

“God’s Rod of Correction”
Psalm 30
(Preached at Trinity, June 13, 2010)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Every Christian is on a journey of grace. Our life is a relationship with Jesus Christ. As Christians, our greatest desire is to know Him more and to be more like Him. Seeking holiness has become our chief pursuit.
Philippians 3:13-14 – “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
2. God is at work in us. He is purifying us through the work of sanctification making us progressively more and more holy. Sometimes this work of conforming us to God’s perfect righteousness can be a painful process. Sometimes it takes place through the rod of correction. This is the experience David is expressing in **Psalm 30**. It was no small chastisement for David was brought to the brink of death – see **Verse 3**
3. As we’ve seen, the Psalms fall into various genres. There are seven genres of psalms:
 - Hymns of Praise – recognized by their exuberant praise of God.
 - Laments – opposite of the praise psalms, they express sadness, fear, or even anger.
 - Psalms of Thanksgiving – the offering of thanksgiving when God answers a prayer of lament and relationship is reestablished
 - Songs of Confidence – these psalms have trust as their dominant theme
 - Psalms of remembrance – remembering God’s tender mercies and power of deliverance
 - Kingship Psalms – these psalms focus on God’s kingship – the messianic rule of Christ
 - Wisdom Psalms – practical direction is given on how to live as God’s people.
4. **Psalm 30** is a Psalm of thanksgiving, however, it is closely tied to his lament – the sorrow he experienced while under God’s chastisement.
Psalm 30:5 – “weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.”
Psalm 30:11 – “Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;”
5. In the superscription we are told that this psalm was sung at the dedication of the house of David. We are not given any indication as to the identity of this house – there have been several points of speculation offered.
 1. Some believe it is referring to the Temple. The ESV and NIV translate it Temple. The problem with this view is the Temple had not yet been constructed.
 2. Some believe it is referring to David’s own house, that is, his palace.
 3. Others hold that David could be referring to the dedication of the building materials for the Temple.
6. The chief focus of this psalm is David’s praise for the restoration of God’s favor.

7. We can divide the thought of the psalm into three categories which we won't look at in their order in the text because David begins at the end.
 1. David reflects on the reason for God's chastening rod as well as the result
 2. David responds to the rod of God's correction
 3. David rejoices in the restoration of his communion with God

- I. David reflects on the reason for God's chastening rod as well as the result – **Verses 6-7**
 - A. David became proud and over confident

Psalms 30:6 – “And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.”

 1. God had blessed David above measure.
He had given him a kingdom. He had given him abundant wealth.
He gave him a powerful army and rest from his enemies – the word for “prosperity” can also mean “ease.”
 2. David claimed it all as his own and put himself at rest – he became swallowed up in pride
 3. This was the cause of his fall into sin with Bathsheba –
See 2 Samuel 11:1-4
He saw himself as king – deserving of whatever he desired
 - B. Pride is a terrible curse that brings men down to the dust
 1. Leaders are in particular danger of this sinful self-confidence
 - a. Listen to the pride of Nebuchadnezzar
Isaiah 14:13-15 – “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”
 - b. Paul gave warning concerning the qualifications for the office of pastor
1 Timothy 3:6 – “Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.”
 2. We are warned over and over in the Bible of the dangers of pride
^{KJV} **James 4:6** – “. . . God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”
1 Peter 5:5-6 – “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”
 3. In our pride we are always in danger of lifting ourselves high and forgetting God.
God sent His rod of correction upon David because David was forgetting God. “I shall never be moved.”
 - C. David reflected on the result of God's correction
 1. God removed His countenance from David
Psalms 30:7 – “thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.”
 - a. David lost the sweetness of God's communion

- b. There is a difference between *union* and *communion*
Our union with God is sovereign and unalterable
Our communion with God is alterable – it can be affected by our actions
- c. Sin always leads us away from God
- 2. Sin can cause the Holy Spirit to remove His gracious influences
Isaiah 59:2 - “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.”
- 3. Sin can hinder our ability to approach God’s throne in prayer
Psalms 66:18 – “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*.”
NAS **1 Peter 3:7** – “You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”
- 4. 1689 LBC **CHAPTER 5; OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE**
Paragraph 5. “The most wise, righteous, and gracious God does often times leave for a season His own children to manifold temptations and the corruptions of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, that they may be humbled; and to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support upon Himself; and to make them more watchful against all future occasions of sin, and for other just and holy ends. So that whatsoever befalls any of His elect is by His appointment, for His glory, and their good.”
- 5. God’s rod of correction upon David apparently also came in the form of physical adversity
Psalms 30:2-3 – “O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. ³ O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.”
 - a. David health left him and he was on the brink of death
 - b. God’s rod can take the form of sickness
1 Corinthians 11:30 – “For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.”

II. Let’s look at how David responded to the rod of God’s correction – **Verses 8-10**

- A. David fell on his knees in prayer
Psalms 30:8 – “I cried to thee, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication.”
 - 1. David had the heart of a believer. He fell into deep grief in the absence of God’s countenance
Psalms 30:7 – “thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.”
 - 2. He reasoned with God
Psalms 30:9 – “What profit *is there* in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth?”

- a. David's heart and life was to praise God and declare His name
- b. David pleads, "Oh God, how can I praise you from the grave?"
- c. The Christian is between two worlds. He longs to be with Christ, yet he also longs to carry the Gospel to the lost and labor for the good of the church

Philippians 1:21-24 – "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. ²³ But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better; ²⁴ yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake."

B. David sought God's mercy

Psalms 30:10 – "Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper."

1. David knew he deserved God's rebuke. He plead for God's mercy.
 - a. David's plea was a cry of repentance. His heart was filled with remorse and he clothed himself with sackcloth
Psalms 30:11 – "thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness"
 - b. This was David's heart. When Nathan told David, "Thou art the man" David offered no defense.
2 Samuel 12:13 – "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD."
 - c. The Godly man's heart is a repentant heart – hear **Psalms 32:5**
"I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."
2. When we go through times of adversity we should fly to God in prayer in humility.
3. Not all adversity is the result of God's chastening but it sometimes is.
4. We should go before God and inquire.
Psalms 139:23-24 – "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
5. Thomas Watson – "A sick bed often teaches more than a sermon."
6. Usually our conscience convicts us quickly. We must always respond to the knowledge of sin with repentance.
7. With repentance comes restoration.
Matthew Henry – "The Christian religion is the religion of sinners, of such as have sinned, and in whom sin in some measure still dwells. The Christian life is a life of continued repentance, humiliation for and mortification of sin, of continual faith in, thankfulness for, and love to the Redeemer, and hopeful joyful expectation of a day of glorious redemption, in which the believer shall be fully and finally acquitted, and sin abolished for ever."

III. David rejoices in the restoration of his communion with God

A. David knew His prayers were heard

Psalm 30:11-12 – “Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; ¹² To the end that *my* glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.”

1. David’s heart was turned from weeping to dancing
2. God healed David from His life-threatening sickness

Psalm 30:2-3 – “O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.”

3. With confession comes forgiveness

1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

B. David’s heart was turned to praise and worship

1. David glorified God

Psalm 30:1 – “I will extol thee, O LORD”

- a. The word “extol” is from a word that means “rise up, to lift up or be lofty.”
- b. This is the nature of our worship. We prostrate ourselves as low as possible and lift God up as high as possible.

2. David sang forth a song of praise and thanksgiving

Psalm 30:4 – “Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”

- a. Thanksgiving draws from us praise
- b. The grateful person is a worshipping person
 - The leper healed from His disease

Luke 17:15-16 – “And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.”

- The woman who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears

Luke 7:47 – “Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little.”

C. David spoke words that serve as an encouragement to all of God’s saints suffering under His rod of affliction.

Psalm 30:5 – “For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.”

1. God’s rod is for just a moment. It is a measured rebuke. He is quick to forgive and quick to heal.
2. God’s rod is always a blessing

Psalm 94:12 – “Blessed *is* the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;”

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.”

Conclusion:

1. God will not allow His people to continue to forget Him
 - a. As an act of His mercy and love towards His children He chastises them
NAS **Hebrews 12:6** – “For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.”
Revelation 3:19 – “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”
 - b. True love demands discipline
NAS **Proverbs 13:24** – “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”
Proverbs 3:11-12 – “My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: ¹² For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.”
2. God disciplines us *because* we are His children.
 God’s discipline is evidence that we belong to Him – a father uses the rod on his own children.
Hebrews 12:7 – “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”
3. Because God loves us with the love of a Father to His children He will not allow us to turn from Him. God’s rod is designed to humble us and turn our stiff-necks back towards God.
 May we be submissive children quick to respond to the rod of our Father.
Job 5:17 – “Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:”