

# Proverbs 31

Sunday 5/3/2020

The Book of Proverbs has been an incredible book for us. It really has. We finally arrive at the final chapter. As I said, without a doubt, this chapter will be one of the greatest chapters in all the Bible, not only doctrinally, but also inspirationally for us as a child of God.

Once we get past the introduction, which we are going to look at today in the first nine verses, it is basically a chapter on the work of God in our lives. The Bible says in Philippians chapter 1, verse 6, that at the time of salvation, He has begun a good work in us and will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

*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:*

When you got saved, a number of things took place. Obviously, the Holy Spirit of God comes in and becomes one with your soul and seals you until the day of redemption, so that your soul can never be tainted again, and He reigns inside you with the Holy Spirit of God. There are so many aspects to it. In fact, in our studies, it is kind of like our discipleship too. We have the seven things that changed about you the day you got saved. Most Christians that are saved are oblivious to it, and this again leads to a lot of issues.

When you got saved, one of the things that God did is He began a work in you. He says that He has begun a good work in us and will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. In Proverbs chapter 31, in the first nine verses, and then throughout the rest of the chapter, you will actually get to see this work that God has laid out in incredible detail. It is for the child of God to have a better understanding of why God saved us and what we are to be doing with that salvation. It is an incredible aspect. We talk a lot around here about getting God's mind, and that would be the Bible itself, and understanding what God wants to do with us and for us, and what He has for us.

## I. The Work of God in Our Lives

Most Christians do not think out of the box. They do not think of anything that really impacts much in their Christian life. But did you ever wonder why God stopped His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and ended His life at 33? He is the eternal Son of God, is He not? So why not just leave Him down here until the Lord is ready to come back? That would have solved a lot of problems.

Do you realize if Jesus Christ would have just stayed down here and not died on the cross, or died on the cross and after the resurrection never went back to stay down here, there would not be any Catholic Church? There would not be any Mormons. There would not be any Jehovah's Witnesses knocking on your door. There would not be any false religions. To me, that seems like the plausible way to handle it. The moment He went back to heaven, it opened up the door for all the false religions to start to unfold themselves, which only leads to confusion. Now, having said that, I understand why He did not do that. But I am just saying, why did He stop His life at 33?

They say life begins at 40—not true, but they say life begins at 40. Why not 40? Our retirement age is 65, 67. Why not 65 or 67? Why did God choose 33 years of age?

Do you actually think that God did not have a plan in that? One day the angels ran into heaven and said, "Hey, Lord, what are we going to do here? How long is He going to be down there?" And the Lord says, "Well, how long has He been down there? Oh, that is long enough." Is that what you think? That is the way most of God's people approach it. They do not have a clue why God sent His Son down here and then for 33 years left Him on this earth. Let us even get a little closer. He was down here for 33 years, but He did not start any real work or ministry until He was 30. So, in actuality, He may have been here 30 years, but He only did His work for three, three and a half years.

That is a great pattern. Christ's life is an incredible pattern of many things. In Bible Institute, I have just finished the final part of our study on the 11 dispensations. We laid out eternity as best we could, and all that we will do and be for God as His Son in an eternal sense. I think now the people that came to that, which most of them are very good Bible students anyhow, and on our website we have a lot of people get on that. I do not know if you noticed on Thursday night and even on Sunday morning, we have a lot of guys out there who really know their Bible pretty well. You have some idiots, but wherever you have light, you have bugs. It is just that simple. For the majority of the case, the guys out there really have a good handle on their Bible. Like I said, you have some idiots that get into the world of heresy and all that stuff, but for the most part, they are pretty sound fundamentally, and I appreciate that. I talk to many of them on the phone throughout the week.

We saw that in the New Testament, how that when you and I get saved, the Bible says that we become a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away, all things become new. The Bible says at that point, you are translated into the kingdom of His dear Son, and you become a child of God. From that point on, you are called a Son of God. When you go back to studying Adam and Eve in the garden, we know that Christ is called the second Adam. When you go over there in the New Testament and you read the genealogy of Jesus Christ, and it goes all the way back to Adam, it says that He comes down through Noah, then He comes through Enoch, then He comes through that whole line. Then He comes down, "who was the son of, who was the son of," and then He comes to Adam. Do you know what it says when He comes to Adam? It says, "who was the Son of God." That is an incredible verse. Everybody misses it. You could not get somebody to explain how Adam was the Son of God if your life depended on it. It did not say Adam was \*a\* Son of God. It says, He was \*the\* Son of God. Of course, the answer to that is that when Adam was created, he was created in God's likeness and God's image. That made him the Son of God. When you got saved, you got God's likeness, or you got God's image, which made you the Son of God. In the coming of time, when you get your glorified body, you are going to get the likeness. It is an incredible study to come through the Bible.

We become Christ through a new birth today. We get God's mind on everything. The Bible says in Philippians 2:5 that we are to let this mind be in us, which was also in Christ Jesus. That is the mind of God. When you get saved, you are called the body of Christ. You are called the Son of God. The Bible says over there in 1 John, "now are we the sons of God," right now. It did not

say, "now are we \*like\* the Son of God." It says, "now are we \*the\* sons of God." And it does not yet appear what we shall be.

*1 John 3:2*

*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

*Philippians 2:5*

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

Somebody asked the question here a couple of Thursday nights ago that I answered about millions of Christs being in eternity, and all of that stuff. The truth of the matter is that there are millions of Christs here today around the world if you are saved. What I am trying to say is this: the reason why God cut His life short at 33. We both know that Jesus said, "Oh, how many times I have come to do the work of my Father." Really? How come you did not finish it? If you came down to do the work of the Father and it was to evangelize the world with the gospel, why did you not stick around and do it? The answer to that is because God's plan was for you and for me, once we got saved, to become the child of God, the Son of God, and be everything that Christ is inside us. Now we, the church, the body of Christ, we as a Son of God, we finish the work that He started. That is how it works.

Over there in Matthew chapter 20, and I am going to start out with this next week, I think, when we get into the actual work. But in Matthew chapter 20, it clearly shows God sending His workmen into the vineyard to do the work. Those workmen are you and me. They actually line up the church history. I am going to show you next week how that, coinciding with the generation and everything that happens, the last workers go in right around the middle of the 1800s. We are part of that. God saved us, gave us His Spirit, restored the fallen image that Adam lost, and made us His Son, who someday we are going to get a body just like Him. God has a plan out into eternity for all of us. But right now, God has a plan for all of the Christs. If you are saved today, you are the Christ. He is living inside you. He saved you for one purpose, and that is to finish the work that He started.

I know by saying that, there are a lot of people that would have a tough time. My answer to you and your skepticism is simply this: I totally understand why you do not get that, and you have a tough time with there being millions of Christs today, just like there are millions of Christs into eternity. They are doing a work out there. We are doing a work now. I do not even have time to tell you how that the one is a pattern of the other one. But I understand why you struggle with it. Do you know why? If I may speak frankly, I will tell you why: because you are not doing the work now. You blew it off. You do not care about serving God. You do not care about the Christ that died for you on the cross. All you do is go around and try to figure out what you do not like about the Bible or what makes you uncomfortable about the Bible. All of that comes back to the fact that, sure, you do not get it. You do not want to get it. Do you know why? You are not doing the work. People like to make their Christian life complicated. It is not really. The question today to anybody is, "Are you doing the work as a Son of God?" It is just that simple.

## II. The Structure and Purpose of Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs has been an incredible journey through God's mind and through His heart. One of my favorite verses is Isaiah 55:8-9, where God says that His thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways.

*Isaiah 55:8-9*

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

It takes a translation from this life in a natural, unsaved sense into the kingdom of His dear Son. Through that translation comes a transformation that lets you see things as He sees them. That ought to be the goal of every Christian.

I have given this to you before: Proverbs is such an easy book to outline. I have said the first seven chapters, and I have reminded you of this quite often because I think it is what I follow, and I think it is vitally important. Proverbs 1-7 starts out almost every chapter saying, "My son." In those first seven chapters, he lays out to his son, obviously Solomon, the importance of getting God's mindset, getting God's understanding, getting God's perception of things. He talks about how to do that in the first seven chapters, which are incredible chapters. I always looked at it not only as Solomon's instruction to his son, but I always looked at it as God's instructions to me as His son.

Then I have told you many, many times, in Proverbs 8-30, this is where we get into the Proverbs themselves. They are incredible. What you have in Proverbs 8-30 is God's opinion, God's mind on everything in life. Then you get to Proverbs chapter 31, and then you have the finished product. In Proverbs chapter 31, you have the finished product of a man or a woman who will follow Proverbs 1-7 and then follow Proverbs 8-30 in their life, and make the mind of God their mind, allow God through that transition from the old world into the newness of light, the finished product being Christ fulfilling what He started in you the day you got saved. That good work is only fulfilled as you put the Book of Proverbs in the basic outline that I give it to you.

This is no illusion to anybody, but most of God's people will never accomplish that. They really will not. Most of God's people will never get there. They just will not. They have too many other things in their world. They have too many other things that they are involved in doing, and they just never get to that point in their life where they can ever get to Proverbs chapter 31.

You remember back in Proverbs chapter 2, when we were in those first seven chapters there, I gave you one of the greatest, I think, for me anyhow, passages in the Bible in Proverbs 2:1-5. I gave you the seven things that if you want to get God's mind, you have to do. I have a whole series on it, which I have got to preach to you today, but you remember it. He said in verse one:

*Proverbs 2:1-5*

*My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;*

*So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;  
Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;  
If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;  
Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

Okay, seven things.

- 1.) Receive His Word. We know what that means.
  - 2.) Hide His Word. Psalms 119:11. We have got it down. We have talked about that many, many times.
  - 3.) Apply your heart. In other words, just hearing what the Word of God says will not fix your problem. You have got to apply what you hear. You know this.
  - 4.) Cry and lift up your voice. There is your prayer life and asking God.
  - 5.) Search and seek. There is your study time in the Word of God.
- Then Proverbs 2:5 says, "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."

Notice, "find the knowledge of God." It did not say, "find the knowledge *about* God." It did not say, "find the knowledge that you can know the Bible." No, no. It says that if you do these things, you will find the exact same knowledge that God has, and it will be inside you once you get God's mind. Then through that, God does that perfect work. Incredible stuff.

### III. The Benefits and Value of Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs will give you ten things. I have these listed in my Bible, and they are things that I look at, and I think that every Christian should.

- 1.) Instruction. Most people do not like to be instructed. I call those kinds of people unteachable. You will find people that get messed up in the Bible, and you can show them a clear verse that wipes out their heretical teachings before they ever get off the planet. Because they want to believe what they believe so desperately, they will just ignore. They pick and choose. They are unteachable. They will not take instruction.
- 2.) Knowledge.
- 3.) Wisdom.
- 4.) Understanding.
- 5.) Justice.
- 6.) Judgment.
- 7.) Equity. That is balance.
- 8.) Subtlety. That is extreme acuteness. That is being able to see things as they really, really are.
- 9.) Learning.
- 10.) Discernment.

Those are the ten things that the Book of Proverbs will do for you if you follow the first seven chapters.

Somebody told me last week—I am sorry, I tried to remember who you were, and I even asked several people, "Did you tell me this?" And they said, "No, no." So, I have forgotten exactly who said it was. My Alzheimer's is kind of kicking in. But anyway, somebody told me last week, I think it was last Sunday, maybe it was somebody here, they told me that when they started coming to church five years ago, I was in Proverbs chapter 11. I guarantee you, I did not look it up, but it probably took me at least two years to get through the first 11 chapters. So that would put us around six or seven years in the Book of Proverbs if we end here within the next six months, which we will, obviously, in chapter 31.

I thought about that. I remember, oh, I do not know, what was it, four or five years ago, we had a few disgruntled people that left the church. God always comes down and cleans out the issues. One of the reasons—and it is never the reason that they say, but it is okay—one of the reasons was the fact that I was too long in the Book of Proverbs. In their mind, there is not that much in Proverbs that he should take all this time. It made me honestly stop and think. I remember saying this, I remember thinking this, I said, "You know, the Book of Proverbs is the mind of God. It is probably the deepest book in the Bible that shows you God's opinion." Then I asked myself, I was questioning myself, "How fast should we go through God's mind?"

That is what Christians are at today. They want to blitz through the things of God that really mean anything to them. Obviously, these folks did not care about the mind of God. They did not care about anything. But it made me stop and think. My conclusion is, the truth be known, I probably have not done a very good job on my part if I got through the Book of Proverbs, the mind of God, in seven years. It probably should have taken me 700 years to get through it. Then we would have to go back over and get another 300 years to miss all the things we missed in the first one. That really is a telling statement. When you have a book that clearly is defined as God's opinion on everything, and if you can get it, it will change everything about you to be for the work of God. How telling that is for somebody to want to speed read through that and get through God's mind as fast as you can and make an asinine statement like, "You know what, well, we are just spending too long in God's mind." Maybe too long for you, not long enough for me.

I have always said this, if I have said this for almost 40 some years, if there is one book in the Bible that I would give anything to have total recall on, it would be the Book of Proverbs. Yet, we did not get all of the Proverbs. 1 Kings 4:32 says that he had 3,000 Proverbs. We did not get them all, but that makes it even more special to me because, better yet for me—I cannot speak for you—that means for me that God handpicked the ones that He wanted me to have. Again, how fast are we going to blow through that?

*1 Kings 4:32*

*And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.*

In every situation I need to deal with, I always follow the Book of Proverbs. Proverbs 1-7 is really the foundation of it all. Then, of course, the mind of God is found in Proverbs 8-30, and then, wow, the finished result of that work that God began in us.

I am told in Proverbs 4:23 that the book will deal with the issues of life that come out of our hearts.

*Proverbs 4:23*

*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

It is an incredible book. It will give you knowledge. Knowledge is facts. It will give you wisdom. You will find that there are two kinds of wisdom. You will find that there is wisdom with understanding—that is wisdom with God. Then you will find there is wisdom without understanding, and that is wisdom without God. That is worldly wisdom, like it is found in 1 Corinthians chapter 2. Then it will give you understanding. When you put the knowledge of God and you get the wisdom of God, and at least the understanding of God, then you know how God looks at every issue in life. Now you get a glimpse inside the eternal mind of God. Because you are the eternal Son of God living inside you, and you are a Christ, now you know exactly what God wants you to do with the job that He has given you to finish what He has done. We will see that when we get into the Book of Proverbs.

#### IV. The Mother's Admonition to King Lemuel

Let us begin to look at our last chapter here. We are going to look at the first nine verses, which really form an introduction and an admonishment and a warning—an instruction from a mother that is given to her son. I cannot overemphasize the importance of mothers in the lives of their children. I simply cannot. If you do not know that already by the great mothers that are in the Word of God and the patterns that they set for us all through the Bible. Motherhood, in marriage and families, you have the role of the husband, you have the role of the wife, you have the role of the father, you have the role of the mother. I understand the Bible clearly lays those things out, but I want to tell you something: I could never overemphasize the importance of the influence that a mother has in a child's life in those early years if she is following the Book of Proverbs. Obviously, this is what we find here in Proverbs 31:1-9.

Let us begin to read it here:

*Proverbs 31:1-9*

*The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.*

*What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?*

*Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.*

*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor princes strong drink:*

*Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.*

*Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish; and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.*

*Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.*

*Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.*

*Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.*

Lord again, we come to You and we ask You to take this time today and open up our hearts, open up the Scriptures. Give us what we need to see. Thank You for people in our church that are tuning in today, and then all of those ones across the country and literally across the world who are tuning in today. We pray, Father, that we will always be here for them and be a blessing to them. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it. Amen.

A couple of things here in just housekeeping with this verse. The words of King Lemuel. Again, scholarship goes ballistic and tries to make this somebody else. But 2 Samuel 12:25, we also saw it in Proverbs 30:1, that we have different names for Solomon. That is obviously what you have here. Then it is a prophecy taught to him by his mother. This mother now we know is Bathsheba. The prophecy obviously is about what follows here, about him being king. Notice Proverbs 31:2 says, "the son of my womb, the son of my vows." The vows, or God getting involved in Solomon's birth and life, is found in 1 Samuel 12:24. So all this stuff is very workable to work your way through it. In Proverbs 31:3-9, she begins to give him a warning or instructions about how to be a good king. You will remember that Solomon, when he became king, in his famous prayer, had—now we know where he got all that. There are two things here that she admonishes him on, and they are great lessons for all of us.

## V. Admonition Against Worldly Women and False Religion

The first thing that she says here is, "Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings." This is great advice for Solomon, and of course, like most kids, he does not heed it very long after he gets into power. It brings about his downfall as king because the Bible tells us he has a thousand wives. Later on, we will see that these are the ones that turned his heart away from God, and he went after all the false gods. After a while, he is just like any pagan out there. He is offering his kids to the fire of Molech. He is worshipping the female deities of Ashtoreth and all that crowd. The warning should have been well heeded.

Inspirationally, it is a great verse for any young man. It is simply talking about giving your strength that God has given you. Remember now, if you are saved, He has begun a good work in you, and He is going to give you the strength to do that work. What happens with young guys is many times young Christians—I have seen it all my ministry, all my life, and I am sure that most of you have if you have been around here very long—we see that a young man will take that strength that God gave him, and a woman too, but talking about men here, he will take that strength that God has given to do that job and give it to the world. I have seen so many young men who had what I thought was great potential for God, and then it all gets thrown away over a girl or a gal or somebody. I can think in my mind, I do not know how many guys I have seen that came into this church or have been in my ministry and really had great potential. Then the devil—they are arrogant, they pick and choose, and they are lonely, I get it, and they want a girlfriend, I get it—so the devil brings in Susie Sweetheart, and it is all over. He now takes all those things that he was given to God, that God gave to him, and he gives them to the world.

I do not know how many times I have seen it. Since we have been here, I probably can think of seven or eight times where you guys invited some young guy in, and he was a good kid and started to get in, and then he meets some gal from another church someplace that is doctrinally messed up. I remember we have lost some to what I call "International House of Pancakes Church." We have lost some to them, the most screwed up cult on the planet. We have lost some to the big neo-evangelical mega-church. He starts going to church with her, and of course, she has no interest in the Bible, and after about 20 minutes with her, he has no interest in the Bible. So he goes to that church and loses everything. That is just the way it goes. I have seen him do it in a charismatic church, where that would be IHOP, or the neo-evangelical mega-churches. It is all over. He dumps the Book and all that God has given him and gives that strength to that woman or that religion.

Of course, doctrinally, I know it is talking about a woman here, "giving your strength to women," I get that, but doctrinally, we know who this woman is. We have seen her throughout the Book of Proverbs. We have seen her as the whorish woman, the strange woman, the wicked woman, the odious woman. We saw her in Proverbs chapter 5 and Proverbs chapter 7. We actually saw the case study in those two, how that she is a religion that seduces young men to commit spiritual fornication and winds up destroying them. It is a religion, Revelation 17 and 18, with the attire of a harlot. She is called the mother of harlots in Revelation 17:5, and we know that all the religious false religions of the world will one way or the other come out of her. Of course, we are talking about the Roman Catholic Church and Baal worship in the Old Testament.

*Revelation 17:5*

*And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

You could look down through history: the Roman Catholic Church is the great whore, Revelation chapter 17 and 18. It does not take a rocket scientist to figure that out. We see, four or five hundred years after she started, she split with the Greek Orthodox Church and then a Russian Orthodox Church. Those are her children. Then during the Reformation, we see it again with what is called the Protestant churches, and that will be the Lutheran, the Presbyterians, the Episcopalian, the Methodist, a little bit later on, the Church of England. They all come out of the Roman Catholic Church. They are her grandchildren, and then they all go back in like they are today. They are all connected together. A little bit later on, around 1900, we see her influence in the neo-evangelical movement. We see her influence in the charismatic movement, and we see her influence in the neo-orthodoxy movement, and it destroys all of those things. To the point where, instead of seeing it now, all the neo-evangelical churches—those will be the churches, by the way, that do not have a denomination in their name, and a lot of them were once Baptist churches that took it off so they could move into that because they thought that the name Baptist was hated so much by people and gave us a bad rap that nobody would want to come to your church. Well, it will never be the name of your church that determines whether people come or not; it will be the leading of the Holy Spirit of God. I know that is way over your head at this point in your life, and probably you changing, taking Baptist off your name, was a good thing because I certainly do not want to be associated with them. But push comes to shove, all you did

was trade one denomination for another. That is all you did. Now the denomination you are in now, by taking Baptist off your name and just putting whatever your name is now, you have lined up with the neo-evangelical who, back in the 90s, signed an accord with the Roman Catholic Church that you guys were going to kiss each other and say, "You know what I am going to do is I am going to run the lips hard and hold hands and sing 'Kumbaya' through the Catholic Church and the Protestants. You were going to win the world and evangelize the world." How is that working out for you? Obviously, you have not spent much time in the Book of Proverbs.

That is the way it works. Add to that, you have not only the Mother of Harlots producing all these churches, but then the devil produced his Bible. Right now, as we stand here, there are 120 different translations of the Scriptures. 120. That will probably change by the end of the month, but right now there are 120 translations. 119 of them are out of the devil's camp. There is only one that is of God. It is crazy. I do not know what to tell you.

This woman has been the topic of the Book of Proverbs. Have you ever noticed, maybe you have not, in the Book of Proverbs, you have 12 kinds of women?

- > A fair woman (Proverbs 11:22)
- > A gracious woman (Proverbs 11:16)
- > A whorish woman (Proverbs 6:26)
- > An odious woman (Proverbs 30:23)
- > An adulterous woman (Proverbs 30:20)
- > A brawling woman (Proverbs 21:9)
- > A strange woman (Proverbs 2:16)
- > An evil woman (Proverbs 6:24)
- > A contentious and angry woman (Proverbs 21:19)
- > A foolish woman (Proverbs 9:13)
- > A wise woman (Proverbs 14:1)
- > A virtuous woman (Proverbs 31:10)

*Proverbs 11:22*

*As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.*

*Proverbs 11:16*

*A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.*

*Proverbs 6:26*

*For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.*

*Proverbs 30:23*

*For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.*

*Proverbs 30:20*

*Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.*

*Proverbs 21:9*

*It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.*

*Proverbs 2:16*

*To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;*

*Proverbs 6:24*

*To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.*

*Proverbs 21:19*

*It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.*

*Proverbs 9:13*

*A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.*

*Proverbs 14:1*

*Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.*

*Proverbs 31:10*

*Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.*

The Bible makes it very clear she is hard to find. Along with that, you have a wise man, and in the Book of Proverbs, there are nine things that define a wise man. You have a foolish man, and there are eight things there that define him. The Book of Proverbs does not leave a lot to the imagination when it comes to people. Solomon is warned by his mother not to involve himself with the world system of religion typified by women. Remember now, 1 Kings 11:1 helps us to understand what she is actually saying within the context because it says there, "But King Solomon loved many strange women." 1 Kings 11:2 says that they turned his heart away from God, and Solomon clave to these in love. Of course, it was his downfall.

*1 Kings 11:1-2*

*But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;*

*Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.*

## VI. Admonition Against Wine and Strong Drink

The second thing he is not to indulge in as a king will be wine nor strong drink. We are going to have fun with this one. You will see this all the way through the Book of Proverbs: Proverbs 4:7, Proverbs 9:2, Proverbs 20:1, Proverbs 21:17, Proverbs 23:30, Proverbs 31:4. It is all through there.

*Proverbs 4:7*

*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

*Proverbs 9:2*

*She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.*

*Proverbs 20:1*

*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*

*Proverbs 21:17*

*He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.*

*Proverbs 23:30*

*They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.*

*Proverbs 31:4*

*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor princes strong drink:*

A number of months ago, I took the time on a Sunday morning and completely laid out the aspect of drinking from the New Testament. We now know that the definitive chapter on that is Deuteronomy chapter 32. Of course, doctrinally, this strong drink and wine goes along with a woman, and Revelation 17:2 says it is the wine of her fornication, which again goes back to the Roman Catholic Church.

*Revelation 17:2*

*With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*

His mother here is saying, as a king, these two things will become your downfall, all found in the world system of religion. Last week, we saw how that the devil is manifested as an angel of light. Historically, it is true of Solomon. Doctrinally, it is true of Israel, but inspirationally, it is any child of God who, like Israel, leaves God to go after another god, no matter who she may be. As a Christian now, you need to understand God's perception of us is not only that we are Jesus Christ, His Son. The day you got saved, I say it again, you were translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. Now He lives inside you, and now you are Christ. He did that because the day you got saved, He began a good work in you, and He wants to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ, which is the rapture of the church. So keep that in mind now.

His inspiration is any child of God who, like Israel, leaves God for another God. As a Christian, someday we are going to reign with Christ as a king. Right now, Romans 8:17 says that we are doing the work of God, but we are going to reign with Him as a joint heir. A joint heir is an equal part. Do you know why? Because you are an equal part; you are Christ. When you start to look at why God has millions of Christs doing the work for Him today when He is up there in heaven, it will give you a great reason why in eternity there are going to be millions of Christs doing the work. We will stop right there. I do not want to ruin your lunch. But as a king, we have an inheritance, and in the millennium, we reign with Him, and then that reign carries out through all of eternity. But taking the strength that God gives us to serve Him now and giving it to the world system will get us dethroned very quickly.

2 Timothy 2:12, where Paul is giving instructions to his own son in the Lord, Timothy, a young man, and talking about this very subject. He says, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him." There is your millennial reign. "If we deny him, he also will deny us."

*2 Timothy 2:12-13*

*If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

*If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

Of course, that verse is used by people who teach heresy that you can lose your salvation. Nothing could be farther from the truth. You cannot lose your salvation. The greatest reason why you cannot lose your salvation is because it is not your salvation to begin with. So it is kind of hard to lose something that is not yours when it comes to salvation. But they cannot read, and of course, it says, "If we suffer," that means now doing the work, "we shall also reign with him." That is later. "If we deny him," you do not do the work, "he will deny us." Of course, everybody now says that means that, there again, He is going to deny you that you are not His. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you look at 2 Timothy 2:12 in the sentence structure, it says, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us." Salvation is not anywhere in the verse. What He denies you is the reign, not your salvation. If that was not abundantly clear just by the English structure in the King's English, He threw 2 Timothy 2:13 in there just to foul anybody up that wanted to take it any farther. Just read 2 Timothy 2:12-13 together. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us our reign then. If we believe not," there is somebody that completely walks away, "yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." That is a great verse that tells you whatever you are today as a Christian, you are Him, because He cannot deny Himself, that is you, because you are Him. All these millions of Christs around today. How can that be? It is easy when you do the work; you understand it. When you do not do the work, you cannot understand anything.

The great example to me is David, and I mentioned this Thursday night, I think I did. David starts out as a shepherd boy, very young, and he winds up as a king, the king of Israel. By the way, he is the greatest king that Israel ever had, including all of his issues, as far as God was concerned. I always looked at that as where we were at. Right now, we ought to be shepherds, and we are to be taking and tending the flock. Just as he was elevated from a shepherd, translated into a king, you and I right now should be shepherds doing the work, and when Christ comes

back, we too will be translated into being a king through that transformation process, and we will reign with Him.

## VII. The Dangers of Alcohol and Its True Purpose

The issues with both of these things that she is admonishing him over. Look at Proverbs 31:5: "Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted." I know some of you got excited about that. Some of you are going to stop at the liquor store on the way home. It is like the guy who was leading the singing one time. The guy was up there, and he says the pro-preacher was going to town, and he says, "You know what? We need to take all the booze and throw it in the river. Take all the beer, throw it in the river. We have got to take all the wine and throw it in the river. Take all the whiskey and throw it in the river." Everybody is going, "Amen!" The song leader gets up and says, "Okay, let us turn over to 432. Let us all gather at the river."

*Proverbs 31:5*

*Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.*

A king in our context here is responsible for his people. He has to lead them, and he uses his seat of power and authority to take care of them. It is his job to protect them, to help them. In a church scenario, though a pastor certainly is not a king in that sense, he is responsible for his people, and a church should do two things: it should admonish people, and it should edify people. When a king is a drunk or given to drink, he loses the ability to see or keep the right perspective in dealing with the judgment that he has to make. Then the righteous judgment that his people are depending on becomes a perverted mess. I say it all the time, you want to remember that everything rises and falls on leadership. It is just that simple. It is an absolute mess when it falls apart.

A great example of this right here would be in the Book of Esther chapter 1. Remember the story about King Ahasuerus? He has a party, and he brings all the people in, they all get smashed and all get drunk, and then he perverts his judgment. It is one of those things that is just a great concept as you begin to lay it out. As a leader, the principles of the Word of God will give you the ability to make good, sound, quality judgments. There are going to be times when you have to make judgments in the people that you have to lead. You have to make decisions about it. You have to have good judgment in the problems that you have to solve. Then you have got to have issues in your own life that you have got to deal with biblically, and getting God's wisdom is imperative. Proverbs 4:7 says, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." God's knowledge plus God's wisdom will be God's understanding in everything that you have got to deal with.

*Proverbs 4:7*

*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

In Proverbs 31:6-7, there will be some incredible inside truth as to why people drink. I know the world system pushes that all the time. Every beer commercial you ever saw, every billboard, it is

always a bunch of young people at the beach and some people having fun, so people associate that with it all. I wish they would make great beer and whiskey commercials with going down to the city union mission or some of the homeless people that we deal with, I think, but they are not going to do that. It is one of those things, and in this chapter, it is incredible inside truth.

*Proverbs 31:6-7*

*Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish; and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.*

*Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.*

You find today that 95% of the Christian churches, certainly the evangelical churches, and I am going to tell you right now, the churches that used to be Baptist, that have dumped Baptist off their name, the big mega-churches—the music is worldly, the preaching is worldly, and their lifestyle is worldly. All of those guys will get up in the pulpit and tell you what is okay to social drink. It just goes to show you how far we have come in such a short time within the 20th century that guys are either absolutely oblivious to history, or they are just stupid, or they just like to drink. I guess Billy Sunday was wrong and everything that he preached back in the 20s. Billy Sunday preached against the bootleggers and he preached against booze. He actually, through his preaching, was responsible for prohibition coming into this country, or one of the main forces behind it, and he preached against all forms of liquor. There was not any social drinking, there was not any of this, and he was one of the last great awakenings and openings of this church in the seven of them.

Why do I say that? Let me just say this. I was getting ready for church this morning, and I was watching the Joel Osteen thing getting ready to come on, and I only watch him to get the joke at the beginning, and I use him sometimes here. Kelly, my daughter, loves me too; she always knows, she watches him too, and she always said, "Dad, that was one of his jokes this morning." I said, "Yeah, it was." But actually, he gets them from me out of my books, and we do not tell anybody that. But anyway, right before his ad came on, it was a guy whose last name was Evans, and he showed all kinds of pictures of him predicting all these things that are now happening to us: the coronavirus, the great economic crisis. It shows him in different positions of prayer like he is really seriously involved in all of this. He wrote a book called *\*The Next Great Awakening\** that is coming, and what he is saying in his book and what he is putting out there is that through this great pandemic that is going around the world, it is going to lead us to another sweeping revival of people coming back to God. That is the coming great awakening, and of course, he is associating it with the great awakenings that have been down through church history. Obviously, this guy does not have a Bible, probably does not know the Bible, and he is more interested in making a lot of money off his book, so I get it.

But I am going to tell you right now, and I do not even have a book on this—I had a bunch of them in there, but I have a book right here that tells me there will be no more great awakenings. It was kind of scary when he said that because, given where we are at, given where this world is at, given the last generation we are in, yes, this whole thing may lead to a great awakening, but it will not be a great awakening with the Lord Jesus Christ. It could be the usher into the Antichrist after we are out of here. If you know anything about history in your Bible, you know that there

were seven great awakenings, and there is not going to be an eighth one. We know from the generation where we are at and why it did not go to change. Guys like that who come on and have all these serious things that they think about, that "I believe that this is going to bring another great revival to America," it shows you how stupid people really are because I just have one question I would ask him, and he could not answer this, but I will just ask you: Can you actually have a revival without God's Word? Can you really? If you can, I would like to know how that is. Of course, this is where we are at today.

You will find that most of them think today that it is okay to drink, social drinking. I have had pastors that are major mega-church pastors get up in the pulpit and simply say, "There is no difference between playing video games and drinking." I know churches where the staff members go out for lunch, and they stack their shot glasses. They put it on YouTube. They put it on Facebook. They just act like there is nothing wrong with it. The pastors get up there and tell them, "As long as you do it in moderation, it is okay." The pastors do it too. I have seen them post pictures on their Facebook or whatever somebody has sent me, that they are drinking a beer or whatever, and then put down there, "Now, don't judge me." Well, I am not going to judge you. I could care less. But there is one coming that is going to judge you. Do not worry about me. It is like people worry about you judging them. You do not have to worry about me judging you. You have to worry about God judging you.

I had a guy one time who went out and wanted to start a church, which he had no business starting, and he could not preach his way out of a wet paper bag, and my yellow lab, Daisy, knows more Bible than he does. He comes in, but they all do the same thing. They all come in and they talk to you, and they want to get your blessing. When you tell them, "Look, I do not think you are a pastor, I do not think you are this, but you go do whatever you want to do," then they all go out and tell everybody, "Well, I got God's blessing." I tell these guys, "You know what? You do not need my blessing. But if you are going to go do this, you better have God's blessing. What are you worried about mine for? I am nobody. I do not care." He said, "Well, I want Bob's blessing." You better have God's blessing in the thing. Forget me. That is where we are at.

So these guys are up there telling other people it is okay to drink, and they have counselors on staff. Have you ever stopped to think how, if you are dealing with an alcoholic—these guys do not deal with anybody anymore, they really do not. They probably have not all their life. They always subcontract them out to all their other staffers out there. But let me tell you something. You are going to have to take that stand if you ever dealt with an alcoholic. You are going to bring an alcoholic to your church, and he has lost his family, lost everything, and you actually believe that you are going to be able to tell an alcoholic it is okay if he just social drinks and does not go over and fall off the truck? Are you kidding me? It is the most ridiculous thing on the planet. You cannot tell your flesh you can have a little bit. You cannot. That is where we are at today. Billy Sunday had it right on the money, and he was back there in the 20s and the 30s, but everybody forgets that today. They do not see it because we lost the Book. We lost our minds. When you lose God's mind, it is only a matter of weeks, and you are going to lose your mind.

That is just where it is at. If you are not going to let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, the next question is, whose mind is going to be in you?

If you want a couple of verses that show you why a Christian should not drink, there are two best ones in the Bible right here. First of all, it says it is not for kings. If you are going to be a king someday, then it is not for you. If that was not enough, Proverbs 31:6 says, as a Christian, "Are you ready to perish?" Because that is what it says: "Give strong drink to him that is ready to perish." I am a Christian. Are you ready to perish? It says that they drink to forget their misery. As a Christian, probably true, do you need to forget your misery? I thought in all things we were more than conquerors through Christ. Is this taught anywhere in Paul's writings? In Romans 9:2, Paul says he has a heavy heart. In 2 Corinthians 1:10, he says he is in affliction. In Romans 9:15, he is feeling sorrow. Did he stop by on the way to Rome at the three taverns and get past his heavy heart, his affliction, and his sorrow by having a couple of drinks before he went to Rome? They actually have guys in Acts 28:15 that talks about Paul going to the three taverns; they actually think that that was a bar. I am not kidding you.

*Romans 9:2*

*That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.*

*2 Corinthians 1:10*

*Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;*

*Romans 9:15*

*For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*

*Acts 28:15*

*And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.*

These two verses should end it for the child of God or pastors who want to promote any form of alcoholism or social drinking in any way, shape, or form. Yet in these two verses, we see the real reason why people drink, and now we begin to understand. I get it. I know why God's people drink, and I know why unsaved people drink. Here is the key: Proverbs 31:7, "Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more." People drink because they want to forget. I get it. I have seen Christians whose lives are so screwed up, their families are so screwed up. They have lost everything. They have lost their family. They lost their marriage. They lost their children. They are lonely. They are broken. Their life is a dead-end street. They go through depression or are on drugs or on Prozac or on Xanax, and they have anxiety, and their life is that they just cannot go on anymore. No, they will never turn back to God, but they will turn to the bottle because in the bottle, you can forget temporarily. Alcoholism is nothing more than people that are trying to forget some things. I get it. If you are not going to let the Spirit of God

influence your life and guide you, then you will let the spirits that you get at Hy-Vee in their wine section do it for you. It is just that simple.

For a Christian, I get it, you want to drink and drown out your life because it helps you forget that someday you are going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account for the work that you are not doing. For an unsaved man, sure, you are going to drink to forget all you are going to face when you stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment because you have rejected Christ. I am going to tell you something, folks, write it down, tell everybody, you heard it here first: there are only two addictions in life. In 1 Corinthians 16:15, the house of Stephanas was addicted to the ministry.

*1 Corinthians 16:15*

*I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)*

You are either going to be addicted to the ministry, or you are going to be addicted to this world. Only two. Only two.

## VIII. Open Your Mouth for the Oppressed

In Proverbs 31:8-9, we are told as a king, a good one here, that we are to open our mouths about two things. This is what a good king does when he does not have the things that destroy him from being a king and pervert his judgment. This is the responsibility of a good leader or king, a pastor—and a pastor certainly is not equated as a king, but you understand where I am going—to keep him from getting his judgment perverted.

*Proverbs 31:8*

*Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.*

The first thing he says is that we are to open our mouths for the dumb. I have to explain the word "dumb" here. It does not mean dumb as in stupid. It means dumb as in somebody who cannot speak for themselves. When somebody is deaf and cannot speak, we call them deaf and dumb. They may be the most intelligent person on the planet. "Dumb" in the sense, and you find this used throughout the Bible, dumb in the sense that they cannot speak. They cannot speak because of the oppression that they are under.

Doctrinally, Solomon here, this would be a king standing up for his people when an injustice has befallen them. Both David and Solomon do this, as any good leader, any good king should. The great American joke today is an incredible joke that our government is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Our government cares nothing for the people. It is a self-serving, staying power at any cost, totally political in everything it does. At the end of the day, it comes down to every politician about two things: money and power. Two key words that drive it all. All you have to do is look at America going through the time that she is going through, going through all the struggle, people out of work, people on all kinds of deals, and the president getting up and saying, "We are going to do this, we are going to do this, we are going

to do this, we are going to do this, we are going to give you this, we are going to give you that. All you small businesses are going to get this, unemployment you are going to get this." You cannot get on an unemployment line on the internet because the system keeps overloading. In Kansas, they are so far behind it is unbelievable. It is one thing to tell your people what you are going to do for them, but then they see the fallacy of it when all it is is words and it does not work. Then you have the stimulus package that they were going to give away, and then they held it up for what, a week? Eight days? Because they are arguing back and forth over their petty little thing. They care nothing about the people, and you are supposed to believe it. Of course, it is one of those things where it is all about them. It has always been that way, or at least for a long time.

Inspirationally, it is a simple little rule every Christian leader, certainly every pastor, should follow, and that simply is saying that we need to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. That is our job, and I am to open my mouth and speak for them, the dumb, the ones who cannot speak for themselves, the ones that may be under oppression. I am to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. Most churches, most pastors, will rule their congregation in one of two ways: it will be through intimidation, or it will be through political means, and neither one is biblical. A pastor is there to serve his people by example as they serve God together, not for the people to serve him. Neither is biblical. If you have the power and authority of a pastor or a leader in a New Testament church, you use that power to make your people better, and you take your stand with them, never against them. I understand in saying that, there are times that they are wrong, and you have got to deal with it, but even in that, your job is to try to help them.

I cannot stand bullies. I cannot stand people who pick on the weak, people who position themselves or make themselves to look strong. I just have a really tough time with that. I have always had a problem with it. I found through lessons in life that most bullies are really cowards. They hide behind their bullying. I remember when I was in the eighth grade. I was not much, I was just a little fat kid, and I had not come into my own yet, and there was this bully that always, he was bullying everybody. I stayed away from him, and I did not, but then he started bullying me. I was not much, but I did not like bullies, and my attitude was, "You may kick my rear end, and I may be on the ground, but I am not going to put up with your bullying." I may lose the fight, but you will know you were in one, best I can do. It is one of those things where, so, he challenged me. In grade school, this was a big deal. Everybody, the word spread through the school, "It is going to be a fight after school today." I cannot even remember this guy. He was bigger than me. But I did not care. I mean, I was not going to be bullied. I just figured, he may get the best of me and may put me in the hospital, but he will be in the bed next to me.

So it was a thing where, after school, everybody, it must have been a crowd of 50, 60 kids. We always had this lot about four blocks from the school where the fights took place. Everybody went around. He was a big guy. He was typical. At that point in my life, I was not much of a fighter. But at the same time, sometimes when you have a desire that you hate something so bad, you will find it within yourself to do what you have got. Later on, after I got in the Army, oh, but never mind that story. But anyway, we are in this lot. He is coming up there, kind of like David and Goliath, except I left my slingshot at home. This guy is up there, and he is, and I figured he is bigger than I am. He outweighed me by about probably 30, maybe 30, 40 pounds. I knew that

without any kind of fighting experience at all, if I was going to come out of this in any way, shape, or form, I had to strike first and strike fast. So it was one of those things where he is coming up, and he is making a show for all the girls that are there and all the guys. He is swaggering up, all this stuff, and he is talking and talking and talking. He got about two feet from me, and he is just talking with his hands, which is a perfect thing. You put your hands across your chest, you are giving me at least three seconds to nail you before you react to it. I just stood there. Look, I was scared, like, "Please do not hurt me, Mr. Man." All those things. So he lost his guard now. He is talking, and boy, all of a sudden, I caught him right in the nose. Blood squirted everywhere. I knocked him down. I just stood there. He got up in front of everybody and he says, "It is over, it is over," and off he went. I cannot stand bullies. I cannot. I do not know what he would have done if he had got up and really got mad. I had my .357 inside the back of my belt there. I probably nailed him with that. But anyway, I cannot stand bullies. Like I said, truth be known, they are all like that guy.

In ministry today, we as God's people need to stand up for the little guys who are the Christian schools and all the scholars and all the evangelicals. They are all bullied by those with some kind of education that they think they are smart, telling them, the young guys, young Christians, that God did not give him a perfect Bible and an intimidating Bible. Or that the verses are wrong in the Bible, and they need to be retranslated. The Bible, that that verse should not be in the Bible. The Bible has many contradictions and mistakes in it because it is only a translation by man. Back in that bookstore, I wrote a book a number of years ago, \*20 Lies About the King James Bible\*. It takes on the 20 things that they usually come up with. That book has been all over the place. They will tell you that the originals are the real truth. But unfortunately, you do not know Greek or Hebrew, but fear not, I do. So let me instruct you and tell you what your Bible means. All my life, I have waged warfare with those kinds of guys for the little guy. For the little guy out there that he just wants the truth, and they bully him. He does not have an education maybe like they have, so he is intimidated by it. So they just do what they do to try to manipulate them. I will tell you what, I have spent my whole life taking those guys on.

If I have learned anything through this virus mess and the shutdown, it has been how many people are still out there around this country and around this world who are dying just to get the truth. I am telling you, the little guys, the little guys who are sick of the phony churches and the phony pastors who will not teach their people or feed them, the mega-churches where all you are is a number. Last year, sometime on Joel Osteen, it was hilarious. He was talking about serving God, and he was talking about faithfulness. He said, "You know what? Just last week, we had a guy that passed away in our church that he was faithful in my ministry for 30 years. He would stand at that door, and he would shake hands, and he would welcome people, and he was doing the ministry." Then he should have just left it at that. But then he killed himself, and he said, "You know what? I never really met the guy. And I do not even know his name. He was one of those great..." You are kidding me. A guy in your church for 30 years who was faithful in ministry, and you never took the time to meet him? You do not even know his name? I bet you remember the name of the last guy who gave you \$10,000 to your church home. I am telling you, guys out there are starving to death to get the Bible, get truth.

We have them all over. My week is filled with either 10 or 15 messages, emails, or texts from people who are all over the place: from Florida and Ohio and New York and New Mexico, Nebraska, Iowa, North Carolina, Alabama, from Washington to Idaho to California to Missouri to Kansas. Just yesterday, I talked to a guy from California for probably 45 minutes. We have them around the world in England. We have them in the Netherlands. The guy from the Netherlands the other night was on Bible study and put in a question. I did not think about it at the time, and somebody clued me in afterwards and said, "Here we are at 8 o'clock at night on a Bible study, and this guy was in the Netherlands and people in England. It is 3:30 in the morning over there." There is somebody in the middle of the night they are going to get up to be part of a Bible study because they cannot get it over there. We have them in Africa. We have them in Mexico.

A couple of months ago, I got a text from a guy at Mike Veach from New York. Mike Veach is a great guy, and he has got a great church up there. He took over Mel Sobaka's church. He just sent me a little text, and he says, "I just want to thank you." He says, "I am in the Philippines right now, and we just finished a pastors' conference with 200 and some pastors that are all through the Philippines." He says, "I want you to know that we used three of your books for the textbooks that you had written." One of them was \*20 Lies About the King James Bible\*. The other one was, I think, \*How to Study the Bible\*, and I do not know what the third one was. He said, "I just wanted to thank you." Because I told him, I said, "Take whatever you want. You do not have to buy them. Just take them and print them off. Do what you want to do with them." How can you put a price on something that God has given you free? Are you kidding me? I know we sell things in a bookstore. But I guarantee you, that little sign in a little red bookstore up there is not the word "red" because you read it. It is red because we run in the red all the time. I am just telling him, you do not talk about those things. You do not get up and brag about those things.

I look at our church like that little story. Remember the little story about the little train engine, \*The Little Train That Could\*? It goes up that hill, "I think I can. I think I can. I think I can. I think I can. I think I can." Got to that hill. Started down the other side. "I know I can. I know I can." This is the little church that could. It goes to show you, you do not have to have 10,000 people for God to do something. We are reaching the world with the truth because we just believe the truth that God gave us. This is a church of the open door. Every week I get 10 or 15 cards or emails or texts, letters, just thanking us for the website and what goes on. When we put the Bible Institute on the deal, I just cannot tell you. I do not know why I did not do it before, but people just gravitated to it. It is just where it is. Every week, opening our mouth to those who want it, and they do not have it. If they do not get it, it is going to wind up, they are going to be appointed to destruction as far as their lives are concerned. They are tired of the fake New Testament Christianity. They will just get squabbled up. The bullies will push them around. Somebody needs to stand up for them. Somebody needs to take a stand and preach the truth and let the chips fall. I do not care what anybody thinks. I have one rule in dealing with people when it comes to the Bible: no quarter asked, no quarter given. That is just the way it is.

## IX. Judge Righteously and Plead for the Poor

The second time I am to open my mouth, or we are, is Proverbs 31:9: "Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy."

*Proverbs 31:9*

*Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.*

Here it is dealing with the decisions that we have to make and dealing with people. This is what Solomon's mother is referring to. There will be times when you have to deal with somebody on something, and people seek your help in the decision that they have to make, and they will call upon you. When you do, or when they do, you have to leave your emotions out of it. You cannot take it personal. You cannot look beyond anything other than the principles. A good king, in the context, a pastor—and an inspirational pastor, though a pastor is not a king, I say it again—will not make decisions on his feelings. Hence, you find when somebody gets boozed up, they lose their perception. He will make it on pure biblical principles, good solid judgment. Of course, you see examples of this all through the Bible. The greatest one is in 1 Kings chapter 3 when Solomon has to deal with the two harlots. He just simply deals with the issue based on the principles.

Our people ministry that is on hold right now because that is a closed deal, and we want to give you as much time as we can in the Bible, so we just doubled up on the Bible Institute. But our people ministry was simply taking 80 or 90 people who really wanted to work with me and dealing with people. There are no great keys to it, no great secret to it. We started at the beginning of the Bible in Genesis, and now we are into the New Testament. I cannot remember, I think we are in Matthew now, and just following the principles, the models, and the patterns of dealing with people in whatever issue it may be. Following the Book, the value of all of our six or seven years in the Book of Proverbs.

Righteous judgment is simply always doing what is right with people, by people. Righteous judgment is never desired to hurt anybody. I tell people all the time, and we have people come in here, and they are beat up, and they have some issues, and they have been struggling with some things, and Christianity probably dumped on them and just gave them all kinds of problems. They are looking for a place to come and just rest. I always tell people, "Nobody will ever hurt you here. There is no ego here. There is no political structure here. You can pretty much do whatever you want to do, have whatever you want to have. Nobody is going to tell you, within reason, what you can or what you cannot do. You can learn whenever you want. You can have people work with you that you want to." We are here for that. I always tell them, "This is a safe place. Nobody will hurt you here." But then I also say, "You may hurt yourself, but nobody here will hurt you." The only way you hurt yourself is by stepping outside those guidelines and starting to cause issues; then we have got to deal with it.

Righteous judgment is never designed to hurt anybody. People make mistakes. I wish people did not do dumb things, but then they would be different than me because I do a lot of dumb things. We all do dumb things. We all make bad choices. Nobody is perfect. Righteous judgment helps us that even though we help them through keeping them accountable with the principles, we try to get them and make them better. We try to deal with the issues, and you cannot just snap your

fingers and fix somebody. I wish you could. I wish there was a magic stick or a magic formula: "Make your drink this, and your problems go away." It does not work that way. Sometimes you have to go the distance with people. Like I said one time, not only do you have to go the extra mile, but you have got to go the extra smile. You have got to be there for them.

A pastor will deal with his people in only two ways: it will either be righteous judgment that will help them, or it will be self-righteous judgment that will hurt them. We as a church, me as a pastor, in the context of Solomon as the king—and again, a pastor is not a king—should open our mouths. We should speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Help them who cannot help themselves. We should preach the truth of God's Word without any compromise, but we should always come to the place that the end result is to help somebody.

I found in dealing with people over the years, you get judgmental towards somebody, and you get to the point where you are not willing to forgive them, or you are not willing to work with them, or you just get an attitude about them. Sometimes God brings that back around in your own family. Sometimes the only way God can teach you that lesson is to give you somebody in your own world that is the same way. Even then, I have seen where they could not see it. We have to continue to, especially in the time we are in right now. This is why when I saw what was coming, I know human nature. I do not care how solid you are in the Bible or how much you know the Bible. No man is an island. If we, especially our church with all the camaraderie we have and all of the closeness that we have, if you do not have some form of holding it all together, you are going to have some issues. Never under any circumstances do you give your strength that God has given you to help others to give it to the world: false religion, the woman, the booze, the false spirits.

As we look at this work that God began in us, we realize that every one of us God saved, put His Holy Spirit of God, He lives inside us. We now are Christ, and our job is to finish what He started. In eternity, this is just the test case. Where do you get out there and see what you are doing? It is one of those things that we take the place of Christ on earth where His body, the body of Christ—the word "Christian" means "little Christ"—to finish what He started, the plan, the model. This is the work that God has for us. Next week, we are going to begin to break down the very, very key aspects to that work. We are going to look at it in an incredible way. If you are anybody at all who is interested in doing that work that God has called you to do—and I realize that some people do not really care, all you do is complain about what you do not like or this or that—I get it. I understand. We are on a trip to heaven, and on any trip, you always have bugs that hit the windshield. I get it. It is one of those things where we need to take care of each other. Now is the time where all of these principles probably more than ever.

If you are out there and you are flapping in the wind, and you are beginning to see it in your family, at some point, you have got to trust God. At some point, if you can trust God to get you this far in your life without getting the disease, you ought to be able to trust God to take you the other way. The thing you do not want is you do not want perfect health from the virus and be a spiritual bastard case. I am just telling you, at some point, you need to step up, lead your family, and say, "I have got to get what we have got to have because we cannot continue to do this any longer." Because it is taking a toll. Brother, it is going to take a toll, and it already has taken a

toll. Next week, we will begin to break each aspect of our work down that He talked about in Philippians 1:6. I am going to show you where we are as workers in the vineyard that God sent His workers' laborers into the vineyard.

*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:*

Again, Proverbs 1-7, "My son." Proverbs 8-30, the Proverbs themselves. Proverbs 31, the end result of getting the knowledge of God, Proverbs 2:1-5.

*Proverbs 2:1-5*

*My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;*

*So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*

*Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

*If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

*Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

I will leave you with this: the day you got saved, He began a good work in you, and He is going to perform that work until the day of Jesus Christ. It is either going to be a work as a vessel of honor, or it is going to be a work as a vessel of dishonor. But you are going to have to decide which it is going to be. We will hold up there. I appreciate you being here today. If you want to drop your offering in, if you have not done that yet, that is fine. I will be back online Thursday night.