the guy that was the king of Israel, and his downfall. Everybody thinks his downfall started with the strange women. That was a symptom. Everybody thinks that was because he loved gold, or he loved all these women from all these other countries, and they brought all their gods in. That was all true. But that was a symptom to where his problem started. His problem started in 1 Kings 6:38, when the Bible says that he built the house of God, and he built the house of God in seven years. And then in the very next chapter, in 1 Kings 7:1, it tells us that when he built his own house, he took 13 years. You know where the problem was with him? He spent more time building the things in his own life than he did the things of God in his life. Whatever you wind up, whatever you do, you may be in church every Sunday, and you are as complacent, and you are as lethargic, and you are as comfortable, and you are as critical, and you are lackadaisical, and you are just like Solomon.

You just sit back, let the world go by, enjoy your life, enjoy your family, enjoy your retirement, enjoy your times at the lake, and you never, never stop and consider that He died for you on that cross. He became your sacrifice for your sins, and now you and me need to be the sacrifice for Him, which is your reasonable service. God's people today simply spoil God's purpose and God's plan for our lives.

At the crucifixion, the devil tried to do the exact same thing. Psalms 35 is one of those great crucifixion passages back in the Old Testament. Incredible. Jesus is speaking prophetically here on the cross, His thoughts while He is being crucified. He says in Psalms 35:12:

*Psalms 35:12*

*They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul.*

The devil came to Him on the cross, the people that He came to, He came to on His own, but His own received Him not. The nation of Israel that He came to, to bring eternal life and give them the kingdom that they so desperately looked for and wanted, He brought the... Jesus is the only man who never hurt anybody, who did anything wrong with anybody, yet nobody wants anything to do with Him. You know what the nation of Israel did? They did exactly what the devil wanted them to do. They rewarded Him evil for His good. The tragedy is today that we as God's people are doing the exact same thing. We get into church, we take God's salvation, and then we just chill out. We go and we want, we do what we want, we use our prayer life as an order catalog from God. The only time we get close to Him is when we get into a jam, just like Israel. We do our own thing the way we want to do it. We could give God not the time of day. It is hard to believe that we would allow the devil to use us the same way that he tried to use Israel with Him on the cross. The spoil, His soul, the very thought and idea as you and me or this church or any church, playing church every Sunday, going through the motions, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof, helping your church service this morning to honor God when you have got the devil's Bible. Are you kidding me?

Yet if you would walk up and down to those mega churches today, you would see them sitting there so prim and proper. You would see the ladies all dressed immaculately. You would see the men sitting there, and the pastor gets up there, and whatever he does, they are sitting there, and they are paying attention. They have got their Bibles. They are nice, clean-cut people. They are people that are in their 60s and their 70s and their 80s now, and they are part of that generation that had some morality left, and they are good people. They are in their 40s and their 50s and their 60s, or they are in their 20s and their 30s, and they are young couples and their young families, and they are good people. They really are. But they do Him evil all the days of their life because they are not willing to become that living sacrifice. They want the easy route. They do not want any accountability to anybody. They do not want any accountability in ministry. They have become complacent. They are satisfied in life. They are in the senior years of their life. They are going to take it easy now.

Like a pastor said to me one time, he had been in the ministry for 30, 40 years maybe. I bumped into him up at a restaurant here last year sometime and had not seen him for a while. I knew him very well. I did not know that he just told me that he retired. He said, "Yeah," he said, "I gave it

35 years of my life." I want to tell you something. This guy, if he gave it 35 years of his life, it was on another planet. This guy never built anything. But you see, you get into that mindset. You have been in the ministry now for 30. It does not matter what you did. You know why? It does not matter what you did because you never looked at what you did as important to God and what God wanted you to do. So you look at yourself like you work at Ford or General Motors or wherever, and you hit that magical 65 or 70, whatever it is now, and then you just retire. They look at the ministry just like they look at the corporate world. They think now it is not what you did. It is not, "Did you do anything?" It is the fact that I paid my dues for X amount of years, and now I am going to go to the preacher dinosaur graveyard someplace. This thing was, "Now I am going to play golf on every weekend. I am going to enjoy my life now." Really? See, I do not know where I got this. I thought that you were going to enjoy it over there. Now I am not saying you should not play golf. Even though I hate golf, I mean, I think it is the most boring thing in the world. How do you guys watch it on television? I mean, you know, and then a guy will hit the ball, and it will come close to, and the crowd has to be really quiet because you do not want to mess up their concentration. I would never work at that. I would just wait until we got that. I would say, "Hey, how you doing?" and ruin the whole thing. But anyway, it is a thing where, and then the ball gets close to that, and everybody in the crowd goes, you can hear. You took a stick and you hit a little white ball, and it got close to the hole, and you think, "Oh, are you kidding me?" I will tell you what, I can give you some things in the ministry that you have the right to go about. But that is the world, you see. And they think that their time is up. They are done. I am going to tell you when it comes to the ministry, He said, "I will begin a good work in you and perform it not until the day you hit 70 or you retire, but until the day of Jesus Christ." You know what a guy like that has done all of his life and is continuing to do now that he is in retirement? He does Him evil. And he is a great guy, nice guy, does not drink, does not smoke, does not chew, does not hang out with girls. I mean, he is a nice guy, but he does Him evil every day of his life because the evil we do is not about what we do; it is about what we do not do, the sin of omission.

I preached a revival one time. I forget where I was now. I do not remember where I was, but I preached down there, and I preached for like five or six days. God gave us a great revival. At the end of the deal there, people were broken, and they were getting right with God. It was a good time. I remember that this guy that was probably in his 60s or maybe 70s, he came up to me, and he said, with tears weeping, running down his face, and he put his hands on my, grabbed my hand, and he just shook my hand, and he crying, and he says, "I want to thank you so much for being here this week." And he says, "I only wish, I only wish I had heard this message 30 years ago." And I said, "Well, I appreciate that, brother. I really do. But let me ask you a question. I get that. But what are you going to do with it now that you have heard it?" What do you think? You are past that point? You see, there is no end game to the Christian life. There is no, there is no exemption date that we are done now. There is no expiration date on you as a Christian. He began a good work in you, and He expects us through a living sacrifice, which is our reasonable service, to focus on not doing Him evil, but good. You know what that good is? That good is the good work that He started in you. I have seen God's people who have been saved 10, 15, 16, 20 years. And you know what? They have not moved any farther than the day they got saved. And yet they are in church every Sunday. If you ask them if they are saved and love the Lord, they

say, "Oh, absolutely. Yeah, absolutely." And yet, because of the reality they have lost, they have no clue that they do Him evil every day of their life.

## IV. The Virtuous Woman's Work: Seeking and Willing

Then look at Proverbs 31:13 here: "She seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands." Here come three more important words you want to get down. The first one is "seeketh." The second is "willing." And the third one is "hands." These are the most important words on us doing the work of God and not doing Him evil and spoiling His work.

Now the first thing we want to look at here, let us define this "wool and flax." Get that out of the way. Wool comes from sheep. That wool that the sheep gives up is used to make clothes. You are going to find that clothing and making clothing is a very heavy part of this virtuous woman's job. We will talk about that as we go through it. But wool comes from a sheep that will give up his wool so others can have clothes. In other words, the sheep will be, here it comes, a living sacrifice. He does not die to give up his wool. He stays alive, but he yields his wool on a regular basis for others. He is a living sacrifice.

When you go back in Genesis chapter 3, you will find that when Adam and Eve, before the fall, they were naked, and they did not need to be clothed. They were innocent. Once they got into sin, then they realized their nakedness, and they went to the fig tree and made them aprons of fig leaves, which forever has typified fig leaves and fig trees as self-righteousness. They tried to cover their nakedness with their own good works or self-righteousness. The Lord shows up, and He says, "That is not going to work." In Genesis chapter 3, He says that He makes them coats of skin. Obviously, write it down, from a lamb. That is such a powerful thing that over there in Isaiah chapter 61, verse 10, when it talks about salvation, He calls it the garments of salvation. You and me, we as Christians doing the good work, will do one of two things. You will make clothes out of wool and flax that will become garments of salvation for lost people, but for the saved people that you are working with, Revelation 19:8, that will be the white robes of righteousness. My job here is to help you make your own clothes out of the judgment seat of Christ. And then as you get involved in the work and do what God wants you to do, you help make clothes for others, either garments of salvation or the robes of righteousness. For the life of me, I cannot understand why some of God's people just insist on staying naked.

The flax is a plant. What you did is you got this plant, whatever they did to it, but it made thread out of it so you can sew the clothes made from the wool together and make garments. These two represent our very work of God. It is just that simple. I want you then to look at the next two key words. When she hears the wool and the flax, then she "seeketh" and she is "willing."

## V. The Qualities of Seeking and Willing

The concept of seeking, it starts with God. If God did not seek us out, we would never get saved. The Bible tells us in Luke chapter 19, verse 10:

*Luke 19:10*

*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

That is me and you. So this idea of you and me and seeking out the work does not start with me. It is one of the character qualities that gets in us through the virtue of Christ because that was His number one concept, to seek and to save that which was lost. She does this out of the right heart attitude based on her relationship with God and the virtue that she has built inside her. This woman seeks out opportunities, and when she finds them, she is willing to do the work. She is not sitting in a church this morning complacent. She is not sitting in a church this morning and walking out and telling the pastor what a great sermon that was and doing nothing with it. This woman never misses an opportunity. Most of God's people never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity. This woman does not. She seeketh out opportunity, and when she finds it, she is willing to do the work. As a child of God, you have to seek out and be willing to do what God wants us to do.

I have been in the ministry a long time, and you meet all kinds of people. The majority of them are very good people. There are always bad people in everything. We know that. But even the people who do not do what is right, in most cases, they are nice people. I have known some of the nicest people I have ever met in my life that I love them, but they are worthless. But it does not go away that I care about them or I love them. I hope someday they will get their head straightened out and figure out where it is at. But you are going to meet people that come to church. I understand this, so I am not going to hit this one too hard. But they will talk about it, in fact, "Well, nobody is friendly at that church. Nobody talks to me. I just do not fit in." Now I am going to give you this. That may be true at First Baptist of Raytown. And that may be a church in your mega church or your neo-evangelical church where if you wait in the upper bucks category, you do not mean anything to anybody. But I am going to tell you right now that is not true here. I have devised the greatest entry-level program that you could ever want to put you right in the middle of the action that God is doing here. It is by design. I mean, I have discipleship one and two. You know what happens to discipleship one and two? Well, you say you learn the basics of the Bible. That is true, but that is not the most important thing to me. You will learn the basics of the Bible if you just stick around here. What is important to me is the four goals that help establish you within the body of the believers because that is where you need to be. But you find people that do not want to be disciplined. Our prayer groups. Bob does a great job of putting them together in the lessons, and you do a good job running them. But you know what? To me, the lessons are a means to an end. That is one of the greatest entry levels that if you are brand new in this church and you want to find out what is going on and who is who and get into the know people and become part of what we are doing here for God, that is how you do it. That is why I change it every 12 or 15 weeks so you do not become stagnant and just become a good old boy's club or good old girl's club or a good young girl's club for that matter for some of you. No offense, ladies. But it is a thing where it changes everything up. You take all the activities that we have. Now I know we are under a little bit of a strain right now, but we have softball, and then we all go to Jason's Deli afterwards. We have volleyball, and then we all go to Jason's Deli afterwards. To the point we all get sick of going to Jason's Deli afterwards. And we have you guys do kickball and all the activities. We have Memorial Day picnic tomorrow. I know it is a little different than we normally do. I am sorry, I am doing the best I can with what I have. But

all those are designed to help you feel part of what is going on. It is not a new person that walks into this church that I do not see it. Somebody is going up and talking to them, four, five, six people. I am always telling them I am glad they are here. I will always go by and do that. You know why? Because we mean that.

I am just going to say this, and again, I do not want to hit this too hard. But the issue here is not us; it is you. You know what rule number one of life is? You only get out of something what you are willing to put into it. That is just the truth. You go to your job someplace, and there are people around you, and you never talk to them or never associate with them, or you eat lunch all by yourself over here in the corner. You are going to have a tough time in that job. It is a thing where in anything in life, and it is certainly true of church, certainly true of the ministry. You only get out of something what you are willing to put in. I do not care about your job, I do not care about your work, but in a church, you want to ask yourself, "Why is that?" The Bible says in Proverbs 18:24:

*Proverbs 18:24*

*A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*

You want friends? You want to have friends? Who does not? I mean, get past your dog and your cat. You want to have friends? Do you? "But nobody is friendly in that church." "Okay, well, nobody wants to be my friend. Nobody wants to be my friend." You want to have friends? Here it comes. He that has friends must show himself friendly. I mean, here you can bust into anything you want. You can come into anything and do anything. It is like when the terrorists were taking over all the planes. When I was flying somewhere, I would either wear dark fatigues or camouflage. And that way, if the terrorist ever started to take over, I would come up and I would say, "Hey guys, been waiting for you, what took you so long?" You have got to get in it. You have got to get in it. I am telling you right now. The real issue in most cases is developing a relationship with people in a church in time will make you be faced with a decision to get into ministry in that church. The real issue in most cases, you really do not want to do the work. You like that complacency. You like that going to church. You love going to church. You just do not want to extend yourself. You love the concept of coming to church, but the idea of being a living sacrifice turns you off. I get it. "Seeketh" and "willing."

There are two great examples of this in the Bible, and I think they are a masterpiece. The first one is in Genesis chapter 24. In Genesis chapter 24, you have got the great story that Eliezer, who is Abraham's steward, is going out to find a bride for Abraham's son, who we know as Isaac. Historically, it is a true story. He travels out and finds Rebekah, and she comes back, and she marries him. It is one of the greatest stories that you are ever going to find. Now we have a book back there at a bookstore, and I have taught this many, many times, that in that story are found 19 absolute fundamental principles on finding a spouse. Go through these instead of christiansmingle.com or whatever the case may be. These are infallible. You may go the other route and get lucky. Praise the Lord. I am happy for you, but I will tell you what, for everyone that finds somebody, it becomes a remake of the Bride of Frankenstein, I guarantee you, from

1935. Nineteen principles, and in that, you find that this woman that he is looking for. Now here is the picture. Inspirationally, Eliezer is a type of the Holy Spirit of God. In fact, he is not named in that passage. You have got to go someplace else to find out who it is because the Holy Spirit of God seeks not His own. So it is Abraham, God the Father, sending out the Holy Spirit of God to find a bride for His son Christ, typified by Isaac. When you walk through that thing, he is looking for her. You know the two things that he finds in her? The fact that she is willing and she is seeking. You know where he finds her when he finally finds her? This would be a good place to start for everybody. He finds her at the well. Here is a picture of the Word of God. I am glad he did not find her in a lake or a swamp or even a mud puddle because there is an awful shadow. I like the idea that he found her in a well. No, he did not find her in a well. "Hey Rebekah, throw your rope, come on up, you can get married." He found her at the well. The first thing she does is want to give him a drink. Because he has been on the road, and she can tell she has got perception. And now, once she gives him a drink, the next thing she says on her own, nobody asked her, "I will water your camels." And of course, she said, "Well, if you do that, I will not be able to smoke them until they dry out." No, that is fine. He said, "I will water your camels." And you know what the Bible says? She made haste. I do not know what you know about camels, but they are pretty obnoxious animals. They are worse than a jackass. And it is a thing where, and do not let the word jackass bother you. It is an animal, okay. You say, "You should have said you are a donkey." Yeah, but anytime I get a chance to cuss in church and do it good, I am going to do it the right way. So they are the most obstinate animal, and you have got to really know how to work with them. This woman gives the picture that she really is willing to do the hard tasks. She could have just gave him water and said, "Be done with it. Here, I will leave you the bucket and water your own camels," but she did not. He saw in her somebody that was willing not just to do what needed to be done, but to go over and above what needed to be done. She was willing. She was willing. It is one of those things where it is one of the most incredible pictures that you are going to find. She made haste. She did everything she was supposed to do, and she is never stopping. And then she says, "Hey, stay at our place tonight." This woman does not know the end of doing good. But that is the way we ought to be. I do not know what they are going to put on your tombstone or my tombstone, but I would be satisfied if they just put one little phrase: "He did not know the end of doing good." Because when He began a good work in you, He performed it until the day of Jesus Christ, and there is no retirement that takes it out. No quitting the ministry. There is no bailing out. There is no doing your own thing. That good work goes on right up to the day of the rapture of the church. And it is a good work because of the goodness that is in you, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second one is in Acts chapter 8. In Acts chapter 8, it will be the great story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. I think it is probably one of my favorite stories in the Bible. I have got a sermon on soul winning that I preach out of that. It is one of my favorite sermons to preach. Here you find another man who, and this one is in the New Testament, but he is willing. He is so willing. Both of these people are pictures of Christians who are obviously led by the Holy Spirit of God. Now we know that Philip even more so than Rebekah back in the Old Testament, but obviously she is following God too. But Philip is in the church age. He has had a great revival going on down in Samaria. Thousands of people are getting saved. He is so in tune with the Spirit of God that God pulled him out. He is the lead evangelist, and God pulled him out of

Samaria where hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people are coming to Christ and taking him to the backside of the desert where there was one man who had a need. I have known preachers and evangelists that would not come and preach in your church if you could not guarantee them a couple thousand people because they thought their ministry was too valuable to waste on anybody smaller than that. The only people dumber than them when it comes to the Bible in Acts chapter 8 are the people and the pastors who have them in to preach. What an arrogant attitude based on Acts chapter 8. Well, first of all, pal, I guarantee you Philip was a lot better preacher than you are, and he was getting a lot more results, and he did not even quibble when God pulled him out of the great revival in Samaria, sending him to one man. In fact, when he shows up, he sees this guy sitting on a chariot, the Bible says he runs. You know why? Because he was willing. He did not look at the circumstances of why he was there. He did not question the circumstances why he was there. When the Holy Spirit of God told him to go, he recognized the leading of the Holy Spirit of God, and he went. It was not, "Well, Lord, are you sure you have got the right guy? I have got a priest tonight down here, and there are 2,000 people coming, and if you pull me out, I just do not know what will happen." No, no, no. You see, doing good all the days of your life is not just about doing the good work, but it is about doing whatever He asked you to do, what He asked you to do it. Because you know that it is good. At the end of the chapter, after he goes through there, oh, it is a classic. I mean, the things that he says, the asking, it is everything you need to know about winning somebody to Christ. When it is all said and done and he baptized the guy, the Bible says the same spirit that brought him there now takes him out, and he goes to Azotus, and he is preaching there. You know what that tells me? I am sorry about your retirement. I am sorry about you quitting the ministry. I am sorry about you getting out. You know what that tells me? God brought him, the Spirit of God brought him to one place, and the Spirit of God took him to another place. You know what that tells me? Our job is never done. God began a good work in us, and He is going to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is just one experience, one adventure, one place from another. Listen, you have to seek the opportunities that God puts in your life, and then you need to be willing to do them. So your relationship with the Holy Spirit of God like Philip and of course Rebekah in Genesis 24 with Eliezer being a type of the Holy Spirit of God. You have to see them. You have to recognize them. You have to understand them, and then you have to be willing to make haste to do His good work. But when it comes to the ministry, real ministry, the Bible, ministry, people, we will only get out of those three things what we are willing to put into them.

## VI. The Hands of Ministry: Willingness and Action

Then Proverbs 31:13, our next word, "working willingly with her hands." Now the key word here will be "hands." The hands will always represent the work of the ministry. You will see that as we come on through here.

A great example of this would be Moses in Exodus chapter 4. You know there is more about Moses in the Bible than any other man outside the Lord Jesus Christ. More written about Moses. Moses is one of the key men in the Bible, and there are so many things. He is like Abraham. There are so many things. I have always looked at it where Abraham and his life represents the process to build a relationship with God, and I have told you that before. But Moses, on the other

hand, is the process of us having a ministry with God because he became the greatest leader that Israel ever had. You know this story, and it is a beautiful picture that I see in almost every one of you at some point or the other. God had a job for Moses to do. You know that Moses went through a process to accept that job. It was not just like God showed up and said, "I want you to go deliver the children of Israel," and he was on board because he saw the movie with Charlton Heston and knew how it was all going to come out. He struggled with it. He struggled with the ministry and the work of God just like so many of God's people do. That is why I never get hard on them. That is why I never get angry with them because I know the struggles are real. But I also know the answer is real.

When he goes before God and God says, "Look, I want you to go down to Pharaoh, and you are going to go up there, and you are going to tell him what I am going to do if he does not let My people go." And he just goes on and on and on. And Moses is terrified. He was okay to kill the Egyptian and bury him in the sand, but when he stood to take a public stand against Pharaoh, he did not want to do it. He is standing before God there, and the burning bush is going on, and God says, "Come on, Moses, you have got to get this remote out of gas, or the bush is going to go out. You need to make this decision." And he is standing there alibiing around. This is where the term comes in that we like to use in life, "beating around the bush." That is what Moses was doing. And he says, "Lord, I cannot do all those things." He says, "Who is going to listen to me? I am a nobody." He said the exact same things that every one of us has thought. Now you know what God's answer was to it? God did not say, "I am going to come down and give you the power that you are going to wipe out and kill everybody." He did not tell him that. Now obviously God did that, but God did not start there, and God will never start with just giving you the "voilà" that you need. You know what God, he is going on, and Moses is alibiing why he cannot do this and he cannot do that. And God just stopped him, and He says, "Moses, you can do it." He says, "Well, how am I going to do it?" You know what God said? He says, "Moses, what do you have in your hand?" He said, "Well, I have a shepherd's staff here." And He says, "You know what? I will just use what you have in your hand." You know that is where God started with Moses. And God did everything He did to deliver a nation of Israel by starting with just what he had in his hand. I am going to tell you right now, God has got a work for you, and He has got a plan for you, and you may be sitting out there afraid of it or afraid you cannot do it or do not want to do it, but I want to tell you when He starts with you, He will start just like He does with Moses, what you have in your hand.

Years ago, I had a guy who wound up being a missionary to Germany, and he was a good kid, and he came into the church, and he got saved, and he got disciplined and everything. I was running camps back then, high school camps, and we had these dirt bikes, and you know, it was the thing where we would take them down there, and you know how kids are with dirt bikes, they just tear them apart. So we would load them up on the trailer, and we all beat up when we came back, they would hit trees, rocks, brick, fenders, everything on them. So he came to me one day, and he says, "Bobby," he says, "He says, could I take those dirt bikes and fix them for you?" And I said, "Well, yeah, what do you mean?" And he says, "Well," he says, "I do not really know the Bible yet," he says, "I really cannot disciple anybody, but," he says, "I am a mechanic, and," he says, "I know how to work on bikes." And he said, "I will take them, and I will fix them up

every year after camp and make sure they are running." This kid wound up being a missionary. You know where it started? God says, "What do you have in your hand, son?" He said, "A wrench. I have a wrench." Penny Honsinger has been with me for a thousand years. She does not look that old, but she is. I kid her all the time about being my Money Penny like on James Bond. But you know Penny has been in my ministry forever, but you know what it started with her? It started with the fact that we went to camp, her and her mom Alice. I am sorry, Sister Alice. I said, "What do you, God says, what do you have in your hand?" They said, "Cooking utensils." That is where it started. I look at Sharon Gowins and Morgan. Everybody is sitting with the craft stuff, with all the little, with all the people. And though both of them could teach the Bible, but here again, God says, "Guys, what do you have in your hands?" "Crafts." I look at Christina at camp. Christina could teach the Bible to anybody, but you know what she has got? She has got these little goofy things right here. "What do you have in your hand?" I look at your husband David and Sam. They could both teach the Bible, involved in my ministry. You know where it started with them? They are both really good carpenters. So they built the obstacle course. They would fix and build anything. My point is this: God wants you to do a work, and you do not have to be afraid not to be able to do it because God will just take what you already have in your hand, and God will use what you have. Moses' fear was he was not able to do what God wanted him to do, and fear will always quench that. You know what God said to him? God said, "Moses, I do not care if you are not able. I just want to know, are you willing? Because if you are willing, Moses, I am able." Ask the question today. God does not care if you are able. God wants you to be willing. God began a good work in you the day you got saved that He wants to perform until the day of Jesus Christ, but there is a process that you get to that. It just does not happen because you are a nice person. In this church, it is hard for you to sit around and just be lethargic and just get comfortable because I will not allow you to do that. The Holy Spirit of God, my preaching style, will not allow you to do that. That is why you come and then you leave. I get it. You say, "Well, I just do not like being here anymore." That is two of us. I do not like you being here anymore either. Good deal.

The Bible says in Psalms 18:34:

*Psalms 18:34*

*He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.*

The process of God teaching your hands, our hands to war. I thought about this this week, you know that when Christ was crucified, they put the nails through His hands and through His feet. The two parts of His anatomy that have to do with the work of God. Did you ever see that? His feet carried Him and will carry you wherever God wants you to go. So Ephesians 6:15 says that our feet are shod by the preparation of the gospel of peace. His hands were, Psalms 18:34, the work itself that wool and the flax that He was willing to do. Look for Him, and for us, the two main parts of His body that represented where He went and what He did were nailed to a cross. To me, that is very instructive that for you and for me, my hands and my feet, your hands and your feet today right now need to be nailed to that cross. When your hands and feet are nailed to that cross, you do not have a right to do whatever you want to do with your hands or your feet anymore. You lost that option now; they are nailed, but they are nailed to the cross. If we would

get our hands and our feet and our minds around the cross, what He did for you, the sacrifice, it would be a lot easier for us to be the living sacrifice for Him.

Jesus Christ is God's right hand. He is His right arm.

*Psalms 17:7*

*Psalms 20:6*

*Psalms 48:10*

*Psalms 98:1*

*Psalms 118:16*

In the world, they will say, "I really love that guy. Yeah, he is a great guy. Boy, he is a good guy." You know what? I am going to tell you something, "I would cut off my right arm for that guy." You know that is exactly what God did for you. His right arm was Jesus Christ, and He cut Him off on the cross. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" He cut Him off for you and me. We say, "He is my right-hand man." That is Christ to God. He is His right hand, sits on the right hand of God the Father. But it also should be me and you in Christ. Are we God's right-hand man? Can God put us in any scenario and situation and know how we are going to react or respond? Or do you cut yourself off? Most of God's people do not want to be God's right hand, so they cut themselves off, so you know what that does? Talk about evil. That makes Him the antichrist in your mind because the antichrist gets a bad right arm, and he is left-handed. God forbid that I never turn God into being left-handed because of me. Proverbs 31 will kill you.

## VII. The Urgency of the Work: A Race Against Time

I have found in all my years really just two types of Christians. Those who are slow, lazy, totally undependable, careless, slothful, and have no interest in doing anything for God. It is all about them. And they may come to church all the time or do not come to church at all anymore. Then you will have those who, like Genesis 24 and Acts 8, they make haste. I call them my fast Christians. They will run after the things of God. They will run after the Bible. They will come into this church, and they will get saved, and you cannot get enough of it. You just keep wanting to get all you can get. You will realize what you have found in the Word of God here, and you just want everything you can get your hands on, and there is no stopping you. And you have got the slow Christians over here that are careless, and you have got your fast Christians over here that just make haste.

I thought about that for a long time, years and years and years, and I like acronyms. I thought to myself, "Fast Christians." The word "fast," what are the four characteristics that I want in my fast Christians? I said "fast," not "fat," just stay with me here.

- F - Faithfulness
- A - Available
- S - Spirit-led
- T - Totally teachable

That is what makes a make-haste Christian. Somebody that is faithful because they know they are a living sacrifice. Somebody that is available because they seek and they are willing. Somebody that is Spirit-led because of the fact that they will listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit of God in their life, and somebody that is totally teachable. They want to learn everything they can to be what everything God wants them to be. That is what it takes to do His good work. That is what it takes to do Him good and not evil all the days of His life. Forget the drunken, forget the world. I am talking about God's people who go to church every Sunday who have just forsaken the work for a lazy, complacent attitude. The good work that He started in you, doing Him good and not evil.

Our words so far, first couple of weeks we saw:

- The woman in strong drink
- The advice from Solomon's mother
- Opening your mouth for the little guys
- Opening your mouth for the righteous judgment
- Virtue, the character qualities of Christ we see in others
- The price, the price
- That price being far above rubies

I was thinking that this week. She is a precious gem, but that is not what God is looking for. God is looking for a pearl. When He finds a pearl, He knows that person is a pearl, is going to be everything to Him. I always thought it was interesting that He says "price far above rubies." Because when you are a pearl, God never has to worry like the old country western song, "Oh Ruby, don't take your love to town." It will always stay with Him.

- Far above rubies
- The heart
- The trust
- The safely
- The spoil
- The good versus the evil
- The seeketh
- The willing
- The hands

Fast Christians who run the race of Philippians chapter 3, verse 14:

*Philippians 3:14*

*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

And run the race that is set before them. There are three aspects to that race, and I will leave you with this.

3. The first aspect to the race is a race against lost opportunities. For us, it is the church of the closed door versus the church of the open door, missing the opportunities. We are in a race to get every opportunity that God gives us in these last days.
4. The second one, a race to do the work of God to finish His work in your life. Do not waste any more time. When you have wasted a lot of time, then learn how to redeem the time.
5. Last and probably most important, a race against time. We are the last workers of the last part of the church age that went in in the last part of the 1800s, and we are in the last few seconds of the 11th hour. And yet with God's people, there is still no urgency. As I said in the first time I took you to Matthew chapter 20, the question is not what time you went to work, but the question is clearly and simply this: Are you on the job? Doing the work with your hands willingly. And doing Him good and not evil all the days of your life.