

IS THERE NO BALM IN GILEAD? Part 8

Pastor Jose F. Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

May 20, 2012

“Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?” Jer. 8:22

We return to Jeremiah 8:22 again this morning to our studies on: Is There No Balm in Gilead, this will be part 8. We have made the comparison between Jeremiah chapters 2 - 8 with Romans 1 as they clearly expose the awful nature of the propensity of sin in people. Both books, Jeremiah and Romans also reveal the effects of depravity when people move themselves away from the truth of God’s word that He gives us in revealing Him-self to us. From Genesis to Revelation we see the influence of sin in the reaction of people regarding God’s 3-fold witnesses:

- The Truth which is the Word of God, great light is given to us by God but man continues in Suppressing the TRUTH: Romans 1:18, *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who hold the truth in unrighteousness.**”*
- The Conscience: Romans 1:19, *“Because that which may be known of God **is manifest in them...**”*
- Creation: Romans 1:19 & 20, *“...**for God hath shewed it unto them.** 20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world **are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,** even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.**

God has given man a three-fold witness, the word, the conscience and creation to show all men that there is a God with whom we will all have to give account and so what does man do with this light and revelation? Paul tells us in verses 21-23, *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.”*

What an awful pattern, man in their vain imagination exchanges the truth for a lie, and seeks to deify himself and humanize God, by seeking to bring God to their level, thus, the awful results of this willful and obstinate rebellion: Verses 24 & 25, *“Wherefore God also **gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 **Who changed the truth of God into a lie,** and **worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator,** who is blessed forever. Amen.”*

Therefore, in our last message we showed the awful results of what happens when man professes to be wise in their own eyes wind up being prating and transparent fools! The

Psalmist wrote in Ps.14:1, *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”* Prov.12:15 says, *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”*

Those who reject God’s truth, God’s Word, the Bible for man’s humanistic ideologies will end up believing that they are wise in their own eyes only to become fools. Remember, that God has sought out to reveal Himself to man only to have man sidestep Him and worship the works of their own hands. God has made everything possible to know Him, but man willfully and obstinately rejects, His truth, His Word, the Bible! This is so sad, especially when you think about it because from the very beginning God has been pleased to reveal Himself to us. What is one of the purposes of the Bible? I’ll let John answer this question turn to John 20:31, *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

Now, as a reminder 2 out of the 3 revelatory means that God uses are insufficient to save us, but they do convey and communicate that there is a Living and True God to whom we will give an account of our lives one day. Again, the conscience and creation are insufficient to bring us to God, but again, it’s enough revelation to show and proof that there is a God. The word of God can be sufficient to bring us to salvation when the Holy Spirit quicken His word to our hearts in the grace of regeneration, this is called special revelation or supernatural revelation, the other two are called natural or general revelation. From the beginning God has been pleased to reveal Himself and He has never been without a witness as to the truth, that there is a Living and True God. The Apostle Paul preaching in Acts 14 says this in verses 15-17, *“And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: 16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. 17 **Nevertheless he left not himself without witness**, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”*

This morning, I want us to look at the aspect of revelation, from Genesis to Revelation in what is known as progressive revelation. By revelation I mean the supernatural communication from God to man. Now, since God is, one of His purposes in creating man was so that He would be glorified by His creation. How sad that it reads in Romans 1:21, *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”* If God seeks to be glorified, praised and worshipped by His creation, then He must by some way by means communicate His will to man. Why man only? Well, because in all His creation man was made in the image of God, therefore God purposed to reveal Himself to man. Immediately

after creating Adam and Eve, God spoke to them. God in His will chose to reveal Himself by words in giving Adam and Eve the essence of human language. All His other means of revelation or I should say, of self-revelation were set forth and defined by this one essential and fundamental means. God, the SOVEREIGN creator of heaven and earth sought to reveal Himself by speaking in words to Adam and Eve. How deep and profound is this, that the infinite and sovereign God of the universe made Himself known and understood through the means of human language! God took interest in being involved in His creation and He is still involved by the means of providence. God was not distant and far off, He was not hiding and in silence, NO HE CHOSE WORDS TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO MAN! God is not just a God who is ABLE TO DO, but A GOD WHO SPEAKS!

God purposed to reveal Himself to man. Man can know nothing of God, but only what God is pleased to reveal to him. Therefore, the need for revelation from God to man and God's communication is set forth in His love and mercy to man.

God spoke to Adam and instructed him in what was expected of him, Genesis 2:15-17, *"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* Adam and Eve knew what God had commanded and they also had communion with Him, but Adam sinned and that precious communion and relationship they had with God was broken. They believed the voice of another and sinned against God. So here we are thousands of years later and man continues to hear that other voice instead of the VOICE of GOD! Satan still pipes into the ears of sinners, *"Hath God really said; that if you die without Jesus Christ you will go to hell. Do you really believe that?"* Satan continues to deceive people by telling them, *"Listen, will a God of love really put people in hell."* Satan pipes loudly in the ears of people, *"Hath God really said, that you have to repent from your sins and believe the gospel, no, no, no, just do some good deeds and perform some religious rites and God will be happy, don't worry about hell, God loves you too much to send you to hell."* So people are secured in their carnal security and therefore, Romans 1:21-23 again, *"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."*

The fall of Adam had great effects upon the whole human race, because of Adam's fall man is now born in trespasses and sins, born spiritually dead estranged and separated from God. You see, the problem is that man is now born innately religious and has a longing and desire to seek and worship something. The sad thing; is that in their spiritual

deadness they seek a god of their own imagination, a deity of their own concoction, an idol something to quench that capacity to worship. This is why man will worship an idol, a tree, an animal, a totem pole, the sun, the stars, the moon and even people. Before Adam and Eve fell into sin, they had a special communication with God, it was a supernatural communication, it was a special revelation, but man fell and that communication was broken, but thanks be to God that, that He did not stop revealing Himself to man.

Thus, the need for Divine Revelation that transcends from the physical to the spiritual in the grace of saving knowledge. Remember we have been laboring for about 5 weeks in showing you, that God has 3 specific witnesses: God's 3-fold witnesses again:

- The Truth which is the Word of God, great light is given to us by God but man continues in Suppressing of the TRUTH: Romans 1:18, "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who hold the truth in unrighteousness.***"
- The Conscience: Romans 1:19, "*Because that which may be known of God **is manifest in them...***"
- Creation: Romans 1:19 & 20, "*...**for God hath shewed it unto them.** 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world **are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,** even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

God has given man a three-fold witness, the word, the conscience and creation to show all men that there is a God with whom we will all have to give account and so what does man do with this light and revelation? Paul tells us again in Romans 1:21-23, "*Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*"

We have labored to show you that, creation and conscience proves that there is a God, but they are insufficient in bringing us to a saving knowledge of God, they only teach and show that there is a God to whom we will give an account of our lives when we die, but the revelation of Word of God, the Bible, this is sufficient in bringing us to a saving knowledge of God. When the Spirit God takes His Word and quickens it to the heart it produces salvation. James 1:18 says, "*Of **his own will begat he us with the word of truth,** that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*" 1 Peter 1:23-25, "***Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.** 24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*" Now, the Word of God in and of itself cannot save, but when God the Holy Spirit

takes His Word and with POWER quickens it to the heart, this is, Divine Revelation, it creates regeneration, thus, the importance of believing in the WORD of God.

Now, we have seen that when man fell in the garden he was stain with sin and all the faculties of the soul were affected, yea infected with and by sin. God continued to reveal Himself to man, but this revelation became a twofold revelation, or there are two types of revelation by God and only one of these is sufficient for salvation, they both teach and show that there is a God, but only one of them is sufficient to save the soul.

- **NATURAL REVELATION:** This is also known as general revelation. God has given man an outward and inward testimony or an outward and inward revelation that there is a God. The outward is creation and the inward is the conscience, but neither of these is able to make man wise unto salvation. It gives knowledge that there is a God, but is not able to save the soul. General and or natural revelation does not teach man how to be delivered from their sins or how a man is to be saved; it just testifies to them that there is a God to whom we will give an account to one day.
- **DIVINE REVELATION:** This is also known as special revelation. Adam and Eve both heard the voice of God in the garden. After the fall God set in motion BY REVELATION the implementation of His plan of salvation. This began the aspect of Redemption in History. Immediately after the fall God began His Special and Divine revelation. As a matter of fact the First Gospel Promise known as THE PROTEVANGELIUM is made! Gen.3:15, *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”*

From Genesis 3 we see the redemptive revelation of God from its beginning to its completion in the advent of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ and the implementing of the WRITTEN WORD as the FINAL REVELATION of God, thus, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”* (2 Tim.3:16 & 17.)

Therefore, the need for Divine Revelation in the WRITTEN WORD! What a blessing that God would be pleased to reveal and communicate with man. Man is saved only by a revelation from the almighty, John 17:3, *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”* This same God has determined that men, *“...should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.”* (Acts 17:27) One of the earliest church fathers, Irenaeus said, *“The Lord taught us that no one can know God unless God Himself be the teacher; that is, without God, God cannot be known.”* I have a better quote that Irenaeus, how about a quote from Jesus Christ Himself, *“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither*

knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him." (Matt.11:27) God's purpose in creating man was to reveal Himself to man, but man rejected God's revelation of Himself and has exchanged the TRUTH for lie! Adam, as a man without sin, that is, he was created upright and holy, in his sinless state, EXCHANGED the TRUTH FOR A LIE and therefore, how much more will sinful man EXCHANGED THE TRUTH FOR A LIE! God help us, because not one of us is without excuse, since God has given REVELATION OF HIMSELF!

Now, in the essence of Divine Revelation there are 3 ways or means whereby God has been pleased to reveal Him-self:

- I. **Direct Revelation:** From Adam to Abraham, this is also known as the Patriarchal Period or Age and or Dispensation.
- II. **Specific Revelation:** From Abraham, to Moses and to Jesus Christ, this is known as the Mosaic Period or Age and or Dispensation.
- III. **Written Revelation:** The Scriptures or if you wish this present Gospel Period or Age and or Dispensation.

All these 3 fall under the aspect of Divine or Special Revelation. All of these 3 overlap each other at some point and the means used are applied at one time or another in various time periods until we received the fullness of the Written Word, Genesis to Revelation. Now, in the process of this revelation, not one way was higher or more spiritual than the others. Although, we do understand that each means of revelation adds more to the essence of PROGRESSIVE REVELATION until we come to the finality of the Written Revelation of the Scriptures. Under:

- I. **Direct Revelation:** From Adam to Abraham, this is also known as the Patriarchal Period or Age and or Dispensation. This Patriarchal era can also be known as: **THEOPHANIC**, that is, God was pleased to reveal Himself by visible appearance or if you wish, THEOPANIES. A Theophany is the appearance of God in the Person of Jesus Christ before His Incarnation. (By no means am I trying to indicate that the gospel was not preached in this era, all I'm doing showing the means whereby God revealed Himself in this era.)
 - Interesting to note that we find no miracles performed by men in this Patriarchal era or period. In other words, all the miracles were performed or wrought by God Himself directly to man without any human intervention.
 - In this particular era or time frame God spoke either directly to man by Divine appearances or He spoke by dreams and visions.
 - Gen.2:15-17 and Gen.3:8-19, God spoke to Adam and Eve directly. He

did the same with Cain in Gen.4:6. God also somehow spoke to Enoch because in Jude 14 we told that Enoch prophesied and finally took Enoch alive to heaven. God spoke to Noah, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Now, we also know that God spoke to Moses, Joshua, the Judges, Samuel, David and to the prophets all the way the New Testament, to Peter, Paul etc. Thus, we have God's revelation to man.

- In the Patriarchal Period, God revealed Himself by Theophany's and that all miracles were performed by God Himself. God revealed Himself, by Theophany's, by visions, by dreams, by miracles, by signs. You also see some of this in the subsequent periods also, but in this era, God and God Himself performed all the miracles and that in this era it was Direct Revelation from God to man. There is a lot more here and wish I could go to the verses where it shows God speaking to man directly, but we must press on.

II. Specific Revelation: From Abraham, to Moses and to Jesus Christ, this is known as the Mosaic Period or Age and or Dispensation. This period can also be known as: **THEOPNEUSTIC**, that is, God was pleased reveal Himself by inspired men and or prophets. God is now going to reveal Himself by direct communication with man. Man is involved in the aspect of miracles. God uses man to communicate Himself to us.

- Starting with Moses we begin to see God withdrawing Himself from direct communication with man as the means of revelation and seeks to reveal Himself by Specific Revelation, that is, by means of human instrumentalities.
- Remember that these times do overlap, so you don't see it quickly, but slowly progressing into God's revelation in the Scriptures alone. This does not mean that God completely was done with direct revelation, but that now He chooses to reveal Himself through the instrumentality or individual chosen for His service. Moses was a prophet, he prophesizes in Deut.18:15, "*The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.*"
 - God now begins to reveal Himself by prophets and therefore begins to send the people prophets to make known unto the people what God has said.
 - One of the first actions of God doing this is found in Ex.3:1-15. Where God calls Moses and reveals Himself to Moses and give Moses a message and Moses must convey this to the people.
 - After they were delivered from Egypt and Pharaoh and crossed the Red

Sea and are about to enter the Promise Land, notice what happens in Numbers 12:1-11 and in particular verse 2.

- This continued throughout this time period until the TRUE PROPHET Jesus Christ came, notice the words of Acts 3:22-26, *“For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. 24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. 25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. 26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”* Again, there is much here, but we must press on:

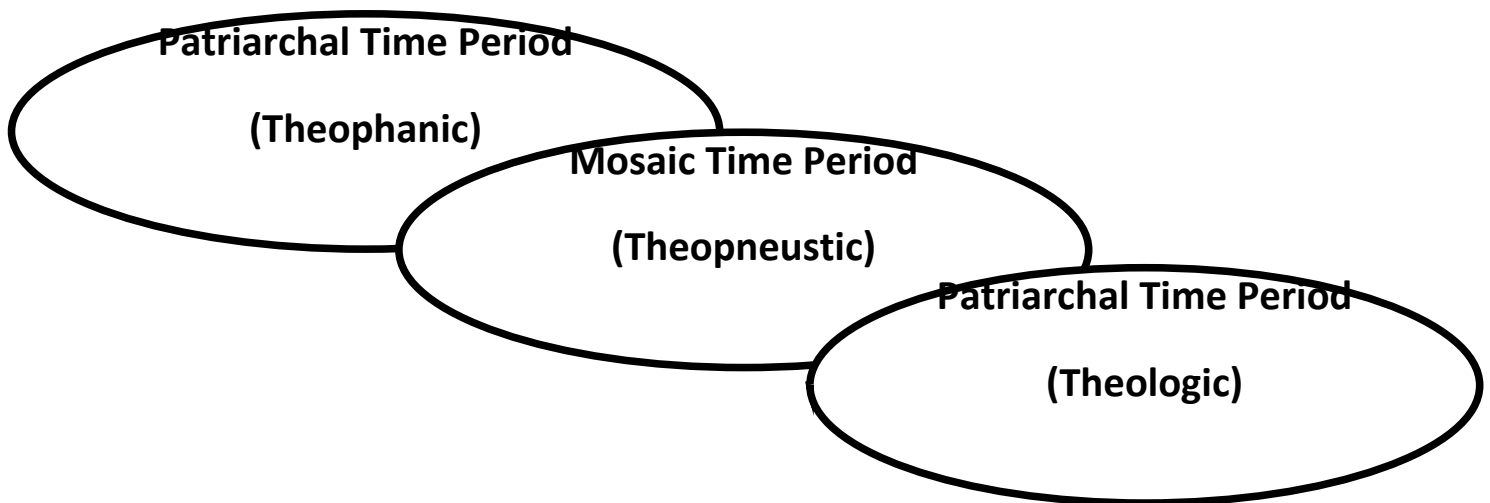
III. Written Revelation: The Scriptures or if you wish this present Gospel Period or Age and or Dispensation. This time period is called the Gospel/Christian age which can also be known as: **THEOLOGIC**, that is, God now reveals Himself permanently by the inspired writers in THE SCRIPTURES! The revelation of God is by inspired writers and so now we have Genesis to Revelation. This again is seen in what is known as progressive revelation. Thus, we see God by progressive revelation starting at creation, went from, Direct Revelation, to Specific Revelation and now in this age by Written Revelation. 1 Peter 4:11, *“If any man speak, let him speak as **the oracles of God**; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”* 2 Peter 1:16-21, *“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 **We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed**, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no **prophecy of the scripture** is of any private interpretation. 21 **For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**”* Again:

1. The Patriarchal Era is also called Theophanic, God revealing Himself by visible appearances.
2. The Mosaic Era is also called Theopneustic, God revealing Himself by inspired men, the prophets.
3. The Gospel/Christian era in which we live is also called Theologic, God

revealing Himself by the written word, the Bible.

Again the revelation of God is by progressive revelation. Notice the words of Hebrews 1:1 & 2, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.” God now speaks to us through His Son, the Word and we know that the Scriptures says in John 1:12, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” This is now the means that God uses in revealing Himself, the Bible.

As reminder these time periods overlap one another:



This is the means God has chosen to reveal Himself to man. God no longer reveals Himself by visions and dreams or signs, but by HIS HOLY WORD. The book you have in your hands, the Bible is a more sure prophecy than any dream, vision or sign you might desire. Do not take lightly the Word of God, because it is able to make you wise unto salvation. This concludes our comparison between Jeremiah and Romans 1 in setting forth God's 3 fold witness of Himself:

- The Truth which is the Word of God, great light is given to us by God but man continues in Suppressing the TRUTH: Romans 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”
- The Conscience: Romans 1:19, “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them...”
- Creation: Romans 1:19 & 20, “...for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible

*things of him from the creation of the world **are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

God has given man a three-fold witness, the word, the conscience and creation to show all men that there is a God with whom we will all have to give account and so what does man do with this light and revelation? Paul tells us in verses 21-23, “*Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*”

What an awful pattern, man in their vain imagination exchanges the truth for a lie, and seeks to deify himself and humanize God, by seeking to bring God to their level, thus, the awful results of this willful and obstinate rebellion: Verses 24 & 25, “*Wherefore God also **gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 **Who changed the truth of God into a lie**, and **worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*

Therefore, this is awful results of what happens when man rejects the word of God and then professes to be wise in their own eyes only to wind up being prating and transparent fools!

Those who reject God’s truth, God’s Word, the Bible for man’s humanistic ideologies will end up believing that they are wise in their own eyes only to become fools. Remember, that God has sought out to reveal Himself to man only to have man sidestep Him and worship the works of their own hands. God has made everything possible to know Him, but man willfully and obstinately rejects, His truth, His Word, the Bible!

How about you, will you continue to reject God and His word to your own detriment or will you bow the knee to Christ. I admonish you this morning, come in repentance towards God and in faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ! Come right now and lay hold of Jesus as your Lord and Savior, quit putting it off, do it now, let’s pray.

If not look at the awful result of rejecting God’s word: Let’s end in Proverbs 1:21-33.

Oh, I implore you again to bow the knee to Christ and throw down your arm of rebellion and lay hold of Christ.