



Sermon - November 12, 2017

Verses Covered This Week

Proverbs 1:8

1 Peter 5:8 - 9

Jeremiah 10:23

1 Kings 11:1 – 3, 9, 11

Isaiah 53:2, 3, 6, 8, 12, 10

Romans 8:26 – 28

John 15:1 - 4

So we're in the book of Proverbs, but before we go to the next verse in chapter 1, we are going to have to do a little bit of introduction. I want you to go to 1 Peter and look at chapter 5 and then we will go to Jeremiah chapter 10, verse 23.

There are three time frames for this world. There was the original timeframe when Adam and Eve, particularly Adam was there by himself, but then Eve was given to him. They have no issues. God is sovereign. He's actually given the world to them in many ways to do whatever they want. Because nothing, no decision they make would be wrong. They're incapable of error. They don't have any sin. Remember He said to them, "Look you name the animals whatever you want to name them." So in this realm, you have a sovereign God, our world, no enemy, and the world is perfect. Can't go anywhere and be stung. Everything's good and I have the ability to do what I ought to do. When Jesus comes back and He reworks everything it will be just like that again. The Bible says, and it doesn't explain what this means, but the Bible says that we will rule on thrones with Him in this timeframe. The enemy will be gone. He is banished. We will have innate wisdom. It's a perfect world. Nothing's broken in it. Nothing can sting us. We can't make a wrong decision here.

However, we live in a different time. We live in between these two times where God is still sovereign, but when Adam and Eve did what they did, they deeded this world over to Satan. Jesus said, "The ruler of this world comes and I have no part with him." So he is in control of this world, under the sovereignty of God, so that one day he won't be, but this is his world. It's a world that's broken; it stings us, it cuts us, it hurts us. And then we have two problems in addition to that. 1 Peter 5, verse 8:

⁸Be sober minded, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in the faith.

So we have an enemy, it's his world, we're basically behind enemy lines and his job is to do two things. He wants lost people to miss Jesus. He wants those of us that embrace Jesus to damage who we are so that God's glory cannot show up in us and through us. And here's the problem we possess. Look at Jeremiah chapter 10, verse 23. This is the other problem we face.

²³I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

So here's the problem we face, right. It's the enemy's world. It's broken. He's after us. And we are not smart enough to know what to do. We do not have the ability to make the right decisions in this world and so we face his onslaught, a broken world, and we don't know what to do. So go to the book of Proverbs, chapter 1, verse 8. So because of that, here's what Solomon says. Now I want you to listen, listen to what he says:

⁸Hear, my son, your father's instruction and forsake not your mother's teaching; ⁹For they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Now listen to this. He says that in 1:8. Chapter 2, verse 1:

²My son, if you will receive my words and treasure up my commandments,

Chapter 3, verse 1:

¹My son, do not forget my teaching, let your heart keep my commandments;

21 of chapter 3:

²¹My son, don't lose sight of these;

Chapter 4:

¹Hear, O sons, a father's instruction,

Chapter 4:10

¹⁰Hear, my son, accept my words

Chapter 5

¹My son, be attentive to my wisdom, incline your ear to my understanding;

Chapter 6

¹My son, if you put up

On and on and on, particularly in the first part of Proverbs, he is begging his son, Rehoboam, don't discount the truth of God in your life. Don't back away. Why does he say that? Because he backed away. You stay in Proverbs, listen to this. 1 Kings 11.

¹Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, Hittite, ²from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. ³And his wives, turned away his heart.

⁹And the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away,

¹¹And therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this has been your practice, you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, that I commanded you, I will tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.

Solomon was wrecked because he failed to take the wisdom, employ it in his life. And as a result of that, he is practically begging his son, "Please don't do what I did. I made a mess of my life. I didn't trust the Father. I didn't embrace that wisdom." So over and over and over it's almost, and the probably this frantic begging of his son, "Please don't discount who God is in your walk." Now, well you say, "What is the Father's instruction? Where is it?" It's here. This is it. It's what Paul said to Timothy when he said, "Take the teaching and give it to the church." This is it. This book is what you need, because you don't have the ability. This book is the teaching you need to be able to walk in this world with God's wisdom, when your own won't work. This is it. He tells his son, "Don't forsake it." That's the deal today. More and more I hear people forsaking this book. It's, and I hear this stuff, it's the same old line I had when I was in college from my Baptist professors. Number one, I hear, "You know, it's open to so many interpretations." Oh, oh, come on. Now there's maybe 5% of it that's difficult. 95% is not open to any interpretation. Let me show you.

For God loved the world so much that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have everlasting life.

Let me interpret that for you. God likes us, didn't want to lose us, gave His son so He can keep us. Is that pretty close? When the Bible says, in marriage the bed is undefiled so that physical intimacy is limited to a covenant, and I can't go outside of that covenant to enjoy physical intimacy. Is that really open to interpretation? When somebody mistreats you at work and they spitefully use you and they just absolutely wreck you, Jesus said, "Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." What are you supposed to do? Pray for them. Doesn't mean pray for them to die. And there may be a little interpretation there. But I'm just assuming we're smart enough to know that's probably not what He meant. So it's really not open to interpretation. It's really clear. The problem is adults. You have a problem interpreting the Bible, give it to your kid. They'll help you. Elton Trueblood wrote a book in the '60's. He was a philosophy professor and he wrote a book called The Humor of Christ. And the reason he wrote the book is he was teaching his 5-year-old son one day, and he was reading the passage about where Jesus said, "Look, you got a speck in your eye and your buddy's got a, I mean, you got a log in your eye and your buddy's got a

speck. And you're worried about a speck? You worry about your log." And his 5-year-old son started laughing. And Elton got furious and he said, "How in the world can you laugh at the word of God and he said, "You know, dad, that's really funny. I got a beam in mine and I'm worried about a speck in my buddy's." That's funny. And it is funny. But adults, we just don't get it. So you've got with interpreting the Bible, give it to your kid, you'll be fine. Because they can understand it. Because they take it for what it says. So, number one, it's not really open for interpretation.

"Well it's got a lot of errors." You know I had a guy tell me that more than once. And I always have the same response. I had this guy tell me, "Look, the Bible's full of errors." I said, I said, "I understand it's got a ton. Give me one." "Well, it has a lot." "No, no, no I'm good. I know it's got hundreds. So just give me one error. Just one. That's all I want. Just give me one." "Well, now the Bible." "Give me one." You can't. There are no errors in this book. As a matter of fact, it's amazing how it's always confirmed by archaeology. Anybody know the city, the only city, when Joshua entered the land that they burned? The only Canaanite city, my wife can't answer this, does anybody know what that city is? Anybody? Hazor. One of the Israel travelers. Is that Arranna? Who? Oh, yeah, I forgot you went. And you went twice. My memory is so good. So you go to Israel, sure enough, they have unearthed and excavated, you can see the burn line on the city all the way around the wall. There are no errors in this book. You say, "Well come on. Men wrote it. It's not supernatural. You've got to be kidding me." I want you to listen to just a part of Isaiah 53. Now I want you to listen to this. It talks about Christ. It says:

²For He grew up before Him like a young plant, like a root out of dry ground;

Roots don't come out of dry ground. It's a reference to the virgin birth.

He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.

There was nothing unique about Jesus Christ. That's why Judas walked up and he said, "The one I kiss is the one you're after." Because there was absolutely nothing distinct about Jesus. Our pageants always have him tall. He could have been short. That's all I'm saying.

³He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows acquainted with grief; ⁴He has born our grief, carried our sorrows; we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

What did they say on the cross? If You're really who You say You are, come down and prove it.

⁶The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

What does 2 Corinthians 5 say? He became sin that we might become the righteousness of God.

⁸He was cut off out of the land of the living, ⁹and made His grave with the wicked with a rich man in His death,

He died between two thieves and the rich man, Joseph of Arimathea, who had a tomb right next to Golgotha, picks Him up and takes Him in and buries Him.

¹²He was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

And

¹⁰It was the will of the Lord to crush Him, He has put Him to grief;

What does Ephesians 1 say? God chose Jesus to die. It's a tremendous passage. So for years the liberals said, "Nah, this is not, this is not part of the word of God. This was written after Jesus came. It had to be. Those prophecies could not have possibly been foreseen. It was written afterwards. After it happened, they wrote all this down and pretended it was Isaiah's passage." And I mean, nobody could debate that. It was argued and argued and the liberals were beginning to win. And even conservative guys going, "We don't know when Isaiah was written." I think God really does have an amazing sense of humor because in '48 there's a little Bedouin guy, he's 11 years old. If you're back in 1948 there's no iPad, there's no iPhone 10, there's no Gameboy, and you're a little guy and you're outside. What are you going to do if you're a little guy? What are you going to do? Throw a rock. So he's walking along chunking rocks. So he sees this cave. So what do you do when you see a cave? You're hoping an animal's in there and here you go. So he chunks his rock up in there. Boom! He hears something break and he's probably like every other little boy. He's like, "Oh man. What did I do and how much trouble am I in?" He goes home and gets his dad. They climb up in the cave and they discover these pots that are filled with pieces of paper. So they take them back and it's the Dead Sea Scrolls, right. This is why I love God. He's just got a great sense of humor. The only complete Old Testament book we find, which they date 200 years before Jesus. Of course it's a copy of whatever Isaiah's original book was 600 years before. But they, it's 200 years before the copy, before Jesus comes, and it's a complete book of Isaiah which has the 53rd chapter. So it was an amazing prophetic statement about Jesus that only God could foresee and only His hand could make this book absolutely supernatural. And He used a little kid chunking a rock, terrified he was in trouble, to vindicate His book. It's not open to interpretation really. There are no errors. And it is supernaturally vindicated by a holy God who spent 1,500 years, forty authors, and 66 books to tell you every single thing you need to know to make it in a broken world.

Let me show you. Go to Matthew 5. Look in verse 27. Matthew 5:27.

²⁷"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; ²⁸but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Now if you're married, the enemy's going to do everything he can as a man to wreck your home. One of the first things that, and there are a ton of affairs, I've dealt in 31 years here with over 250. There are a ton of affairs. They don't start with jumping into another area. They start with a man looking where he shouldn't look. If I just obeyed the simplicity of this scripture, and I look at one woman, and that's my wife, and that's the only woman I have eyes for, that's the only woman I

look, and when the enemy pulls somebody up, I don't look and I go back to looking at my wife. He can't wreck me. So the first thing the Bible does is give me wisdom for an enemy that is prowling around seeking to devour me. I have the wisdom from this book that he can't have me. There's the first thing.

Second thing. Go to Romans 8:26. Two verses before the Baptist verse. Romans 8:26

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷and He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose.

The world will sting you. I mean last Sunday we had a church that was stung violently by some insane, probably demoniac who went in there and killed half the church. Those that are left, how do they deal with a world that just stung them? This, I guarantee you they're having trouble praying. They're having trouble putting a foot forward, particularly the pastor, who's not there when his 14-year-old daughter dies, not only that but he's not only got that grief, he's got to pastor those and do those services for those people. How do you walk forward when the world stings you that badly? Because the Bible says that even when you can't pray the Holy Spirit in you does pray and somehow, no matter how bad you're stung, God will work it out for your good in some way. That is what you have. So you have verses in here. You have teachings in here that get you through when the world bites you; when it stings you, when it just cuts you.

And then you have the third thing. Look in John 15. Jesus is talking on the way to Gethsemane. Listen to what He says. John 15:1.

¹"I'm the true vine, my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of Mine that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes and it may bear more fruit. ³Already you're clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me.

Third thing it gives me is teaching. I abide in Christ, I stay in Him, I trust in Him, I walk in Him, I live in Him, I seek Him, I do that, He takes my life and bears fruit through it. So here's what happens. World stings me, I've got Scriptures to handle that. The enemy comes after me; I've got scripture to stop him. And then I have a third scripture that allows me to be used by God to undo what this enemy is trying to do in everybody else's life. I don't have the smarts to know what to do. I don't have the intelligence to know how to handle these things. But the great truth is that God has given me a book that is supernatural, that's absolutely true, that is not really hard to interpret, so that I can read this and know exactly how to handle when I'm cut, how to stop the enemy, and how to live in a way that I wreck the enemy. I have that here. Which is why Solomon begs his son, "Son don't forsake it." But then he adds this. Listen.

⁹For they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

He says, "Son, look, you've got truth. I don't want you to forsake it. I don't want you to put it aside, but here's the other thing, it's not enough not to put it aside, I want you to wrap your life with the Word." In other words, very simply, do it. Do what it says. Do it. I'm not going to ask you to raise your hands. When we went through 2 Timothy, I sorry, 1 Timothy, in chapter 1 there was a section that said we were to pray for those in leadership in our lives so that we can live a quiet life and so that the gospel can be presented easily. That's what it said in 1 Timothy 1. Your kids are in a school, you pray for the principal, you pray for the superintendent. Your husband works at the fire station; you pray for the fire chief. Husband's a policeman, you pray for the, you pray for those in leadership over your family. How many of you after we finished 1 Timothy have done that on a daily basis? We don't forsake it, but we don't wrap it around us. It's no good if you don't implement it. That's his point. You have people that are mean to you, you don't pray for them, you will become bitter and damage who you are in Christ. You don't believe what the Bible says, that God really can work in your life, then you will drop. And what happens to you in that church will absolutely wreck who you are unless you believe what God says and you implement that and you stand on it and you hand there. You can't just read it and look at it and say it's really cool. You literally have to implement it. And that's the key. So when he tells his son, he says, "Son don't forsake it and wrap it around you." Because it's the key and that's it for us.

We're going to see a lot of wisdom in this book on what we face in our life. It's going to talk about friendships, money, marriage, forgiveness, it's going to talk about a lot of things in this book. We've got to do two things. We've got to accept it as God's sovereign word and we've got to pull it into our life.

I had an e-mail a while back. I called the mom and said, "Can I," it was about her daughter, and I said, "Can I share this e-mail in church?" She said, "Sure." And I said, "Well ask your daughter," who's 12, "if that's OK." And she said, "Sure." So I want you to listen to this e-mail. 12-year-old little girl names Isabella in our church.

Our oldest, Isabella, asked one of the people I know earlier this week, "What do you believe about Jesus?" She followed that question with, "Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?" And when I expressed how proud I was of her for being bold, she responded, "Pastor Chris told us we needed to be asking these questions and to be bold about it."

We've got a 12-year-old girl who decided this is legit, it's real, and I think I'll do what it says. It's going to be fun to see who and what she becomes.

Let's pray.

Father thank You for Your word, its clarity, its power, its ability to affect who we are. Lock us down under it in two ways, Father, let us not disbelieve it and then once we believe it, let us pull it into our life so he can't have us, the world can't conquer us, and we can die being every single thing You want us to be. Honor all of that and thank You for the truth of Your word and the power to carry it out in the Holy Spirit You placed in us. In Jesus Christ name.