

PROVERBS – Lesson 3
Receiving Instruction Vs. Refusing Correction
By Beverly McKey

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The ability to learn and grow is a wonderful blessing from God.
1. Mankind was created with a powerful intellect and the freedom to make decisions.
 2. We can learn things that benefit mankind greatly, both physically and spiritually.
 - a. Down through the ages, great strides have been made in medicine, communication, and travel.
 - b. Each generation has the ability and opportunity to learn from the preceding generations.
 3. Some take advantage of the guidance and advice of those who have more experience in life, while others refuse to listen to the wisdom others have to offer.
 4. Their prideful rejection of instruction or warning often results in actions that can ruin their lives and hurt those around them.

II. IN PROVERBS CHAPTER 8, "WISDOM" IS PERSONIFIED AS A WOMAN.

- A. She stands in public places begging those who pass by to listen to her.
Proverbs 8:1-2 – *"Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors:"*
1. Wisdom promises to "*speak of excellent things*" and "*right things*". **Vs. 6**
 2. Her mouth speaks only truth. **Vs. 7**
 3. Her words are plain to those who understand and right to those who find knowledge. **Vs. 9**
 4. What she offers is better than silver, choice gold and rubies. **Vs. 10-11**
- B. Wisdom offers many benefits to those who love her.
1. Prudence – meaning good judgment or common sense **Vs. 12**
 2. Counsel – one who offers sound advice **Vs. 14**
 3. Strength (power) – by wisdom kings reign and rulers decree justice. **Vs. 15-16**
 4. Honor – one who employs her will be honored
 5. Enduring Riches – one who employs wisdom in his life will benefit financially. **Vs. 18**
 6. Righteousness – one who has wisdom also fears God and travels the path of righteousness. **Vs. 18**
 7. All who diligently seek her will find her. **Vs. 17**

- C. Wisdom existed in the beginning with God, before the earth existed.
1. Wisdom existed before the earth was created. **Vs. 22**
 2. Wisdom was there when God prepared the heavens. **Vs. 27**
 3. Wisdom was there when God created the earth. **Vs. 27-28**
 4. Wisdom was there when God assigned the limits of the seas. **Vs. 29**
 5. Wisdom was beside God as a master craftsman as mankind was created. **Vs. 30**
- D. Wisdom blesses all who keep her ways.
1. Blessed is the man who listens to me. **Vs. 32**
 2. Whoever finds wisdom finds life and obtains favor from the Lord. **Vs. 35**
 3. On the other hand, those who hate wisdom love death. **Vs. 36**

III. THE BOOK OF PROVERBS HAS MUCH TO SAY ABOUT RECEIVING INSTRUCTION AND REJECTING REPROOF (CORRECTION).

- A. "Wisdom" calls out to all people, but many reject her message until they suffer the consequences of their foolish choices:
1. **Proverbs 1:23-27** – *"Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴ Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵ Because you despised all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷ When your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you."*
 2. This thought continues in **Proverbs 1:29-33** – *"Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰ They would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke. ³¹ Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies. ³² For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil."*
- B. Those who receive instruction and "apply their hearts to understanding" reap the benefits and blessings that it brings:
1. **Proverbs 2:1-9** – *"My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, ² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; ³ yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; ⁷ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; ⁸ He guards the paths of justice,*

and preserves the way of His saints.⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.”

2. Wisdom and knowledge also provide protection to those who receive it.

Proverbs 2:10-17 – *¹⁰When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, ¹¹discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, ¹²to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, ¹³from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; ¹⁵Whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths; ¹⁶to deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words, ¹⁷who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God.”*

- C. Many comparisons are made between those who receive instruction and correction and those who refuse it.

1. **Proverbs 1:7** – *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*
2. **Proverbs 3:35** – *“The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools.”*
3. **Proverbs 10:17** – *“He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray.”*
4. **Proverbs 12:1** – *“Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.”*
5. **Proverbs 13:1** – *“A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.”*
6. **Proverbs 15:5** – *“A fool despises his father’s instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.”*
7. **Proverbs 19:27** – *“Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.”*

IV. PRIDE MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO RECEIVE CORRECTION

- A. Accepting that we need instruction or correction seems to be very hard for most people.

1. We don’t like appearing to be ignorant (in need of instruction).
2. We like it even less for someone to tell us that we are wrong (in need of correction).

- B. However, reproof (correction), correctly given and received, can be one of the greatest blessings in our lives **if** we are willing to make adjustments to our lives when necessary.

1. In the book of Revelation, John was instructed to write letters to seven churches in Asia. **Revelation 1:9-11**

- a. To the lukewarm Laodiceans, first a rebuke was given:

Revelation 3:15-17— ¹⁵*“I know your works, that you are*

neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked"

- b. Second, counsel was given: **Revelation 18** – *"I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see."*
 - c. Third, a confirmation of love and an offer of forgiveness was made to those who seek it: *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. **If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne."** **Revelation 3:19a***
 - d. Fourth, a solution was given: *"Therefore be zealous and repent."* **Revelation 3:19b**
2. Just as an individual can go astray and stand in need of rebuke, so can a congregation.
 - a. Many congregations of God's people today have gone astray and are not following the pattern set in the New Testament. **2 Timothy 1:13** – *"Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."*
 - b. Such congregations stand in dire need of reproof.
 - c. They may have received reproof from faithful members as the changes begin to take place. However, they are often not well received by their leadership.
- C. Can reproof be given in a right spirit or attitude?
1. Obviously it can, as in the example of the Laodiceans.
 2. However, Jesus is the One who administered it to the Laodiceans, so one may observe: "Jesus can because He was perfect, but we do not have the right to correct anyone, since we ourselves are not perfect."
 3. As long as we are striving daily to live a life pleasing to God, we are made perfect in the eyes of God by the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - a. **1 John 1:7** – *"⁷ But **if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."***
 - b. While we can never judge motives, we can judge actions that need correction by the word of God, as long as we are not guilty of the same error we are pointing out in others.

Matthew 7:3-5 – "...why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

4. We are commanded to "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." **2 Timothy 4:2.**
 - a. The Greek word for "rebuke" means:
 - 1) to convict, refute, confute, generally with a suggestion of the shame of the person convicted,
 - 2) to find fault with, correct by word (to reprimand severely, chide, admonish, reprove) or by deed (to chasten, punish)
 - b. **Hebrews 12:5-8** quotes a passage from **Proverbs 3:11-12** which reminds us that God chastens His children: " ⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." ⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.
 5. We must make every effort to offer correction without being offensive.
 - a. Whether we are teaching the gospel to the lost or attempting to correcting an erring Christian, we must learn to "speak the truth in love". **Ephesians 4:15**
 - b. **Galatians 4:16** – "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?"
 - c. Even a truthful message will be lost if we deliver it in anger or with a haughty spirit.
- D. While none of us like our faults to be exposed or criticized, it will help us to remember that our brothers and sisters in Christ care for our souls and for our success in serving God.
1. We must try to view the criticism objectively, then honestly consider whether their point is justified and respond appropriately.
 - a. Honest self examination is perhaps the most difficult thing to achieve.
 - b. We are often blinded to our own faults and shortcomings.
 - c. As in all matters regarding living the Christian life, we must pray for God to give us the courage and wisdom to see where we need improvement and then take action to make those improvements.

2. Occasionally we may have had the sad experience of suffering from mean spirited criticism.
 - a. Some take delight in exposing the flaws of others in a misguided attempt to elevate themselves.
 - b. When this happens, we need to consider the examples and instructions we receive in the New Testament.
 - 1) The example of Jesus Christ: **1 Peter 2:20b-23** – *“But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, **this is commendable before God.**”*²¹ *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*²² *“Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”;*²³ *who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;”*
 - 2) The example of Paul: **I Corinthians 4:12-13** – ¹² *And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;*¹³ *being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the off scouring of all things until now.”*
 - 3) Jesus taught us to consider it a compliment and rejoice when we are maliciously criticized us: **Matthew 5:11-13** – *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven,”*
 - 4) Peter, who was taught by Jesus and witnessed His example, taught this: **I Peter 3:14-17** – ¹⁴ *But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”*¹⁵ *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*¹⁶ *having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.*¹⁷ *For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”*
 - c. These godly examples require us to refrain from striking back at those who have accused us unjustly.
 - 1) Remember, Paul said in **I Corinthians 4:12**, *“Being reviled, we bless.”* We must respond in kindness as an example to those inside the church and especially to those outside.
 - 2) Jesus instructed us also to rejoice when evil is spoken against us unjustly. Such persecution should just remind us that our reward in heaven will be worth every hurtful or evil word spoken against us.

Romans 8:18 – *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

- 3) It is almost impossible to respond joyfully and in kindness if we are overly sensitive to every criticism.
 - a) In today’s society, more than any time in recent history, everyone seems to be hypersensitive to the comments or actions of others.
 - b) Chick-Fil-A owners were boycotted and ostracized simply because they donated money to a group that spoke out against same sex marriage.
 - c) A bakery was recently fined over \$100,000 because they refused to make a “wedding cake” for a gay couple. It Fortunately, many have come to their aid in support of them.
 - d) When we denounce Islam as a false religion, based on a false book, written by a false prophet we are called “intollerant” or “Islamaphobic” or “hate mongers”.
- 4) We must not let fear of disapproval or repercussions from society prevent us from speaking the truth and defending Christian principles.
- 5) However, we must not dismiss every criticism as “unwarranted” without giving it serious consideration and self examination.

E. What about those who excuse their attitudes and actions by saying “That’s just the way I am.”?

1. Is this a way of saying “I just always speak my mind. I just can’t help it.”?
 - a. Is this a “get-out-of-jail-free card”, like you get in the game of Monopoly?
 - b. Are we to just excuse ourselves when we say hurtful things in the name of “honesty” or “frankness”?
2. What if “just the way I am,” does not bring glory to God or set a good example for other Christians and the world around me?
 - a. The difficult truth is that **I MUST CHANGE!**
 - 1) If I need to change, I should be grateful that someone cares enough about me to correct me and help me make the changes needed.
 - 2) **Proverbs 15:10** – *“Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, And he who hates correction will die.”*
 - 3) **Proverbs 12:1** is about as plainly stated as it gets: *“Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.”*
 - b. Many believe that it is impossible to change one’s character or personality, but the life of Saul of Tarsus disproves that idea.

- 1) Saul was so devoted in his religious life as a Pharisee that he was able to relentlessly persecute, arrest and even approve of the stoning death of Christians with a clear conscience. **Acts 7:57-60 & 8:1-3; 9:1-2**
- 2) Saul did not believe that Jesus was the son of God and he approved of his crucifixion.
- 3) As a Pharisee, Saul had no love for Gentiles and would never associate with them in any way. They were considered “dogs” and unworthy of being accepted by God.
- 4) When Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus and he was later baptized in order to wash away his sins, everything in his life changed – even his name, since he became known as Paul.
 - a) Suddenly he believed that Jesus was the son of God.
 - b) No longer did he persecute Christians, in fact, he became an evangelist who spread the gospel everywhere he went.
 - c) No longer did he consider the Gentiles unworthy of being children of God – in fact, he dedicated his life to reaching out to the Gentile world with the gospel.
 - d) For Paul, ignorance became knowledge, hate became love and foolishness became wisdom.
 - e) If Paul could change so drastically, so can I **if** I dedicate myself to God the way Paul did.

V. THE WISDOM OF RECEIVING INSTRUCTION

A. God’s word encourages us to buy the truth and find wisdom:

1. **Proverbs 23:23** – “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”
2. When one sees the benefits of receiving instruction, he will see that it is a great investment which pays rich dividends.
 - a. **Proverbs 3:13-18** – “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; ¹⁴ for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. ¹⁶ Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor. ¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.”
 - b. **Proverbs 3:21b-26** – “Keep sound wisdom and discretion; ²² So they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. ²³ Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble. ²⁴ When you lie down, you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. ²⁵ Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; ²⁶ for the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.”

- c. **Proverbs 9:9** – “⁹ Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.”
- d. **Proverbs 7:8** – “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.”
- e. Receiving instruction will produce benefits many years to come:
Proverbs 19:20 – “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.”
- f. If one wants to be known as a wise and knowledgeable person, he must be willing to listen to instruction.
Proverbs 23:22 – “Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.”

VI. THE FOLLY OF REFUSING REPROOF (CORRECTION)

- A. Solomon wrote, **Proverbs 15:33** – “The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.”
 - 1. **Hebrews 11:6** – “But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God), for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
 - 2. **Matthew 22:37** – “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”
- B. The majority of the world does not “fear the Lord” and many do not even believe that He exists.
 - 1. Why then are we surprised when they consider our belief foolishness?
 - a. **1 Corinthians 1:18** – “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”
 - b. **1 Peter 4:4** – “...they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”
 - 2. When we suffer persecution for our belief, we must accept it as a “badge of courage” **1 Peter 4:16** – “Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.”

VII. REFUSING INSTRUCTION OR CORRECTION FROM WISER MEN MAY LEAD TO AN UNHAPPY LIFE, BUT REFUSING INSTRUCTION AND CORRECTION FROM GOD CONDEMNS ONE’S SOUL

- A. It is not new that many people question the “reason” for many of God’s commandments.
 - 1. This often results in modifying the commandments of God in ways that are more pleasing to them personally.
 - 2. Failing to keep the commandments exactly as God gave them has caused disaster from the time Israel wandered in the desert until today.

B. There are many examples of this in the Bible:

1. **Leviticus 10:1-2** – Consider the account of Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron and priests of Israel, who used “profane” fire in their censer to burn incense to the Lord.
 - a. All fire used in any worship ceremonies of Israel was to be taken from the coals burning on the altar of burnt offerings. **Lev. 16:12**
 - b. Obviously out of “convenience”, Nadab and Abihu used coals from some other source, which was forbidden.
 - c. They surely must have thought, “*What difference does it make where we get the coals. After all, fire is fire.*”
 - d. This minute deviation was so offensive to God that He sent fire that devoured them on the spot.
2. The account of Naaman is another great example of how men question the reason for God’s instructions, rather than just simply following them. In Naaman’s case he doubted the command of God’s prophet. **2 Kings 5**
 - a. Naaman was a commander of the army of the king of Syria (a Gentile).
 - b. The King of Syria held Naaman in great esteem because the Lord had given victory to Syria under his command; however, Naaman was a leper
 - 1) Leprosy was an incurable, slowly progressing disease that eventually caused the body to be slowly eaten away until death occurred.
 - 2) It was very contagious and lepers were eventually confined to living in colonies of lepers only.
 - c. Naaman had a servant girl who had been taken captive from Israel.
 - 1) She told Naaman’s wife that there was a prophet in Samaria who could heal Naaman.
 - 2) When Naaman found out about the prophet, he asked the king to allow him to go to Samaria to see the prophet.
 - d. The king wrote a letter to the king of Israel and sent ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.
 - 1) The king misunderstood, thinking that Naaman expected the king to heal him.
 - 2) The king was upset and tore his clothes as a sign of grief because he thought that the king of Syria was trying to instigate a quarrel between their countries by asking him to do the impossible.
 - 3) When Elisha heard that the king was upset, he went to the king and said, “*Send the man to me, then he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.*”
 - e. Naaman went in his chariot and stood at the door of Elisha’s house

- 1) Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman telling him to go and wash seven times in the Jordan river and the leprosy would be cured.
- 2) This made Naaman furious and he went away saying, *"I thought that he would surely come out to me and call on the name of the Lord his God and wave his hand over the place (his skin) and heal the leprosy. The two rivers in Damascus are better than all of the water in Israel. Why can't I just wash in them and be clean?"* Naaman left Elisha's house in a rage.
- 3) When he returned home and told the story, the servant girl from Israel spoke to him saying, *"My father, **if** the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash and be clean.'"*
- 4) She reminded him that the instructions from Elisha were clear and very simple to accomplish. Naaman did not have to understand why Elisha required him to wash in the Jordan.
 - a) Naaman followed the advice of his servant and dipped once, but he was still a leper; then twice and he was still a leper; again a third time and he was still a leper. Naaman continued until he dipped the required seven times.
 - b) Upon rising from the water after the seventh time, Naaman found his skin clear like the skin of a child; he was healed of the leprosy.
- 5) Naaman went back to Elisha's house and said, *"Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel;"*
- 6) God has preserved this account for our learning today. God expects complete obedience and we don't have the authority to alter the commandments in any way for our convenience or to be more pleasing to larger audiences.

C. Many people are just like Naaman today when it comes to following the commandments of God exactly.

1. There are misconceptions about the importance of attending church services.
 - a. Many say, *"I don't believe that church attendance is required to be a Christian, as long as one believes in God."*
 - 1) However, the New Testament clearly teaches assembling together is important.

Hebrews 10:25 – *"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."*

- 2) According to this verse, attending meetings of the church is not just for our own edification, but it is also to be seen as an opportunity to encourage and exhort our fellow Christians.
 - 3) God designed the church to function as a body.
 - a) Each member is to be a functioning part that contributes to the welfare of the body and cares for the weaker members.
I Corinthians 12:12-27
 - b) Missing or non-functioning members handicap the body.
 - c) The church is designed to be a source of education and encouragement to every member. Members forfeit those benefits when they choose to be absent.
2. There are many misconceptions about baptism, such as:
- a. Baptism is not necessary for salvation: I Peter 3:20-21 – *"...once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. ²¹ There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,"*
 - b. Some administered baptism by sprinkling water over a person or pouring a cup of water over a person:
 - 1) Neither of these methods represent the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - 2) **Romans 6:3-4** – *"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*
 - 3) This symbolism of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is an integral part of baptism and cannot be eliminated for the sake of convenience.
3. There are misconceptions about partaking of communion.
- a. Many denominations believe that serving communion every Sunday tends to demean its significance and causes people take it for granted rather than giving it the true devotion that is intended.
 - 1) God commanded the Israelites to *"Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy."* **Exodus 20:8**
 - a) Do you suppose they thought keeping the Sabbath day holy once a month or once a quarter would be giving it more significance than doing it weekly?
 - b) Would God have approved of their observing the Sabbath monthly? Quarterly? Sporadically?
 - c) What was the Sabbath intended to remember? The seventh day of creation when God rested. **Exodus 20:11**

- d) Could it then have been celebrated on the sixth day for convenience (or any other day)? Absolutely not.
- 2) Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper as a memorial for His death with the bread representing His body and the fruit of the vine representing His shed blood. **Luke 22:19-20**
- a) Paul reminded the Corinthians that he received the teaching regarding communion directly from the Lord, which stresses its importance. **I Corinthians 11:23-29**
- b) **Acts 20:7 and I Corinthians 16:2** – tells us that the first century church met on the first day of the week to "*break bread*" (communion).
- i Communion is actually the primary reason the church meets together on the first day of the week.
 - ii **Revelation 1:10** – The apostle John referred to the day of worship as "*the Lord's day*".
 - iii Just as the Sabbath commemorated the seventh day of the week when God rested after completing the creation, the resurrection of Jesus is commemorated on the first day of the week, the day He was raised from the dead.
 - No other day is representative of the day Jesus overcame death and rose from the dead.
 - It is because God raised Him from the dead that we worship Him.
 - iv Can any other day be substituted or added to this celebration? For example:
 - If weekly is good, wouldn't daily be better, as the Catholic church does?
 - If, according to many denominations, weekly is too much and dilutes the significance of the event, wouldn't monthly be better? Quarterly?
 - No day, other than the first day of the week, is acceptable for serving communion, just as no day other than the seventh day of the week would be an acceptable substitute for the Sabbath.
 - Just as Israel celebrated EVERY Sabbath, we celebrate the Lord's Supper EVERY first day of the week.

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. While Solomon did not always heed the word of God, in his later years he had learned that the consequences of that stubbornness are severe and the rewards of obedience are great.
- B. Examples of Solomon's advice for your personal review:
 1. **Proverbs 13:13** – "*He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.*"

2. **Proverbs 10:8** – *“The wise in heart will receive commands, but a prating fool will fall.”*
 3. **Proverbs 12:2** – *“A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.”*
 4. **Proverbs 12:15** – *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.”*
 5. **Proverbs 14:6** – *“A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, but knowledge is easy to him who understands.”*
 6. **Proverbs 14:12** – *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”*
 7. **Proverbs 14:26-27** – *“In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.”*
 8. **Proverbs 15:12** – *“A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.”*
- C. It is the most stubborn among us who do not learn from our own mistakes and most often ignore the council of older and wiser advisers.
1. Letting go of arrogance and pride will help us understand that God made us and His word is full of guidance that will make our lives on earth more pleasant and our eternal life secure.
 2. Parents really should study the book of Proverbs with their children.
 - a. This lets our children know that we didn't make the rules, God did.
 - b. Perhaps they would be more inclined to take our advice when they learn that we are also totally dependent upon God to guide our own lives.
 - c. Perhaps our children will not rebel so much when they realize that they are challenging God and not us.
 - d. We must help them see that submitting to the authority of God is required by each individual, and each one is accountable to God.
 - e. When they accept and submit to the authority of God, it is easier for them to submit to the authority of parents, teachers, police and employers.
 - f. This may be the most important lesson our children can learn.