

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: “*Things Still Sacred*”

SCRIPTURE IN RESPONSE: Proverbs 22: 17-28 NIV

17 Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach,

18 for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips.

19 So that your trust may be in the LORD, I teach you today, even you.

20 Have I not written thirty sayings for you, sayings of counsel and knowledge,

21 teaching you to be honest and to speak the truth, so that you bring back truthful reports to those you serve?

22 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court,

23 for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life.

24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered,

25 or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.

26 Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts;

27 if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.

28 Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors.

I. Key Words:

- Proverbs
- Sacred

II. People, Places, & Time:

- Solomon

III. Background:

- **Property Boundaries:** In the ancient Near East, land was divided among tribes and families using stones or pillars known as "landmarks". Shifting these markers even a small distance was a common method of clandestine theft, essentially stealing land from a neighbor.
- **Theological Foundation:** For Israel, land ownership was sacred because the land belonged to God and was distributed as a divine inheritance (as seen in Joshua 13-21).
- **Legal Precedents:** This proverb echoes Mosaic laws found in Deuteronomy 19:14 and Deuteronomy 27:17, which explicitly forbid and place a curse on those who move their neighbor's boundary stone.
- **Literary Structure:** It is part of the "Thirty Sayings of the Wise" (Proverbs 22:17–24:22), a collection of practical advice emphasizing justice, honesty, and social order.

IV. In Depth:

Lesson Emphasis #1: The Word of God is Still Sacred.

- Ignorance today about the Bible is appalling.
- In spite of this rampant ignorance and skepticism, the Word of God is still sacred. Why?
 - A.** The Word of God is sacred because God authored it (2 Tim. 3:16).
 - B.** The Word of God is sacred because divinely inspired men wrote it (2 Peter 1:20-21).

God "breathed" on those who wrote.

Common men wrote under divine inspiration.
 - C.** The Word of God is sacred because it is eternal (1 Peter 1:23-24). A novel might last for a generation. A poem might last half a millennium. But the Bible will last forever because truth is eternal (Matt. 24:35).

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: The Home is Still Sacred.

Regardless of the way moderns may treat the home, it is still sacred.

- A.** The home is sacred because God created it (Gen. 2:21-25). The home was the first institution created by God.

No modern-day human plan to bypass or subvert the home will succeed.

- B.** The home is sacred because God blesses it (Gen. 1:28). God blesses only what is good. And all God blesses is sacred.

Lesson Emphasis #3: The Church is Still Sacred.

- William Barclay, in his book *A Spiritual Autobiography*, says, "Maybe it is fitting that I who have served the Church for more than forty years should end by saying, 'I believe in the Church'" ([Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975], 117).
- Norman Vincent Peale's statement about the church has been proved true in my own experience: "The church is where all our hopes come true!"

It is still sacred two thousand years after it was founded by Jesus.

- A.** The church is sacred because God conceived it (Eph. 1:4-6).

- B.** The church is sacred because Christ founded it (Matt. 16:13-19).

- C.** The church is sacred because the Holy Spirit fills it (Acts 2:1-4).

V. Make It Happen

1. Why is the Word of God Sacred and what steps can we take to insure that the Word of God remain sacred?
2. Why is the Home Sacred and what steps can we take to insure that the Home remain sacred?
3. Why is the Church Sacred and what steps can we take to insure that the Church remain sacred?
4. What are some of the boundaries that we have removed from the word of God, the church, our home, and church?
5. As Black Americans what are some of the boundaries that we have removed from our families and communities?

