THE CORRECTION OF GOD

**DATE: 2/25/2015 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 12:5-11**

**INTRODUCTION**

We’ve all heard the saying *“spare the rod spoil the child”*

That saying has its roots in the Bible

**Proverbs 13:24 – *“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes”***

We live in a society that tells us that its cruel and unusualpunishment to administer corporal correction to a child

That is totally contrary to the Word of God

You can lose your job, as in the case of the NFL football player who choose to correct his child with a switch

So what is Correction / Discipline?

**Correction** as a noun, means *the action or process of correcting something, a change that rectifies an error or inaccuracy*

The word comes from the Latin that means *to make straight or to bring into order*

**Discipline** *is the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior, using correction*

The means of our correction are the Scriptures

**II Timothy 3:16 – *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”***

Our text comes from the OT text of **Proverbs 3:11, 12 –**

***“My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of His correction:” “For whom the LORD loveth He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth”***

There are a couple of thoughts I want to get across tonight

**1.** Paul shows that God does indeed discipline His children

**2.** He further shows that there is a blessing that comes with this discipline in the Christian's life

This portion of Hebrews deals with …

**“The Correction of God”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “PRECEPT” – vs.5, 6 …**

A **Precept** is something mandated in the Word of God

We also call them **Commandments**

The Dictionary defines it as – *authoritative rule prescribing a particular kind of conduct or action; a standard or guide for morality*

**Psalm 119:4 – *“Thou hast commanded us to keep Thy Precepts diligently”***

Let’s read **vs. 5 & 6** … of our text

***“exhortation”*** - *earnest advice or encouragement*

Paul is taking us to the Scriptures when he makes this statement in **v.5**

Paul says that it seems that we have forgotten the exhortation of the Lord

What exhortation?

Solomon's exhortation in **Proverbs 3:11 & 12** concerning chastening a child

Paul is applying this truth to our lives in a spiritual way

We are the Children of God / though we are grownup

**Romans 8:16 – *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”***

**Galatians 3:26 – *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus”***

Chastening involves the discipline and correction of the child of God

None of God's true children will escape His correction

(We will see this later in **v.8**)

The writer uses 3 words in **vs. 5 & 6** to describe the Lord's Discipline or Correction of His children

**A. *“chastening”* – v.5a**

***“… the chastening of the Lord…”***

The word *“****chastening”*** is a word that was used in the past to describe the Whole Process of training a child

**Proverbs 22:6 –** ***“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”***

The word carries the idea of Instruction

Again **II Timothy 3:16 – *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”***

The word also carries the idea of Teaching

**Titus 2:12 – *“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”***

It includes Correction for Wrongdoing, but also Training, Education and Encouragement to Do Right

David understood the purpose and blessing of God's correcting hand

**Psalms 119:67, 71, 75 –*“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Thy Word …” “… It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy Statutes …” “I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that Thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me”***

***“afflict”*** *- to cause severe physical or mental distress to somebody*

Do you know what made David a *Man after God’s own heart?*

David knew how to repent! How to be Corrected

God's chastisement of His children serves to show us the right ways

It further encourages us to stay within the boundaries of His will

**B. *“rebuked”* – v. 5b**

***“… when thou art rebuked of Him:”***

This word carries the idea of being *reproved or admonish*

It carries the idea of being convicted in heart

The Lord said to Paul in **Acts 9:5b –** ***“it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks”***

***“chastening”, “rebuked”***

**C. *“scourgeth”* – v.6b**

***“…the Lord … scourgeth every son whom He receiveth”***

This word means to *flog or whip*

It is a word that speaks of judicial punishment as handed down by a judge

If you break the law you will be punished

This is the physical side of Correction

This could be the illness that comes into our life, the accident we might have, a financial reversal, the ticket we get for going over the speed limit etc.

**Numbers 32:23 *– “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out”***

**THE “PRECEPT”**

**II. THE “PROOF” – vs. 6 – 9 …**

In Chastisement, we see 2 Proofs

A Proof declares *something to be true*

First we see Proof of God’s …

**A. ‘Compassion’**

God's Chastisement is Proof of His Love for us and of our salvation

Look again at **v.6a** it says – ***“For whom the Lord loveth”***

As I said earlier this is a quote from **Prov. 3:12 –**

***“For whom the LORD loveth He correcteth...”***

Divine Chastisement is Proof of God's love for us

Jesus said to the church of Laodicea in **Rev. 3:19 –**

***“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent”***

**God’s ‘Compassion’**

Next we see Proof of …

**B. ‘Confirmation’**

**vs. 6b, 7** says that God ***“… scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”***

Divine Chastisement is Proof of our Relationship with the Lord

**Deuteronomy 8:5 – *“Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee”***

A relationship is fully demonstrated in this verse

We often see folks make a profession of faith and then go on to live without any apparent change

If they live like the world while claiming to be God's children …This is contrary to Scripture

**v. 8 – *“But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons”***

The Holy Spirit uses some very strong language here

Paul is continuing to draw from the analogy of our relationship with our earthly father

Anyone who can continue in sin without chastisement is not His child

Paul uses the word ***“bastards”*** here to describe such people

This word speaks of an *illegitimate son*

A father would only disciplines his own kids

Folks who live in sin without experiencing the chastening hand of God, are in Scriptural terms, illegitimate children

The idea is that they have no claim to spiritual sonship

**v. 9 – *“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?”***

He compares the Correction practiced by our earthly fathers to discipline used by our Heavenly Father

Our fathers *“****corrected us, and we gave them reverence”***

The word ***“reverence”*** speaks of *respect*

When discipline is administered biblically and in love, it will result in respect for the parent

**Ephesians 6:4 – *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”***

Paul reminds the Hebrew believer that they respected their earthly father who corrected them …

So certainly they should respect their Heavenly Father when He corrects them

**THE “PRECEPT” OF CORRECTION**

**THE “PROOF” FROM CORRECTION**

**III. THE “PRIORITY”**

Looking back again at **v.5** we see Paul emphases 2 Priorities Concerning our Response to God's chastisement

They are in our Attitude and our Actions

We must face God's correction with submission

First, let’s look at …

**A. Our ‘Attitude’ – v.5b1**

 ***“despise not thou the chastening of the Lord”***

**Despise -** *To contemn; to scorn; to disdain; to have the lowest opinion of*

God's chastening is to be accepted with subjection

Rebelling against God's correction will result in more severe punishment

**Prov. 29:1 – *“He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy”***

The analogy of hardening the neck is taken from the stubborn mule or ox that turns away from, and stiffens his neck to rebel against, the yoke

The application is made to those who stubbornly resist the gracious reproving and correction of God

When God corrects us we must be careful not to rebel or resist against Him

You can fight God, but you won’t win

**Isaiah 45:9** says – *“****Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker!”***

I’ve found …

-- Most people do not want to be corrected!

-- Most people will not receive correction!

-- Most people push back when corrected!

The sad part is that most people don’t even see this in themselves

**B. Our ‘Actions’ – v.5b2**

***“…nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him:”***

**Prov. 24:10** says **– *“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small”***

People have a defeatist attitude

People give up too easily

Like Cain in **Gen. 4:13** they cry ***– “My punishment is greater than I can bear”***

However, God corrects us in His wisdom and He never gives us more than we can bear

**I Cor. 10:13 *– “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”***

Temptation isn’t always solicitation to do evil

We can also be tempted not to live by Faith

Every stroke of God's discipline is given in love and is fair and aimed at drawing us back to Him

**Job 5:17, 18 – *“Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: For He maketh sore, and bindeth up: He woundeth, and His hands make whole”***

**THE “PRECEPT” OF CORRECTION**

**THE “PROOF” FROM CORRECTION**

**THE “PRIORITY” FOR CORRECTION**

**IV. THE “PRODUCT” – vs. 10b, 11**

What should be the Results of Correction

God chastens His erring children ...

*“****for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness” “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby”***

If we take the proper attitude towards chastening we will experience the fruit of righteousness in our lives

Chastening is always for our good and when we respond correctly, we are saved from severer judgment

**CONCLUSION**

When a person perceives the act of chastisement as an end in itself, and not as a means to an end,

They fail to comprehend its true purpose

God wants the believer to become productive through the discipline

The child of God should yield ***“the peaceable fruit of righteousness”***

God is the spiritual husbandman who prunes and cleanses the believer so that the life of Christ will be manifested through him

**John 15:1-5 …**

It is ***“peaceable”*** in that the rebellious spirit has been changed into quiet submission and it is morally right

The only child of God who will produce this fruit is the one who is ***“exercised”*** by the chastisement

He willingly accepts it and learns by it;

However, some harden themselves and are worse off as the result of the divine attempt to correct

**Pro. 14:12; 16:25 –** ***“There is a way which / that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”***