

Chastisement

“Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the LORD, ‘Nor be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar, And your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, And no one shall make [him] afraid. For I [am] with you,’ says the LORD, ‘to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.’ ”For thus says the LORD: ‘Your affliction [is] incurable, Your wound [is] severe. [There is] no one to plead your cause, That you may be bound up; You have no healing medicines. All your lovers have forgotten you; They do not seek you; For I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, With the chastisement of a cruel one, For the multitude of your iniquities, [Because] your sins have increased. Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow [is] incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, [Because] your sins have increased, I have done these things to you. ‘Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; And all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; Those who plunder you shall become plunder, And all who prey upon you I will make a prey. For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,’ says the LORD, ‘Because they called you an outcast [saying]: "This [is] Zion; No one seeks her.’” (Jeremiah 30:10-17 NKJV)

Here is the proverb proven among the people of God. “Open rebuke [is] better Than love carefully concealed. Faithful [are] the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy [are] deceitful.” (Proverbs 27:5-6 NKJV) God is faithful to rebuke His children when necessary. He is not slack concerning discipline like many a parent. He doles out what is required, in this case a severe wound like one made by an enemy, to correct their waywardness.

Why do you cry about your afflictions? They are there because your sins have increased. How often do you attribute your troubles to discipline? Clearly, the Lord is willing to chasten His people. Consider what is said about the Lord’s supper.

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason, many [are] weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if, we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.” (1 Corinthians 11:28-32 NKJV)

Sin is a serious thing, and the Lord does not ignore it. Are you having difficulties? Could it be that there is unresolved sin in your life? If you can see areas that are clearly sin, then repentance is the only course of action. It might be that once you repentant, the Lord will ease the pain of your suffering.

However, let your motivation be to remove the blemish caused by your waywardness. Sin should grieve you. Don’t be like the rebellious child that only acquiesces to the demand. Forsake the wicked way, and return to the Lord.

My dear friends if you could truly see the measure of your sin, you would find yourself repugnant, loathsome, and all together intolerable. The Lord sees it, and thankfully, He chastens His children that the stench may be removed. He does not utterly forsake, but intends to renew us again to a place of favor for His glory's sake.

“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:11 NKJV)

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