

Proverbs Chapter 3
Week 5, v.11-13

Review Pr 3: 8-10 What does it say? What does it mean? How is it applied? Give an example of how this truth worked itself out in your life last week.

Pr 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, the son in whom he delights. (“neither be weary of his correction” KJV)

Reject <ma’ac> to spurn; also (intransitively) to disappear:--abhor, cast away (off), contemn, despise, disdain, (become) loathe(some), melt away, refuse, reject, reprobate, X utterly, vile person.

Why do we reject something? Discipline does not carry a fun connotation with it, so wouldn’t it be natural to hate it? When you discipline a child, do they love it? Are they eager for more?

To reject means to turn away from something, to cast it off with hatred.

Discipline <muwcar> properly, chastisement; figuratively, reproof, warning or instruction; also restraint:--bond, chastening ((-eth)), chastisement, check, correction, discipline, doctrine, instruction, rebuke.

For what reasons would you discipline a child? What happens to a child when discipline is not part of his training? When God disciplines us, is it always because we’ve done something wrong? The definition above tells us discipline is for reproof (correction), warning or instruction.

De 8:2-5 "And you shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. "And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man

lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD. "Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. "Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

2Co 4:17 The light burden of our momentary trouble is preparing for us, in measure transcending thought, a weight of imperishable glory;

Think of the words correction and instruction. We correct when someone is wrong. We instruct to teach what is correct. Think of the many items you have in your home. How many of those items came with instructions? Why? How many came with warnings? Why?

Correction: an alteration that removes an error

Instruction: a spoken or written statement of what must be done; teaching in a particular subject or skill

Discipline: *training to ensure proper behavior*; the practice or methods of teaching and enforcing acceptable patterns of behavior

Think of the areas in your life that are most disciplined. Why is this so? Have you learned something along the way that has caused you to take this area more seriously?

What sometimes happens when someone gets ill directly because of an unhealthy lifestyle? Can suffering consequences for poor decisions cause us to act differently in the next situation?

Loathe <quwts> to be (causatively, make) disgusted or anxious:--abhor, be distressed, be grieved, loathe, vex, be weary.

Reproof <towkechah> chastisement; figuratively (by words) correction, refutation, proof (even in defence):--argument, X chastened, correction, reasoning, rebuke, reproof, X be (often) reprovved.

How should we respond to God's correction in our lives?

- take it seriously (there's a reason, it is a big deal)
- do not turn away from it (it is for our benefit; "we can run but not hide")
- do not get tired of it (expect it, be thankful for it, it is valuable)

Ps 119:75 I know, O LORD, that Thy judgments are righteous, And that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me.

Heb 12:5-6 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." – and v.7-12

Rather than become weary of God's discipline in our lives, we should be comforted by it – it proves we are His children and He loves us enough to care. He gives us opportunities to be stretched and become more like Him. His discipline protects us.

Job 5:17 Behold, how happy is the man whom God reprove, So do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

Is discipline from God in our lives necessary? Do you consider the love that goes into His discipline for us? Is it more difficult to correct your children or ignore them? Do they always get it the first time? Do we always get it the first time? Are there areas that have been a continuous struggle in your life? Praise the Lord that He will continue to cause you to grow through His loving discipline.

Think of a time when you have taught someone something and you have had the pleasure of seeing him or her execute it to his or her advantage. Did it bring you joy? Each time we are able to overcome a temptation or choose righteously (through the work of the Holy Spirit) we honor God.

After looking at the idea of discipline more closely, does it have to be a negative thing? The next time God allows adversity in your life how will you

respond? Will you be thankful for His love and care, knowing He is giving you an opportunity to grow spiritually? Or, will you fight against it, turning away and not have eyes to see His love for you as His child?

Pr 3:13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding.

The word for blessed is <'esher> translated happy.

Wisdom – knowledge; the fear of God (Job28:28)

Understanding <tabuwn> intelligence; by implication, an argument; by extension, caprice: discretion, reason, skillfulness, understanding, wisdom.

We can have lots of good information but if we never put it to use, what good is it? Finding wisdom takes effort on our part. Refer back to Proverbs 2:4, “If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures”.

How far will people go to acquire wealth? To some, it is what motivates them. Typically, great effort goes into any success. What effort is put into our desire to gain wisdom through God’s word?

From Adam Clarke’s Commentary: [Hid treasures] The original word signifies property of any kind concealed in the earth, in caves or such like; and may also mean treasures, such as the precious metals or precious stones, which are presumptively known to exist in such and such mines. And how are these sought?... In the Brazils slaves are employed to scrape up the soil from the bed of the Rio Janeiro, and wash it carefully, in order to find particles of gold and diamonds; and it is a law of the state, that he who finds a diamond of so many carats shall have his freedom. This causes the greatest ardour and diligence in searching, washing out the soil, picking, &c., in order to find such diamonds, and the greatest anxiety for success;

De 4:29 "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find [Him] if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.

Pr 8:17 "I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.

Jer 29:13 'And you will seek Me and find [Me,] when you search for Me with all your heart.

Mt 13:45-46 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

Have you ever waited in a line for the first showing of a movie? How about waiting for a store to open when there is a great sale? Why do people do this?

We will go to great lengths when there is something of value to be had. God granted us eternal salvation. It is the one thing we possess that has the greatest value. Nothing else comes close. How much time and effort do we put into knowing Him and understanding His word? Have you ever searched the internet to gain understanding of a word, thought, process, etc.? Why? Because we are interested in gaining a better understanding of something. Is that intensity seen in our relationship with God?

Is our pursuit of earthly happiness stronger than our pursuit of knowing Him?

If our sincere desire is to know God, to find wisdom, and to gain understanding through His Word, He will answer that request. However, the effort needs to be ours: searching for Him with all our heart and soul, diligently seeking Him.

What does finding wisdom and gaining understanding through His Word produce in us?

Ps 94:12 Blessed is the man whom Thou dost chasten, O LORD, And dost teach out of Thy law;

Pr 8:32-35 "Now therefore, [O] sons, listen to me, For blessed are they who keep my ways. Heed instruction and be wise, And do not neglect [it.] Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my

doorposts. For he who finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD.”

Knowing and understanding God → fear of God → make choices that honor Him → we are blessed

Today, are you happy? In the midst of difficult circumstances, can you be happy? What is that happiness based on?

All emphasis (bold print, underlined) mine. NAS used unless otherwise noted. Encarta English Dictionary used for definitions. Strong's Concordance used for Hebrew/Greek definitions. Commentary used where noted.

Proverbs Chapter 3

Week 5, v.11-13 – Application Questions

Think back to a time in your life that was particularly difficult. What did you learn through that difficulty? Take a moment to thank God for the circumstances He has used for His correction and instruction.

How do you typically respond to God's correction? Do you take it seriously or laugh it off? Do you try to turn away from it or embrace it, knowing it is for your benefit? Do you grow tired of it or have you learned to be thankful for it?

If you are a child of God, you will experience His discipline. Why is this necessary? What does it say about His relationship with you?

Your desire to gain wisdom through God's Word is shown by your effort. How are you doing? Do you give the same intensity to knowing God as you do to other areas of life you enjoy?

When we are in the pursuit of knowing and understanding God, He blesses us. His blessings produce happiness. How are you doing?

At Home

Take the time to **review** verses 11-13, work on memory verses, and pay close attention to personal **application**.

Look at Prov 3:14-18 for next week's study. As you read/study, jot down what you discover. Memorize the passage. Use any reference tools you have to look up a few main words in the passage. What questions come to mind that will help you to apply what you read?