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# Campbell Chapel

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Sermon by Bob Bradley



## Sin and Temptation

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Bob Bradley

- Proverbs 7:6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,  
Proverbs 7:7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,  
Proverbs 7:8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,  
Proverbs 7:9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:  
Proverbs 7:10 And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.  
Proverbs 7:11 (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:  
Proverbs 7:12 Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)  
Proverbs 7:13 So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him,  
Proverbs 7:14 *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.  
Proverbs 7:15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.  
Proverbs 7:16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt.  
Proverbs 7:17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.  
Proverbs 7:18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.  
Proverbs 7:19 For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey:  
Proverbs 7:20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed.  
Proverbs 7:21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.  
Proverbs 7:22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;  
Proverbs 7:23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life.  
Proverbs 7:24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.  
Proverbs 7:25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.  
Proverbs 7:26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by her.  
Proverbs 7:27 Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Solomon is the writer here of the most of Proverbs. When you read the book of Proverbs, you will notice that there is a couple of different Proverbs, things that are there that are attributed unto other people. However, Solomon wrote most of them. You will read also here, when you read the Bible; you will find out, we know that the Bible testifies that Solomon wrote at least three thousand Proverbs. Here in Proverbs we have a 100 or 2 of them that the Holy Spirit has put down for us in the Holy Book to look at. We know that Solomon wrote and had a lot of poems and a lot of sayings.

Solomon, when you look at Solomon, he had a lot of wisdom. According to the world when you look at him and look at his whole life; he did not have much wisdom towards God because if would have, he would not have done the things that he did. As far as, worldly things and to be able to build and construct and have dealings with people; he was a very wise fellow. However, he had a lot of issues and we know that because of the lifestyle he lived and what he did. We know that he was a great builder. We know that he built and did a lot of different things.

As you read the book of Proverbs and these first chapters, Solomon is giving instruction. He is giving instruction to—as a parent would give instruction to his child, to his son. He wants his son, and he wants you and I to know, he wants people to know how dangerous that sin really is. Sin is a very dangerous thing. I don't know that—I think sometimes especially people who are spiritually immature, people who have not been on the way very long, I think sometimes and even sometimes old people that has been on the way a long time—there is going to be a reason for that and we will talk about in a minute—but I think sometimes we don't see the danger of sin.

I know when we read this story, I know that Solomon wants to... He uses a picture of people. He is a father talking to his son about a woman that lived in the city that she was a very immoral woman. She was a married lady. She lived a very loose life. She was someone that went out of the evening that seduced people that was simple, or very immature, people who did not see the danger or did not see what this woman was actually doing. Solomon says that his son did not even see the danger and that he was actually fending for his life. We don't see that sin leads to death. Sin leads to hell. Solomon wanted his son to know that.

He compares sin to a woman. We know that there are all kinds of sin. We know that there are many things we can do and participate in that will separate us from the love of God.

I do want to say this as we start here tonight; I do think that one of the enticing sin or sins that we have today is sexually immorality. Sexual immorality is running wild in our world today. Get this. God is the one that created sex. God did that. God is the one who created that. Also, God created sex to be between a man and woman that are married to each other. God created that. He created that so that the population could continue. as I have said here before. Every 100 years the population changes. We have 7 billion people on the earth today then 100 years from now, there will be 7 or 8

more billion people here and we won't be here. Therefore, God has instituted this way to populate and repopulate the earth. What happens is that some things get out of character in our minds. I think, and I know that this one particular avenue in people's lives has probably caused more issues than all the others combined because we are human. We are human. We are human beings. We all have the same desires. God put that in us. However, you must understand something. That is, we cannot do everything that we think that we can do. We cannot do everything that we want to do. amen! We cannot do that. There are boundaries there that God has placed.

Again, that is why a marriage—it doesn't matter what some of our states say in America today. I know that they want to say that marriage can be between two people of the same sex. Do you know what? God never instituted that. That did not come from God. God instituted marriage as one man and one woman and they come together in holy matrimony. They are going to live together. They raise family together. They raise children. That is God's plan. That is the marriage that God will bless. Amen!

Now that is not the message, but this is. Since that we have the issues that we have in our land and among people, and among people that go to church about immorality. We all have desires. We all have that. We can go a long way with that, but we do not have time because there is something that I want to get at. That is there. It is dangerous.

It is just like this woman. She is in the streets. She is looking for people—sin is looking for people that are spiritually immature. Just like this woman in the streets. Her husband is gone. He took a bag of money. He went on a trip. He is going to come back at the appointed day. Therefore, she is out here on the street at night, and she is looking for innocent, immature people that she can get. That is what she is doing.

That is what sin does. That is what sin does. Sin will—do you know what it will do—sin will work on me and sin will work on you. The temptations that come our way in life—there is a way that we can overcome them. God has made a way for us to overcome every temptation that comes our way. God will always make a way, make us an escape, for every sin, for every temptation that comes our way; God will always make a way of escape. Sometimes we do not want the route. Sometimes it looks good, it smells good, it tastes good and we go and indulge, and we commit sin, but God will always make a way for us to escape.

Sin is just like this lady. She is looking. Here comes an innocent guy down the street; a young man. The Bible says he is void of understanding. He is just an ole country boy. He does not have much street learning. He does not have—he has not been raised in a big city. Anyway, this lady had. She knew what she was doing. We know that she begins to feed him a line. I've been looking for you. I've been to church. I've paid my vows. I have done everything. I have been looking for you all day. I have finally found you. Do you know what? That is what sin will do.

Sin will brag on you. Sin will tell you how great you are. Sin will tell you there is not anybody like you. Sin will tell you there is no one that can do what you can do. That is

what sin will tell you. Amen! Do you know what it does to men and women's ego? We take that and swallow it hook, line and sinker. Amen! We do! You might as well be honest. You do. I have said this maybe here before.

I was talking to someone here—it has been a while ago—they were bragging that they went into a certain place and the person behind the counter was flirting with them. They were telling him how nice they looked. They did all kinds of things that was very suggestive. Some of the language was off-colored. He told me that he went in there she did, every morning—when they were on their way to work. What she was saying, what they were saying was they really think I am something. I thought and said, are you crazy? Have you lost your mind? It is not that you are pretty. It is not that you are someone that is irresistible. There is a devil out there that is trying to kill you. You are married! You have family. You have children. What are you thinking about? Amen!

That is what sin does. It brags on us. We are pretty. Look at them biceps! Man, they are big. Have you seen them? You see that? You know what I am talking about. You know what sin does? Sin has one thing in mind. Just like this woman and that is to kill you. That is all. That is what is going to happen to this young man. He is going to get in way over his head real quick. That is the back side of the story.

Now I want to talk about what will keep you from getting there. There is something that you and I need as Christian people—and we are all going to face this woman. Get this. We are all going to face this woman. Everyone of us will. Everyone of us sitting here, every man, every woman. If you are a man, you are going to face the woman. If you are a woman, you are going to face a man. Just like this lady is. You are going to face them. There is something that we absolutely must have if we are going to be someone that when temptation comes, when this lady or when this man comes calling and brags on us; we smell good. I just can't live without you. I will get way in over my head if I go on with too much of that.

This is what I want to talk about tonight. There is something that we can have. God has given us a way that when sin comes calling, we can say no. amen! Keith read about it. Do you know what Keith read? Talking about the commandments, when he read from chapter three, he was reading of Solomon talking to his son. Take my commandments, take my word and tie them around your neck. Do you know what that means? Keep them close. Keep God's Word close. That is what that means. If we are going to be able to withstand the temptation and the drawing, and the lusting, and the enticing of sin, then we are going to have to be very close to the Word of God. That is the only defense that we have. When Jesus came out of the wilderness, where He had been in there 40 days and 40 nights and He came out and met satan. Satan said, "If you be the Son of God, command the stones..." "If you are the Son of God, go to the temple and jump off and the angel will catch you..." "If you will just come over there and worship me, I will give you..." Do you know what Jesus did in those three temptations? He used the Bible. He used the Word of God every time satan would tempt with bread,

and to create a big scene and jump off the temple. He used the Bible, the Word of God. That is in the book. Isn't it?

What we need today if we are going to be able to stand, when this woman comes calling, or this man comes calling; we must have the Word of God. Look what it says here in verse 1, of chapter 7.

Proverbs 7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Solomon is saying to his son, Solomon is saying to us; God is speaking to you and me. "My son, keep my words..."

There is a woman come calling. She is going to be coming. She is going to be knocking at your door. She is going to be in the streets. You are going to see her. I'm trying to prepare you for that. Keep my words.

Proverbs 7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Do you see what that is saying? Solomon says, "Hear me. Keep my words."

Do you know what the word *keep* means? Get this. It means to guard. It means to put hedge about them, to protect them, do this so they don't slip.

Do you know what he is talking about? We need to guard God's Word. We need to have God's Word in our hearts and our life and we need to guard it and protect it, so it does not slip away. Amen!

I'm going to say this tonight. In your own lives—I'm talking about everybody and all the people wherever you are at listening to me tonight—your life would be so much better if you spent more time reading the Word of God. Your life would be so much better if you spent more time reading your Bible and less time reading Facebook. Your life would be so much better, if you would take care of yourself and forget about what somebody else is doing. You can do that when you take God's Word, read God's Word, keep God's Word, guard God's Word and don't let it slip away because the man and the woman are coming. You are going to have an encounter with them. They are going to be in the street. It may not be tonight. It may not be tomorrow. But they are going to come knocking.

He says here...

Proverbs 7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Proverbs 7:2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Get this. Keep my commandments and live. If you don't want to sin to kill you then keep or guard or protect my commandments. That is pretty close. Isn't it? That is a pretty strong statement. That is telling us how important the Word of God really is in our life.

You see, everybody knows immorality is wrong. Amen! We know that sexual immorality is wrong. Everybody knows that. We know that. We know the Bible says that. Here is the thing. When we keep God's Word close and we know what God says about fornication and adultery and immorality and all of that; when we know that do you know what we are not going to do? If I keep that close and I guard what He says in His Word do you know what I am not going to do? I am not going to jump the fence. Amen! I am going to keep this guy under control. It does not mean I am not going to meet the woman. It doesn't mean that you are not going to meet the woman or the man. You are going to do that, and I am going to do that. Amen! Do you know what we do not do when we keep God's Word close and we guard it and know what it says? Then there are some things that we just do not do. Do you know why? Because God said it is wrong.

Proverbs 7:2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Solomon said to his son, keep my words and live. Do you know what I know? If I would commit that kind of sin, do you know what it does? It destroys you. Amen! How many people do we know, pastors and preachers, deacons and church people has met the man or the woman. Because they did not have God's Word, and they did not keep it. They did not guard it. They just let it slip away. Even though they knew mainly what it said, it did not really mean too much to them. Do you know what they did? They participate. Do you know what happens? They die. Spiritually they start to die. Immorality kills you.

We know that God forgives. We understand that.

Get this. He says keep my commandments and live. Get this.

Proverbs 7:2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

I never saw that until I read that today. This scripture; I had not read this scripture for months. I was reading some other stuff today...I said this is what we need to talk about.

Proverbs 7:2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

I never thought much about my eye. Probably, if I was going to lose any function of any part of my body, probably my eyes would be the last thing I would want to lose and you would too. Amen! He says here; he talks about the eye.

The eyes—I learned something today. I don't have time to go into what all I learned about the eye. However, the eyes are a marvelous thing. Our eyes, our eyeball, especially the pupil part of it, the part that if you go to the doctor, *the part* we see out of; do you know what they can actually do? They can actually see in there. Amen! That part of our eye is the most tenderest part of all the parts of our body that is exposed; our pupil. We have something here that you never think about. I know you ladies color them. You curl them. You put some stuff on them. However, we don't ever think about our eyelids. Do you know what our eyelids do? It does it like this. If your eyes, see

something coming; do you know what it will automatically do? It will close. Do you know why? Because your eyelid is protecting your eye.

Now he says here; do you know what we should do? We should protect the Word of God just like our eyelids protect our eye. What do you think? Do you think the Word of God is important to you and me? Do you think us protecting it and keeping and living by it? Do you think it is important? Do you think we should protect its integrity? I don't have to defend it. The Word of God will defend itself. I cannot explain it because it is God's Word. I do not know it all. I do know one thing. I do know what it says. I know what sin is. I know there is a line there that you and I do not need to cross. Since I know what God says, I need to protect that. I need to live in a way that when we go out in the community and pass out flyers...

Do you know what people are going to do? People are going to say all kinds of things about us. I have never been anywhere and pastored a church anywhere here in Kentucky or Ohio that somebody did not have something to say. You know, gossip that they pass back and forth. Amen! I told you this here before.

We went and visited several months ago. He told me and said Bob I need to apologize to you. He said do you remember 20 years ago when this rumor was going around that you were having an affair with this woman? I said, I did not hear it. He said, well there was one going around, and do you know how I know that? He said, I was the one that started it. I said well, okay. I did not hear that one. He said, I want to apologize to you. I said why did you do that? He said I don't know why I did that. I do not know why I did that. A few days later we buried that guy. People are going to say all kinds of things.

Here is the thing. As long as, people are lying do you know what I know? We are doing something right. As long as, people are lying, then I know we are going in the right direction. Amen! When they start saying things like that and it is truth, then that is when we are in trouble. Amen! Protect it. We need to protect God's Word, just like our eyelids protects our eyes.

Our eyes are so valuable to us. To be able to function in today's world and society everything that we do. I know that technology has come a long way. But our eyes are very valuable and so is the Word of God. If we are going to be able to detect sin and this person that is trying to seduce and get us to do things that we know is wrong, then we are going to have to protect and we have to be protected by the Word of Almighty God. That is the only protection that you have.

If you have a certain issue in life—and we all have different things that bothers us. I will use this one as an example. If you were saved, or when you were saved; if you drank a lot of alcohol; do you know what you don't need to do? You do not need to go down and sit in front of beer joints and greet people coming in and out. Do you know why? Because that is going to be a big problem for you. Amen! We could go on with that with a lot of different ways there.

However, temptation is going to come and our only defense against temptation is the Word of God. We need to protect the Word of God. We need to tie it around our neck. The Bible says here in verse 3...

Proverbs 7:3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

Do you know what it says here? It says, put the Word of God on your finger. When sin comes calling, do you know what you can do? You can look at it because it is going to be real close. You have it tied on your finger.

Let me tell you this too. If you go somewhere and you have to take off your wedding band before you go in because you do not want somebody to see it; you do not need to go, because you are in way over your head already. Amen!

You need to take the Word of God and tie it around your finger.

I don't wear wedding bands. It not because I'm not married. Because I am married. On the backend of a truck 35 years ago, I jumped off the backend of a truck and when I did, my ring caught right there. I almost tore my finger off. I wear them every now and then but I don't wear them much. It is not because I don't appreciate my wife. It is not that I don't appreciate that we have been married forty-some years. Amen! I know that is a long time. I know she has put up with me a long time. I got you. I'm going to tell you something. I mean this. God instituted one man and one woman to be married. Do you know what I am glad of? I don't need to make any apologies to anybody.

Me and Deb have been married—we got married in July the 28<sup>th</sup>, 1973. That is a long time ago. Do you know that? Do you know what? I love her to death. Some days I could commit murder. I promise you, I could. Some days—I love her to death. Do you know what? Some days she could commit murder too. Amen!

Here is the thing. If we are going to overcome temptation, when sin comes calling; we are going to have to have the Word of God very close. We are going to have to have it around our neck. We need to write it on the table of our heart. Do you know what that means when you read it? It means to memorize it. When sin comes calling, if I have God's Word memorized then I do not need to go look it up. Do you know what I automatically know? I know it is wrong. It is tied around my finger. I have it tied around my neck. It is close. That is what we must have.

One thing that satan hates—he hates a lot of things. He hates me and you. He hates the Lord Jesus Christ. However, one thing that he hates is that he hates the Word of God. Satan hates it. He absolutely hates it.

If you want to live your life where temptations will not be beating you up every day—they are going to come—but keep the Word of God close. Read it. Study it. Memorize it. Keep it close to your heart. Do you know what? Satan hates it. satan absolutely hates the Word of God. That is the only defense that we have. That is all we have. That is the only defense that we have.

It is going to come. We don't have to participate. We don't have to dive in. Do you know what we can do? We can live our life pleasing to God.

If you need to come and pray, it would be a great time to come and pray. If you are here in the auditorium tonight, if you are somewhere listening around the world, if you need to call upon Jesus Christ it would be a great time for you to do that. He loves you. Jesus died for you. He went to the cross, suffered, bled and died that we could be saved. Come tonight.

Come and pray—