

HANDOOUT PART THREE PROVERBS 3:11-20

READ 3:11-20: Accept God's Rebuke...The Value of Wisdom...Acknowledge God's Wisdom.

READ VS-11-12 READ PROV. 13:24 READ Job 5:17-18: Proverbs Offers the Only Solution to the Lord's Discipline...Accept It With Joy!

- Clarke *"Teaching is essentially necessary to show the man the way in which he is to go; discipline is necessary to render that teaching effectual; and, in order to bring the mind into submission, without which it cannot acquire knowledge."*
- Waltke says, "When the father's admonitions are violated, the son can expect the Lord to back it up with a "spanking" to prevent the wrong from becoming habitual."
- Poole Comments: *"We may Despise God's Chastening, "By Accounting it An Unnecessary, and Useless, and Troublesome Thing."* The writer is Encouraging Christians to Endure their Own Seasons of Chastening and the Discouragement that often comes with it. *They could be Encouraged in Knowing that Such Suffering is a Sign of Sonship.*

Nor Detest His Correction: God Often Allows some Discomfort/Affliction in Our Life so that He Can Expose a Sin or Evil We Have Not Previously Seen. **He Wants to Show Us the Nature of the Problem and Our Need to Address it.** So that we will Reject the Sin and in turn...Embrace God's Best for Our Life!

The Particular Discomfort or Affliction Can Come in Many Ways. God may do it through the Inward Conviction of God the Holy Spirit. It may come through Critics and Adversaries or through some Disappointing Circumstance. But, it Comes so that God Can Accomplish His Plan in Our Life!

- Bridges *"The Lord's discipline is like that in a family, not in a school, let alone in a prison. The Lord corrects his children and does not treat them as criminals. 'I love the rod of my heavenly Father,' exclaimed the saintly Fletcher. 'How gentle are the stripes I feel. How heavy those I deserve.'"*

For Whom the Lord Loves He Corrects: Seen rightly, God's correction of His people is a wonderful sign of His love. In our instinctive desire for ease and comfort we often wish God would not correct us. *Because He loves and delights in us, according to His wisdom He will deal with our sins, weaknesses, and failings.* A father who Truly Loves his Children will Correct them Appropriately.

- ***For a father to Leave Sins and Failings Uncorrected is Not a Sign of Love...It is a Sign of Indifference and Selfish Disregard.***
- Wiersbe states: "Sometimes He chastens because we have rebelled and need to repent; other times He chastens to keep us from sinning and to prepare us for His special blessing. No matter how much the experience hurts us, it will never harm us, because God always chastens in love."

READ VS. 14-15: Happy is the Man Who Finds Wisdom: Solomon longed for his son (and Us) to seek after wisdom. In the fear of the Lord, wisdom and understanding (often the result of God's loving correction) would guide men and women into a truly happy life.

- 'Blessed' describes Heavenly Bliss Stemming from Being Right with God. It Depicts the Human Condition of well-being that Comes with God's Blessing or as a Divine Reward for Righteousness."
- Her Proceeds are Better than the Profits of Silver: Wisdom (*especially that which comes from God's correction*) is better than material gain.
- Wisdom is Greater than All kinds of riches – silver, fine gold, or rubies. *To have the wisdom that comes from God's loving correction is to have something better than material wealth.*
- ***In 2 Chronicles*** we see that Solomon was a Wealthy man. He knew the Blessings of a Relationship with God and Godly Character were Greater than Material Things.

The Lord by Wisdom Founded the Earth: In His Work of Creation, God Showed Great Wisdom in Both the Large Features and Small Details of Creation. God's self-revelation through His Creation is the theme of Rom 1:18-20, *which Also Describes the Guilt of Mankind Ignoring His Revelation of Himself in Creation!*

God's Creative Wisdom is Seen in the Smallest Details of the Single Cell, But Also in the Expansive Majesty of the Heavens! In His great understanding God created a universe that some call "Just Right."

According to Physicists and Scientists...We Live in a "Just Right" Universe. The Universe "God Created" has a "Just-Right" Gravitational Force. If it were larger, the stars would be too hot and would burn up too quickly and too unevenly to support life. If it was smaller, the stars would remain so cool, nuclear fusion would never ignite, and there would be no heat and light.

- The Universe "God Created" has a "Just-Right" Speed of Light. If it were larger, stars would send out too much light. If it were smaller, stars would not send out enough light.
- The Universe "God Created" has a "Just-Right" Average Distance Between the Stars.
- If it were larger, the heavy element density would be too thin for rocky planets to form, and there would only be gaseous planets. If it were smaller, planetary orbits would become destabilized because of the gravitational pull from other stars.

Solomon is Asking Us to Accept God's Rebuke, To Value Wisdom, And to Acknowledge "TRUST" God's Wisdom as He Lovingly Directs Every Part of Our Life!

- The Rebuke Scriptures Commend is Intended to Stop Us from Continuing on a Destructive Path.
- "Reproof is a Fork in the Road" for a Sinful Soul. We Will Either Cringe at Correction like a Curse, OR Embrace Rebuke as a Blessing!

Proverbs Great Theme is...Those who Embrace Rebuke are Wise and walk God's Path...While those who Despise Reproof are Fools Headed Toward Death.

- God's Reproof is an Act of Love! Likewise...When a Spouse, Friend, Family Member or Associate Rises to the Level of Such Love...We Should be Profoundly Thankful. **READ Prov. 3:12**

When a brother-sister in Christ is Willing to have the unpleasant conversation bringing correction into our lives. We should be thankful. *Count it as Love and as God's Channel of His Love for You.*

- Rebuke goes Against our Natural Instincts or Sometimes Catches us Off Our Guard...*However, at that Moment, we have a Great Opportunity to Grow.*
- *As God's Spirit Speaks and We Hear and Respond to His Reproof...We are Given Even More Grace...To Lean into His Rebuke and Receive its Bounty.*

Speaking the Truth in Love: Eph. 4:15: To "Speak the Truth in Love," Is to Move from Immaturity. This means as we Mature in Christ we will Share Difficult Truths in a gentle, kind, non-offensive manner.

In the prior verses to 15 Paul writes about unity in the body of Christ. Urging us to *"live a life worthy of the calling we have received"*. He describes this life as one in which we are humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love, and making efforts toward unity. We are to train one another in Truth—Truths about who God is and what He has called us to do...including Hard Truths of Loving Correction.

- *Speaking the truth in love is about the way truth and love go hand-in-hand.*

We are also Called to Love those who do Not Know Christ. *And the Best way We can show Love is to Share with Them the Truth of the Gospel.* The Gospel Makes Clear, Apart from Christ, People are Dead in their Sins and Destined for an Eternity in Hell. **But in Christ they can Receive Eternal Salvation.**

People Need the Lord so Peters says, 1 Peter 3:15: *"In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with Gentleness and Respect"*.

We Speak God's Truth in a way that clearly and unapologetically communicates both Truth and Love to Both those in our Body and the Unsaved that they may Seek to Serve the Lord with their Lives.

"LIFE" POINT: (Prov. 27) "Open Rebuke is Better than Secret Love.