

I. The Concept of God's Chastisement

If you have your Bibles, we are back again in Proverbs 3. Today, we are going to look at another great and vital, yet relatively unknown, principle out of Proverbs 3. I want to talk to you today about probably one of the most misunderstood concepts in all of the Bible, and probably one of the most unknown. That is the concept of God's chastisement in our lives, and God dealing with us as His sons.

Last week, I gave you a verse, if you remember, in Proverbs 1:7, which states:

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

I told you back then that this is the first thing you need to learn when you become a Christian. It is a concept that you have to get down: that God, as your Father, will correct you, and if need be, He will chastise you. It was a standard thing 100 or so years ago that people knew there was a vast difference between the world and being a Christian. Today, we do not have that standard. You need to understand that the first thing you need to understand is the fact that as a Christian, there are limits to what we can do; there are boundaries that we have to put into our lives.

I saw a sign the other day when I was in Ohio, driving over to my sister-in-law's house. It was at a pizza shop, and it said, "You can find a cheaper pizza, but then you have to eat it." I thought to myself, "How true that is," because you can find an easier way in life. You can find a life without principles, an easier life to do what you want to do, but at some point, you have to eat it. As I saw that, I thought, "There is a great acronym of what life is like."

Within the Bible, you are going to find that when we start to talk about chastisement, there are four different aspects to God's chastisement. I want you to get this down this morning so you will know it. It will be very helpful to you in your overall understanding of the Bible. In its lowest common denominator, however we look at it, whatever one of these four we examine, we know that God's chastisement or God's correction will be for only two reasons, which we looked at in the last couple of weeks:

1. Leaning on your own understanding instead of God's understanding.
2. Being wise in your own eyes.

These two areas fundamentally will lead us into some hard times with the Lord. We know that there are two kinds of chastisement, or two aspects to God's chastisement, I should say. The first one the Bible talks about is correction. That is a mild form. Correction is a milder form where you simply maybe rebuke somebody or you say, "Do not do that." But there is a stronger form, and that would be chastisement. That could be corporal punishment, where you have to get to... In the Christian world years ago, we used to talk about God taking us to the woodshed. That is because years ago, when you did wrong, your dad took you to the woodshed and shed some wood along with some skin.

Our passage today will be in Proverbs 3:11-12, and we will get there in just a minute. It is dealing with God's chastisement, which is defined in the passage in two aspects, as I said. There is correction, which is a milder form, and we will talk about that in a little bit. Then there is chastisement, which is a stronger form, and we will talk about that. But I want to go through these four concepts so you basically understand them.

II. God's Chastisement of Israel

The first form of chastisement that we will look at will be in the concept of God dealing with the nation of Israel as God's son. This will be the doctrinal application, which we know is Israel in the book of Proverbs in the first seven chapters. You are going to find that in Exodus 4, the nation of Israel is called God's son. When you really want to study the nation of Israel, you can look at it like this:

The book of Genesis is like the formulation of Israel; it would be a lot like the baby in a mother's womb before it is born. Then their time in Egypt would be the pain. There was a tremendous amount of pain that they went through in Egypt. But the birth of the nation of Israel undoubtedly is Exodus 12. It is such an important part in the Bible that it changed so many things. God looked at the nation of Israel. He changed the whole accounting of the beginning of the year around Exodus 12. It was such an important aspect that for the rest of their life, the nation of Israel, as a nation, looks back to this and celebrates this as their Passover. It was very important because it represented the birth of the nation of Israel, the coming out of Egypt.

Then we find, as God's son corporately in a doctrinal sense, a process of growth of Israel. When they came out of Egypt, they were kind of a red tag group. By the time they get into the land in the book of Joshua, they form themselves up. By the time we get into 1 Samuel, they are ready for their king, the monarchy, to take over. So we see there is a growth process to them as God's son.

But then we see a problem come in. We have been talking about this many, many times; we see the evil man and the strange woman, and they begin to do their work and take apart the nation of Israel. Again, two fundamental problems that Israel has—and we know now because we have seen it—the two fundamental problems that Israel has, and you are going to see a little bit later, the two fundamental problems that we all have that lead to God's chastisement, will be leaning on your own understanding and being wise in your own eyes. That is what Israel did. In 606 B.C., they go into captivity, and from that point on, they go completely into apostasy toward God and His Word.

When we come to the first coming of Christ, you are going to find that Israel is much like what we have today. Israel wanted God, but Israel despised the Lord Jesus Christ. They wanted God in the concept, but they despised His Son as the Lord Jesus, and that was their problem. At the first coming of Christ, when they are faced with Christ—God's Son now—what to do with Him, they make two great statements that I think are probably two of the most terrible statements that any nation ever made anywhere in history. As a nation, they are standing there, faced with Jesus and what they are going to do with Him. When asked by Pilate what they were going to do, "Should I

crucify your King?" they cry back, "We have no king but Caesar." Then they cry out, "Let His blood be upon us and our people."

I do not completely know what heaven is like up there right now. I have not seen... I mean, I can get some of it, but I guarantee you one thing: God is paying attention to what is going on down here. I do not know if He has an official recorder or He just keeps it in His mind, but when Israel makes statements like that, God says, "Write that down." For the next two thousand years, God held them accountable with those two statements: "His blood be upon us and our people, we have no King but Caesar." For the next two thousand years, they experience God's correction in their life.

When you go back in history and look at what God did to the Jews because of those two statements and their attitude toward God, some of the things that happened to them, and then we look at that as God's correction, what must the chastisement be like? Of course, the ultimate chastisement will be the Tribulation period. The Tribulation period, the Bible tells us, will be unlike any other time in the history of the world. Nothing that the Jews have gone through—and they have gone through some things, brother. Treblinka, Auschwitz, World War II, the displacement before World War I, the displacement all down through history by the Roman Catholic Church, and being kicked out and tortured and being maligned by them—all correction. None of that, put it all together, is going to compare to when they go through the Great Tribulation period.

Out of that time, which the Bible calls Jacob's time of trouble, it is called Daniel's 70th week, or sometimes you find it "the time of trouble." They are going to get right with God. But they are so stubborn today. They are so hard-headed today and hard-hearted today that it actually takes something of that magnitude to get them right with God. And you know what? We will talk about some of the parallels a little bit later on, but in that concept, they are not much unlike a lot of God's people that I meet today. What it has to take in our lives, what it has to take with them. Again, it goes back to when they lean to their own understanding and they become wise in their own eyes. I told you last time we were together that this produces six things:

3. It produces pride.
4. It produces stubbornness.
5. It produces arrogance.
6. It produces self-centeredness.
7. A self-serving attitude.
8. Certainly, a self-righteous attitude.

III. God's Chastisement of Gentile Nations

The second aspect of God's chastisement will be on the Gentile nations that either go against the nation of Israel or had God's Word at one point and then rejected God's Word. We see the hand of God's judgment on them as you look around the world today. Most people do not think outside their own little world. Most of God's people have no knowledge of what goes on in the world around them. All they know is what is in their little cubicle. They certainly have no

understanding of what has gone on down through history with nations. I think that you cannot understand where God is going unless you understand where God has been.

When you look at Europe, Europe is an incredible example of what we are going to talk about as far as nations. Most people do not even understand. You go to Europe today; it is an apostate, absolutely amoral society, no matter what country you go into. There is no God, there is no Bible, there is no morality, there is nothing. Yet most people look at that and they do not understand that there was a time, a time when three-quarters of Europe, if not more, had the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. There was a time when the country of Czechoslovakia, which was over to the communists and now it is a mess here and a mess there... there was a time when almost everybody in that country was a believer. There was a time when almost everybody in Germany, everybody in France, the Gospel was everywhere. When the Reformation took place in the 1500s, it spread, and we saw the Protestant churches, the Lutheran church, were fundamentally Bible-believing and teaching salvation. That is why Martin Luther left it. The Presbyterian church was the same way. But 200 years after all of that happened, they are dead, and today you see God taking His hand off of Europe.

I want to tell you something, folks: the worst thing that can happen to a nation, the worst thing that can happen to a nation, is for God to take His hand off that nation. That is what happened in Europe. You saw it with England. England was a great nation. It was England who... and the study of English history is always a very complicated thing. But it has always fascinated me. When you go through history back there, you see Henry VIII, who was back there in the beginning of the 1500s. Henry VIII was a scoundrel. He was married to Catherine of Spain, but he wanted to dump her and marry Anne Boleyn. Of course, in that day, only the Pope could give a decree for divorce. So Henry VIII called up his buddy, the Pope, who had done a lot of favors for him, and wanted him to work a deal where he could dump Catherine and marry this other chick. Of course, the Pope was not going to do it because he was in bed with Philip of Spain, and they were doing all kinds of stuff. So he says, "I cannot do that." Henry VIII then, at that point, decided that he did not have to listen to the Pope, and he started his own church. We call it the Church of England, or the Anglican Church, or sometimes in America, it is called the Episcopalian Church. How would you like to be a member of a church that got started because the guy who started it wanted to marry somebody else and dump his wife? That is how the church started. People do not know those things. You have those Anglicans and those Episcopalians, and you have the Church of England that walk around in their pomp and circumstance like they really mean something. You know what they mean? They mean that Henry VIII wanted to dump one woman for another woman, so the only way he could do it was to start his own church. They do not know that.

So you see that out of Catherine of Spain, Henry VIII has Mary, a daughter. She becomes the most wicked queen that England ever has. She becomes Bloody Mary. And Anne Boleyn has another child, and she is Elizabeth. When Mary is on the throne, she tries to bring the Roman Catholic Church back, and she severely persecutes all the Bible believers in England. When she gets off the throne, Elizabeth comes in. You know what Elizabeth does? She sets the road and

sets the pavement for James I out of Scotland, who becomes our King James, from which our Bible comes. Fascinating stuff.

In 1588, when Elizabeth was on the throne, the Roman Catholic Church was coming back up through Spain to take her back in. The greatest Spanish armada, the greatest navy that the world had ever seen, Spain had. England did not have a navy. So Spain starts out to come up to take England back and make it a Roman Catholic Church state. England is in fear, but England had a God and England had a book. Right in the middle of the English Channel, as they were coming to take a defenseless nation, God brought up the worst typhoon they ever saw in history and sank the Spanish Armada just like that. They had a book. The Bible says in Psalms 9:17:

Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

That is the way it works. England dumped the Word of God. By 1900, she is an apostate. She has the land back. She wants to give it back to the Jew, but the Parliament says no, and she dumps the Jew and she dumps the Word of God around the same period of time. Today, by the end of World War II, most people do not even know this. God used World War II to judge England. At times, she was done; she was bankrupt. Her coffers were empty. She spent every dime defending herself against Nazism, and she is a seventh-rate power today. America got back. Spain was one time the greatest empire in the world. It does not even rate on the listings today. When you mess with God and that book, brother, as a nation, there is a price to pay.

America is an incredible story. I have always looked at the parallels between the nation of Israel and America. Both start with God and the Word of God. It is an incredible analogy. Both nations have the blessings of God in their countries and the divine hand of God on them. Have you ever seen this? The nation of Israel starts because the people are persecuted in Egypt. There is your evil man, and they become a nation by coming out of Egypt. America, on the other hand, is persecuted in Europe by the Roman Catholic Church, the strange woman. She becomes a nation by God bringing her out of Europe and bringing her to America. It is an incredible parallel.

Israel has prophets. We study them all the time. We have talked about Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and Isaiah. America had preachers: Billy Sunday, Billy Graham, Mordecai Ham, D.L. Moody. Both the prophets and the preachers do one thing for both nations: They take God's side against sin. Incredible. Absolutely incredible. In both cases, the Word of God was built into the foundation of their nations. Moses and the elders had the Ten Commandments. Our Founding Fathers had the principles of the Word of God through the preaching of Jonathan Edwards and Whitefield.

When we formed our Declaration of Independence, John Adams asked Thomas Jefferson to do the draft for our Declaration of Independence. When Thomas Jefferson did it, he brought it back to Adams, and Adams looked at it and said, "This will not work. You only have one reference to God in this." We as a nation can never forget where we came from. Let me tell you something. Every one of our Founding Fathers and everybody who came over had lost somebody to the persecution of that strange woman in the Roman Catholic Church in Europe. They knew what God had done for them. For John Adams to look at that thing and say, "This is not going to work. We have to have more references as a nation to God." So we gave it back, and when it came in

its final form, it had four references to God. Yet, I do not think Thomas Jefferson was a saved man. But divinely, God had him put in those in our Declaration of Independence, the four great aspects of God, because there is one reference in our Declaration of Independence as God as Lawgiver. There is another reference in that thing as God as Creator. There is another one in there that is God as the Supreme Judge, and the fourth one is that God is our Protector. Pretty good, I would think, for a nation to follow those four things.

We start our country, and even today, they look back and they look at our Founding Fathers and what we believed. You know what they call it? They call it Judeo-Christianity. They understand that the Ten Commandments—that is why they have them in courthouses, not anymore. But that is the first thing the courthouse did: put the Ten Commandments. They knew that this nation was founded on the very principle that God founded Israel. Now, you do not get that today. You are going to get Obamacare today, but you do not get that today. When you look at it and you see it, it is an incredible thing. I do not know if you know it or not, but back in Jeremiah or back in Kings, after Solomon dies, Jeroboam and Rehoboam come to power. What happens? They split Israel north and south. In 1860, in our own country, our country was split north and south. Incredible parallels. Absolutely incredible.

But tragically, in both cases, both of them forsake the calling of God and left the path of God, and both go the way of the evil man and the strange woman. Both dump God's Word, and yet both profess the form of Christianity. We find today in this country exactly what you find in Israel. This country has a form of godliness. We talk about God, but this country despises the name Jesus Christ. You cannot pray it anymore. You cannot talk about it anymore. God is the great generic marshmallow in the sky. He can be anything. But you want to limit the conversation, you bring up Jesus Christ. And that is where you are at today. It is incredible. Both will face the wrath of God's chastisement for what they have done with the Word of God.

I will tell you something else that most people do not know. America is the most benign nation on this planet. I was listening to the news today. The big news. You know what the big news is today? That we worked a deal with Iran. Just last night, at three o'clock in the morning, Kerry got over there with a 'hushumashimahini' over there in Iran and worked out a deal that we are going to let them go ahead and enrich and rein in them, but they promised us they are not going to do a weapon. Oh, am I going to sleep good tonight? This world is nuts. You know why I put no faith in the world? Some of you have to learn what I am about to say. You know why I put no faith in this world in any way, shape or form? I am 63 years old, and I can guarantee you one thing I have learned along with a lot of other things that I have learned. The reason why I care nothing for this world, will never go back to this world. I will not even dabble-dabble in this world, or something you ought to learn. I will not do it because there was not one time the world ever kept the promise it made me. There was never one time God ever broke a promise He made me. See, it is a problem for you. It is a problem for me. They are over there now; the President was on his thing this morning. "Oh, what a great day this is!" "We got a deal struck, man." "Yeah, you got a deal struck. Right." We are so naive and so stupid that we do not even see what is going on around us. I want to let you know, for your own good, that is part of God's

chastisement of America. Most people do not know and understand, and the Bible says in Proverbs 28:5, and no true verse fits anywhere other than the world that we live in:

Proverbs 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

Obama does not get it. Kerry does not get it. Joe Biden does not get it. Nobody in Congress or the Senate gets it. Most politicians never get it. But I get it because I have a book. And that book says that God is going to judge nations. 9/11 was the beginning of the gun. When you say that, they come out of the woodwork after you. You know why? They do not understand all down through history. God has used nations to judge His nations. In the Old Testament, it was the Hittites. It was the Canaanites. It was the Moabites. It was the Assyrians. It was the Babylonians. It was nations. In the New Testament, it is going to be the same nation. Now they are just under Islam. But we are going to get it. Enjoy it. You have to change that little song that they all sing, "This is the day the Lord hath made." "Let us be glad and rejoice." "This is the day the Lord hath made." You are going to get it in the neck. If you think God is going to allow a nation like America to escape what He would not allow all the other nations to escape, you are crazy. You are crazy. Because we live here, we have so much affluence. And we have all that we have. And we have this and that. And we have great this and great that. And we have all the things that we could ever want. We have been lulled asleep to the fact that there is an evil man out there and a strange woman out there. And she has taken our Bible from us. We are going to pay the price for it as a nation.

IV. God's Chastisement of Churches

The third one will be the churches that once held the Word of God, but no longer do. In particular, the Laodicean church period that we are in. I do not know if you know it or not, but we are called a cult. I am a cult leader. If you are a visitor here today, you are in great company. You are in a cult. We have got Kool-Aid out there we want you to drink on your way out. I have heard all kinds of definitions of what a cult is. And most of it is bogus. And most of it is ridiculously stupid. It is very obvious they do not know what a cult is. The easiest way to recognize a cult when you see it is: a cult will always tell you what you are supposed to think. A real Bible-believing ministry will just try to get you to think with the principles of the Word of God. But you know what our great crime against humanity is? That we are cults because we simply believe that God wrote a book that is perfect. That is why. Imagine that.

Now, the truth be known, these people could not pick up truth. I have never seen, and I do not like the word 'stupid.' I have never called my kids stupid. Never called my wife stupid. I do not call anybody stupid. But I am happy to change my terminology a little bit because I cannot find another word for the stupidity that I see all around me today. And I am telling you, people are stupid. People embrace stupidity. I have seen people who embrace stupidity like it is a virtue. 150 years ago, everybody believed what we believed. It did not matter if you were a Methodist. It did not matter if you were a Lutheran. It did not matter what you were. Everybody believed what we believe today. We have not changed. I love it over the years. People get mad at God or get into sin in their life when they leave the church. And they have to have somebody to blame it

on. So they will always say—I love this—they will always say this: "Well, Bob just does not preach like he used to preach." And if I do preach like I used to preach, then, "Well, he has just gotten worse." "And he just preaches." "That is all he does is just yell and scream." Well, I do not know what to tell you. You sitting there gives me something to yell and scream about. I do not know what to tell you. But the fact is, you can go back, and thankfully, I am on record all the way back to probably 1970 or 1976. And you can get tapes of me back then. And you know what? I believe the same thing now that I believed back there. I do not preach one thing different today. I may be a little smarter. Hope so. But as far as my preaching is concerned, I have not changed a bit. You changed, see? Once you liked it, now you do not like it. Once it meant something to you, now it does not. That is the way churches are. Once the Bible meant something to them, now it does not. Now, they do not mean anything to them anymore. And it is just the way it is.

When you go back to Acts 11 up to today, you will find that there are some fundamental truths that the true church held to. And when it got into the Baptist realm of it, the Baptist church, they held to them. And we have them today as what we call Baptist distinctives. And I realize that most Baptist churches do not even know about it anymore. But the true line held seven distinct things that they believed. And the seventh thing was that this book was the Word of God. See? So we go all the way back to Antioch. I am not sure where you go. I am not sure where you are coming from or where you are going. But the evil man and strange woman did exactly with the church what he did with Israel as a nation. The evil man and strange woman came in and right behind God and did his work. And the 'hath God said' crowd has come in and taken the Word of God right out of the churches today.

When you go back and you look at the end of the Philadelphia church age around 1900, in America, there are three Baptist groups. The largest is the Southern Baptist Convention. There is another group that is not quite as large. It is called the GRB, General Association of Baptists. And then there are the American Baptists that are smaller yet. Those were the only three Baptist groups you had in 1900. The only three groups. There were no churches like ours. Those were the only three you had in America.

Around the same period of time, the devil, doing his work, brought in the concept of neo-orthodoxy and what we call neo-evangelicalism. Neo- means new. A new orthodoxy, orthodoxy being the truth. Evangelicalism being that we are going to be evangelical, we are going to evangelize, but it is new now, see. A new orthodoxy came out, and it basically said, "Bring the Bible down to man's level." "Do not let man come up to the Bible standard; bring the Bible down." That is why you find people who embraced that today, there is no sin. The gays and the lesbians can come in. We can be women pastors. We can have gay preachers. We can have this or that. We can have lesbians be bishops. We can have women be deacons. What they have done is neo-orthodoxy does not weigh with everything that is right and wrong, and brings the Bible down so that whoever you are, whatever your lifestyle is, whatever you like to do that goes against the Bible, now it is okay. And we will bring the Bible to you. And that is what you find in these churches today.

The other one was neo-evangelicalism. Neo-evangelicalism had one purpose. It was to take the Bible out of the common man and put it back in the realm of scholarship. It had one fundamental goal: That was to take the common Bible out of the hand of the common man and put it back in scholarship where you could not get it unless going through scholarship, and it worked. Most Baptist churches today were a blend of the two. A blend of the two. The American Baptists are so screwed up today that there is one down in Florida where you walk in there, there is a statue of Jesus Christ, a statue of Buddha, a statue of Confucius—take your pick. In an American Baptist church.

So we started back in 1900 to go into great apostasy. The Southern Baptist's big stick was their seminary down in Louisville, Kentucky. And it still is today. By the 1920s, this had done such a damaging thing to them that they are teaching in their seminary: They are teaching that the Bible is fables. They are teaching that Adam and Eve was not a true story. That Noah's flood never happened. That Christ's resurrection never happened. And they are actually in their Bible colleges teaching the evolution that Darwin taught. And they turned out probably 30 generations, maybe 40 generations, of preachers that went out and started churches that believe nothing about the Bible. And it destroyed the Southern Baptist Convention. It got so bad that there was a great split a number of years ago. It was a fundamental group that kind of distanced themselves, but they are all in a mess.

How did we get where we are at, you see? God's judgment on those churches back there was very apparent. We got where we are at because of one guy. And the tragedy is that most of God's people do not even know who he is. And when they hear his name, they do not know anything about him. His name was J. Frank Norris, commonly called the Texas Tornado. J. Frank Norris was born around 1877. He died in 1952. When he came into the Southern Baptist Convention around the 1900s, he was their fair-haired boy. He had great potential, a great preacher. But he saw what was going on and he saw what was happening, and God reached down over the banisters of heaven and got a hold of old J. Frank Norris. I will tell you what, that boy split and tore that thing apart. The modern-day fundamentalist movement, the reason we have a King James Bible today, the reason why we have what we have today, is because of one man who would not stand for the apostasy that was going on and broke with them. And brother, he paid the price upon price upon price for you and me to have that book. There are places you go in Texas today, if you are around Christianity, you say his name, they will shoot you. They hate him. He preserved the last remnant of the true Bible believers, and 99.9999% of the same born-again people today do not even know who he was or what he did. They have no understanding. I will tell you what he did: he took on the whole system. I will tell you what he did: he single-handedly broke the back of the Southern Baptist Convention. To this day, they never have recovered from the nuclear impact of J. Frank Norris, and they hate him today. You know why they hate him so much today and hate him so terribly today? He simply took God's side over the fight in the Bible. That is all he did.

V. God's Chastisement of Individual Christians

The fourth one, moving through here, will be you and me. As God's son. Christians, now let us read our text today in Proverbs 3:11-12. We have had a good introduction here. It says:

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.

Father, we thank You and praise You today. We pray You will take this verse and help us to go here from today and better understand where we are at with You. We do love You; we thank You for all You do for us. And Father, we just ask You now in a very special way to give us what we need today. And we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, Amen.

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.

Every parent that has children should understand what I am about to say today. You want your kid to do right. I never met a parent that grew up wanting their kids to do wrong. But you want your kids to do right, and you put things in their world that will help them. But you know as well as I do, when they do not do right, there are consequences. And those consequences come in two forms. Sometimes it is a mild form of correction. Sometimes it is a harsher concept of chastisement. And you have to deal with them on different levels. Each situation is different. There are things that your child would do that you would just deal with them in one way, and then there are things on a different level that they would do that you have to be more severe in the way you deal with them. God is the exact same way. You see, the Bible forms the model on disciplining your children.

Now I know today, and I say this totally understanding, it is none of my business how you raise your children. I say that going in. It is certainly not. None of my business how you raise your kids. Many parents today forsake the biblical model. They follow the category of doing it and training up their children, or raising up their children, by being wise in their own eyes and leaning to their own understanding, and not the model God gave you. None of my business, I totally understand that. But I want to say this to you. But in spite of your own understanding in your own eyes, I want to tell you something. There is nowhere on this planet a better plan than God's plan. I am just going to tell you that right now. And I will tell you something else. I guarantee you this: The insistence on doing it your way with your children and not following the Bible model will not be limited to just your kids. In all of my years, I have never seen where it was one and not the whole thing. It will be in every area of your life. It always is. It will be your way over God's way by leaning on your own understanding and being wise in your own eyes. I have never seen it where a person just had it in dealing with their kids and it did not infect every other part of their life. It just does not work that way.

Without a doubt, the greatest single passage that shows us the concept of God's correction and God's chastisement in our lives is found in the book of Hebrews. And I want us to turn over there to Hebrews 12. And I want us to look at verses 5 through 11. Here we find seven great principles

in this passage to get down, and it is dealing with God's chastisement and correction in our life. And we want to look at them. Now let us read it. And this goes right along with Proverbs 3.

Hebrews 12:5-11 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and 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? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 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? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he 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.

Verse 5 says this: "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children." That is so true. I think that becomes one of the main issues that God's people either never learn, or if they do learn it, they do not maintain it. That is the fact that, as we gave it to you last week, the Bible says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." And we lose that. We do not get it instilled in us. When parents—your earthly parents—we are going to make a lot of parallels here. You as an earthly parent, when you do not instill in your children and keep before them and keep reminding them there are things they cannot do, there are limitations they have to follow, there are rules that you have to give them. When you do not do that, you know it becomes a problem. And when God's people do not do that, because why? God is not going to come down and tap you on His shoulder and whisper in your ear. He expects you to go to church. He expects you to go to a Bible-believing church where the guy will tell you what you need to know. He expects you to get into the Bible. Let us show you how to take the Bible apart, put it back together again. He expects you to get where you need to get that somebody can instruct you so you do not forget that you are not just going to live your life as a Christian and get away with it without some consequences.

Now let me show you something here. Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." In Proverbs 9:10, it says this:

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Those are two different things. I have been asked many times over the years if that is a contradiction in your Bible. Of course, we know there are no contradictions in the Bible. I have been asked many times to reconcile those two. As you just look at the two verses, it might be hard to reconcile them, but when you take those two verses and put them into the whole context of the book, it is not hard at all, because we know that the book of Proverbs is the process of spiritual growth. And the first thing you need to know as a child of God is there are some things you will not get away with. So "the beginning of knowledge is the fear of the Lord," or "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge," he says. And when you understand that, it means the

first thing you do when you get saved is you understand that you have knowledge that you are not going to get away with whatever you do. But as you grow, as you get to the point of your life where you grow spiritually, now you have wisdom in God's chastisement. Now you understand it; that is where you start. You start in Proverbs 1:7 with knowledge. But one day you grow to the place that you understand that you now have wisdom. It is not just knowing that God is going to chastise you; it is understanding why God is going to chastise you. You get wisdom in it. Now you know it is true. It is true in every aspect of your life and my life. And there are some things you will get away with, just like you will train your kids. Some things you are not going to get away with. Then as they grow and mature, and you tell them, "You cannot do this," you are giving them knowledge; here are all your parameters. As your kids grow and mature... And then as you, as a Christian, grow and mature, as God's son, you get wisdom. Now you not only know that you will not get away with it, now you have wisdom and know why you will not get away with it. That is very important.

Most Christians never can get to part two because they forget, or they never get part one. The process of growing from having knowledge about God's correction and chastisement to the point where you now have wisdom about God's correction and chastisement is a spiritual growth process. Now look at Hebrews 12:5. Here is what he says: "Despise not the chastening of the Lord." If you go back to Proverbs 3:11, I told you they go hand in hand. It says there, "My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord." They are together.

You see, when you do not grow properly, and when God has to come down and deal with you, you know what happens? If you just know that God is going to whack you and you do not understand the whole process of why He whacks you; if you just know mom and dad are going to clobber you kids, but you do not understand the full force of why they are going to clobber you, you know what happens every time? You get an attitude about it. You get an attitude about it. Your children come to the point where they will sass you back, they will not listen to you, they get an attitude about it. And we as God's people, when we do not understand why God's hand is in our life to correct us and sometimes chasten us; when we do not understand the process of growing through that point, of not just knowing but having the wisdom about it, then we begin to despise the chastening of the Lord. And you do that when you do not grow properly. This is why people quit going to church; this is why they quit out of their Bible. God comes down and deals with them, and they get an attitude against God. They get mad at God, just like your kids get mad at you. They will not listen to God, just like your kids will not listen to you. So what they do is they quit going to church. They blame God for it. They get mad at God. God comes down and corrects them, tries to chastise them, deals with them, because they do not have wisdom in why God is doing what He is doing. They never grew to that part. They got knowledge, but they do not have the wisdom and understanding of why God is doing what He is doing. And kids with their parents go through the same thing, because their parents never explain it to them. They never get it to them.

Now let me say something to you young parents about the number one thing in training your kids. And this is very important this morning. The key to a strong family is simply two things. Only two, in a biblical format. But training up your children... We have a lot of young parents

here that have a lot of new babies and a lot of little children. And I am going to tell you, the key to a strong family is simply two things. It is them coming to the point where they understand, they have wisdom about correction and chastisement. It is not just a fact, "Do you correct them?" It is how you have trained them to respond to that correction or chastisement. It is not the fact that you just whip them, chastise them, correct them. It is the fact of how you do it, how you have trained them, how they respond to that. And it is the same way with you and me as God's son. I know God is going to come down and whack me if I do not do what is right. I have two choices. When He does, I can get mad at Him. I can say, "You are unjust, look at so-and-so over here, You did not do anything to him, he got a new car out of it and I got whacked." Or you can look at it with the wisdom and saying, "You know what, Lord, I know why You did it to me." And that is where your kids have to get to. Your kids have to get to the point when you drop the hammer and you come down and deal with them on whatever level it is, they understand why you are doing it. And when they do not, they are going to get an attitude about it.

Parenting is many things on many levels. But fundamentally, it brings your child from a knowledge about correction and chastisement to the wisdom of correction and chastisement. When a child—your child, my child, anybody's child—when they get 16, 17, 18, or 19 years old and they reject your correction and they get an attitude of indifference toward you, totally resist your leadership as a father and mother, there are some things at that point you better enact in your life to turn that thing around. I will be honest with you, most parents cannot deal with this. They cannot. They cannot. I have dealt with parents all my life whose kids were just terrible. And I am not saying they were terrible kids; they were just out in the world, terrible kids. And I have seen some parents do what is right with them and hold the line, and I have the utmost respect for that. I have seen other parents do what most parents do. They moved to Venus.

Now Venus is a neat planet. Venus is closer to the sun than we are. There is a lot of sulfuric acid in the atmosphere of Venus. It is a lot hotter there than it is here. And it tends to make people crazy. And on Venus, it is never a problem to blame your problems on somebody else. On Venus, it is the way they do things, the Venetians. It is what they do. On Venus, there is never one guy on Venus, the Venetians, who ever took responsibility for his problem. It is always somebody else's fault. So what parents do not want to take responsibility, and the kids do not want to take it, they move to Venus. If they have to have the money for a trip to Venus, they move out west to the Big Rock Candy Mountain. It is the big mountain made out of candy. And we know what candy does. Puts too much sugar in your kids. So it could not be your kids' fault. It is all the sugar they eat. So you can go to Venus, and it is never your problem. Or you can go to Big Rock Candy Mountain, and it is never your kids' problem. And if you cannot get there, right across the border, Kansas, Oz. In the land of Oz, it is never anybody's problem. It was not Dorothy's problem. It was not the Tin Man. It was not the Wolf Man. It was not whatever he was. It was not any of those. It was the Wicked Witch of the West and the little Munchkins. Remember? Oh, ee-oh. Those guys. When you will not take responsibility for it, then that is where you wind up.

We have simply failed in a fundamental key aspect of children: teaching them to love and to respect the hand of correction and chastisement in their life as a parent and your children. There is a very clear process to it in the Bible. And I do not care where they get in life. There is always

a process biblically to counter it. But then here is where it goes. I have told people all the time, a couple of years ago, I told several people, I said, "You know what? We are going to lose some families in the next couple of years because where this thing is going, I am going to tell you, that you can hide your kids for a while and you can say whether or not in church today because they are sick or they are here or not." But you can only get away with it for a while. You can only keep it under the rug for a while. And you know, if you never clean your house and you do not vacuum and you just keep sweeping the dirt under the rug, after about 10 or 15, 20 years, you are going to break your neck over that rug. And you know what? You can only get away with it for a while. You can only get away with it for a short period of time. And then what are you going to do? What are you going to do? And then I tell you, because they reject your authority and have absolutely no respect for you or your rules, and they are out of control, they are doing their own thing. How in the world do you expect me to fix your problem? The reason they do not respect your rule of authority is basically and fundamentally the reason why they are not going to respect God's fundamental rule of authority. They have no more respect for the biblical principles than they do for yours. And it comes back to a fundamental issue: raising up your children, raising up your children in a concept that they not only know they are going to get the hand of correction, but they understand why. And that is true in your life and my life. I am never getting a bad attitude toward God. He says, "Despise not the chastening of the Lord." And you know how you do that? By understanding why He chastens us. Let us move on here and look at it.

The flaw, the flaw here, is, was, and will be in the fundamental structure of parenting. I have to tell you this, there is no perfect parent. I have certainly made my mistakes in parenting, and there is no perfect parent. And there certainly are not any perfect kids. There just is not. It is just the bottom line. But the key to it is not perfection. Because if perfection was the key, then we never have any problems. The key is not perfection. The key is a consistency of solid biblical structure and a process of bringing them from knowing about God's chastisement to the wisdom about God's correction and chastisement. You have to do with your child what God does with us. It is the model. That is your model. God takes you when you first get saved; you come to church, you get into the Bible, you get disciplined, you get lined up with somebody a little bit older than you in the Lord, and the process begins where God teaches you first that there are some things you cannot do. And if you try to do them, there is going to be a price to pay for it. But then you learn as you grow why that is. And when you understand why that is, and you really are truly saved, you love the Lord, it is never a problem when He does.

Verse 6 and 7 says, now watch what he says next:

Hebrews 12:6-7 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and 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?

That is a great comforting verse to me because you know what? It is not just targeted at me. We are all going to get it. Nobody here that is saved is going to escape God's correction or God's chastisement; we are all going to get it. But see, the thing is this: you cannot endure it if you do not understand it. You cannot get through it and endure it if you do not have wisdom about it. And there are two great things you need to do in your life. You need to get yourself to that point

as a Christian; then you need to get your children to that point as a Christian. Get into the place in your Christian life that you learn to enjoy your enduring. Get into the place in your Christian life that you are all happy about God's love. We love it when God loves us, that nice warm fuzzy feeling. We all enjoy it when God loves us, wraps His arm around us, we read nice fuzzy passages about that. But you ought to feel the same exact way about God's correction and God's chastisement. You ought to love God through it all. Proverbs 27:7, one of the greatest verses in the Bible on it. He says:

Proverbs 27:7 The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

See that thing? The full soul is somebody that is full of themselves, full of the world, full of all the things that the world has to offer. They loathe—that is, to despise—the honeycomb, the Word of God. But to the hungry soul, he says, "Every bitter thing is sweet." Not just some of the things, not just the ones you like, not just the ones that make you feel good, not just the ones that edify you, but when He comes down and whacks you, every bitter thing is sweet. Is that your attitude today? Is that your kid's attitude? That is where you have to get to. Get into the place in your life where you learn to enjoy the hand of God's correction in your life because you have wisdom about it. When you enact that process of biblical correction and chastisement, and you bring that child from the knowledge about God dealing with them to wisdom about God dealing with them, and as you are dealing with them as the father or the mother early on in their life, and when they hit 18 or 19 and 20 and you have to drop the hammer, they respect it and follow it because they understand it. And even when they do not initially follow it, it will always be the thing that will bring them back. You see, your basis is, "I am responsible for you before God." "I am going to give an account to God for you as your father, my child, and I am not going to let you do that." And if you fail to do that, to bring them to that point in your life, you are going to have some problems.

Now the fourth thing, verse 8:

Hebrews 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

We know a bastard is an illegitimate child, someone who has no father, not really a... it was born out of wedlock, and the father never took responsibility for it, and not sons. In this case, it is talking about somebody who is not really saved. Now this is a very serious problem today, and it is again, it is a result of the evil man and the strange woman. You remember back in our study on 2 Corinthians 11:14, it said:

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

You know, the difference between God's chastisement and God's judgment: God chastises His children; He judges unsaved people in this life. And you know my take on it. I have been talking about it many, many times. It is one of the things that I absolutely... I see it all around me. And it is the price that you will pay for spending so much time in the Bible. The Bible gives you the ability not only to see what is right, but it will give you the ability to see what is phony. I have

said it many times before, I certainly... I basically do not think that most Christians that claim to be Christians are really Christians. I do not know how you can get saved without the Word of God. I just do not know how you can do that. Maybe you can, maybe you know... if you can get saved without understanding the truth, then I guess you can. Personally, I do not think you can. And I certainly do not understand... and I see it all the time. My whole life has been filled with parents whose kids are just as worldly and just do not care one thing about God, they do not care one thing about the Bible, they do not care one thing about church. And the parents just insist, they just insist all day long. Instead of dealing with the issue and trying to save their soul before it is too late, they move to Venus. And it is always somebody else's fault. And when that kid dies and splits hell wide open, when you had a chance to reach him or her or it, whatever the case may be, and you failed to do it. And it is the most incredible thing I have ever seen in my life.

I have told you before, you know, you cannot have salvation, you cannot have a relationship with God without having repentance. And I know the lame excuse, "Repentance is turning from sin." No, repentance is more than that. Repentance is five things, man:

9. Repentance is a broken spirit.
10. Repentance is a contrite heart.
11. Repentance is a humbleness.
12. Repentance is the right spirit.
13. And repentance is a restitution.

It is a thing where it is more than just turning. It is an inside thing. And when you see somebody that just... you talk to them and you talk to them and you talk to them. And there is no remorse, there is no contrite heart, there is no spirit, there is nothing that is broken about it. It just goes on and on and on and on. You know what they say? "When nothing ever changes, it is because nothing ever has changed."

A great example is this one: it was in Ohio. My brother-in-law is a Lutheran, lost as a goose. And I had come back from somewhere, I forget where I was, and I came in and I came upstairs. This was after the funeral, and they were having a religious discussion. It was him, his wife, and his daughter and his boy. And Danny was sitting over in a chair. And I guess the issue started because my brother-in-law brought up the fact of infant baptism. And I sat there and I did not say anything because Danny was dismantling him. Danny has a way of just taking the sides off your sheets and ripping you apart, and you say, "Well, thank you very much, that was the nicest thing I went through." Me, I do not... I just... I talked to him 30 years ago, man. I just... I remember one time he asked me to go to an Easter breakfast they had, a sunrise breakfast. And it was one of those lamest things I have ever been to in my life. And the pastor, if he was not queer, he was missing the best chance he had all week.

So we are sitting around this table, man, and we are around this table, and it is the goofiest stuff. I thought we were going for breakfast. There was a big plate, a big china dinner plate with four little pieces—not ears of corn—four little pieces of corn. No, I am not sure I know where you are coming from, and I am looking after they did the same thing. And the spiritual lesson was, "This is all the pilgrims had when they had their first Thanksgiving." "So we are going to have that

too." I am thinking to myself, "Where are the Indians?" "I am going to trade them some six-guns and some shotguns and get some turkeys or something like that." And they are sitting down, and he says, "Now here is what we are going to do." "Everybody take a piece of paper and write on what you are thankful for today, and we are going to pass it around, and we are going to put it in, and I will read them." Well, you know where this is going, and I am sitting there, you know, and I wrote mine down, and he put it in there, and he started to open them up. He says, "No names on them," and he says, "I want to thank God for butterflies." "I want to thank God for sunshine." "I want to thank God for my family." I can get along without them. "I want to thank God for whatever." And then he went and says, "I want to thank God for the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son that cleansed us all," and threw that out. That was mine. The lamest thing you ever saw in your life, man. And that is where these guys are. And they were up there, and Danny was just... and Danny kept taking him back to the Bible.

Finally he says, and this is what he said, he said, "You know what?" He says, "We agree on everything we have talked about except just one little thing." And he says, "I am happy today that we can agree on everything else." "And the only thing we are at odds on is the concept of infant baptism." And I thought to myself, "Yeah, that one little thing that we are against is going to send you to hell faster than a board." And I am telling you, I sat there and I thought to myself, "Here is a guy who keeps taking him back to the Bible." Danny was not giving him his opinion. Dan kept bringing it back and saying, "Well, you know what? Infant baptism, there is no place in the Bible where he was ever baptized." It did not bother him. "There is no place in the Bible where anyone is ever baptized for salvation." It did not bother him. He had gotten to the place as a lost man where so many Christians get to as a saved person. You just do not care what the Bible says. You are going to believe what you want to believe. You are going to do what you want to do, whether it is in your life, the life of your children, or raising your family, or you are in your job, or whatever you do, it does not matter what the Bible says. And we have come to that where now people claim to be saved, claim to be a Christian. If you would say, "Well, you are not a Christian," he would have had a heart attack. He would have gone off all over the place because in his mind, a Christian is exactly what he thinks a Christian should be. Nothing to do with the Bible. And that is where we are at today. And that is exactly what we got here. It is exactly where we are at today. And we come to the point where we say we are Christians. I see it all around. I see people say, "Oh, he is a Christian?" "Oh, she is a Christian?" They live like hell. They do not do anything for God. They do not care anything about God. No time, no place, they care nothing about it. It is all about them. And we actually, because we live on Venus, we actually think they are saved. And the time that we have that we have to be drilling into them to try to get them saved. Taking off the mask, not allowing them to play the game anymore. We just... Big Rock Candy Mountain, boy, that is nice. Boy, Oz is really nice. And one of these days, they are going to wind up and split hell wide open. All because you had your head stuck in the sand and you were not willing to deal with the aspect the way it really was. People amaze me today.

I will look at verse 9:

Hebrews 12:9 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?

There is your mom and daddy, which corrected us and we gave them reverence. Sure you did. You know why? Because dad took you to the woodshed. You know why you gave them reverence? Because you knew you were going to get clobbered. How many times did the famous words your mother said strike fear into our hearts? "Well, you know, 'I am going to go to your dad's home.'" "Shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"

Now there are a number of things here. First of all, "the Father of spirits." I have been asked many, many times, you know, we get back there in Saul where the Bible says that Saul got an evil spirit from the Lord. People think that is a terrible thing. How can the Lord give an evil spirit? And the answer is right here in Hebrews 12:9. He is the Father of all spirits, good and bad. No spirit does anything without God's permission. So you have to understand in that text. Then he says the model for your kids is God dealing with you.

Matthew 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

The model for your kids is God's model of dealing with you and me. And for that, the first work in your life, there has to be a real relationship with God between me and Him. And the key word here is 'subjection.' This is a word, subjection. One of the greatest study words in the Bible. If you are in subjection to God in all things, then your kids will be to you. And when you are not, God chastises us, and you know, He gets us back in line. And when your kids get out of line, you have to drop the hammer and get them back in line. It is the model that you use. The model that you use.

1 Corinthians 9:27 says that we are to keep our body under subjection, see.

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

There are some things you cannot do with your body once you get saved.

2 Corinthians 9:13 says that we profess subjection under the Gospel.

2 Corinthians 9:13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

You are supposed to subject yourself to the Gospel.

1 Peter 3:1 and 5 says, "Wives, be in subjection to your own husbands," that is the biblical model.

1 Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

1 Peter 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

When it comes to pastors and deacons, in 1 Timothy 3:4, it says:

1 Timothy 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

Three of the greatest words that help you understand what he is talking about:

14. First thing he says, "rule well." You have to have some rules in your family. You have to have some rules.
15. Second thing it says, he says, "in subjection." It does not mean that you will not have issues with them. It means that when you do have issues with them because your family is in subjection, it does not mean they are always going to be perfect. It means when they step out of line, then you subject them to correction or chastisement.
16. And then he says, "with all gravity." That is not what goes up must come down. That is the gravity of the situation, understanding this is the single most important thing, not only in your life and my life as a child of God, to get from that point where we understand about it, but we get to the point that we know it, we get to the point that we have wisdom about it. You better take it seriously, for it is the number one issue.

Now the sixth thing: "For they," your parents, earthly parents, "verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure." Now let me explain that. That does not mean that the word 'pleasure' there is an old English phrase and it does not mean that they took pleasure in whipping you, though some parents probably did. It simply means that parents make their kids do right, not always based on the Bible, just because they want their kid to do right. See it all the time. I have seen unsaved people discipline their kids. You see, in other words, there is no biblical process to it. They just do right with them in a worldly sense. But then he goes on, "but he," God, "for our profit." And see, there is profit, and this is why you want to have wisdom about it. Is not God just coming down and whacking you because He has had a bad day? God has a profit out of it for you and for me. God wants you to make a profit for Him. He wants you to do something as a return for what He did for you, "that we might be partakers of his holiness." See, in your personal life, being close to God in your family, the unbroken chain of ministry we talked about a couple of weeks ago, or the broken family without ministry. It is either going to be one of the two.

VI. The Purpose and Profit of Chastisement

Now the seventh and the last thing, verse 11. Now here is where we put it all together.

Hebrews 12:11 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.

No truer words were ever spoken. It is true of dealing with your kids, and it is certainly true of God dealing with us. When you have to deal with your children, or God has to deal with you or me, there is certainly pain. It does not... "no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous." There is pain, there is heartache, there is tears, there is trauma, and there is a lot of trauma in dealing with the issue. And most parents cannot do it. They cannot do it because they are weak themselves. You see, most parents can never get past the pain of dealing with it, so they never get the gain by dealing with it. You know it as well as I do. See it on the bodybuilders all the time, on

their T-shirts: "No pain, no gain." When God deals with you, or we have to deal with our family, there is no gain unless you go through the pain. You will not grow up to be the man God wants you to be, or the woman God wants you to be, if your parents have not disciplined you to the place where they bring you in under subjection to their rules. And you will never be the man or the woman God wants you to be until you allow God to do that same thing in your life, and you endure it. And you do not just know you are going to get whacked, you have wisdom about it. And that wisdom makes you susceptible; that is, you love God for doing it. Now this underscores what I just said a little while ago: the process of getting knowledge about God's chastisement and correction, and the process of getting God's wisdom on it.

Now he says, "no chastisement for the present," while you are going through it. "Seemeth to be joyous, but grievous." I followed the biblical model in training up my kids, and when they were five or six, seven years old, the whole process is in the Bible. You do not spank your kid for everything. There has to be certain things that you spank them for on different levels. But when I had to spank them, it was not joyous for me, and everywhere it changed the form. The old adage, "This hurts me more than it hurts you," was certainly true with my kids. I remember when they were six or seven years old, and you take them into the bedroom and make them drop their pants and you put their little bottoms over, and that little bottom looks like a two-piece loaf of bread, and you have to whack them, and they cry, and you do not want to. So you want to haul off a little bit and not do it and pull back a little bit, but you know what comes in? You know what comes in. At that moment, the principles flood in that if you do not do it now, there is going to be problems down the line. You see, it says, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous." Nevertheless, in spite of that, afterward, afterward.

And for a parent, that is when, after you would chastise them if it came to that level, that is when you have a time with them. That is where you hold them, you love them, you reinforce all the things, you explain to them why you had to do what you did. That is where I would tell them, "Look, I love you more than anything on this planet, and I am going to give an account to God someday for you." "And so I cannot let you do these things." "I cannot let you take that lamp and hit your sister in the head." "I cannot let you take the dog and pull him by his tail." "I cannot let you put the canary in the microwave." "I cannot let you do those things." They have to understand, but you reinforce at that point. And that is what God does. There is not a time in my life that God did not come down and whack me when I thought about it later and I was alone, that God did not come down and put His arms around me and say, "You know, Bob, I only did that because I want the best for you." "I only did that because I love you." "And you know what, Bob, I will tell you something." "The day I do not come down and put My hand to correction in your life is the day you really got some problems." And that always made it okay with me. I would rather have God come down and do whatever He has to do in my life and know that He loves me, than that God take His hand off me and say, "You are on your own." Good brother, that is the worst situation you can find yourself in.

Now he says, "there is no joy in it, but there is profit in it." And without understanding it and having the wisdom, you will never get what God's chastisement or His correction for you as a child is supposed to do. You will never get it. You know, you will just never get it in life. Verse

11 says, "there is profit, it brings, it yieldeth." That is a great word, 'yield.' Like a tree yielding fruit. He calls it "peaceable fruit of righteousness." Peaceable fruit that we yield in our lives. It is like the tree of life that bore, that yielded 12 manners of fruit. It is like the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit in Galatians that when you yield yourself to God, you yield the fruit of God. And you cannot do that when you are out there, and God is not going to let you get away with it. He is going to, because He loves you, because He wants you. You saw it with Israel in Matthew 21 that tells the great historical perspective of Israel, how God did everything for them. He did this, He did that, He gave them prophets, He hedged them about, He took care of them. And then he says in verse 34, "When the time of the fruit drew near," God did all He did with Israel because He wanted Israel to bear fruit for Him, and there was no fruit.

And God does everything in your life. He gives you your job, He gives you your spouse, He gives you your kids, He gives you everything He gives you for one reason: not that you can go to the Bahamas, not that you can go here, not that you can do this or you can buy this, though that stuff is okay. The fundamental aspect is He wants you to bear fruit for Him. The Bible says in Proverbs 11:30, we are not there yet, but when we get to it, we will talk about it:

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

You see, it is a thing where fruit of righteousness, getting on a path of righteousness, the path of uprightness, and getting to the place in your life and my life where we understand what God is doing with us. That when you first get saved, you realize and you have knowledge that there are some parameters in your life. You have a knowledge that there are some things God is not going to let you get away with. But then as you grow, it is not just that you have knowledge that God is going to come down and deal with me, you have wisdom to understand why. You know now that God has something that He wants you to do. You look at your own family and you look at how you correct your kids because you want them to turn out right. You do not want your kids to be down at Turnaround. You do not want your kids to be down at Restart. You do not want your kids to be homeless out there, somebody giving them hot dogs. You do not want that. Most parents want their kids to have a better life than they had, okay. God wants you to have as good a life as He had when He was on this earth. And you know how you are going to get your kid there? By instructing him and having him understand not just knowledge about why you have to come down and deal with them, but wisdom. And in that wisdom, they understand that you love them. In that wisdom, they understand that it is for their best. In that wisdom, they understand that you are doing it because God says, "I want this child to grow up and be trained the right way." And when they do not do it, you have to come down and deal with it. That model is based on my model that I have and my relationship with God. I know now, I have come a long way in 63 years. I have come a long way since I have been saved. I made about every mistake that a man could make, and I have done a lot of stupid things in my life. But through the process of that, I have come to the point that I understand, I realize, and I understand that the hand of God's judgment in my life, the hand of God's correction, the hand of God's chastisement will never be a bad thing in my life. It will never be. Because I have more than knowledge about it. I have wisdom about it. I have understanding about it. I realize that He only wants the best for me, just

like I wanted the best for my kids. And I realize that He will deal with me like I had to deal with them. And I love Him for it.

I will say it again, the worst day in your life, friend, if you are truly a Christian, the worst day in your life will be the day God takes His hand off of you. Unfortunately, the reason why we see so many of God's people who claim to be God's people just going on in life, never stops, never fazes them, nothing ever happens to them. All that they get into and happens is just a consequence of a compounding of their sin. God never comes down one time is because, as he said, "they are bastards and not sons." They have never truly been saved, never truly been born again. And God's hand of correction or chastisement is never in their life. That is why parents cannot get them to do anything. That is why there is no witness of the Holy Spirit of God. Or they tell you what you want to hear, they will use you where they can, and then they go right back as the Bible says:

2 Peter 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

That is what unsaved people do. And when you do not see it, I will say it again, "When nothing ever changes, it is because nothing ever has changed." And people just continue to do the same old things. But for you and for me, I want you to leave here today understanding we are all partakers of it. God is going to chastise us all at some point or the other. He is certainly going to correct us. When He does, love Him more for it than you did before. Come out of it with the peaceable fruit. Realize that He is doing it simply because He loves you and He wants the best for you, just like you want the best for your children. Every head bowed and every eye closed.