

Reproof: It's Meant to Turn You

⇒ **Text:** Proverbs 1:23

⇒ **Introduction:**

- God has a definite plan for each one of His people.
 - If you are saved today, rest assured, God has something much better than your old life planned for you.
 - It's called a new life in Christ.
 - John W. Peterson penned:
 - New life in Christ! Abundant and free!
 - What glories shine, what joys are mine,
 - What wondrous blessings I see!
 - My past with its sin, the searching and strife,
 - Forever gone; there's a bright new dawn!
 - For in Christ I have found new life!
 - Paul said in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
 - Praise God for this new life!
 - The last thing Satan wants is for God's people to live that new life in Christ.
 - He would be happy if God's people would just live the old life while possessing the new life.
 - He knows this is possible, because, at salvation, our old nature is not eradicated, nor is it replaced.
 - The Apostle Paul taught us in Romans 7 that at salvation, we received a new man that was created in Christ Jesus but speaks of his old man as an adversary.
 - God uses reproof to turn us because we need to be turned.
 - Satan's desire is to deceive us into believing that his way is the best way, but **Proverbs 16:25** warns about his way, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."
 - Therefore, God uses reproof to prove to us again what is right and what is wrong.
 - - Reproof is not meant to shame you.
 - - Reproof is not meant to harm you.
 - - Reproof is meant to turn you from the wrong way.
 - The Devil's deceitfulness is used to turn us from right.
 - God's reproof is used to turn us from wrong.
- ⇒ **1. The Devil will send deceivers to turn us from right.**
- Proverbs 12:5 – "The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit."
 - - Just as God has truth to guide us, the Devil has counselors who will counsel wickedly.
 - He wins if we listen to the wrong counselors.

- - Sometimes, there are self-proclaimed prophets whom Satan uses to deceive God's people.
 - Jeremiah said in **Jeremiah 23:26**, "How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;"
 - These false prophets preach falsely in the name of the Lord.
- ⇒ **2. The Devil will send enemies to turn us from right.**
- **Proverbs 27:6**, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."
 - - Wounds hurt no matter who they are from, but only a true friend's wounds help.
 - - Here, the enemy's kisses are used to detour God's people from doing right.
 - How many times have we heard a Christian give an excuse like this:
 - "I don't have any friends at church, so I can't help but have friends who are not saved.
 - Besides, they're better friends to me anyway."
 - - How sad that a Christian can fall for this kind of deceitful thinking!
 - Valid excuse or not, this is why some Christians run to an enemy who praises them while running from a friend who wounds them in love.
 - - It is very true that the kisses of the enemy are deceitful.
- ⇒ **3. The Devil will use our own hearts to turn us from right.**
- **Jeremiah 17:9**, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
 - **Proverbs 28:26**, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered."
 - - The heart will always lead us the wrong way, especially when our hearts are not in tune with the Lord.
 - This is why God said: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (**Proverbs 3:5**)
 - "Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom." (**Proverbs 23:4**)
 - - Since our hearts are not trustworthy, we should not let them guide us.
- ⇒ **4. The Devil will use riches to turn us from right.**
- **Matthew 13:22**, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."
 - - Riches do not equal success, though true success MAY bring riches.
 - - Trusting in riches is an uncertain thing, for riches can be here today and gone tomorrow.
 - - It doesn't take long to lose accumulated wealth.
 - Those, who put their trust in riches, are truly deceived.
 - Bigger houses don't make better people, but better people can make small houses great.

- - How many people have bent their convictions for the sake of the almighty dollar?
 - How many have been deceived by this green-eyed monster?
- ⇒ **5. The Devil will use sin to turn us from right.**
- **Hebrews 3:13**, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."
 - - The longer you are exposed to wrong, the more like right it will seem.
 - This is why God must use reproof to prove to us again what is right and what is wrong.
 - Often, God's people misinterpret reproof as rejection, and it is not that at all.
 - Satan desires to turn us the wrong way,
 - "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." (**Psalms 9:17**)
 - The Devil would like to herd God's people like cattle toward destruction.
 - He does this by turning them through deceitfulness.
- ⇒ **Reproof is God's tool to turn us back into the right path.**
- ⇒ **1. God gives us good teachers to show us the truth.**
- **Jeremiah 3:15**, "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."
- ⇒ **2. God gives us good friends to help us.**
- **Proverbs 27:6**, "**Faithful are the wounds of a friend**; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."
- ⇒ **3. God gives us His Word to guide our hearts.**
- **Proverbs 3:5**, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."
- ⇒ **4. God gives us real security but not in riches.**
- **1 Timothy 6:17**, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."
- ⇒ **5. God gives us clear warning concerning the wages of sin.**
- **Romans 6:22-23**, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- ⇒ **Conclusion:**
- Solomon admonishes us plainly in Proverbs 1:23, "Turn you at my reproof..."
 - As sheep, we can be easily lead astray, and the Devil knows this.
 - So, God offers reproofs designed to turn us from the wrong path to the right path.
 - What reproofs has God sent into your life?
 - Have you turned, have you paid attention, have you left the wrong way to go the right way?

- Be not deceived, certainly this is the Devil's plan.
 - Rather, be reprovved, for then you will be turned toward the right way.