**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Crossing God’s Deadline |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Proverbs 29:1 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2037 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Can a person spiritually pass the point of no return?
      1. Can a person be so willfully rebellious that God will give up on him?
      2. The answer to these questions is yes.
   2. There is a deadline that, if we cross it, our doom is sealed and we have no hope.
      1. God is a God of infinite love, but He is also a God of wrath and judgment.
         1. It is truth that God is love; but when we take part of the truth and make part of the truth all of the truth, then that part of the truth becomes an untruth.
         2. We need to see and believe all of God’s Word.
   3. Proverbs 29:1
      1. We find four definite truths in this one verse that we will focus on in this message.
2. SPIRITUAL CONVICTION (Proverbs 29:1)
   1. God does convict us; we are often reproved.
      1. No one goes to Hell unloved, unwarned and unconvicted.
      2. God strives with us and knocks on our heart’s door, calling to us over and over again.
         1. God is merciful if He warns us just one time, but the Scripture says that He reproves us over and over and over again.
   2. How does God speak and reprove us?
      1. Through His Holy Spirit.
         1. The Holy Spirit of God will gently but strongly speak to our hearts, convicting us of our sin and our need to be saved.
         2. If the Holy Spirit is speaking to you today, please listen to the Spirit of God.
      2. Through sickness.
         1. Psalm 119:67
         2. Sickness is a messenger that reminds us that we will one day pass away.
            1. We will not be upon this Earth forever.
      3. Through sorrows.
         1. Perhaps God has spoken to you through the death of a loved one or through a financial hardship.
      4. Through sweetness.
         1. Romans 2:4
         2. God will reprove us through the simple smile of a baby or through the beauty of a flower.
      5. Through His servants.
         1. God speaks through songs, sermons and soul winners.
   3. The Holy Spirit of God speaks to each one of us.
      1. God loves us too much to let us go to Hell without being warned and reproved.
3. STUBBORN REBELLION (Proverbs 29:1)
   1. To “harden your neck” means to say no; we might say today, “bowing up the neck.”
   2. How do you harden your neck?
      1. By procrastination.
         1. Proverbs 27:1
         2. Some have the idea that they will give their hearts to the Lord one day, maybe tomorrow.
            1. Dr. R. G. Lee once said that tomorrow is a time only found on the fool’s clock.
         3. Exodus 8:9-10
            1. Pharaoh entreated Moses to ask God to take away the plague of the frogs.
            2. When Moses inquired of Pharaoh when he’d like Moses to intercede for him, Pharaoh responded with, “Tomorrow.”

Many of us are like Pharaoh: we say we want to come to Jesus, but we’ll wait until tomorrow.

We choose another night with the frogs.

* + 1. By pride.
       1. The enemy will try to persuade us that we’ll look foolish if we give our lives to Jesus or that we shouldn’t admit our need.
       2. Proverbs 16:18
    2. By pleasures of this world.
       1. 2 Timothy 3:4
       2. Some do not want to give up their sin and the pleasures of this world to come to Jesus.
          1. Hebrews 11:25
          2. The Bible also speaks about the pleasures of righteousness.

Psalm 16:11

* + - * 1. Don’t think that when we come to Jesus we give up something.

Psalm 84:11

God is a good God.

If it will make us happy, holy and healthy, God says, “Help yourself.”

1 Timothy 6:17

Every time God says, “Thou shalt not,” He is simply saying, “Don’t hurt yourself.”

When God says, “Thou shalt,” He is saying, “Help yourself to happiness.”

1. SUDDEN DESTRUCTION (Proverbs 29:1)
   1. There comes a time when we cross God’s deadline.
      1. God will bring judgment.
   2. How may the sudden destruction come?
      1. Destruction of the mind through strong delusion.
         1. Destruction may come, not merely to your body or soul, but also to your mind.
         2. God will destroy your ability to think correctly.
            1. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12

“Delude” means to be deceived.

* + - * 1. The opposite of truth is not error but sin; unrighteousness.

When we are reproved and faced with the truth but we embrace our sin rather than the truth, the baggage is strong delusion.

The baggage is just judgment.

* + 1. Destruction of the spirit through desertion.
       1. John 6:44
       2. Unless the Holy Spirit of God brings us under conviction, we will never be saved.
       3. The Bible teaches that we can say “no” to the Holy Spirit so many times that God’s Holy Spirit will cease to work in our hearts.
          1. Romans 1:24-28
          2. Genesis 6:3
       4. It is possible to come to a place of sudden destruction in your spirit, as well as in your mind, where the Holy Spirit no longer speaks to you and God no longer draws you.
    2. Destruction of the body through death.
       1. Proverbs 29:1
       2. Eternity is only a heartbeat away.
          1. 1 Samuel 20:3

1. SETTLED DESTINY (Proverbs 29:1)
   1. Once we die, we will not stand before God and ask for a second chance.
      1. There will be no second chance.
         1. Hebrews 9:27
   2. Luke 16:19-31
      1. This passage tells of a rich man who died and went to Hell.
         1. He looked for some alleviation from the suffering he was experiencing, but there was no second chance.
         2. God describes Hell as a place of hellfire.
         3. Hell is a bottomless pit from which no one who goes there can escape.
   3. “Without remedy” means “without hope,” “without a cure.”
2. CONCLUSION
   1. God loves you with an infinite love and has spoken to you over and over again.
   2. God reproves you because He loves you so much and wants to save you.
   3. If you’re concerned about whether you’ve crossed God’s deadline, please know that you haven’t if you’ll call upon Him.
      1. Anyone who wants to be saved can be saved.
      2. The person who crosses God’s deadline has no desire to be saved.
      3. If you have a desire to be saved, it is because the Holy Spirit is working in you.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16