

Topical Message
Sin-Filled Minds Part 1
Pastor Mac

KAPONO: Would you join me as we pray? Lord, as this New Year begins, would we do that, Lord? Would we look to You to lead us and guide us, that this year, Lord, would be something different in us? That Your word would activate like never before.

So would we receive Your word this morning? Would You speak to us individually, Lord, keep us focused, we pray, Lord. Thank You for Pastor Mac. Continue to give him strength to stand up here and proclaim Your name and preach Your word, Lord. So we ask these things in Your name. We pray, Jesus. Amen.

PASTOR MAC: Amen. Praise the Lord. And thank you. And please be seated. Well, good morning, church. On behalf of Pastor JD Farag, we welcome you here to Calvary Kaneohe, First Service this morning. For those of you joining us online, we like to welcome you as well. And if we have any visitors, we provide for you a special welcome with our overabundance of love and pray that we have time to fellowship after the service.

I do want to remind everyone about our next prayer meeting coming up this Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. here in the sanctuary. If you're able to come out and join us for corporate prayer, we would invite you to do so. Looking forward to our prayer meeting. Praying that the Lord will meet us there in a special way this year. So let's kick off the New Year with abundance of prayer. And if you're not able to come out, pray anyway, and never stop ceasing to pray.

Okay, church. I'm sure that most, if not all, of you know by now. But please allow me to read Pastor JD's announcement of Kellie's home going to Jesus from December the 29th, 2025.

And I quote, Kellie entered into the presence of the Lord on Monday, December the 29th, and is now absent from her cancer-riddled body, awaiting her glorified body, which she will receive at the pre-Tribulation rapture when we who are alive and remain will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, at which time we'll be with all our loved ones, countless multitudes of believers, and infinitely more importantly, we'll all be with our Bridegroom forever.

I truly hope you all know that Kellie made it very clear to our three adult children and myself that she so long to be with Jesus, knowing that the Lord would take care of us as her family

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until that glorious day and hour of which no man knows. This was always her blessed assurance and remains ours now more than it ever has.

As for celebrating Kellie's life and rejoicing in her eternal life, please kindly grant me the much-needed time to make plans as we navigate this difficult time for both us as a family and you as a church family. Once plans are in place, I'll let you know as soon as possible. And Lord permitting, I'm also hoping to announce that I will be returning to the pulpit sooner now.

Please know your grace and love in my absence has been overwhelming. I cannot even begin to thank you all enough for allowing me this extended time out of the pulpit to have one last wedding anniversary with my wife, in which we celebrated 37 years of marriage and 39 years together. I also cannot thank you all enough for allowing me to be out of the pulpit to celebrate our last Thanksgiving and Christmas together with Kellie. The Lord, in His amazing grace and unending love, knew we needed this.

Lastly, while we certainly appreciate your thoughtful kindness, sending flowers and providing food, we would kindly ask you to just simply pray for us instead.

I miss you and love you so, so, so much. And I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again as soon as I'm able. I'm just ever so grateful for you being patient with me. Until, JD.

That's the end of Pastor JD's announcement in regards to Kellie's homegoing to Jesus. And on the heels of that, for myself, Pastor Leitu, and the staff, we would also like to thank everyone who has continued to support Pastor JD through this most difficult time, as well as being so gracious to us as we do our best to fill in for him.

And we've been pretty silent on the entire matter for several reasons. But during our Second Service today, and even here, Lord willing, we'll look at an aspect that more than applies, as God's timing is always perfect. But as Pastor JD has requested, let's send up as many prayers as we are able on behalf of him and his family as they prepare for our beloved Kellie's homegoing service.

In fact, why don't we do that right now? Father in Heaven, we just come to You and humbly ask that You would cover the hearts of Pastor JD and his family. Guard them by the power

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and strength of Your might. Protect them from what happens when such a loss occurs. Strengthen them as they continue to look to You for all things. We're thankful that they are solid in Your word, and they stand on the firm foundation of Your hope. You are our only hope, our blessed hope, and our sure hope.

So Lord, love on them as only You can, and give us the understanding to support them in every area that they need. And in doing so, may You be blessed and receive all the glory for being a blessing to each and every one of them. We thank You for this in advance, knowing that You are so faithful. In the mighty name of Jesus, the Christ, we do pray. Amen.

All right. On Sundays, we have two services, the First Service normally dedicated to the Prophecy Update, and the Second Service we're normally in the *Book of Revelation*, and that will be complete upon Pastor JD's return.

But for today, again, I would ask that you join me in the *Book of Romans*, back in *Chapter 1*, and we will finish up from *verses 29 through 32*. I would also ask all who are able to stand to do so for the reading of the scriptures this morning, followed by a word of prayer. Again, we're in the *Book of Romans, Chapter 1*, back in *verse 29*.

And the word of God reads, **“Being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness. They are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud boosters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undeserving, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful, who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”**

All right. So why don't we pray and ask for the Lord's blessing on our teaching and time together this morning? Loving Heavenly Father, once again we come to You with our hearts bowed in position, asking that You would open our ears spiritually as well as our eyes, so that we may hear and see what Your word has for us today.

And as mentioned, we begin this new year with our First Service of the new year. Would You meet us here in a new way, uniquely so that we can start off on the right foot? Start off on Your word and end on Your word.

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So we thank You for what You're going to do with the time that You have given us today. We love You and praise You in advance. In the mighty name of Jesus, the Christ, we do pray. Amen. All right. Praise the Lord. And please be seated.

So as many of you know, our teaching for First Service this morning is the final part of our teaching titled, 'Sin-Filled Minds.' And this is actually part 3 of that one. And the last time that we were studying this, I mentioned why I chose to do a microscopic breakdown of sorts regarding these verses even though some of these words and terms are similar.

And the reason for that is in order for us to have a more vivid picture painted of those words so that we can see if we possessed the slightest hint of them within our lives. And that's so once we see any part of them, we can work on sifting out those aspects which keeps us from becoming complacent, thinking that we are completely exempt from any of this madness when we're not.

Because, again, let's not forget every one of us came from somewhere on this list or still struggle with aspects of this list, or even still are on this list dealing with a couple of thorns. And we also noted that this list is repeated at least some seven times throughout the New Testament in one way or another. And in those, each of those times is directed to the church. And we're going to be referring to at least one of these today.

Now, one important thing that I also want to remind us about as we get into all of this is that wickedness on the highest of levels, as high as you can think, cannot and will not ever be able to compete with the amazing mercy, compassion, goodness, and love that the Lord has for each and every one of us. It just can't compete.

And we had looked at the account concerning the most wicked king in Israel, King Manasseh, who ruled the longest of all the kings and did every imaginable wicked thing in his heart. But God, because of Manasseh crying out to the Lord in repentance, fully restored Manasseh after all of the abominable acts that he would do.

This cannot get lost on any of us. Every time we read the word of God, we have to remember that, also as we live our lives. Our God is more than amazing, and His goodness is indescribable. And again, this amazing love and grace still exists. All we have to do is call

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upon the name of the Lord, get to the cross, and make things right. So let's not forget this fact about the true and living God.

Now, we almost finished with *verse 29* with the last vice that we looked at being evil-mindedness. And we saw that this also fell under the confines of maliciousness. And we would talk about what being filled with these vices looks like.

And we also saw that this is the only time that we find this particular word used in the New Testament when translated from the Greek. And this makes this unique, and it also provides for us a deeper meaning of the Word. And I pray that's what we will see today as we continue and close out our study in *Chapter 1*.

So with the Lord's permission, we are going to continue with our detailed look regarding a few of these that we should be aware of, as well as extract some additional lessons from our text for our learning to consider and/or apply, all in the hopes to strengthen our walk as Christians by challenging our deeper understanding.

And with that, the next vice on our list. And for this round of vices, let's just simply ask this question. "What does it mean to be..." Followed by that description. Are we tracking? "What does it mean to be...?" Followed by what comes. We good? Praise the Lord on that one.

So for our first one for today, what does it mean to be whisperers? We're talking about sin-filled-mind whisperers. And this is one that may seem quite simple, but there is a slight difference and a hidden darkness within this. Because as used in the New Testament, this kind of gossip is at the highest level of being a secret gossiper, a secret slander, also known as the chief of tale-bearers.

And once again, people like this, their intentions go beyond simple, hateful gossip. Their purpose is to completely destroy the character of those that they are gossiping about. This is the goal. And people like this use truthful situations in regards to somebody's life, like information that pertains to a private matter that somehow they found out about, and then they take that information and use it in a way to shame those people in order to remove all of their credibility. Do you hear me?

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And guess what? When this tactic does not work regarding that personal information, all-out lies are added in until the ultimate goal is achieved. And like we said that goal is the destruction of that individual's character. And all of this is calculated and well thought out based on a mind that is full of sin. And each and every one of us has to be careful when it comes to this.

Again, we may not have minds that are full of sin, but we do have sinful hearts. All of us do. And it's too easy to gossip about somebody. And on many occasions, we don't even recognize that we're doing it. We'll be in a conversation, and then 20 minutes into it, a name will pop up. And now for the next 40 minutes, that's all we're talking about, is that individual.

Now, let's be clear. Not all conversations about someone is gossip. Do we understand that? Sometimes it's reflective in nature with no intent on being malicious. Sometimes it's investigative for information purposes that fit the cause without any malicious intent. Other times, it's informative in order to make future decisions such as potential positions for a person or some duty.

It can also be that we discuss individuals to see if they need help. And we also talk about people when they request we be a reference for them, right? And there's a lot of situations that this happens that's not associated with gossip. So we need to make that distinction. But what we are talking about here is none of that. And again, as Christians, we can be some of the worst offenders of gossip. And that's why the word of God speaks about it so often.

And we see this truth captured as a direct command as early as *in Leviticus, Chapter 19, and verse 16*. And pay attention to how this is written. As the word of God reads, **“You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.”**

And let's make sure that we notice here we have gossip and life attached together. Do we see this? And this is very fitting because we know that death and life are in the power of the tongue. So needless to say that gossip is deadly, and at all cost we need to defend against it. How do we do that? By heeding the word of God. Follow what the word of God speaks to.

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This is our defense regarding all matters, not just gossip. The more that we know and heed the word of God, the better off we all will be. Don't you agree?

And dealing with gossip is no different. So we'll look at five basic principles captured in the Proverbs alone dealing with gossip that will keep us out of trouble. And this first one is captured in *Proverbs, Chapter 20, and verse 19*. And the word of God reads, **“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets. Therefore, [Here it is.] do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”**

Simply put: Don't even be around them. And in doing so, they would prayerfully get the hint. And this next one is captured in *Proverbs, Chapter 26, in verse 20*. The word of God reads, **“Where there is no wood, the fire goes out, and where there is no talebearer strife ceases.”**

In other words, remove the source of the fiery gossip and/or keep ourselves from becoming the source or adding fuel to it, and it goes away or doesn't begin.

Now, taking ourselves out is easy. But this can be a challenge when it comes to other people. In many cases, what we end up having to do is just wait and allow the Lord to do it. Because when He does it, it's always perfect, and it prevents us from getting in our flesh and creating all kinds of problems. But according to the word of God, this gets rid of gossip, and it needs to be done.

We also need to know and are told in *Proverbs, Chapter 12, and verse 18* of the impacts that gossip has on people. The word of God reads, **“There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword. But the tongue of the wise promotes health.”** Gossip is piercing pain. This is what it does, and we all need to be aware of it. And we need to know that that kind of pain continues in *Chapter 16, in verse 28*. The word of God reads, **“A perverse man sows strife, and a whisper separates the best of friends.”**

Do we see that? The best of friends is separated because of gossip. So if that can happen to the best of friends, imagine everybody in between. And lastly, we need to know how God feels about gossip. It's an abomination.

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And we see this in *Proverbs, Chapter 6, in verses 16 through 19*. The word of God reads, **“These six things the Lord hates. Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”**

And we can find more examples throughout the scriptures, but I pray that we get the point. And like I've talked about before, for any and all conflicts within the body of Christ, the blueprint to resolve them is captured in the word of God. And all we have to do is be willing to follow it. That's it.

Now, there's one more thing that I would like for us to see as it pertains to a whisperer or whisper as captured in the Old Testament. Because this word in particular has a few different meanings. One of them is very interesting, especially how many have and still use it today perhaps without knowing this aspect as its translated from the Hebrew. And I'm not trying to freak anybody out. That's not that. I'm just making sure that we are all aware and informed. Okay, church?

That's my disclaimer. And when we look into this word in the Hebrew, we will find that the word "whisper" can mean "twitter," which means "diviner" or "soothsayer.” Do you hear me, church?

It's attached to witchcraft and magic, familiar spirits seeking to communicate with the dead. This is what "twitter" means in the Old Testament. And we can see this truth captured in the Book of Isaiah, in *Chapter 8, verses 19 through 20*. The word of God reads, “And when they say to you, Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper (twitter) and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead, on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Now, I'm not suggesting that this is the connection that Twitter may have had in mind. I'm not suggesting that. Not at all. Not one bit.

[Laughter]

Nor am I suggesting the reason why Elon Musk changed it to X is because of this because X means "mark.” Now, I'm not suggesting,

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[Laughter]

but I do find it interesting. And I wanted to make sure that we are all aware of this because typically all names have meanings, and many of them from these corporations come from dark places, and we should be aware of that. Verse 30 of our text, as the word of God reads. "...backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents. So what does it mean to be backbiters with a mindset that is so sinful? And just like being whisperers, everything from whisperers applies. But now this slander is completely in the open, no longer done in secret. And guess what? This is what Twitter and X are used for often. Hmm? Now, I'm not suggesting.

[Laughter]

Am I right, though? But in addition to all of this, lies are a must when it comes to being a backbiter. In fact, it could be argued that lies become the truth in the eyes of many because of this open slander. People believe it. Why it's not done on some single front? These slanderous accusations come from all kinds of angles. And people like this; they use every platform available to ensure that their slanderous rhetoric gets to as many people as possible, as quick as possible.

And again, we see this over so many of the social media sites. It's the go-to for modern-day slanderers. And that's not all when it comes to this kind of vice. Because we can see it being used nearly universally in so many respects. And what I'm talking about is the updated tactics used by modern backbiters today. Don't we see this in the form of disinformation, all kinds of manipulative tactics and algorithms?

Notice: when you start doing something, all of a sudden, things pop up, and you're like, how do they know me like that? And then what they'll do is inject things to get you thinking a certain way. And if we're not careful, that's how we'll begin to think. They infused this with propaganda, and that's spread by artificial intelligence.

And of course, we have the onslaught of fake news. That's a real thing. It is real. Creditable people fall victim to this garbage because they want to get the information out as fast as possible without looking anything up. And they don't care about apologizing. Many of them don't. Once the slander is out there, it doesn't matter.

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From all of this comes open slander in so many ways. And sometimes it's very subtle, not even recognized that it's slander, but it is. And we know that these platforms are utilized to hide behind. Right? Conduct their operations. And they do it to anyone that they choose, especially for those that are going against a specific agenda. They are used to broadcast lie after lie. And again, if we are not careful, we can buy into the lie. And that's exactly what they want.

And that "they" is from the top down, from these three-letter government organizations. Yeah. They're involved. From owners of networks, owners, of course, of social media, even owners of our local media, all are capable of doing this at any time. That's why we must be diligent and seek things out for ourselves, especially when it comes to this open shame. People just jump on the bandwagon not finding out that there's more to it. And we are told in the word of God to search out a matter. *Proverbs, Chapter 25, and verse 2*. And that's exactly what we need to do.

Next on our list: What does it mean to be haters of God? Now, this is pretty self-explanatory because it means exactly what it says, which is actually a self-indictment on so many fronts. Think about that. People hate a God that they do not believe in, and they make a point to hate a specific God, the true a living God. Notice that. Right?

And one of the primary reasons why there's hatred towards the true and living God is because of the holy standard that God represents. In other words, they hate the commandments of God, all the laws and statutes that are mandated by God, as well as the ultimate power that God has over everything, especially over life itself.

Oh, they hate that. So because of their hatred, they oppose the will of God, and they do as they will. And not only that, but they are willing to go so far as to redefine or rearrange the natural order things, even if it's to their own injury, just to be defiant and spite God. Do you hear me, church?

If God said go right, they go left. If God says look up, they look down. And like we have talked about, everything becomes upside down and backwards. And this is satanic. Again, it speaks to the defiant will of man where all cults come from. All cults are out of the defiant will of man. Do you hear me?

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In fact, one of the most notable of cults uses the word "will" in the Greek as their name. And when we look at the word "will" in the Greek is the Greek word "thelema." And it's the same word that we find in what's been called the Lord's Prayer when Jesus says, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will [Thelema] be done," as it relates to the will of the Father. But this cult that I'm speaking about calls themselves Thelemites. Thelemites. Thelemites Will-mites. Are you following me?

And one of their stark teachers is none other than perhaps the most popular Satanist known on the planet, Alister Crowley. And in his writings regarding their wicked laws, he tells all of his followers that to "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law," which is exactly opposite to what the word of God says. Do we see this?

So those who live by their own rules are actually following exactly what this Satanist man said whether they know it or not. Do as you wilt. There are many entertainers who sport this logo on their clothes proudly. Jay-Z's one of them. People who do as they wilt do will end up in the lake of fire. How about that one?

We are told to do the will of the Father in order to have eternal life. Captured in the *Book of John*, in Chapter 6, in verse 14, the word of God reads — this is Jesus speaking — **“And this is the will of Him [Speaking of God the Father] who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believe in Him may have everlasting life; And I will raise him up at the last day.”**

This is a major part of the will of God for each and every one of us, for the salvation of our souls. And there are other aspects of the will of God for our lives, for each and every day. God's will for us is to be sanctified. His will is that we do good works for His glory. God's will is that we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. His will is that we are reminded to give Him thanksgiving. Why? For Christ being in us.

And God's will is for us to trust and obey Him for the preservation of our lives while we are here on Earth, serving Him. These are aspects of the will of God that prepare each of us for the kingdom to come. And when we do not heed them, we are also showing a form of hatred towards His will. Now, it may not be on the level that we're talking about today, but it's still a form of rebellion and one that we need to be aware of.

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Next, what does it mean to be violent as called out here in the scriptures? Now, this one is also self-explanatory. But the reason why I want us to look at this is because the only other place that this particular word in the Greek is used in the New Testament is in 1 Timothy, Chapter 1, in verse 13. And it happens to be when the Apostle Paul calls himself out as being a violent man for persecuting the church of God but obtaining mercy from the true and living God because he did this in ignorance, in unbelief, while thinking that he was actually serving God. Do we see this?

Now, the difference between the Apostle Paul then and these pagan Gentiles here is that his ignorance came from a religious perspective, while their ignorance is coming from a defiant perspective, all without restraint. In other words, their violence has no boundaries, and it has no purpose but to suit their own agenda that has no ultimate goal but destruction or self-gratification. That's what this kind of violence is. Fun violence.

Do you hear me? It makes a person feel good. And there are people like that, by the way, so many of them. It's mind boggling. And you see this a lot in those crime series. You watch as they go to court, and they're asked these questions, and you think like they're not going to answer that in a positive. So Mr. Ritoni, did you have pleasure in killing the defendant, the deceased? Yes. I enjoyed it. The only thing I wish is I could do more of it. You're like, does this person exist? Yes, they do.

This is a most dangerous state for a people to be in. And when this kind of violent spread socially, it's not too long before complete chaos ensues. And we see this in inner cities, don't we? They don't care about life at all. And once again, all of this violence goes against the word of God.

And we can see an aspect that this captured here in the *Book of Psalms, in Chapter 11, and verse 5*. The word of God reads, **"The Lord tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence. His soul hates."**

Clearly, there's a distinction between those who are violent in ignorance compared to those who love violence in their arrogance. And this is what I wanted to make sure that we saw as it pertains to this.

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Now, regarding the next cluster of vices, we have already talked extensively about being proud, knowing that God resists the proud. We also talked about being boastful, what that looks like in our lives as Christians as well. And in regards to being inventors of evil and the earlier teachings in Romans, we saw numerous aspects of this as well. So I'm not going to beat a dead horse and drag us back through this. It's self-explanatory, or we can go back and look at those teachings to get a deeper understanding, because I believe we already get the point.

But it's this final one on this list that might seem out of place, because you would think that what's being discussed is geared towards a mature, pagan, gentile group. And it is. And that's sort of the indictment here, by the way, when I'm talking about the regards to being disobedient to parents and the strict customs that the Romans had dealing with disobedient children, as well as within the Jewish law.

And it's very pointed the law that the Lord placed upon the nation of Israel, but it's even more pointed in the Roman culture that was largely bypassed. They just skipped it and allowed the children to be disobedient. Now, according to the law, if they continued down the path of disobedience, the nation of Israel, that child was brought before the elders and if not correctable, that child was stoned to death. Do you hear me, church?

This was a command, by the way, not a suggestion, a command. Sounds harsh, right? But this is what the word of God said for a reason. And what He says is completely righteous, whether we understand it or not. And for the sake of time, we will not read those verses, but you can find it in *Deuteronomy, Chapter 21, verses 18 through 21*.

But the point the Apostle Paul is making here is that no disciplinary action of any effect towards their children was being done at all. This is kind of the theme of it. And the same could be said in regards to the nation of Israel for the most part because even though this law was given as a command, once again by God, there is not one account within the Scriptures that this law was ever adhered to by the Jews in the first century. Not one. Do you hear me? Obviously, they know better than God.

Now, again, it's for a divine reason that we'll get into some other time. But for the Romans, again, their law was even more severe. But it doesn't appear that they followed it to one

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degree. It didn't even matter because it had no social impact based on what we have written here. And it all makes sense.

And to bring this point home for us today, I believe that most of us would agree that the need for godly child correction is at an all-time high. The word of God is clear when it comes to correcting our children. And if that means over and over again, then that means over and over again. We cannot afford to allow our children to constantly be disrespectful, constantly be rambunctious, constantly act out, constantly be disobedient. If this is what we are doing, we are being unloving towards our children. And you better believe that we are creating a bunch of little devils.

And I'm talking about us as brothers and sisters in Christ, Christians here, not the world. I'm talking about Christians. Believe it or not, children thrive off of discipline, and it needs to be done early and as often as necessary until they get it.

And we're not talking about abuse or strictly talking about corporal punishment because we know that each child is different. There is not a one-size-fits-all when it comes to discipline. No. But whatever it takes to the best of our ability, based on the word of God, is exactly what we should be doing. Because if they don't pay now, they, as well as we, will pay later. Trust me.

And we have an example of this correction captured in the *Book of Proverbs, in Chapter 19, and verse 18*. The word of God reads, **“Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.”**

There's a few meanings here, but I'm going to just focus on this. In other words, do it sooner than later and don't be concerned about how they feel about it. You are their parent. We are the parent. We should know what's best.

And no parent likes to discipline their child. But it's needed. And it has the potential of saving us and our children from a lifetime of hurt. Again, it's one of the most loving things that a parent can do. So let's make sure that we do our part as parents and not allow society to influence us and override what the word of God says. Afraid. Where's that fear coming from? If it goes against the word of God, we don't follow it. That's the bottom line. You can't use the government as an excuse for this.

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And now we move on to *verse 31* of our text as we look into the five "uns" as they're often called. The word of God reads, **"...undeserving, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful."**

Minds that are full of sin, sin filled. This is what happens. And in these close out verses — vices — the Apostle Paul, what he's demonstrating is that all these attributes are actually necessary for humanity to move forward in a positive direction, meaning they need to be there, not unloving, but we need to be loving. We need to be discerning. We need to be trustworthy. We need to be merciful in order for humanity to move in the right direction. Do you hear me?

But all of this is removed when a person gets to this level of having a sin-filled mind. And when this becomes the social norm, it's only a matter of time before that society implodes. It's been rightly said that these people have only one love, and that's the love to have no understanding. Think about that. A love to have absolutely no understanding. And all of this is on a continuous basis. But it's not always the people that are promoting this undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful atmosphere. We have a lot of governments that do that. Do you hear me?

And I'm not trying to get political here, but here in America, as cloudy as things may seem, we are indeed fortunate to not be under this kind of rule because so many people are under these regimes that do exactly what the Apostle Paul is speaking about right here in our text. And we're shielded from much of this. And that's a good thing. But what are we doing with it? That's the other thing.

So let us not allow this to get lost on any of us. And we need to be praying for all those countries that are under turmoil because of all kinds of unlovingness and for those peoples being unmerciful who rule the lands.

Now, again, this is at the highest degrees of these negative attributes. But we still need to consider to a lower degree when it comes to our Christian walk. And beginning our teaching this morning, I mentioned that we would see a form of this as it pertains to Christians.

And we have this well-known passage of scripture captured in *2 Timothy, and Chapter 3, verses 1 through 5*. You know it well. The word of God reads, *[This is to the church, okay?]*

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“But know this: that in the last days, perilous times will come for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

This list sounds very familiar, doesn't it? And the Apostle Paul calls this perilous times. And as it pertains to the church, any aspect of these being in the church is perilous. Wouldn't you agree? So we need to be reminded about this.

And on a side note, I saw an aspect of this unloving from, not the local church, but early on when Pastor JD had departed to see after his beloved wife. About a month into it, I just happened to take a look at YouTube, which I normally don't. And the comments, a few of them just blew my mind. People were more interested on when is he coming to do a Prophecy Update than they were about his wife who was dying. None of them even thought to consider what this man is going through as his wife's primary caregiver.

And they would make a comment, “Where is he at?” “Hurry up and come back.” “We know you've got problems, but please come back.” “What happened to the Prophecy Update?” “Can you just give us one?” I'll give you one.

[Laughter]

I'm sorry.

[Laughter]

Too late now, huh?

[Laughter]

Right, through? It's a righteous anger.

[Applause]

That kind of attitude is coming from a very unloving place. And don't forget; we're talking about Christians, followers of this ministry. Maybe they did it out of ignorance. I'll give

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them that pass. (Chuckling) I tell you; it's so sad when we desire information over the welfare of our pastor.

Now, I will say this. As of late, because I had something else to say, but the Lord just ministered to me and had me check, and oh, the love being poured out now is amazing, and I'm so thankful for that. Thank you. Because I was coming in here with shotguns.

[Laughter]

But the Lord disarmed all of that. But we get the point, right? Until he comes back, let's understand this. Let's not be self-absorbed. And let's not let anything that he has gone through and will continue to go through get lost on us.

Now, final verse of our text *verse 32*. And the word of God reads, **“who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”**

And for this, I would like to allow us to have a commentator close us out with some amazing points about *verse 32*. And I quote. “Those who knew by the law of nature that God requires righteousness, realize that these things were displeasing to God, but they did not want to think about it. Why? Because those who do such things are worthy of death.”

Did you catch that? In other words, why do I want to think about what I already know is damning to me? I continue.

“And not only those who do them, but those who allow them to be done for consent is participation. Their wickedness is doubled. For those who do such things but prevent others are not so bad or not as bad because they realize that these things are evil and do not justify them.

But the worst people are those who do these things and approve of others doing them as well, not fearing God, but desiring the increase of evil. They do not seek to justify them either. But in their case, it is because they want to persuade people that there is nothing wrong in doing them. Denying what God has said is evil is in fact more evil.”

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How true is that? Well, that closes out *Chapter 1* and praise the Lord for that. So Lord willing, will pick it up in Second Service, beginning in *Chapter 2*, praying that we will be just as blessed as well as convicted. Why don't we stand and pray?

Oh, Father in Heaven, thank You once again for Your word of truth. So many lessons to be learned. And I pray that we would take them home with us, allow them to rest on our minds and hearts as we meditate on Your word. And Lord, we know that You are so faithful. We ask that You would change us from the inside out continually, and that we would walk a walk that resembles how You walked as we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of You. So have Your way with us and may Your perfect will be done. In the mighty name of Jesus, the Christ, we do pray. Amen.