

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 14

Correction and Reproof

Correction and Reproof

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To teach that there is wisdom and life in listening to and giving correction, but to refuse correction can be harmful, even to the point of death.

Key Verses

Proverbs 1:3,7

Proverbs 10:17

Proverbs 12:1,15

Proverbs 13:8

Proverbs 15:5, 10, 12, 31, 32

Psalms 51

II Timothy 4:2

Memory Verse - Proverbs 10:17

"He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 2:23-24a

Write, "Things I Am Thankful For" on the white board or a piece of paper. Have the kids list things that they are thankful for and write out a list of the things they say. After a couple minutes ask, "Is anyone here thankful for discipline?"

Today we are going to learn how God's discipline is actually evidence of His love for us. Receiving correction when we are doing something wrong or dangerous may be uncomfortable in the moment, but it is something we should be thankful for.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Proverbs began by showing us that it is wise to receive instruction and foolish to despise it (1:3,7). God loves us and gave us instructions in His Word that, if followed, will keep us on the way of life (10:17). Failing to keep God's instructions causes us to stray from the path of life, putting us in danger of poverty, shame (13:18), harsh discipline, and even death (15:10). This is why Proverbs tells us that the person who hates correction is foolish (12:1). He is always in danger of these things because he thinks he is always right (12:15) and hates the people who try to correct him (15:12), disdain their instruction (15:32) and even despising God's loving discipline (Hebrews 12:6). This repeated refusal to listen to correction will eventually lead to his destruction (29:1).

God's Word instructs us not to despise the chastening (discipline) of the Lord because He disciplines those whom He loves (Hebrews 12:6) to bring them out of the danger of disobedience (mentioned above) back to the path of life (6:23). That being said, those who are wise receive reproof and correction, knowing that it is evidence of God's love for them and is for their benefit. Listening to rebuke brings honor (13:18), and receiving correction shows wisdom (15:5) and increases understanding (15:32). Once corrected, the wise person is in a position from which they can then be used by God to correct others, using the Word of God to instruct and rebuke in love. Some may respond to that instruction with hatred (15:12), but those who are wise will value correction more than gold (25:12).

LOOK

There are many things in life that come with instructions (toys, electronics, cars, etc.). God Himself has given us the instruction manual for life (the Bible)! Some people follow these instructions, and others don't even bother to look at them. When those instructions aren't followed, there tend to be consequences that make our lives more difficult. This is true of the instructions/rules our parents and teachers give us as well. All of us will have times in our lives when we do not obey the instructions we have been given. It's at those times of straying from instruction that correction and reproof are needed, and if those don't work, discipline. It is how we respond to correction that will show whether we are wise or foolish.

God shows us in Proverbs that making the choice to follow God's instruction is not only right, but also the choice that leads to the best outcomes in life. Contrary to what many people think, to be a Christian doesn't mean to follow a long list of restrictive rules that take all the fun out of life. Rather, the Christian life is a place of safety, comfort, and great joy. In listening to God's instruction and obeying His voice, we avoid unnecessary hardships and pain.

The interpretation/
exegesis of the passage.
What does this passage
mean? How does this
passage apply to my
life?

LOOK (Continued)

Think about what it's like to wear a seatbelt. The law states that everyone needs to wear one while driving. Someone might choose not to wear a seatbelt because it is restrictive, you can't move around as freely in the car, or it might be uncomfortable. However, if that person gets in an accident, that minor inconvenience would have saved them from injury or worse. God doesn't want us to experience unnecessary pain and trouble in our lives. However, He tells us that by living opposed to His will and His Word, that is exactly what we bring upon ourselves. Obeying His Word is kind of like wearing a seatbelt. Even though we might feel restricted in what we can do sometimes, we know that it is the choice that leads to life and safety.

This is why God disciplines us when we don't listen to His instruction, and He often uses our parents to do that. God doesn't do this because He wants to harm us, but just the opposite! Rejecting God's instruction is sinful, and sin is harmful to us and others. He loves us and wants to lead us in paths of righteousness, knowing that we are bound for dangerous territory when disobey. We should thank the Lord every day for the godly people He has placed in our lives to help keep us on the path of life.

King David was a great man of God, but he committed terrible sin with Bathsheba that God records for us in His Word. He lied, committed adultery, and had someone murdered. When David was confronted about his sin, he didn't argue or try to justify his actions. Instead, he accepted correction and wrote Psalm 51, a Psalm of brokenness and repentance, knowing that His sin had hurt not only himself, but those around him. May God give us wisdom and grace to respond just like David did when we are disobedient and don't listen to instruction.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Proverbs 10:17.

Pray: Thank God for giving us instructions that show us the way of life and blessing. Ask for wisdom to accept correction from others, especially our parents, with the right attitude.

Parent Question: Why does God discipline us? What does it look like to respond to correction in wisdom?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Select Proverbs by David Guzik

3. ([Pro 1:7](#)) The foundation of all wisdom.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

a. **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge:** The Book of Proverbs focuses on practical life wisdom more than theological ideas. Yet it is founded on a vital theological principle—that true **knowledge** and wisdom flow from **the fear of the Lord**.

i. This **fear of the Lord** is not a cowering, begging fear. It is the proper reverence that the creature owes to the Creator and that the redeemed owes to the Redeemer. It is the proper respect and honoring of God. Several writers give their definition of **the fear of the Lord**:

•“But what is **the fear of the Lord**? It is that affectionate reverence by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father’s law.” (Bridges)

•“A worshipping submission to the God of the covenant.” (Kidner)

•“‘The fear of the Lord’ ultimately expresses reverential submission to the Lord’s will and thus characterizes a true worshiper.” (Ross)

•“*The fear of the Lord* signifies that *religious reverence* which every intelligent being owes to his Creator.” (Clarke)

ii. God should be regarded with respect, reverence, and awe. This proper attitude of the creature toward the Creator is **the beginning of knowledge** and wisdom. Wisdom cannot advance further until this starting point is established.

iii. If true wisdom can be simply gained by human effort, energy, and ingenuity (like the rare and precious metals of the earth), then the **fear of the Lord** is not essential to obtaining wisdom. But if it comes from God’s revelation, then right relationship with Him is the key to wisdom.

iv. “What the alphabet is to reading, notes to reading music, and numerals to mathematics, the fear of the Lord is to attaining the revealed knowledge of this book.” (Waltke)

b. **The beginning of knowledge:** Solomon probably meant **knowledge** here mostly in the sense of *wisdom*. The idea that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom is also found at [Job 28:28](#), [Psalm 111:10](#), [Proverbs 9:10](#), and [Ecclesiastes 12:13](#).

i. **Beginning** has the sense of “the first and controlling principle, rather than a stage which one leaves behind; cf. [Eccl. 12:13](#).” (Kidner)

ii. “The fundamental fact, then, is that in all knowledge, all understanding of life, all interpretation thereof, the fear of Jehovah is the principal thing, the chief part, the central light, apart from which the mind of man gropes in darkness, and misses the way.” (Morgan)

iii. “The fall of man was a choosing of what bid fair ‘to make one wise’ ([Gen. 3:6](#)) but flouted the first principle of wisdom, the fear of the Lord.” (Kidner)

[Proverbs 10:17](#)

**He who keeps instruction is in the way of life,
But he who refuses correction goes astray.**

a. **He who keeps instruction:** Wisdom and **instruction** must not only be gained, but also *kept*. That keeping will bring one **in the way of life**.

b. **He who refuses correction:** To **refuse correction** is the opposite of keeping instruction. It is to reject instruction, and will lead on to go **astray**.

[Proverbs 12:1](#)

**Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge,
But he who hates correction is stupid.**

a. **Whoever loves instruction:** Wisdom tells us to keep learning and to **love instruction** and **knowledge**. A humble willingness to be taught (**instruction**) shows a true love of **knowledge**.

i. “If we find that we are upset when our faults are pointed out to us, that shows we lack not only grace but understanding. We are behaving as if we were stupid...Oh, for a teachable spirit to sit at the feet of our divine Master and learn from him.” (Bridges)

b. **He who hates correction is stupid:** The proud man or woman who is unwilling to receive **correction** reveals his or her own rejection of knowledge.

i. **Hates correction:** “That sapless fellow Nabal would hear nothing; there was no talking to him, no dealing with him; but as [the] horse and mule that have no understanding. [[Psalms 32:9](#)].” (Trapp)

ii. **Is stupid**: “Discovereth himself to be a most foolish and stupid creature, because he is an enemy to himself and to his own happiness.” (Poole)

Proverbs 12:15

**The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
But he who heeds counsel is wise.**

a. **The way of a fool is right in his own eyes**: The **fool** almost always thinks they are on the right path. It is difficult for them to think carefully and accurately about the path of their life.

b. **He who heeds counsel is wise**: The **wise** man or woman understand the value of **counsel** and does not look only to what **is right in his own eyes**. The **wise** person understands that is helpful to get another set of “**eyes**” on one’s **way**.

Proverbs 13:8

**The ransom of a man’s life is his riches,
But the poor does not hear rebuke.**

a. **The ransom of a man’s life is his riches**: A **man’s life** can be measured in many ways. One of those measurements—though by no means the best measurement—is **his riches**. In a time of crisis, a man’s **riches** may well **ransom** his life.

i. **His riches**: “They may help a man out at a dead lift, and get him a release out of captivity, or a lease of his life. ‘Slay us not,’ say they, [[Jeremiah 41:8](#)] ‘for we have treasures in the field. So he forebore, and slew them not among their brethren.’” (Trapp)

ii. **The ransom of a man’s life**: “But what can a person give in exchange for his soul ([Matthew 16:26](#))? It is too precious to be redeemed with corruptible silver and gold ([1 Peter 1:18](#)). When all the treasures of earth were insufficient for this ransom, the riches of heaven were poured out ([1 Peter 1:19](#); [Hebrews 10:5-8](#)).” (Bridges)

b. **The poor does not hear rebuke**: Most commentators take this in a *positive* sense, with the idea that the **poor** will never find himself in the same trouble as the rich man who must **ransom** his life with **his riches**.

i. Morgan explains the thought in the positive sense: “That is to say that if wealth has its advantages, so also has poverty. The rich man by his wealth may be able to conserve his life, but the poor man escapes the very dangers into which the rich are brought.”

ii. “Those who have riches have often much trouble with them; as they had much trouble to *get* them, so they have much trouble to *keep* them. In despotic countries, a rich man is often accused of some capital crime, and to save his life, though he may be quite innocent, is obliged

to give up his riches; but the *poor*, in such countries, are put to no trouble.” (Clarke)

iii. If taken in a negative sense, then here Solomon considered those whose poverty comes from their moral failings. Certainly not everyone who is **poor** is in that condition because of their unwillingness to **hear rebuke**, but some are. Their foolish rejection of wisdom leads them to poverty.

Proverbs 15:5

**A fool despises his father’s instruction,
But he who receives correction is prudent.**

a. **A fool despises his father’s instruction:** Proverbs is written as advice from a father to his children. **A fool** would despise the wisdom that comes from a godly parent and God’s word.

i. “One’s attitude toward parental teaching will determine one’s lifelong attitude toward authority and instruction.” (Garrett)

b. **He who receives correction is prudent:** Learning wisdom is more than learning facts; it is to receive **correction**. If what we learn *only* confirms what we already know, it probably isn’t wisdom we are learning.

Proverbs 15:10

**Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way,
And he who hates correction will die.**

a. **Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way:** When a man or woman departs from God’s path (**the way**), in mercy God will send them **harsh discipline**. This **discipline** is a warning and opportunity to change one’s ways.

b. **He who hates correction will die:** The one who rejects God’s loving and merciful **correction** seal his own fate and sets his own course. They are on the way of death and will remain there.

i. “He that is embittered by rebukes, and not bettered by chastisements, shall die...they that will not obey that sweet command, ‘Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden,’ shall one day have no other voice to obey but that terrible *discedite*, ‘Go ye cursed into everlasting flames.’” (Trapp)

ii. *“The one who hates correction will die (see [Proverbs 5:23](#); [10:21](#)) an eternal death without God, the tragic and inevitable end of apostates who have become hardened against truth.”* (Waltke)

[Proverbs 15:12](#)

**A scoffer does not love one who corrects him,
Nor will he go to the wise.**

a. **A scoffer does not love one who corrects him:** Because the fool and the **scoffer** hate correction, they will hate (**not love**) the one who brings it.

i. **Does not love one who corrects him:** “As Ahab did Micaiah; Herodias, John Baptist; the Pharisees, our Saviour.” (Trapp)

b. **Nor will he go to the wise:** In rejecting correction, the **scoffer** rejects wisdom and will remain trapped in his folly.

[Proverbs 15:31](#)

**The ear that hears the rebukes of life
Will abide among the wise.**

a. **The ear that hears the rebukes of life:** Not every **ear** will listen to correction, but there is blessing to those that do. Also, **life** has its own **rebukes** for those who have the **ear** to hear. In general, life rewards wisdom and **rebukes** folly.

i. **Hears the rebukes of life:** “That receives it gratefully and obeys it. ‘Advice is for them that will take it,’ so says one of our own old proverbs; and the meaning here is nearly the same.” (Clarke)

ii. “The way we receive a rebuke tests our character. It reveals if we possess the graces of humility, sincerity, and self-knowledge.” (Bridges)

b. **Will abide among the wise:** One of the more important aspects of wisdom is the simply ability to hear and learn. If we can’t learn, we can never **abide among the wise**.

[Proverbs 15:32](#)

**He who disdains instruction despises his own soul,
But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.**

a. **He who disdains instruction despises his own soul:** To refuse wisdom and the **instruction** that comes from wisdom is to hate one’s **own soul**. Those who reject wisdom hurt many people, but most of all themselves.

b. **He who heeds rebuke gets understanding.** To hear and heed **rebuke** is to get and grow in wisdom (**understanding**). Receiving **rebuke** is rarely pleasant, but it is worth it for the wisdom it brings.

i. **Heeds rebuke:** “Correction is infinitely preferable to the poison of sweet flattery.” (Charles Bridges)

ii. **Gets understanding:** “Heb. *possesseth an heart*, which the Hebrews make the seat of wisdom.” (Poole)