

I. Review

Last week we added to our study on Psalms, and we will do that from time to time. I had a question from a pastor on the **scribes and Pharisees and the Sadducees**. I took the time to lay them out historically. I showed you how they are used today as they were used back in Jesus' time of the devil to stop what the Lord was doing. They were both at the first coming of Christ and are alive and well today. I showed you the scribes were a Biblical group, part of the priestly tribe, but they had gotten corrupted. The Pharisees and the Sadducees were never part of God's program, they are satanic implants. I showed you how they are there to stop the work of Christ. They are alive and well and we face them today before the second coming, just like they did at the first coming. We **defined all of this out of Matthew 23 which is the definitive chapter on the scribes and the Pharisees**. I also told you why the Sadducees are not in that chapter.

II. The Judaizers An Early Form of Legalism

When you go back to your Bible you will see where this starts after Christ has gone back to heaven. It doesn't take very long after Christ goes back to heaven that in Acts Chapter 1-2 they reform themselves into a different format. Around 60 or 70 AD a group of New Testament Pharisees started to infiltrate New Testament Christianity and you will find this in the book of Galatians. Paul deals with this group called the Judaizers. They were a group like the Pharisees and much like a group that we deal with today. A group that has begun to corrupt the New Testament church with the teachings that say you can get saved through the blood of Christ and his death on the cross. But now that you are saved, you have to keep the Old Testament law to stay saved. This will be a very early form of the legalism of the Pharisees of today. Which will try to put you under a set of rules that actually has nothing to do with the word of God. This will always produce the flesh, because it is of the flesh.

It is the difference between understanding what is spiritual versus what is Biblical. **A lot of things are spiritual, but that doesn't mean they are based on the Bible**. It is important to understand the difference. There are **two books in our Bible that Paul will use to show you that you are not to follow a set of man-made rules**. One of these books is the book of **Romans**. Romans will teach you that you are saved by faith through grace, plus nothing. Then when he dealt with the Judaizers in the book of **Galatians** he makes the statement that you are saved by faith and grace, plus nothing. But you are kept by the same faith and grace plus nothing. There is nothing to add to it. The church at Galatia had gotten saved by faith, but now a group has come in trying to put them back under a set of rules that are not biblical anymore, because we are into the New Testament.

III. Our Liberty in Christ

This sets up the great teaching on our liberty in Christ. Most of God's people don't understand their liberty in Christ, but hopefully after today, you will.

I want to start by reminding you of this. **The Christian life is not about a set of man-made rules. The Christian life is rather about a set of biblical principles.** Rules are made by man; but principals are made by God. Those are what we follow and are clearly defined in the word of God. You can find them; you can read them, you can memorize them, and you can follow them.

There is a great example of this found in Romans 7. **The Book of Romans is our handbook on New Testament doctrine. That is where we get what we believe about the word of God.** In Romans we are given a different aspect in every chapter of what we are to believe as Christians and what has happened to us now as Christians. There is a story in Romans 7 that very few people know about. Romans 7:1-3

1. Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law, Old Testament law) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? 2. For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to [her] husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of [her] husband. 3. So then if, while [her] husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

When you read this story, you got to put it into the context of Romans 7. Every chapter in Romans is giving you a different aspect of what we are to believe as New Testament Christians. In these verses he is showing you that we as Christians, with our liberty in Christ, have been set free from any form of legalism, law or rules.

Putting these verses (1-2) into the spiritual aspect. **The woman is your soul, and the husband is your flesh. They are stuck together.** The law says that we are to be together until death. This is the picture of an unsaved man. This is the law that sin and death hold the flesh and the soul that are bound (stuck) together. We also know that when you got saved a spiritual operation made without hands (Colossians 2:11), which we know as spiritual circumcision. This spiritual operation took place and separated your soul from your flesh. Once you were separated, the Bible says that your soul is alive in Christ, but your flesh is dead. That is the picture you have. Under the law before you were saved your flesh was stuck to your soul as long as you lived. But when you got saved, God separated them. Your flesh died and your soul (the woman) is free to marry another man. That man will be the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the picture you have here in Romans 7. **The whole chapter deals with the fact that you are free from any rules, free from the law.** Don't ever let anybody put you back under that. It is a great analogy that most people never figure out. **Most of God's people do not understand their liberty in Christ.**

It is a shame, but it goes along with the shallowness of preaching today and God's people and pastors who teach it.

1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

Now let's go over to 1 Corinthians 6:12. He says the same thing, but a little differently.

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 1 Corinthians 6:12

The key word is **expedient**. Expedient means it is not always wise to do it. We are not under the law. Our liberty in Christ is simply this; once you are not under the law anymore you can do whatever you want to do without any penalty of the law. Because you are not under the law. Paul says all things are lawful, but you only want to put the things in your life that will edify you. In the other verse he says all things are lawful but NOT everything is expedient. All things may be lawful, but I am not going to be brought under the power of any. **Your liberty in Christ is not given to you or me so we can do whatever we want to do.** That is how it is interpreted today. I have met lots of God's people that think that they can live their life after they are saved anyway they want to live. Do whatever they want to do because they have liberty in Christ. All things are lawful, but NOT all things are expedient. The Bible tells me in 2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty.

The true liberty of Jesus Christ for you and for me is found in the spirit of God. Not in a bar. Not over at the boats. In fact, he tells us in Galatians 5:13, where they are having this problem:

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. Galatians 5:13

People will misuse their liberty. They will do all kinds of things. But biblical liberty was not given so I could do whatever I want. It was given so I could do what God wanted me to do without any law or rules to slow me up or stop me.

He says, **all things are lawful, but not everything edifies.** All things are lawful, but if you put yourself into them and don't follow the word of God, those things are going to end up controlling you. In other words, it is **the principals of the word of God that are our guide through our liberty.** You are not under the law, but you are under the principals of the word of God. **It is the principals that show you what will edify you and what will not edify you.** It will show you the danger areas and what will take over your life versus what won't take over your life. **Liberty for the child of God is found in the spirit of God. It is the principals of the word of God that we must have.**

It is a lot like the U.S. Navy. You are on a ship for six or seven months and finally you come into port someplace. When they let you get off the ship and go into town, they call it “liberty”. You get liberty for two or three days or whatever the case may be. On the ship you are under a chain of command. But once you get off the ship and you take your liberty, you can do whatever you want to do. But if you get into a bar room brawl or something, (which you have the liberty to do) when you get back to the ship you will give an account for your liberty.

We are at liberty as Christians and yes you can do whatever you want to do, but **at the judgment seat of Christ you are going to give an account for your liberty.** It is just that simple!

IV. Psalms 6:1-4

Today we will look at Psalms 6:1-4. This is an incredible Psalm, and it certainly fits into our lives as to what we have seen so far in the book of Psalms.

1. O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. 2. Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I [am] weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed. 3. My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long? 4. Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

When we read this, we can see at a glance that this is a tribulation prayer. The Jew is in the middle of his time of trouble. He is facing the chastisement of God because of their abandonment of what God has given them. When you look at Israel and observe their issues, it is just like us, only on a larger scale. We are individuals, they are a nation. But the parallels are quite evident! Their issues compounded when they got bad leadership. I have told you many, many times that **everything rises and falls on leadership. Everything!** You will see that after David establishes the kingdom and establishes it based on the word of God. Solomon comes on the throne and during his forty year reign you begin to see the downfall.

When Solomon passes off the scene, one of his sons (Rehoboam) and one of his generals (Jeroboam), take over and split the kingdom of Israel into north and south. The north we know as Israel and the south as Juda (the two southern tribes). Here is the parallel. It is a lot like America after our Civil War. We had a war between north and south. Right after the Civil War is when America started to go into decline. You just can't beat the Bible. During this time (after Rehoboam and Jeroboam), we see the times of the kings of Israel. There are kings over Juda and kings over Israel. You will find these recorded in I & 2 Kings and I & 2 Chronicles. They are a tremendous study.

This is when things begin to fall apart. God sends them the prophets. We know them in our Bible as the major prophets and the minor prophets. Some people actually think that the major prophets had more to say than the minor prophets, therefore they are more important. That is not true. The major prophets are longer books and chapters. Where the minor prophets are smaller

books and chapters. Yet the impact of what they say is quite powerful whether they are a major prophet or a minor prophet.

❖ Matthew 21 & Hebrews 11 God Dealing with Israel's Rejection of God

These men are sent to the nation of Israel when Israel is in decline. Israel is getting worse by the day and getting farther from God. God sends these men to preach to the nation of Israel to get them right and get them back to God. When they begin to speak, the first words out of their mouths are "**Thus sayeth the Lord**". They didn't have a complete Bible like we have. When I stand up here and open up the word of God, I am basically doing the same thing when I give you the verses. I am giving what God said, I just don't preface it with "Thus sayeth the Lord". But they did and that was the proof text that they were speaking for God. One of the great chapters in the Bible is **Matthew 21 which gives you a complete overview of God dealing with the nation of Israel**. A very unique and important passage. You will find in Matthew 21:33-40 that he is talking about the prophets that he sent them in the Old Testament. We see in those verses how Israel rejected the preaching, rejected the prophets and wanted nothing to do with them.

You see this again in Hebrews 11. **They treated the prophets terribly!** They took Jeremiah and put him in a dung pit. They sawed them in half! They did terrible things to them! All because there was a group of people who were out of fellowship with God. God sent them a preacher and a prophet, and they didn't want to hear them. As you go on down in Matthew 21, he tells us in verse 37-39 that **after the prophets came and they rejected them. They killed the prophets, and the Bible says God sent Israel his own Son**. That would be the Lord Jesus Christ. You can see what they do to him in verses 37-39. They say this is the heir, let us kill him, and they crucified him. **They rejected the Lord Jesus Christ!**

But God in his mercy, grace and long suffering, gave them one more chance. This will be that unknown dispensation in Acts 1-7. God gives them the last chance before the church age really starts. But again, the devil has done his work with the scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Stephen gets up and preaches that final message and tells them they have killed and crucified the Messiah that God has sent them. **They move the people to stone Stephen, and they kill him. Now it is all over for Israel for the next two thousand plus years.** The Bible tells us in Matthew 13:44, Deuteronomy 31:17, Isaiah 54:8, Isaiah 45:15, and Isaiah 57:17 that after Acts 7 God turned his attention towards the Gentiles and actually tells us in these places that God hides himself from the nation of Israel. They can't find him!

During this time, (church age) for the next two thousand plus years (the times we are living in right now) is a terrible time for the nation of Israel because of their rejection. It is not long after this that around 70 AD Titus comes down and destroys Jerusalem and scatters them everywhere. They flee into all the other parts of the world. But wherever they go they are persecuted.

During the Dark Ages the Roman Catholic church killed them by the millions. We know during the 20th century the worst time was the holocaust between 1935 and 1945 when eight million

Jews were slaughtered and killed by Adolph Hitler. Because of their rejection (Acts 1-7), during this time for the next two thousand plus years, they have no home, no land and no country. They are vagabonds. During this time, when you read accounts of them in the concentration camps, the Jew prayed to God every day. They tried to maintain whatever they could under the Nazi oppression. There were many Rabbi and Jew that actually thought that God had abandoned them. But nothing can be further from the truth! It wasn't the fact that God had abandoned them, but the fact that they had abandoned God. **Remember this because I will come back to this in a short while and it won't be about the nation of Israel!**

The final phase to bring God's people back to him will be the tribulation period. You will find this in many places, but in one concise place would be in Ezekiel 36-38. God's hand has been completely against them. In Psalms 6 which we are reading today, and hundreds of other places will also show you this. They are going through the great tribulation period and being chastised by God because of their rejection of God. After hiding himself from them, at some point in the tribulation, he will reveal himself to them and will begin to restore them.

❖ David Out of Fellowship with God

Historically this is David who is out of fellowship with God, and he is going through his personal tribulation. He cries out to God for deliverance. I can't get enough of David! Every aspect of his life is an aspect of what our lives should be. When you look at David's relationship with God, it is an exceptional study. I remember in 2 Samuel 24 that he numbers the people. He is not supposed to do that. That was a terrible sin that God held to his charge. Because it showed a lack of faith in God. A lot of people say, "What is the big deal that he numbered the people?" He numbered the people for war. He was not to do that because **when they went to war it was never to trust in their numbers; they were to trust in the word of God. No matter who they were up against God would deliver them.** So God is upset with David and David knows he is upset. David is out of fellowship. So, Gad the seer goes to David and says you have sinned, and God is going to judge you and charge you with this sin against the people and him. Here is how God is going to do it. He is going to let you choose how he whips you. Gad says you have three choices. You can choose door #1 seven years of famine, or door #2 three days of pestilence or door #3 your enemies will whip you and beat you senseless for the next three months. David says in 2 Samuel 24:14

And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies [are] great: and let me not fall into the hand of man. 2 Samuel 24:14

David knew that no matter how bad it was or what he did, **it is always better when God deals with you than when the devil deals with you.** That is something you had better learn!

For us today, **we all will find ourselves from time to time, out of fellowship with God.**

AMEN! When we do, it is places like today in Psalms 6 that will be used of the holy spirit of God to help us get back.

Psalms 6 is called a penitential psalm. Which means somebody trying to repent and get back to God. In this Psalms you can see a clear pattern or process of God dealing with us. Not Israel, not even David. **Us, when we get out of fellowship!** One aspect of God, the church and Christianity that should be always in play. **This is the greatest aspect of God and that is restitution!** Taking people that are broken and fixing them. This is what Christ did with his death on the cross. The Bible says in Romans that we were enemies of God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 says that **when Christ died on the cross, he reconciled us back to God. This is what the ministry should be!**

Paul said in Romans 12:18, *“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”* Sometimes you can do that and sometimes you can’t. Sometimes people don’t want to do what is right. But it doesn’t matter if the people don’t want to do what is right, just as long as we do what we should be doing.

When you observe this Psalm, you will **find two key words that will be two different applications to the New Testament child of God in our relationship with God.**

- 1.) Rebuke
- 2.) Chastisement

❖ God’s Rebuke

God’s rebuke is when you and I get out of fellowship. We go to church and listen to the preacher, and he preaches right down where you are at with your problem. The holy spirit of God takes the message and meets you where you are at.

1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.
*2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering** and doctrine.*
*Titus 2:15 These things speak, and **exhort, and rebuke with all authority.** Let no man despise thee.*

Note that it says not only rebuke but reprove and rebuke and it also says exhort. That is really what preaching is. Preaching falls into two or three formats. When a man preaches there will be some people that will have the wrong idea about something so they will be reprovved and they will get the correct idea. Others will come to the place that they are out of fellowship with God and the message becomes a rebuke. Then there are others that are right with God and are doing what they need to do, and for them it is an exhortation. That is what preaching is! You reprove and rebuke the ones that are out of fellowship. But through your preaching you will exhort the ones that are doing right. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 5:20

Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. 1 Timothy 5:20

The guy that needs to be rebuked will get right and he will fear. The one being exhorted will look at it as I don't want to do anything wrong to lose the blessings I have in my life. That is why it says, "**that others also may fear**".

As many as I love (Jesus is speaking), I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Revelation 3:19

There is a difference between God's rebuke and God's chastisement. I want to show you the difference today, so that it might spare you a lot of heartache down the line.

When a Christian is out of fellowship and he hears the message that nails him or her, they will have one of two responses. That person will get convicted and that conviction will lead to them getting right. Or, that person will harden their heart, stiffen their neck and get deeper into the sin. When you see that, you see the process begin to unfold in their life. When they reject the rebuke then it is only a matter of time before the chastisement of God will come in.

2 Timothy 4:2 says *rebuke with all longsuffering*. I want to explain that. God will give you time. Every pastor who works with people knows you can't cut them off at the ankles when they are not doing what is right. You give them time and realize that longsuffering is part of the ministry in dealing with people. I know you can't get a crowd this size today without some of you not being in fellowship with God. **There will be a time when God's longsuffering runs out.** There will be time when God will rebuke you over and over again. The next thing is you quit coming to church. You find an excuse not to be here. Or you will start hopping around from church to church. It will be some process that will get you away from what you need. If you are in that position, you need a rebuke. That rebuke needs to lead to your conviction. Which should lead to you getting right with God, and back where you need to be. **God is longsuffering! I as your pastor am longsuffering** with you because I look and see that God was longsuffering with me. But there will be a time when God's longsuffering will run out.

I look back in Genesis 6:3 after God told Noah he was going to destroy the world with a flood. He waited one hundred and twenty years. You know why? **Longsuffering!** But the flood came anyway. There will be a time when God's longsuffering runs out!

You see the pattern with Israel when they got out of fellowship, God gave them the prophets to rebuke them. He waited in his longsuffering and gave them prophet after prophet after prophet. Just like a preacher today will give you the word of God when he preaches. The Old Testament prophets and the New Testament pastors have the same job. They rebuke and exhort. The idea is that God will break you down. God would rather have you hear today out of fellowship and have me tear your hide off and you get right with God. So God won't have to come down and chastise you. **One of the worst traits of God's people is that we end up learning the hard way.** When you reject rebuke like Israel did, in time Israel went into captivity of 606 BC. And the hand of God turns to chastisement. **Listen! You don't want to reject God's rebuke and become captive of your sin and allow it to build a stronghold in your life that you can't get**

out of. That is where Israel is at today. This is why some of God's people can never get back. It isn't the fact that they are not saved or that God would not take them back. It is the fact that **they put so many things in their life between them and God that they can't even see God anymore.** That is a dangerous spot to be in!

I see them in churches all the time throughout my ministry. They are not committed to anything. They will come for a couple of weeks and then they are gone for a month. They are in and out. They never commit to anything. There are so many other things in their life that is pulling them away from the one thing that ought to be number one in their life. They struggle all the time and pretend they don't know why. Their marriage fails, their kids fail, their job fails. They are not happy. They actually stand there and scratch their head and say what could be the problem? Then they think if they just add more money to their account every month that will help. If they get new possessions that will make them feel better. **When all the time the real problem is you have rejected the rebuke of God and are out of fellowship with God. God's chastisement is coming your way. It is a slow process.**

As a pastor I see things coming into your life sometimes before you do. Not because I am psychic or because I read the tarot cards; I know the patterns of human nature. I can see when the joy, joy, joy down in your heart starts to leak out. Some of you have a leak this morning. I see it coming. My biggest burden is that I just want to go to that person and tell them they are headed down the wrong road. It just wouldn't work. You would just pretend that everything is fine. It is one of those things that as a pastor you begin to see when the things that were once special to you, aren't special anymore. **The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 8:3 "But if any man love God, the same is known of him." It shows! But it also shows when you quit loving him.** I wish with all my heart that I could say something to you. But you know what? It won't work. Let me tell you something. If coming to church every Sunday morning and the holy spirit of God keeps talking to you and taping you on the shoulder and you don't listen to him. **You won't listen to me. It is a slow process.**

❖ God's Chastisement

Let's look at God's chastisement for a moment. **God's chastisement can and will come in many different forms.** But whatever form it comes in I want you to know that **there will always be a message of God for us to get right within the chastisement.** You must see that! He just doesn't come down and whack you because he is mad at you or because he doesn't like you. He comes down to whack you because he has a message that he wants you to get, that you would not get through the prophet or preacher that God sent you. So now he will deal with it.

There is a heretical group out there called hyper-dispensationalist. They are messed up on dispensations in the Bible and I have showed you before how they have cut out and rejected three quarters of the New Testament. One of the main heresies that they teach is they say because your sins are all paid for at the cross, on a daily basis you don't have to confess your sins anymore. That is simply NOT true. They have rejected so much of the New Testament it

has left them destitute when it comes to some of the great doctrines of the Bible. **One of greatest teachings of the word of God is the teaching between standing and state.** Your standing Romans 5:1-2 and your state Philippians 4:11. If you don't understand that I can see how you think you don't have to confess your sins anymore. Understanding that doctrine makes it so clear that we need to daily confess our sins.

V. Three Aspects of God's Chastisement

In our text today, Psalms 6:1-4, we will see three different aspects to God's chastisement. I explained rebuke to you. Now I want to show you within **this set of verses three different aspects of God's chastisement that will affect us in life.**

1.) I am weak... (verse 2)

You Become Weak

You remember in 1 Corinthians 11:30 when they were taking the Lord's Supper, Paul said if you take the Lord's Supper *unworthily you will face God's judgment*. If you take it with sin in your life, he says *for this cause many are weak*. When you get out of fellowship, it starts with you getting out of your Bible, then out of church. You don't want the rebuke. When that happens in time you lose your strength. You lose the power of God in your life. In time, you lose your relationship, then your confidence and your assurance. When you are weak as he says in this verse (I am weak) it means that you can't take a stand any longer. It means you can't fight for yourself any longer. In many cases it means you can't say no, any longer.

As you go through this, the issues compound and the weaker you become. So, you get addicted to things because you are weak. You get addicted to drugs, to alcohol, to gambling, to pornography, to possessions and even football and baseball. Some of you get addicted to video games. Some get into wrong relationships. Some of you, especially young people, are addicted to your cell phone or the internet. Some get addicted to the world in general and you are now brought under the power of those things. You have things that edify not and were not expedient. **You misused your liberty. Now you are brought under the power of those things. You are weak!** You used your liberty wrong. Even though I said that all things are lawful (1 Corinthians 10:23, 1 Corinthians 6:12) you are not being expedient and now you are under the power of those things. You are weak! But you don't have to be. It wasn't the fact that God zapped all your power out. It was the fact that God gave you the word of God and everything that you needed, and you chose to walk away from God's rebuke. **Now you are weak!**

2.) heal me, my bones are vexed... (verse 2)

Physical Issues

These are the **physical issues you are going to have**. Again, 1 Corinthians 11:30 when people came to the Lord's Supper with unconfessed sin. He said *many are weak and some are sickly*. Now we will have the physical issues that come into life. *Life is simple!* You will have physical issues in your life as a Christian, for one of two reasons. **The first one will be that God gets the glory and honor out of it.** He puts an affliction in your life. You go to the hospital or the

doctor and have some kind of physical ailment. God will use that to put you in a place with somebody that is in a bed next to you, so can win them to Christ. Happens all the time! Sometimes it will be your death. When John Gowans died and the Lord took him home, so many lives were changed out of that man's life. When Bob Gregg went home to be with the Lord, that morning we preached and four or five people got saved that morning. That will be God getting the added glory out of your infirmity.

But if you are out of fellowship, and God is trying to get you right with him, it will be a different story. **The second one is the affliction you go under, or the struggles that you have in a physical sense. This will be God trying to get your attention.** I have seen this all my ministry. You are out of fellowship and God tries to get you to get right with God. How many times over the years I have seen it. As child of God, their life was all about themselves. Never came to church and always put everything in their life before God. They had a negative attitude toward God and the word of God. Didn't care about anything that God did. Didn't come to church or bible study. There were always more important things to do. But they racked up possessions, big houses, and nice things. Never took care of anything that God had, but they sure took care of themselves. They never did one thing for God. They have medical issues, sometimes one after the other.

It is hard for me to go to the hospital to see somebody like that and play the game. I don't play games very well. One thing the Bible changed in me and gave me is when it comes to the Bible and truth, I can't pretend with it. I talked to you Thursday night at Bible Study about doing funerals. I just can't get up there and say something that isn't true about somebody. I will go into the hospital and see that the chastisement of God is in their life. **Here they are in the hospital. They have rejected the rebuke of God,** and they never get it. If they do get it, they never say they get it. I have a hard time going in to see someone and saying, brother we are praying for you. I would rather crawl into bed with him and look him in the face and say hey pal, I love you, but you are where you are at because of where you are not at! But it wouldn't do any good. He would pull the nurses alarm and they would arrest me and pull me out. His wife would be mad at me. It just wouldn't do any good. You have pushed God so far away. There was a time when you sat in this very church or other churches and heard the rebuke of God and you said no thank you. You went your way and your problems and your issues of being out of fellowship compounded much faster than your 401K! Here you are today. I wish there was something I could do.

Unconfessed sin will have a physical chastisement to it. I see people go through that and never get it. You would go in and see them, and they would pretend like they were fine. They would say the doctor is going to fix me and I will be fine. I am going to do this or do that. That is not the point! The point is why are you here? If you have a person in the next bed to you, God didn't put you there to be a witness for Christ! Because you have never won anyone to Christ! It has always been about you and here you are. They don't get it.

They are so far from God that no message can get through. Their wasted physical life is a direct result of a wasted spiritual life.

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 11:30 *For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and **many sleep***. They die in the middle of God's chastisement. It doesn't have to be that way. I am not saying if you do what is right you won't get cancer at thirty, fifty, sixty or eighty. I am not saying if you do what is right, you won't get killed in a car wreck, or die at an early age. **I am telling you that when God who holds the keys to death and hell calls you home, he will get the honor and glory out of that! And it will show up at the judgment seat of Christ.**

3.) My soul is also sore vexed.... (verse 3)

Emotional Issues

We have looked at being weak, and the physical ailments that you go through in chastisement. Now we will look at the emotional issues you will have to face. You hear a lot of clinical terms today that don't mean much. People are always impressed with these terms. I have had people who I have witnessed to and they will say I have an emotional issue that I am dealing with. I will ask what is it? They will say, I am bipolar. I will say, I am too. If you are saved here today, you are bipolar. A person that is bipolar is somebody who has two personalities. If you are saved today Romans 7 says you have an old nature and a new nature. You are Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Science comes up and says you are bipolar. Every Christian is bipolar. You know why you get the bipolar in a mess? Because you let the old nature override the new nature. Then you have emotional problems. It is just that simple. An unsaved person is bipolar. They have themselves and sometimes they might be demon possessed from time to time. But one way or the other everyone is bipolar. If you are saved here this morning, you are bipolar. You have two people living inside you. One wants to walk with God and fellowship with him, and the other wants you to reject the rebuke, reject the preaching and go your own way. The Bible tells us as a Christian, if we don't do right and we get and stay out of fellowship (Ephesians 4:30) it says we grieve the holy spirit of God that is sealed inside you.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
Ephesians 4:30

Us grieving the holy spirit of God will cause us to have undo emotional issues. I know that **the holy spirit of God can't leave us once we get saved.** But some of the things that we read, look at and do, he would probably like to from time to time. When you feed the old man, reject the rebuke of the new man, in time you are going to get depressed. Depression will set in. When you don't do what is right with the word of God. In 2 Chronicles 16:12 **Asa had a disease in his feet. That is a picture of our walk with God.** Instead of going to God and getting healed, he went to a physician and God killed him.

And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease [was] exceeding [great]: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.
2Chronicles 16:12

When you are a Christian and you have emotional issues, there is nothing that psychiatry or therapy can do to fix you. It is a spiritual problem that only God can deal with and the holy spirit of God in your life. Anxiety, worry, stress, fear, and nervous breakdowns. Schizophrenia and suicide. When it gets so bad and overwhelms you and you think there is no way out. You actually think the only way out is to take your own life. There are seven suicides in the Bible. You ought to find out what makes a man, or women commit suicide. Lay out those seven suicides in the Bible. The answer is right there. I have said it many times, **when you lose God's mind, (the word of God) in time you will lose your mind.**

The Bible teaches **four types of mental issues**. I don't use the word illness because mental issues are not an illness. COVID-19 was an illness. A cold or the flu is an illness. There is no such thing as mental illness. Your mind cannot get ill. **There are only four ways you can have emotional issues.**

1.) Chemical Imbalance in Your Body

You see this defined over in 1 Timothy 2:15 When a woman gets pregnant everything in her body changes. That is why she likes ice cream with pickles. This is why you get morning sickness. The Bible knows that. That is why it says in that verse in Timothy, she shall be saved in child bearing if.....

Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety. 1Timothy 2:15

Everybody looks at that and says she is getting saved at childbirth. It is not talking about salvation of your soul. If you read the context of the chapter, it is talking about being deceived. Because her emotions change. The chemical imbalance changes in her body are an issue that the Bible tells you how to deal with it.

2.) Born Deficient -Someone born with mental retardation.

3.) Demon Possessed.

4.) Grieving the Holy Spirit of God – If you are saved.

Like Asa, instead of getting right with God, you get a prescription. Your doctor doesn't know or care. This whole medical field is nothing but a money-making scheme. Instead of you taking your Biblical prescription, you get a physical prescription. You get Xanax or Prozac. All the anti-depressants because they don't know what to do about your problem. Because it is not a physical problem, in most cases it is a spiritual problem. They just give you something to slow down your mind and drug you up a bit, so you don't think as much. They don't fix a thing.

I dealt with a kid once and there was no fixing this kid. He was totally messed up. His mom had put him on Prozac when he was four years old. **People have issues for only two reasons.** If you are unsaved and you are partying and having a good time, drinking, smoking and doing all

those things. The older you get the more life becomes real by forty or fifty and you see how empty you really are. You hit what the world calls mid-life crisis. You try to regain your youth again. You go out and buy a Corvette and all the things to try and regain your youth. It doesn't work either. You end your life miserable and unhappy losing everything that was of any value. You wind up with nothing. By the time you reach sixty or seventy years old you look back and realize your life has been a total waste.

The other reason. You are saved and God saved you for a purpose. Not so you could gamble or drink or party. **God saved you because he chose you to be part of his plan to help him.** He gave you everything that you needed. He made sure you had a Bible, and a good church, and a pastor who would help you. He gave you the holy spirit of God. He gave you friends here who will help you and spend time with you when you are struggling through your issues. He gave you everything that you needed. And you just walked away from it. You grieve the holy spirit of God. You don't do what God wants you to do. You tell God no so many times. In time your soul is sore vexed. You have problem after problem. Your problem is different than the unsaved man. His problem is the fact that he is empty, and he has nothing. **Your problem is you are filled with the holy spirit of God, but you have grieved him so much that you are empty too!** You have done nothing in your life for him. And you wonder why you are struggling. The holy spirit of God never leaves us. He is sealed in us, but oh how he must be grieved at the things we look at, the things that we watch, and the things we say and do.

VI. They cry out "O Lord how long?" verse 3

O Lord how long? Well, my friend, this depends on you. You have rejected rebuke and quit coming to church so you wouldn't have to hear it anymore. Or you play the musical church game where you go from place to place. And never settle anywhere or have any accountability. So, God has come down to you up close and personal. How long? It is completely up to you. For Israel it has been 2500 years. They still have not taken the rebuke. The worse is yet to come, the tribulation. The farther we get away from God's rebuke, the harder it is to get back once you are under the hand of chastisement. God has taken you to the woodshed. Like Israel, for you and for me, the worse is yet to come. God's judgment for Israel will be in the tribulation. Ours will be at the judgment seat of Christ. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:11, it is **the terror of the Lord.**

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences. 2Corinthians 5:11

VII. Return, O Lord, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake. verse 4

This is David and Israel asking God to deliver them. In the tribulation, at some point, God reveals himself to the Jew. Probably sometime in the middle of the tribulation. They come back to God and God leads them with Moses and Elijah. In time, he comes back at the second coming

for their deliverance. My point is this. Israel and you and me. **God won't come back to us until we come back to him first. You need to get that!** He doesn't come to deliver Israel until Israel comes back to him. He didn't come back to David until David came back to him. **It was our choice to move away from God** and all that he has for us, and **it must be our choice to come back to him.** It is like Israel. He reveals himself to them in the tribulation period and Israel sees it finally and heads back. **God reveals himself to us every time we sit down in this church and hear the word of God spoken. What will you do with it?** God has unending mercy for us. There is no question about that. But he gets tired of us rejecting him. In this case **for God to come back and get you out of the mess you are in is conditional on you getting right with God first.**

Martin Luther used to say **keep a short account with God.** That is good advice. I John 1:9 says it best on the doctrine of standing and state.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1John 1:9

The pathway to God's chastisement will just be one unconfessed sin that you don't take care of. Then add through the compounding affect four or more, and you reject the message of God's rebuke. You don't do your discipleship and lose sight of this and off you go. In time you and God will have a meeting with you at the woodshed. The great example of this is Genesis 32 where Jacob put it off and did his own thing until the day God gets you alone like he did Jacob. If you study the chapter, physically Jacob gets touched to get him right. **The quicker you get this message the better off you are going to be.**

VIII. Summary

In closing, look at Hebrews 12:5-11

5. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected [us], and we gave [them] reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10. For they verily for a few days chastened [us] after their own pleasure; but he for [our] profit, that [we] might be partakers of his holiness. 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.

If you look at this chapter and the verses I just read to you, there are **six things you want to remember about God's chastisement**. Sooner or later, we will all be there.

1. He deals with us as his children (his son) Verse 5-6 not a stranger.
2. He chastens us out of his love for us. Verse 6
3. If there is no chastisement, then you are not saved.
4. He uses the earthly illustration of an earthly father correcting his children and his household because he wants them to do what is right. Verses 7-10
5. At the time of chastisement, it doesn't feel very good, verse 11. But the purpose is for us to come back to God.
6. When we go through the chastisement, we yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto God that we should have been doing in the first place.

One of the bad traits about human nature is that we always learn the hard way. At least most of us do. Again, we like to pick and choose out of the Bible. But you won't take what the word of God tells you to do. **Rebuke!**

This happens to most pastors, where the people get mad at him and say they don't like what he preaches. Sometimes they will leave the church or get mad and won't come. But at the end of the day, if the guy is preaching the truth, he is the best friend you have ever had. You don't need anybody to lie to you. Not when you are faced with the judgment seat of Christ. You need someone who will put it right across the plate waist high where you can swing at it.

Notice this far in Psalms how it has worked for us. We saw our enemies; we saw the battle and the victory in Christ. Now we see our rebuke and chastisement when we don't get the victory over our enemies. And our enemies get the advantage over us because we misuse our liberty.

Psalms will provide us everything we need to see and understand; to fight the warfare, to know our enemy, and always have the victory. And to stay in fellowship with God by receiving the rebuke when we need to be rebuked. Proverbs 27:7

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

When you love the book then you love the rebuke. Because you have such a relationship with God you know he wants you to stay in fellowship with him. And you want to stay in fellowship with him also. You welcome the rebuke because God is doing it because he loves you and you respond to it, so you never have to face the hand of chastisement with God. That is the way it works!