

I. Review

You'll remember last week we saw how God deals with us as His children—sons of God. Last Sunday and Thursday, we saw two key areas which are really vital for the Christian life. The one from Sunday (02/25/24) deals with our fellowship and how God deals with us. Then on Thursday night (02/29/2024) we saw the aspect of prayer and how important prayer is. We went through it as cleanly and as in-depth as possible; understanding our prayer life with the Lord.

We clearly saw the difference between God's rebuke and God's chastisement; it was very vital for you to see that. So many of God's people today get confused, and when you get out of fellowship with God, the confusion becomes even greater....so there are some things you need to understand going in that will help you.

I showed you the incredible parallels between the nation of Israel and us as New Testament believers. Back in Exodus Chapter 4:22, the nation of Israel is called God's son. In the Old Testament, God didn't have individual sons. He had a nation, and as a corporate nation, God deals with them and calls them His son; therefore, God looks at Israel as a nation as His son. You'll find this in the book of Proverbs where he addresses *my son*. It's one of the many ways in the Bible that you can study God in His relationship with the nation of Israel.

For you and for me, as New Testament Christians, our sonship with God will be on an individual basis. He doesn't look at all of Christianity as His son, He looks at every man and woman here today who has trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior, on an individual basis, as His son.

I laid this out for you in Hebrews 12:5-11, and I gave you the six things listed there as God deals with us as His son. **You've got to see how both Israel and the church got into the mess they got into, and in time, the mess only gets worse. It led Israel, and it leads many of God's people to lose fellowship with God, then reject God's rebuke, and unfortunately then fall into God's chastisement.**

Psalms 6:1-4 will be our great example of how it happens. I really wanted you to see that. **I don't know of anything that is more important in your life than your relationship and your fellowship with the Lord.** Last week I wanted to show you the difference between rebuke and chastisement. Most people think they are the same, but I showed you out of our text that they are NOT the same.

- A. The three main areas of God's chastisement that God's people will face when they reject the preaching of the prophets in the Old Testament (which Israel did), and the pastors and the church in the New Testament (which Christians do today).

- 1.) You Become Weak – Psalms 6:2 ..*for I [am] weak*

He says in Psalms 6:2, *for I [am] weak*, and we looked at what that means. **When you get out of fellowship with God, the first thing that happens is you lose any spiritual strength or any power of God in your life.** Now, as we saw in 1 Corinthians 6:12, we're under the power of something that we allowed in our life which we didn't use wisdom in and were not expedient with...and now it has taken and drained any spiritual strength. Any spiritual perception is now gone. Any spiritual discernment is no longer there. Understanding is not there. Without those three things, you start to make some bad choices in life.... in relationships and major decisions that will alter the course of your life. **You get to the point in your life where you're just too weak to say no.**

2.) The Physical Side – Psalms 6:2 ...*heal me; for my bones are vexed.*

God's hand of chastisement puts you into medical issues. **God's message now comes not through the preaching of a message on Sunday morning, because you rejected that, but now it comes through the physical ailments that people get that God uses to deliver the message**—whether it be cancer, a heart attack, stroke, car accident...some form of a physical issue. I mean, you can reject the message of a pastor when he stands in the pulpit, whether it's me or anybody else, but God has a way of getting the message to you. You can blow me off, but you get pinned under a car at 3:00 AM, and you'll hear the rest of the message. When the doctor leaves the room after giving you some bad news, and the Holy Spirit of God comes in, you'll hear the rest of the message. When we get out of fellowship, God has a message for us, and that message is to get back in fellowship with Him. And as I told you, the longer you wait, the more problems that you have. **If you're a Christian, God is going to get the honor and glory out of your life one way or the other. He'll either do it as a vessel of honor, or He'll get it done as a vessel of dishonor. We get to choose.**

3.) The Emotional Side – Psalms 6:3 *My soul is also sore vexed...*

These are our emotional and mental issues. **God's hand will manifest itself through chastisement through the emotional issues that overtake our spirit.** The key word here is "spirit" which is the key to our emotional issues.

I got a lot of calls last week about drugs that people take for different problems...anxiety, stress, bipolar disorder, etc., and I told them there are times when there are legitimate medical issues where it is prescribed. I don't want anybody confusing that if you have a legitimate medical or chemical issue in your life and what they give you can help in some way, you stay with your doctor; however, if you're somebody who has been on one of these drugs because they don't know what else to do with you, my advice is to stay with what you're doing but get some help. I'll work with you. It's not good to just stop taking it; there's a process. I also had some of you say that you were on those things, but weaned yourself off because it wasn't doing what you needed it to do.

All the terminology of the professionals...emotional issues, stress, anxiety. You know it's impossible to get mentally ill. Your mind can't get ill. You can get the flu or Covid-19 and get ill, but your mind does not get ill. Somebody said one time that they had a nervous breakdown.

I looked at them and said, “Really?” Hey, if you have a nervous breakdown, you die. But these are the tradesman terms they use because they don’t know what to do with it.

The key to this is your spirit ... you’re either going to lend it to the things of God or you’re going to lend it to the things of the world. Whichever one you do is where your emotional stability is going to be or not be. It’s just that simple.

We like to make things so complicated in life today because people can make money off you. You go to a psychiatrist, and he’ll charge you \$200 per hour and use terminology you don’t even understand. Come and listen to me; I’ll tell you in 30 seconds what your problem is, and I won’t charge you a dime. But we live in a world today where if it doesn’t cost something, we think it isn’t any good. Well, I’ve got news for you. **The greatest cure you could ever have for what ails you is found at the cross of Calvary and it didn’t cost you a dime for that.**

- Psalms 51:10, when David was going through his tough times, he said *renew a right spirit within me.*
- In Psalms 51:17, the Bible says the true *sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart.*
- Proverbs 15:13 says, *A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.*

Aligning your spirit with the wrong things over the wrong issues will always cause us emotional problems. You need to realize that you have a spirit, and your spirit isn’t saved. Your flesh isn’t saved either. Only your soul is saved and sealed. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 7:1 that we must *cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.* And wherever you put your spirit is going to determine where your emotional stability is going to be.

B. Psalms 6:3 - *O LORD, how long?*

Then in Psalms 6:3, we looked at the guy who asked *O LORD, how long?* We’ve all asked that question. Many people use the saying “this too shall pass” for whatever you’re going through. And when we’re going through something, we ask the Lord— how long? The Jews in the tribulation ask *how long, Lord?* And as I told you last week—that’s up to you. **You determine how long it is by what you do with the rebuke that God gives you and the chastisement you sometimes find yourself in.** It depends on you.

❖ David’s Response to God’s Rebuke and Chastisement

A good example of this is David himself. One important aspect of David’s life will be found in the way he allowed God, not only to rebuke him, but to chastise him. Two of my favorite things the Bible says about David:

- *Acts 13:22 ...I have found David the [son] of Jesse, a man after mine own heart.*
- *I Kings 15:5 Because David did [that which was] right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any [thing] that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.*

Yet David gets out of fellowship many times. When you study his life, there are many places in his life where he didn't do what he should have done; however, **the key to David was his attitude toward God's word whether he was in fellowship or out of fellowship.** You see this in Psalms 119 in the 176 verses in that great chapter. **There was never a time in David's life, no matter where or how far he got, or how he convinced himself he was okay when he wasn't, that he didn't come back to God.** When God sent him a prophet, like Gad or Nathan, and that prophet stood before him and said *Thus saith the Lord* and nailed his hide—every time his heart was still tender to the word of God so that God's prophets could break him and bring him back to God.

It's true in ministry today. When you lay a good foundation in your life, when you get disciplined and you begin to let this church minister to you, there are going to be times where you're going to get out of fellowship with God. It isn't always going to be a bed of roses, but **I have found that it's much easier for somebody to admit their own wrong and get it right, based on the word of God you've already hidden in your heart, with the right foundation.** You take somebody that has none of that; it can be very hard if not impossible for them to ever get back because they never built anything as a foundation in their life for the Holy Spirit to build on.

C. God Coming to Deliver Us – Psalm 6:4 *Return O LORD, deliver my soul...*

I told you that He will not come to be our deliverer until we come back to him. **You choose to leave then you choose to come back.** In today's lesson, you will get to see this. We looked at chastisement last week, but now we're going to see this week how you begin to get back. The very aspect of getting things right in your life and then God coming and delivering us.

Several years ago, a guy left our church...for all the wrong reasons. Two or three years later, he called me and asked if he could come back. He knew he was wrong and got caught up in some stupid stuff. I told him, "It's up to you. I didn't tell you to leave, so I'm not telling you to come back. You're more than welcome, and there is really nothing to forgive. Nobody is upset, but in both cases, it's your choice." It's the same way with God. **You're the one who chooses to leave Him; you then have to choose to come back to Him".**

II. Psalms 6:5-10

Today we're going to look at the rest of Psalms 6 and put last week's message together with this week's message to help you establish a clear context. I'm going to read the whole Psalm.

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 (there it is): O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed (there's the physical). 3. My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long? (there's the emotional). 4. Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake (there is where we ended last week). 5. For in death [there is] no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks? 6. I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. 7. Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies. 8. Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of

my weeping. 9. The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. 10. Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return [and] be ashamed suddenly.

Now, again, this is the continuation of a tribulation Psalm. These will be the prayers of the tribulation saints you'll find clearly laid out for you in Revelation 6:9-10. But for us too, in our failure to accept the rebuke of God as Israel did, sometimes we find ourselves in the chastisement of God. **Today we will see somebody actually begin the process of coming back, and you'll see what it takes.** You'll begin to see how God deals with our sin when we come back with God and what it takes to be able to do that.

A. Psalms 6:5 - For in death [there is] no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

Now this will be a favorite passage of Jehovah's Witnesses. If you've had any dealings with them, you know they teach that when you die, there is no hell or eternal damnation. If you're not a Jehovah's Witness, you just go to the grave; you're annihilated. You have no remembrance of anything; you cease to exist...nothing after death. And of course, that's not true.

I told a Jehovah's Witness one time that I knew thousands and thousands of them that believe in hell. He asked, "Really? Who are they?" And I said everyone that died without Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior—they're believers today.

To understand this verse, you've got to remember what he has been talking about...fellowship with God, serving God, being what God wants you to be. What he is really saying here is that when you die, whether in or out of fellowship with God, when they put your body into the grave, you can't do anything anymore for God. Your soul may be in heaven, but your body is in the grave now and you can no longer carry out your mission. There is no remembrance of God in your flesh when it's in the grave, and now you cannot honor Him with your thanks...you're dead.

The point he's trying to make here is simply this—you've got one body to serve the Lord with, and you don't want to spend it out of fellowship with God. You don't want to spend it running from God. You've got one body that God gave you. He won't give you another one. If you ruin your life through drugs or alcohol and you finally get right with God, He's not going to give you another body—**He gives you one body to serve Him with; one shot in life to do what He's called you to do.**

Many people think the ministry is a career. **Ministry is not a career; ministry is a calling. After He saves you, He calls you. He calls you to ministry; He called me to pastor; He'll call some of you guys to pastor, but he calls all of us to minister.** Some people do and some people don't. One short life. One generation really, and when you're dead and in the grave, there's no more serving Him. You don't get another chance. **I'm sure that when we get to the Judgment Seat of Christ, and we realize all that He did for us and the price that He paid, we will realize what we didn't do for Him.** I believe there will be people begging to go back down to earth for just 15 minutes to serve God...but it's over. You're in the grave, there's no

more remembrance, and you don't get a second body to get a second chance. You've got one, and you're living in it right now.

That's why the Bible says that when you're young, you want to put the right things in your life so that when you get older, they're already established. Then as you get into the golden years of your life, you stay faithful to everything that God has done for you. You've got one life, and when you die in that chastisement out of fellowship, you're done. You leave nothing here for God—no heritage, no legacy, no ministry of family to carry on...the cycle is broken in your life. Families that you could have had an influence in continue without Christ.

Somebody said one time that we should get the most out of life, and I agree with that. Most people do; they just get it the wrong way. They don't get everything out of life for God, they get everything out of life for themselves and give God the crumbs that are left over.

As I look at life, if I could give you just two points of advice:

- 1.) Keep yourself physically as best as you can because it's the only body you've got.
- 2.) Keep yourself spiritually as best as you can because the two go together. You can be the most spiritual person in the world, but if your body falls apart when you're 30 or 40 years old because of your lifestyle, what's the point?

He's given us all of eternity. Don't trade it for 70 years down here in the public sewer system. You find that somebody who lays a foundation in their life and has some solid Bible, when they get into problems, it's a lot easier to get them back and reason with them because of the foundation the Holy Spirit of God has to work with.

Somebody said one time that this earth is as close to heaven as an unsaved man will ever get, and this earth is as close to hell as a saved person will ever get. Quit living your life like this place is your heaven, and that's what God's people do.

B. *Psalms 6:6 - I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.*

There are three key words here: "weary," "groaning," and "tears." Every child of God at some point will find themselves here. The Christian life is hard enough without our compounding it with our disobedience and bad choices. And for me, verse six is a sad portion of scripture that I see many of God's people faced with unnecessarily. My heart breaks for them. Sometimes I see people make some of the dumbest mistakes that I know will have consequences that come down through their families, kids, marriages, etc. Long before you feel the pain, I feel the pain because I know where you're going. The sad thing is that it doesn't have to be that way.

There have been many Christian moms and dads who I've seen and worked with in my 50 years who filled their bed with tears over a wayward child. Losing a child to the world must be one of the most agonizing things to deal with. Nothing I'm saying is a criticism; it's just a reality I have seen for 50 years. When I started this church, one of the things that I wanted to do

was give parents an opportunity to never have to worry about losing their child if they'll do what the Bible says.

But in 50 years, I've seen many a bed watered with tears because of the failure of a parent, or even worse, the untimely death of a child. It's hard enough when a child dies in an accident or some disease when everybody is doing what the Lord wants them to do. But I can't imagine the heartache and agony when you lose a child and realize you failed as a parent. One of the greatest yet most tragic verses in the Bible is found in Psalms 127:4—*As arrows [are] in the hand of a mighty man; so [are] children of the youth.* Kids are like arrows; you put them in a bow, and you can hit a bullseye. **Wherever you launch that child in life is where they're going to land.**

I'm not speaking to you as a pastor right now; I want to speak to you as a father who has kids myself. I don't know what I would do if I had lost my girls to the world. How hard it would be to see them struggling on drugs, addicted to alcohol, or just living out in the world. I've seen Christian parents and pastors who have lost their kids to homosexuality or lesbianism. How hard that must be, and I'm not criticizing anybody. I'm speaking to you as a father—a dad. I've preached too many funerals where I've seen those kids die way before their time, and I can't imagine the heartache. I'm not trying to beat anybody up. I know the struggles they go through. I'm just tired of seeing young men and young ladies go the way of the world and wind up a disaster. When it's dark we become alone with our thoughts, so nighttime can be a hard time; I totally understand. I've seen some of God's people who came to this church and really got plugged in when you were middle aged, but your kids were already in their teens and down the wrong road. You've done everything you could do to try to turn that around. I understand that. Sometimes I see parents who've been in church all their lives, they had the right Bible, everything...yet I see so many disasters. Parents like to blame it on everybody else, and if you don't take anything else home with you today, please take this. **The worst lies in the world are the ones you tell yourself.**

It must tear your heart out, and like verse six, you make your bed swimming in tears. I say this because for you young couples coming up—it doesn't have to be that way. Yet no matter how complete the collapse is, there's always something that you can do.

❖ Redeeming the Time

Ephesians 5:15-16 talks about us *redeeming the time.* Even in your worst-case scenario, there's always something you can do to redeem the time. But most parents won't. It's just too easy to blame somebody or something else for their failure. Hey mom and dad, **my commitment to you as your pastor is not to lose one more child on my watch.** I want to give you the best things I can in this church that will be the counterbalance to your parenting with your kids. From the Bible Buddies, to the Bible Explorers, to the Timothy Program, to the Youth Program with Jared and Kenzie, and all the young men and women here to mentor your kids. We're here for you. We care about your kids. **Don't you know the world is after your kids and the devil would like nothing more than for you go to heaven but have your kids die and go to hell?** You've got kids that are going to face an eternity at some point in time. I've tried to give you the tools of good solid parenting and am here to help you through it all. Your bed at night should be one of peace and rest and not the groanings and filling your bed with tears,

but it all comes down to you seeing your awesome responsibility as a parent. You're not a parent because you can biologically have kids; you're a parent because after you have kids you do what's right with them to teach them the value system of life that they need to have. We're here to help you, but it must start with you. We can have the best program in the world, and we probably do, but **it comes down to you seeing your child up against the world, the flesh, and the devil then realizing that it's your responsibility to get them here.**

C. *Psalms 6:7 - Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.*

Here are two more key words: "consumed" and "mine eye."

In life, as a child of God, one of two things will consume you, your kids, your family, your whole life.

1.) The World will Consume Your Life

One of the things that will swallow you up will be the world. When you get into the Bible, you'll find verses that speak about the lust of the eyes that is the world.

- The Bible tells us in *Psalms 88:9* that **Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction.**
- *Proverbs 28:22* talks about **an evil eye.**
- *Ecclesiastes 1:8* says **the eye is not satisfied with seeing,** (so now we covet).
- *Proverbs 3:7* says **Be not wise in thine own eyes.**
- *Proverbs 12:15* says **The way of a fool [is] right in his own eyes** (there comes pride).
- *Proverbs 17:24* declares **but the eyes of a fool [are] in the ends of the earth.** (and we're never satisfied).

You see, what you focus on in life and set your eyes upon in time will consume you.

2.) The Lord will Consume Your Life

Again, based on your eyes. We've been talking about staying in fellowship and listening to God's rebuke when we don't do what's right.

- *Psalms 119:136* speaks to that when it says **Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.** (That's staying right with God).
- *Psalms 123:1* says **Unto thee lift I up mine eyes**
- *Psalms 123:2* declares **our eyes [wait] upon the LORD our God** (seeing God through our eyesight of patience).
- *Matthew 6:22* says **The light of the body is the eye...**there's the word of God.
- *Proverbs 15:30* states **The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart**
- *Proverbs 7:2* says **my law as the apple of thine eye....** The word of God

You see, when the Lord consumes you, he'll fill every aspect of your life. He'll fill the aspect of your own personal life, your family, your marriage. Most certainly it forms the filtering system by which we view everything in life which keeps all the wrong things from getting to our spirit.

It's not just what we look at in life, but it's how we look at the things in life—through the word of God consuming your life, so that everything you see you see through the filter of the word of God.

❖ *it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.*

You bet it does. Which one of us that are at least 60 or older here doesn't wish we could go back and be 20 again with what we now know at 60—but we won't be able to. **Every person who is against God will start out, when you let them in your life, deceiving you into thinking that they are truly your friend and slowly they will destroy everything in your life. They will take everything that God has for you away from you, and in time it will destroy you.** And the reason for it—let's go all the way back to Psalms 1—*Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.* You walked with the wrong people, you stood with the wrong people, you sat with the wrong people, and now you too are the enemy of God. You have been consumed, and you're just like them. Years later you look back on it and see that they weren't your friend; they were really your enemy because they were the enemy of God, and they leave you broken and busted.

Now God had for you Psalms 1:3—*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.* Now you're not the tree planted by the rivers of water; you're now the barren fig tree of Mark 11:12-14 that never bears any fruit.

D. *Psalm 6:8 - Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.*

Now we begin to see a picture of somebody getting right with God and coming back to Him. We see the process begin to reveal itself to us, so that if you find yourself in this situation, here's what you need to do.

The first thing you need to do (*Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity*) is get rid of the wrong crowd in your life. Forsake them with the same zeal with which you forsook the Lord. Get as far away from them as you can. You now have broken the cycle that held you. The thing that put you under its power. Now you realize it. You see that they weren't your friends. The message has now come through. And God heard your voice of weeping, and God heard you say to yourself that you are done with this lifestyle; you're not going to do it anymore, and you're going to come back to God.

E. *Psalm 6:9 - The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.*

What a great promise. **When you come back to God, no matter where you've been, He will receive your prayer and respect your asking for His forgiveness.**

Thursday night (02/29/2024), we talked about the four aspects of prayer. We talked about the prayer of supplication. **Supplication is the act of asking or begging for something earnestly or humbly**, and that's what you have here with this guy who wants to get back.

❖ The Prodigal Son

It's the great principle found in Luke 15:11-32 with the story of the prodigal son. That's probably one of the greatest stories in the Bible which shows you and me principles, not just for ourselves, but for a wayward child. You know the story, but there are some key things in it that you've got to look for. The story is that a man had two sons, and the one boy wants his inheritance. He wants to leave the church; he wants to leave the family, so he gets all his inheritance, and he heads out to the far country. The Bible says he *wasted his substance with riotous living*. Can I break that down for you? He spent all his money on his friends—oh, he had lots of friends when he had lots of money. He was buying rounds of drinks and was the toast of the party. I'm sure he thought to himself, "Wow! I'm doing okay," but then the hand of God came down and he lost everything.

That is a picture of each one of us at some time in life, but it's a picture of what your kids will go through as they fall short and get into the messes that they get into. And he winds up in a pig pen. When he was home with his dad and his family, he ate great food—sirloin steak, roast beef, chicken, and duck, but now he's eating the swine food with the pigs. He finally gets the message. **The Bible says, and this is my favorite part of the story, and when he came to himself.** You see, that's where it starts. That's where it begins for your journey back, but sometimes it takes the pig pen to get you to see that.

❖ The Pig Pen

The second important thing for parents to see is that **the key to this story is the pig pen**. Don't ever deny your child or yourself life in the pig pen. Yet how many times I've seen parents take that experience from their child. Hey! If he's a child of God, God has got him in the pig pen for one reason—so he can come to himself, and you take that from him.

There are many kinds of parents; some good and some bad. My favorite ones to preach on are helicopter parents. Now if you're out there in the ocean; your ship sank and you're in a life raft with sharks circling, the greatest thing you could have happen is to look up and see a helicopter. That's a good thing, but **too many parents throw their kids a life ring in the pig pen because they feel sorry for them, and the kid never comes to himself because you took the pig pen from him.**

The pig pen is the most important aspect of him coming to himself. Let me ask you a question. When that boy is in the pig pen and spent all his substance on riotous living, what if his dad would have heard that and sent him a credit card, gave him a car so he could drive back and forth, called a couple of friends out there in the far country to give him a job—that kid would have never come back. At some point, folks, you need to stop enabling them. If they can't spend time with God in church, let them spend time with the oinkers in the pig pen.

When he came to himself, he started comparing what he had at home with where he was at and suddenly the kid said, “I’m going back to my father. I had great things with him. I had food, clothes, everything I could want. This is a mess.” He learned his lesson and then he starts the road back. **The Bible says the father was standing at the gate and saw him coming a far off. The father knew the principles of the pig pen. The father knew the only way for him to come to himself was to get in the pig pen.** And the father wanted him back. He was standing there probably every free moment of the day at the gate looking down that long trail looking for that boy to walk back home, but he never sent him anything to take away what God was trying to do in his life. And that is the only way he got his son back. That’s a great lesson.

You know that’s what God is doing with us when we get out of fellowship. He stands there looking down the long road of life waiting for each one of us who are His children to come back. He understands that we’re flesh, and we’ve got problems. Through all that He loves us. He gave you a Bible. He gave you everything that you need—the Holy Spirit of God to keep you from going astray, and yet we still do; however, He never gives up on us. Just like the father in our story never gave up on his son because he knew the answer to the wayward son and the riotous living was the pig pen....and down the road he came. **What a joyous day that was for the man in the story, and what a joyous day it is for God when we come back to Him.**

F. *Psalms 6:10 - Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly.*

There are two key words here—“return” and “suddenly.”

Now the enemies of God will just get worse and worse. They return to their sin repeatedly.

- We find this in *Proverbs 26:11-12* where it talks of a dog *returneth to his vomit*. This is a picture of an unsaved man going back to his sin.
- And suddenly, the enemies of God die in the shame of their sinful life. And we are told in *Proverbs 6:15* that *Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.*
- *Proverbs 24:22* says *For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?*
- *Proverbs 29:1* says *He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth [his] neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*

I want you to notice that for these people, there is no remedy. They’ve hardened their heart, they’ve stiffened their neck, they’ve turned their back on the rebuke of God, and then when God chastises them, they don’t look at it as chastisement from God. They look at it and harden their heart—why God are you doing this to me? Let me just say this...in dealing with people, an unsaved man or woman never experiences God’s chastisement. I want you to get this. **God’s chastisement is only reserved for God’s children who reject rebuke, get the chastisement of God, and then there is a remedy that they can come back. Unsaved people NEVER experience God’s chastisement in this life. In this life, what they experience is God’s judgment on their unsaved life—a precursor to the lake of fire.**

Now this can make it a little complicated sometimes when you're looking at somebody, and they've got problem after problem and heartache after heartache, and they claim to be a Christian.... but they never come back to God or turn the corner. It may be, as I've said before, that they're not really a Christian, and what you're seeing is not the hand of chastisement but the hand of God's judgment. You can't determine one way or the other, nor would I try. I pray for them in either case that God would get what He needs to get out of it. **I just want you to know that an unsaved man or woman does not go through God's chastisement, but they will go through God's judgement...and they look very similar.** That's why I go back to the fact that just because somebody tells you they're saved, but there's no real hard evidence in their life, it can get rough. Some die destroyed by an unforgiving world all because they reject the rebuke of an all-forgiving God, but for a child of God, it doesn't have to be that way.

God has provided for you and me five key things that will keep you in His fellowship and help you no matter what you go through.

1. **Salvation and the Holy Spirit of God** -The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all truth.
2. **The Word of God** – The truth that He will lead you in.
3. **The New Testament Local Church** – The structure that God has provided for each of us so that we can sustain ourselves within the body of Christ.
4. **New Testament Friends** – Those who are likeminded, who love, care, help, and minister to you. They may hold you accountable from time to time, but there's never a time that they don't love you and care for you.
5. **New Testament Pastors and Teachers** - In the Old Testament it was the Old Testament prophets who were the greatest friend that Israel had, but they ended up killing them. In the New Testament, it will be the pastors and teachers that teach the Bible to you through the preaching of the word of God that you get the rebuke of God so that you never have to experience the chastisement of God.

III. Summary

Psalms 6 is a great Psalm. It shows us every aspect of the Christian life, and it winds up showing that even though we get out of fellowship and maybe reject the rebuke and the chastisement as God's sons, there's always something we can do. No matter what happens to your kids, there's still something you can do. You can take the terrible things in life and turn them around for God's honor and glory if you have the courage to do it. And that's the key. There's nothing in life that befalls us, whether it be tragedy, things that happen naturally, or things that we do on our own, that we cannot come back from or fix and get the best out of it we can for the Lord; however, it's about getting honest and doing what you need to do, and most people simply will not do that. It's so much easier today in Christianity to blame somebody else for your problems. We live in a world where there is no accountability anymore for anything, and there's no respect for authority—and that has breached into Christianity. God's people today do not want to take accountability or responsibility for what is wrong in their lives to fix whatever it may be. That's what it comes down to: responsibility and accountability—for us individually first and then work it out from there.