

Reproof and Instruction

Sunday, November 10, 2019

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Straight Paths Bible Church

(Psa 50:16-17) "But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? {17} Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee."

I. Everyone needs instruction.

- A. You are born ignorant and void of understanding
 - 1. In even the basics of taking care of yourself
 - 2. Of how to interact and treat others
 - 3. Of any knowledge of God and his will
- B. Fools refuse instruction

(Prov 1:7) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

(Prov 15:32) "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding."

- 1. Despise means to "throw away" his soul here

- C. Scorners ***hate*** instruction and reproof

(Prov 13:1) "A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke."

(Prov 9:8) "Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee."

II. Receiving reproof and instruction make you to increase —

- A. In wisdom and knowledge
- B. In usefulness and value to God and others
- C. In learning

(Prov 9:9) "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

- D. Even in material possessions

III. Refusing instruction will make you to decrease

(Prov 13:18) "Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured."

(Prov 5:11-12) "And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, {12} And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;"

IV. LEARN to receive instruction

(Psa 32:9) "Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle,"

- A. You are not an animal — don't act like one
- B. The first thing to do in order to receive instruction is to LISTEN
 - 1. You must listen and HEAR on purpose
 - 2. You must retain what you hear
- C. SEEK to be instructed and corrected

(Prov 4:13) "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life."

(Prov 8:33) "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not."

- D. Realize that you don't know everything and NEED to be instructed
- E. Don't be offended
- F. Don't apply it to someone else you know
- G. Don't throw yourself into a pity party about how stupid, dumb, and worthless you are.

V. Learn to receive instruction from the right place

- A. Bad instruction is more readily received

(Prov 19:27) "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge."

- B. God said He would instruct us

(Psa 32:8) "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

- C. God will instruct us through his WORD

(Psa 119:105) "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

- D. At CHURCH
 - 1. Anonymously
 - 2. With love and not upbraiding
 - 3. Where we are loved by others
- E. If you receive instruction at church you will increase
 - 1. In usefulness and value to God and to others
 - 2. In holiness
 - 3. In favor and power with God and men
 - 4. In understanding of the things of God and his will
 - 5. The ability to discern good and evil (right and wrong)