

So. Waf - June 24, 73 AM.
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GOD'S TREATMENT OF HIS CHILDREN WHEN THEY SIN

Deuteronomy 8:5-6

INTRODUCTION:

"Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son,
so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee."

I speak to you this morning, not about what God does with the unsaved. But what does God do in reference to the saved. What does he do with that individual who goes right ahead and (sins) against God. The Scripture text tells us that God chasteneth us. That is a big word - but it simply means that your daddy puts a rod or a switch on your back. God will put a switch on your back.

"Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee."

All the way through life God tries to educate his children. Just like a father tries to educate his son. In earthly families, there must be correction. And among God's people there is a need for discipline.

It is often severe, it may be affectionate. But the ^{1st} (design) is that God has a purpose to give instructions - consider in thy heart.

The ^{2nd} second thing is to produce obedience. Therefore, thou shalt keep the commandments.

First, there are many people who believe that God ignores the sins of his children. That if I am once saved, that I can sin like the devil and it makes

no difference whatsoever.

Others teach that there is something like sentimental love. That God can see our faults and that he loves us and he overlooks our faults. Like some mothers - the little child can break up the household and ruin anything - but she overlooks it. He is sprouting horns all the time.

Now there are people who feel like sweethearts. They may see the faults of the other and they may think that he is a perfect man, she is a perfect girl -- and inspite of all these faults, they just overlook them. Now God loves us but he does not ignore our sins.

Other people with the opposite idea is that if one of God's children sin, then God casts him out and he ceases to be saved.

Let me read from (Psalm 37:23-24) - the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. And he delighteth in his way, though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down. For the Lord upholdeth him with his hands. V. 28 - For the Lord loveth judgement and forsaketh not his saints - they are preserved forever. Now if this is in the Bible, and it is, and God preserves his saints forever. God does not forsake them. And then if a child of God could go to Hell, then the Bible says that God has forsaken his saints. But this is not what it means.

It is like (preserves) - now every one of you know what the word means. It means to preserve and to keep.

I suppose the reason why some people don't believe this truth is because some who claim to be preserved act like they have been something else. A good illustration of this is a man who came over from Italy. He had a lot of difficulty understanding

the English language. He heard people pray a prayer like this. God bless us and preserve us for Jesus sake. Someone asked him to dismiss an audience one night and in the best English he knew - he prayed - "God bless us. And pickle us for Jesus sake."

He got his pickles and his preserves mixed up. Now I have met a lot of people who act like they have been pickled. But brother, I really don't believe in the picklization of the saints. I believe in the preservation of the saints. For that is what the Bible teaches.

John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish. Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My father which gave them me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of my father's hand.

Now the son of God says they are preserved forever. They shall never perish and neither shall any man pluck them out of his hand.

Eph. 4:30 - And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God. Whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

The Bible says, first, if a child of God falls he will not be utterly cast down. Second, for God upholds him with his hands. Third, they are not forsaken of God they are preserved forever. Fourth, they have everlasting life. Fifth, they shall never perish. Sixth, they shall never be plucked out of the hand of the father nor the son. Seventh, they are sealed unto the day of redemption by the Holy Spirit. This is a seven fold guarantee that God does not cast them out or disown his own children.

Now if this is so, and if Christians do sin - let us look into this.

I. WHAT DOES GOD DO?

Now if God does not do either of these things, if he does not ignore our sins and second, if he does not cast us out - what does he do?

The Bible is what God - has the answer as to what God does with his children. Exactly what good parents do with their children when they sin.

Our text says that as a man chasteneth his son. As a father puts a rod on his child - so God puts a rod on his child when he sins.

You notice I said what (good parents do). Not what these modern parents do when they bring up children on this modern psychology. And say that if you do this, you are going to spoil the child. Now when there is a little rascal growing up, what he needs is, the applied board of education to the seat of his learning. And really get the job done. Now parents are sinning against their children.

Punishment proves love. Boys and girls know that the father and mother who loves them the greatest are going to correct them and try to get them to be obedient.

I read an amusing story of a preacher who had a very mischievous child. And he was an exception - because most preacher's children are angels. You all know that. But this little child misbehaved in church until the father finally said, son, if you cut-up one more time - I am going to stop preaching. I am going to come down and take you out and flog you right in the midst of the service.

Well, that little child didn't believe his father and then when the preacher

went on and started preaching, he started misbehaving in the service. He kept his word. The preacher stopped the service and asked the chairman of deacons to take over, he went down in the audience and got his child and took him by the hand, and took him outside and started flogging him. You could hear him squall for a city block. The chairman of the deacons hardly knew what to do. It was a rather tense situation. The best thing he knew to do was to call on somebody to pray. He looked all over the congregation and on the left there sat a great saint of God, who was deaf, but he could pray. So he called on the man to stand and pray. He did not hear the child screaming so he began to pray about other things. And finally he said, "Oh God, bless our Pastor in the good work he is now performing."

I tell you, that is the best work some parents can perform. It is when they use the rod and that is the thing that God is going to do about sin.

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This truth is also taught in the (89th Psalm). As to what God does not do with his child - V. 27. Also, I will make him my first born, higher than the kings of the earth. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my loving-kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, not alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Now do you see what God is saying here about King David but ultimately about Jesus Christ. Do you know why God saves any of us. It is not because of what we do. It is because of what Jesus Christ has done. God has made a covenant with the

son. The covenant was that Jesus would die for our sins and that if we would come and believe in him, with his stripes we would be healed.

I might illustrate this -- I heard of a brilliant boy in school who was getting stars for the different good things that he did. One day he was bragging to his neighbor's boy, he said my teacher gives me stars for good conduct, arithmetic, spelling, this and that. The neighbors boy hadn't gotten any stars and he wanted to brag also. He said my teacher doesn't give me stars but she sure does give me stripes. Now friend, God will give you whichever one you deserve - stars or stripes. After you are saved, if you will live right - God will put stars in your crown. He will put blessings in your life.

If you do wrong, he will put stripes on your back - he will punish you. He will cause you to suffer.

II. FOR WHAT SINS DOES GOD PUNISH THEM

If God punishes his children, does he whip us everytime we do something wrong. Well, not necessarily so. I have just said in the beginning that you cannot sin against God and get by with it. But I am going to tell you that God has a plan, whereby, he can forgive us for our sins. Now God does not whip us because he is angry and wants to exercise his judgement on us.

It is because he loves us and wants us to conform to his way. If we confess our sins - he is faithful and just to forgive us, our sins - and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Our unconfessed sins - now I think at this point is where we discover that God's punishment comes in. He punishes us to bring about repentance. The moment we sin against him, we come and repent. We say, Oh God, I am so sorry I sinned. Now that very moment God will forgive. Now I think that is what the Bible means when it says something about praying without ceasing. I think we come and ask God the moment we sin.

And that is exactly what is the matter with many of our church members today. We won't admit we are wrong. When the Preacher gets up and begins to preach - everyone applies the sermon to everyone else except himself. And we preach against the sins of the saints. And they say he sure is telling them about it tonight. And most of the time, they are never at church.

Now some of you who are sitting right here today, are thinking about some other person who needs this sermon. I wish my husband were here today. I wish my wife were here. My neighbor was here.

So what sins does God punish? For any sin that is not repented of. That is not forsaken, that is not confessed.

First, sins of omission and commission. I think he will punish both of those kind of sins. Now you know of course that sins of commission are when you disobey commands like thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not kill. And such commands.

Now, the Bible is full of positive commandments. There are some things that we ought to do - as well, as some things we ought not to do.

He says, bring your tithes into the storehouse. He tells us not to gossip against our neighbor. He tells us to remember the Sabbath to keep it holy. And I believe that more of God's people are suffering from not doing, than they are for doing. We are guilty of the sins of omission.

I heard of a little boys definition of the sins of omission. When the Sunday School teacher said, does anyone know what the sins of omission are. The little boy lifted his hand and said, teacher, I believe I know. He said teacher, sins of omission are sins we ought to have committed but we omitted to commit.

No, he had it all wrong. Sins of omission are things we ought to have done, but omitted to do. There are many people who come and say Preacher, I just don't know what is wrong. I'm just having so much trouble. It looks like the rod of God is on my back. I haven't done anything - what is wrong. Well, you haven't done anything. You can sit around and do nothing and be a saint in a negative way. And get to be a big sinner by omitting to obey the positive commands of God. You may not commit adultery, you may not drink, you may not lie, you may not steal. But you sit around and you do nothing. And God simply is against those who will not move.

Now I want to mention some sins this morning - but I hesitate to do so. But there is somebody here who will say, he didn't mention my sin. And therefore, he didn't hit me. But I am going to name some sins and call them by name. This is some or part of the curse of our day. And I don't think when John the Baptist was preaching - he said, you know folks -- you ought to be pure. He might have said that. But he didn't say that. He told the king that he was living with his brother's wife and that was a sin. Now we should condemn sin. And so we are

going to mention some of these sins that

I think that God is going to judge his people

people for.

First, the sin of Sabbath desecration. One of these so-called little sins is the sin of Sabbath desecration or failing to keep the Lord's Day. Now I know that we are not worshipping on the Old Testament Sabbath. The Old Testament Sabbath was given or created to complete the work of creation. And following the resurrection of Jesus until he comes again, the proper day of worship is not going to be the 7th day but the 1st day of the week. However, I believe it is just as wrong to break God's Holy Day in the New Testament as it was to break that day in the Old Testament.

Yet there are great numbers of you who will take Sunday as a fun day. You will take God's Holy Day and turn it into a Holiday. You have taken a worship day and made it a wrong day. You go out for your own pleasure and you never think about the good of the church or have any conscience about keeping this day. On any other day of the week, you will get up and go to work but on Sunday morning it doesn't take much to keep you out of church. The least stomach ache, toe ache, alibi will keep you out of God's House.

The wife will come and say Honey, it is time to get up and go to Sunday School and Church. But wife, I don't feel so good today. Maybe I better stay in and take come Carter's Pills today.

And just as soon as it is too late to go to Sunday School and to Worship, you know that man suddenly gets able to turn on the T. V. programs, and if there is a Sunday afternoon baseball game he is right there at it. And if somebody hits a home run he will scream at the top of his lungs. Until he is hoarse. He feels great.

But when Sunday night comes, he doesn't feel like getting out to church. But

of course if there is a long movie on, in one of these godless drive-ins - he'll take the whole family and go for a couple or three hours. But he doesn't feel like going to church. Now we are sinning against God.

And here in Virginia, we've got stores that are wide open on Sundays. Shopping Centers, the theatres are run on Sundays. All the places of amusement are open. The places of pleasure are open. And dear Christians, we cannot continue in this sin without the rod of God.

There are other people who come to church and they want a little sermonette. And they say Preacher, how about hurrying up, and let me get out of here. I've got to do this or that, or the other. And they want the Preacher to dish out some hot dogs and let them go along and be half-baked Christians, who are not willing to spend some time in God's house because they have a golf engagement or they have something else.

Now you stay out of God's house on God's day - now I don't care whether you are on vacation or wherever you are - you are sinning against God. Now I don't think I am going to get very many A-mens on this.

I think it is a sin not to support the church with your person, your presence, your prayers, and your purse.

I believe that this is a sin that God is going to deal with. By your presence, I mean going to God's house. By your purse, I mean by giving God a tithe of your income.

By your prayers, I mean that you pray for God's blessing on your church and your pastor, and the work that is being done there.

And by your personality, I mean you getting into it. Our people today are not backing our churches. They are more loyal to everything under heaven than they are the church.

There are many folks who move into our community and move into other communities, and leave their church letter tied to a tombstone or something and they never identify themselves and you talk to them about coming on down and joining SNBC. They will say, well, I haven't made up my mind, to stay here yet. How long have you been living here now. I buried a man one time who had been living here about 40 years, I believe.

Now God is going to be angry with some of you people.

And I think some of these people always going around looking for another church - looking for a good church. And they say, well, you know there are too many hypocrites in your church. I just can't stand them. Well, you come on and join - because we can always stand one more hypocrite like you. And if anybody will hide behind the hypocrites of the church, he is a bigger hypocrite than the ones in the church. Because you can't hide behind anything if you aren't smaller than that something behind which you are going to try to hide.

Your light is supposed to shine for Jesus. Jesus said men don't put their candle under a bushel, after they light it. They put it on a candlestick.

And Jesus in the 1st chapter in the book of Revelation tells us what the candlestick is. Do you know what it is - it is the church!

And brother if you want your light to be on the candlestick and you want to shine for God in the community, you must be an active member of the church. And you have got to be more than just loyal to every club and organization in town.

There was a Methodist man down in Florida who said look at my pin. I haven't missed a Rotary meeting in 25 years. A preacher said to him, well Roy, that is a tremendous record. Then he asked him - how many church services have you missed in 25 years. You know what the Rotary man said - you've quit preaching and gone to meddling now.

Yes, there are people - masses of church people, who put these things ahead of the church. I'm not against clubs, or organizations, or sports. I'm not against bowling or these things. But you are doing wrong when you put any organization on earth ahead of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When our Lord asks you for your stewardship account, he is going to say to you - what kind of a church member were you down there in South Norfolk.

And you are going to say, Lord, I wasn't too good in the church but I was powerfully good in the Lions and in the Rotary, and in the Better Businessmen's Club - the Bears - the Skunks and all the rest.

Now we let our influence count in some of these organizations rather than in the church. Your primary duty under God is to magnify the bride of Christ - the church.

How faithful are you to that bride you married. Well, I am not too faithful to my bride. But I want you to know one thing - I sure look after all the other women in the neighborhood. I visit this one, that one, and the other one.

Now I don't care how loyal you are to something else - but what I want to know is - the church, the bride of Jesus Christ - what are you doing about that.

✓ In the third place it is a sin not to tithe. I want to tell you something - God will whip us for not supporting our churches with our purses too. Now this is a sore spot here and when you stand up and talk about this. Now nobody grips about the preacher telling them about their duty and money matters unless they are not doing what the Bible teaches they ought too.

Now that is why some of you howell when I tell you that you ought to support the church with your purse. But you may put it down - if you are not supporting then you are stealing God's money. It is wrong to hold God's money back and you are cursed with a curse because the Bible says you have robbed me even this whole nation.

✓ In the fourth place it is a sin not to win souls. Let me tell you something. I think the silence and the sin of doing nothing to try to win souls to Jesus Christ is tragic. It is a sin when you don't try to get men to come and hear the Gospel and are willing to let them die all about us and go to Hell.

Now do you know what the first command God gave Adam and Eve was. Was it to build a big house. Was it to feather their nest. Was it to fill their place up with antiques. Was it to save up for the future. No!! God had one command - multiply - be fruitful and multiply. Do you know the first command that God has for the saved person. To get someone else saved. If you are not trying to get someone else saved - if you are not trying to get someone else to come into your Sunday School or your church worship services - then you are sinning.

Fifth, there is the sin of an unChristlike disposition. I think more harm is done in the disgruntled ones that sit around with sour faces and object to everything that the church or the preacher wants to do. And to get done. In fact, they think that everybody is out of step just like Gomer Pyles mother who went to watch Gomer march. Gomer was out of step - and she said, just look at them. Everybody is out of step ~~but~~ Gomer.

Now there are some people who are born in the objective case. And you are so contrary that your opinions won't really allow you to have good health. Because some people, as I heard about a fellow said - I'm going home and if my wife doesn't have dinner cooked I'm going to raise the devil with her. If she does have it cooked - I'm not going to eat a bite of it. Now I'll tell you brother, we have a crowd of contrary people like that in some of our churches. They may not do this or that, or the other. They don't have any joy in their faces. They look contrary in order to fuss.

Now in the sixth place, it is a sin to gossip. I think this is something else - idle talk is doing more to undermine and to influence the movement of the kingdom and the Gospel than any other sin in our churches. You know most gossipers have one thing in common with all other gossipers. They are pretty nice folks - they wouldn't steal, they wouldn't rob you, they wouldn't murder you.

But they would sit around and do nothing and pick out the faults of everybody else. And every gossipers that I have ever known has something in common with all the others. They can't see a thing in the world close up but they can see well off in the distance. And you could put an elephant beside them and they couldn't see him. But you put a flea over there on your neighbor's house and they could count the hairs on his hind leg and even tell you what color they are.

They will pick out all the faults of somebody and then they can hardly sleep at

night. The next morning they rush to the neighbor and knock and say Mrs. Sodgrass - now you promise me that you won't tell anybody for I don't want it to get around and I love my church. I don't want our church to be hurt. But you know Mrs. So and So doesn't have a red dress does she. I don't think she does. And you know the other day I saw Brother So and So sitting too close to a woman with a red dress on. And you know the next thing - they have crucified somebody and 98% of it is hear-say.

Now let me illustrate this with what I heard about a preacher once who was about to be excluded from his church for beating his wife. One night one of the deacons went by the preacher's house and he saw the preacher and his wife enter the bedroom. They pulled the shades down and in seconds he heard the woman screaming. He heard some licks, slaps, slap, slap. Being a good man he ran and got another person to come and stand on the street. And they watched the shadows bounce back and forth behind the shades. And they heard the woman screaming and actually heard the licks.

The next Sunday they called a business meeting - and if you want a crowd at church you say you are going to do something about a preacher - you will get a crowd. Because all those who don't attend come to help to vote. And there will be a bunch of hypocrites. And so they all gathered that day and got there. And one man stood up and said I'd like to prefer charges against the preacher for beating his wife. He said I make a motion that we tend to this right now. But before the motion could be carried - the man of God got up and said brethren, I have my faults but I love my wife. The other man jumped up and said, well sit down - we heard it all. Oh wait a minute, the preacher said - my wife will testify, and tell you that I love her. And so they argue for awhile. And finally they said the night you are talking about my wife and I entered the bedroom, to change our clothes to go to sleep. We pulled down the curtains and opened the closets and a big old rat ran out. My wife is deathly afraid of rats. I grabbed a broom - I went around trying to hit the rat. But I would miss it. Every time I would hit at him the rat would run. And my wife would jump and scream.

He said, brethren, I wasn't beating my wife - I was killing rats.

Now I am telling you gossiping people that your preacher or anybody else that you are talking about - may not be beating their wives - they might just be killing rats.

✓ Did you ever hear the story about the dear old lady who repented of her gossip. And came to the pastor and said, I want to right my wrong of gossip. I want you to forgive me. Well, he said, come on with me to the bedroom and he got an old fashioned pillow (feather pillow). He ribbed the feather pillow wide open and started shifting the feathers out the open window into the wind. She said I didn't come up here to look at something ridiculous. He said, well, I'm not being ridiculous - as soon as all these feathers from the pillow are emptied out - do you mind running out there and getting all those feathers together and putting them right back here in this pillow and bringing them back up here, where they have come from. She said, don't you know - I'd be over there to one and the wind would take that feather somewhere else. And I can't get those feathers back.

He said, yes lady, that is just what I know. By the time you go to one person and tell him the gossip was not so - a dozen others will know it. And by the time you get to the dozen - hundreds will know about it. By the time you get to them - thousands will know about it. And you can't right the wrong of gossip.

Now what I want to say to you is this - you can go down here to the bank and rob the bank. You can take your neighbor's money. Now he can get some more money but if you go out here and rob a man of his reputation and if you work up a few falsehoods on somebody - you rob him of something that in the heart and in the minds of the people will never get back. You take something away from him that he never can get back.

I heard about an old-fashioned church altar - one in which the preacher was preaching on gossiping. And a woman came forward and said I want to repent of my gossiping. I want to put my tongue on the altar. He looked up and down questioning like and finally he said lady, to the best of my estimation - this altar isn't but 50 feet long. But you put as much of that tongue as you can on it."

Now I want to tell you that there are some people who need to put their tongues on the altar. They need to cut out the sin of gossip. I want you to hear me and I don't care what your sin is, God is going to put a rod on your back.

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III. WHAT METHOD OF PUNISHMENT DOES GOD USE

Our text says that God is going to chastise us. Now in the old school room many years ago they used to make somebody stand on one foot in the corner if they disobeyed. I wonder if there is anybody who went to a school like that.

And then there were other teachers who used another method. They would draw a circle - and make you put your nose in the circle on the blackboard. Did anybody ever do that.

Well, the rest of you haven't been educated.

Now God know how to punish you. Just like your father and mother knew how to punish you. Now many times the mother didn't hurt very much. But when the father took the whip - he would give you interest compounded. Principle and interest. And he would give you enough for the Democrats and well as the Republicans.

Listen, God sent a fish after one preacher by the name of Jonah. God sent a

roaster after one of his disciples called Peter. Now God still is at work. God may send the funeral hearse. I don't know.

But sin can cause sickness and can cause death.

I Cor. 11:30 - For this cause many are weak and sickly among you - and many sleep. Now I don't know what Paul is talking about here altogether. But I know this, everybody who is sick is sick not because he sinned. I don't think that. Job was sick but it wasn't due to his sin. But I know that God works and he has punishment, for those who sin.

Now the way God punished David - one day he was loafing. The devil always goes after God's people. You don't know the trouble that preachers have, that others have. The more we undertake for God, the more we try to do for God, the bigger guns the devil raises up to try to knock you down. I don't want you to forget that for a moment.

Now David was a big man - he was out loafing and the neighbor's wife - she might have had on a mini skirt - I don't know. And that's all it takes for girls to seduce some men. Men are stimulated by what they see in the body of a woman. I don't know, God ought to help some women to wake up to know this. Why the Bible says women ought to adorn themselves in modest apparell.

Now I am deeply shocked at how many good Christian women who call themselves godly and yet they yield to the styles of the day. You go around with a dress so short that when you sit down, if you don't have a coat to put over your knees - you, yourself know that you are wrong so you sit there tugging, tugging, and it is no wonder you have muscles as big as Sampson because you tug so much trying to keep the skirt pulled down. And what you don't know is that all you need is just a few extra inches on the bottom. Then that takes care of it.

But this woman was out strutting around improperly dressed and it influenced David and David sent for her. And invited her to come over to his house and committed sin. Now I don't know who was to blame - David or the woman. But I know this, God sent his prophet there and that sin brought stripes and chastisement because the baby died and many other things happened to King David. And David said I have sinned against God. On his knees he repented.

Now this is the way to know whether folks are saved or not. If you rebell against this sermon today and say this is not for me, you'd better check up. Now God's man condemns your sin. You won't rebell but you will confess. Old David repented and said, I have sinned against God. Nathan said, alright David, because you have repented - God has forgiven you. But the sword will not depart from your house. David's son by his wife, by one wife, wrote his own sister by another. His son by one wife killed his brother by another wife. David's own son tried to take the throne away from him. His own baby died. David came back to God with a broken heart.

David, we would say, can a man sin against God and get by with it. Does it matter whether a child of God lives right or lives wrong.

I think David would cry out and say, a child of God cannot sin. And not get caught and not pay the price of sin. And I want to tell you here at this time, that if you are not living right with God, whether I have mentioned your sin or not. I want you to get right with God today. If you know that you are sinning against God, then I beg you to get right. If you are not reading your Bible, if you are not going to church, if you are not an active supporting member of your church, if you have been guilty of gossiping, telling things that are untrue, if you are living in lust, if you have some undermining morals - then won't you give your heart to Jesus Christ and return in repentance at this time.

There is a good reason why God takes so much pain to teach you these lessons
- because he wants to prepare your heart for the kingdom.