

Good morning! I have always thought that the most difficult person to reach with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ is not someone who has never heard it before, but someone who has been in church his whole life. As I once heard someone say, "That person has been injected with just enough truth to be inoculated against it." I should know---I grew up in church but I was 19 years old before I came to Christ. One of the most heartbreaking things for Christian parents is to raise their children saturated in God's Word and yet, as adults, they seem to have no allegiance to Jesus. We must never stop praying for our children! This morning, let's stop for a moment to read this very sobering passage of scripture together:

At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors. I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly." **Proverbs 5:11-14**

Think about the person in this passage for a moment: This is somebody who has heard about God for many years; it's somebody in church. This person knows how to say the right thing to Christians. He may know many hymns by heart. He may teach Sunday School. In a liturgical church, he may know when to stand and when to sit, what the response is in a responsive reading. He sounds religious--- but he has never given his heart in obedience to the truths that he has learned. In this passage, we encounter him at the end of his life, realizing too late that he has missed it all. Oh, he knew it in his head, but he never believed and obeyed it with his heart. Have you ever noticed that Jesus is particularly critical of religious hypocrites? I think it is because they have known all about God, but never obeyed Him. Maybe that person is you, this morning. Maybe you have known it but never given your heart in obedience to Jesus Christ. If so, I have something to say to you this morning: It's not too late. Don't let the person in today's passage be you. Don't come to the bitter end of your life, knowing that you could have come to Christ and yet you never did. If you have never come to the place of true surrender, true commitment and making Jesus the true Lord of your life, today is a great day to do it. Come to Him in repentance and faith. Don't wait a moment longer. Jesus is waiting with His arms wide open. Repent...and live! "