

Promises For Parents

Dearly Beloved Anand and Prasanna,

This paper is about “Promises for Parents”, promises whereby children will be gained or lost, by the grace of God. Below is a list of verses which have been upon my heart for your beloved family which is dear to my soul. After prayer and waiting upon the Lord, I felt led to put this simple and yet profound list of Scripture together for your deep and reflective consideration. Oh how I love you both by the grace of God. I desire your wealth and prosperity in all the riches of Christ Jesus!

We know that the heart of God is depicted thus,

“For whom the LORD loveth He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.” - Proverbs 3:12

But how do we correct a child who has little conscious understanding of what is going on? We can see that the Father heart of God does delight in His son, and so do we, but this delight does not hinder or restrain correction but rather ensures it.

Children are promised to be: given wisdom from God (Prov. 29:15), delivered from foolishness which is bound in the heart (Prov. 22:15), a “*delight unto thy soul*” (Prov. 29:17), to make you “*happy*” (Prov. 29:18), a faithful follower of the way of righteousness (Prov. 22:6), one who shall not remain in the grip of spiritual death (Prov. 23:13), one whose soul shall be delivered from hell (Prov. 23:14)

The means of grace are: chasten and do not spare for crying (be guarded from pity and mercy upon the flesh, instead of pity for the soul; Prov. 19:18), c

Children will otherwise become: a shame to the parents (Prov. 29:15), an incessant trouble which steals away all peace and rest from the home (Prov. 29:17),

The Battle against True Love & the “Time Span” of Hope

Just as the flesh battles against the Spirit in a Christian’s life (Gal. 5:17), the child who is once-born will battle against Spirit-motivated love from God expressed by parents – a love that is active through chastisement (Prov. 13:24). When considering this battle we must understand that there will be a loser and a winner. The soul of the child will be lost in sin or won by God’s saving grace, but this does not mean there is no responsibility on our part. Scripture states, “he that winneth souls is wise” (Prov. 11:3). What is God’s wisdom?

“Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.” – Proverbs 19:18

There is a special “time span” in which, if chastisement is exercised, depravity will not accelerate beyond control. This “time span” is a gift from God. This “time span” is a window of hope. If parents do not act in this time, a time “while there is hope” (Prov. 19:18), the child will have NO HOPE (in one sense) If this “time span” is used for chastisement, then the promises of God can be obtained for the child (Proverbs 19:18).

“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” – Proverbs 22:15

We must put a difference between verbal correction and restraint. All parents verbally correct their children, in one sense, but not all parents restrain them from their sin. Eli, for example, verbally corrected his sons when he heard of their sin against God and Israel, but he did not restrain them from committing the same deeds over again (see 1 Sam. 2:22-30). Eli verbally corrected his sons by saying, “*Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD’S people to transgress. If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him?*” (1 Sam. 2:23-24). You see how Eli corrected his sons? But because Eli didn’t restrain his sons from their sin God judged him. God said of Eli, “*Wherefore...honourest thy sons above Me*” (1 Sam. 2:29). All parents are in the same situation as Eli. We can respond to the sin of our children by verbally correcting it or restraining it. Mere verbal correction can be done because of laziness. Mere verbal correction can be done because of carnal and unrighteous pity. Mere verbal correction can be done because of a “hope all things” mentality for the child’s goodness, forgetting that in reality, the child has no goodness at all. Mere verbal correction can be done... but when correction is enforced by “the rod” when necessary, the foolishness of the child will be DRIVEN from the heart! Thus shall the child be restrained from sin!

*“Chasten thy son while there is hope, and **let not thy soul spare for his crying.**” – Proverbs 19:18*

The adamic nature of the child will fight against the rod and discourage the parents from their hope, but scripture warns, “*let not thy soul spare for his crying*”, for, “*he that spareth his rod hateth his son*” (Prov. 19:18, 13:24). The greatest means to discourage a parent from biblical chastisement is CRYING. Through crying the child will seek to get his or her way. Through crying the child will seek to gain unrighteous pity. Through crying the child will throw tantrums with undying energy (so it seems) until the parents tire out. If the parent becomes tired out, the pursuit of flesh has overcome the hope of the Spirit, and the promises for the child can be lost over time. Surrendering the “time span” of hope is, in other words, surrendering the soul of the child over to the devil.

“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” – Proverbs 29:15

The child “*left to himself*” (Prov. 29:15), is a child left to the violence of his or her depravity! From birth, the “*foolishness*” of sin is already “*bound in the heart of the child*” (Prov. 22:15), but the scripture promises that “*the rod of correction shall drive it far from him*”. The child need not remain in the violence of utter rebellion. No! God is providing means of grace with a promise whereby we might drive it far from him! Because depravity has already set their little feet on the runway to hell, it is our duty to interrupt that course! Hell and death is their final doom unless, behold, the parent impedes the way. By the pain which comes from the rod the child will learn the evil of sin. By pain, the child will obtain a soft heart to reproof. By pain the child will loath sin which he otherwise would never despise. By pain, the child will be convinced of the inevitable judgment of God against sinners. By pain, the child will learn the truth that, “*the way of transgressors is hard*” (Prov. 13:15).

“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” – Proverbs 13:24

Parents are employed in an office given by God. Their work is to shun carnal love (which is hatred). Their work is to act in God’s love (which to the world is pitilessness and cruelty). With a renewed mind, parents must not consent with the depravity of their children nor hearken to their crying. Rather, they should consent to God’s word and hearken to the voice of His wisdom (“*Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye **pity** him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:*” – Deut. 13:8). This battle is long and the flesh may appear relentless, but the rod is effective! Never let the promises of God fade from memory! With the rod, dear parents, win the promises! Hypothetically, think of your family with several children 6 and under. Does this situation sound hopeful? God says there is hope (Prov. 19:18). Does this situation sound restful? God says there is rest (Prov. 29:17). Does this situation sound delightful? God says there is delight (Prov. 29:17). Does this situation sound like one which you could bring before the public eye without shame? God says there is a means to live without shame (Prov. 29:15). There is means to obtain the

promise, “*happy is he*” (Prov. 29:17-18)! There is a means whereby wisdom can replace foolishness, and God’s promises do overcome the violence of depravity (Prov. 22:15, 29:15). Dear Anand and Prasanna, this is the way...

“And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” – Isaiah 30:20-21

Scripture References

“Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.” – Proverbs 19:18

“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” – Proverbs 13:24

“Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul. Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” – Proverbs 29:17-18

“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” – Proverbs 29:15

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” – Proverbs 22:6

“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” – Proverbs 22:15

“Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.” - Proverbs 23:13-14

None of these attributes of parental chastisement are to be applied without nurture and condescension to the child, but because nurture is not lacking like chastisement is, this paper was written to emphasize chastisement. Anand, I commend your temperament of gentleness and nurture to Neethi. Thanks be to Christ!

I love you both very dearly, and if I obtain the opportunity to seal that confession with my blood, I would be grateful to God for the honor. I love you.

Yours truly,

Brother Sean