

Proverbs Week #29 (3:11, 12)

“My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD or loathe His reproof, for whom the LORD loves He reproofs, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.” Proverbs 3:11,12

We continue to work our way through chapter 3 of Proverbs and consider the themes presented there in relation to being wise. Proverbs 3:3 taught us never to let truth and kindness leave us. Proverbs 3:5,6 directed us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not to lean on our own understanding. The chapter started with a father directing his son not to forget his teaching and to keep his commandments. Then the son is turned to the God in whom he should trust. Today’s verses teach us about the discipline of the Lord.

In this phrase, the discipline of the Lord or מוֹסֵר יְהוָה (musar Hashem), the Hebrew word for discipline comes from the root יָסַר (yasar) and has the basic meaning to instruct, inspect, or correct. “In the general semantic field of learning and instructing, the verb specifically relates not to formal education but to the instilling of values and norms of conduct by verbal means or, after the fact, by rebuke or even physical chastisement.” (*New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis, Zondervon*)

The son, who was earlier told to acknowledge the Lord in all his ways and trust in Him to direct his paths, is now given here a greater picture of how the Lord will do this and the relationship that will exist as a part of this trust. God will be like a loving father who will speak and direct him like a son who is a delight!

The son who would be admonished to be wise is not directed to enjoy the discipline of the Lord but to neither reject nor loathe it. No one enjoys discipline as the writer of Hebrews tells us, “All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” (Heb 12:11)

Children if you will receive the wisdom from the Bible and put your trust in God, He will guide and direct you as a loving father. The character qualities and virtues, which you will need in order to walk in righteousness before Him, He will provide. This is the context of Biblical wisdom and a central part of the teaching and learning relationships that will build strong godly families. It is in this context that Paul taught Timothy that “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16,17) He had just reminded Timothy “that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in the Messiah Yeshua.” (2 Tim 3:15)

May we all be encouraged that as we do and teach God’s word and seek to do what is pleasing in His sight that He will direct us. It may not always seem pleasant but we can trust Him to be a faithful Father and to train us in His ways! I also encourage you to continue to ask God for wisdom. Pray that He will teach and train you. Ask, seek, and take action daily to acknowledge God and trust in Him to provide what you need.