"The Reproof Proof"

"Hoor yet wise lad is better than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to receive instruction." (Ecclesiastes 4:13 NHSB)

A Glutton for Reproof

<u>1 Samuel 20:1</u> – "Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, 'What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?"

<u>Psalm 139:23-24</u> – (23) "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! (24) And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"

<u>Psalm 141:5</u> – "Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it..."

2 Samuel 12:7, 13 – (7) "Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!... (13) David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD.' And Nathan said to David, 'The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.'"

Advanced Case of Savage Sensitivity

2 Chronicles 16:7-12 — (7) "At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, 'Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you. (8) Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand. (9) For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.' (10) Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this.

And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time. (11) The acts of Asa, from first to last, are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. (12) In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet, and his disease became severe. Yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but sought help from physicians."

"He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing." (Proverbs 29:1)

Key Point: Receive Reproof, Reduce Regrets

Reasons to Improve Your 'Reproveability'

Spiritual Increase

"If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you." (Proverbs 1:23)

Stupidity Decrease

"Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid." (Proverbs 12:1)

"The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence." (Proverbs 15:31-32)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Am I too sensitive (too in love with myself) to receive and appreciate reproof? (Acts 7:54, 57)

What do I prefer, reproof or regret? (Prov. 5:11-14; 2 Chron. 25:15-16)