

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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Rebuking, and Being Rebuked

Larry R. Ping II

No one that I know (including myself) wakes up and wishes for a good rebuking. Conversely, no one that I know (again, including myself) wakes up and relishes the opportunity to rebuke someone else. However, there are times when both are necessary. And an even sadder truth is there are those who are rebuking others who do not know how to, and this leads to hurt feelings, exits from the Lord's Church and closed doors of opportunity.

Wise and experienced Christians know there is great skill and tact involved in rebuking, which has as its goal the discontinuing of wrongdoing. Nathan was not only a chosen prophet of God, but he was also a master of rebuking and chastening. He knew how to do it in a loving, discreet, and effective way. His charge from God was to go and help David realize the sins he had committed in his sad and scandalous affair with Bathsheba, and be forgiven of them (II Sam. 11).

Nathan could have come to David and just "rake him over the coals." Nathan could have come to David and immediately begin rattling off the fact he had committed adultery, was guilty of lying and deceit and was responsible for the murder of Uriah, but he did not. Instead, he related the familiar story of a rich man stealing a poor man's lamb in order to feed a visitor. Of course, David's anger was greatly kindled. He was intent on punishing the rich man. Nathan's first attempt to convict David was unsuccessful, producing the need for the profound words "David, Thou art the man" (II Sam. 12:7).

On this day, we each need to realize correction is a necessary part of life. We need to humbly accept it when it comes our way. And we need to be like Nathan when it comes time to deliver it, doing so lovingly, tactfully, and thoroughly. Without rebuke, sin goes unchecked. When sin goes unchecked, souls are lost.

If a soul is in danger of being lost, rebuke is necessary. Let us do the best we can to do so productively.

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted"

(Gal. 6:1).

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins"
(Jam. 5:19-20).

"I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick"

(Eze. 34:16).

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth..."

(Heb. 12:6).

PRECIOUS PROMISES

Bob Dickey

In II Pet. 1:4, we are told that the Lord has “given to us exceeding great and precious promises.” A promise from God is something we rely on with absolute certainty. These great promises are timeless treasures for every Christian.

1) Note How Peter Describes Them. They are precious promises. Peter uses this word several times in the two epistles: precious faith (I Pet. 1:7; II Pet. 1:1), blood (I Pet. 1:9), stone (I Pet. 2:4-6), Lord (I Pet.2:7), as well as precious promises (II Pet. 1:4).

2) Note That He Uses Some Additional Adjectives In Describing These Promises. Not only are they precious, he says they are not just great, but exceedingly great. Peter really piles up the adjectives to impress our minds with how wonderful these promises really are!

3) Note That The Text Of II Peter 1:3-4 Shows Us A Wonderful Picture. We might call this picture “The Bank of Heaven.” We can learn here “what we have in” (viewed from the divine side): “exceeding great and precious promises,” next see “what we can draw out” (viewed from the human side): “all things that pertain to life and godliness,” and then “what we must do with what we draw out”: “that we might be partakers of the divine nature.”

4) There Are Several Factors That Help Us To Determine The Greatness Or Worth Of Promises. First, there is the value of the thing promised. Immediately we see in the text that these promises are precious beyond description and realization. These wonderful blessings of the Lord include such things as escaping the corruption of the world (v. 4), becoming partakers of the divine nature (v. 4), making our calling and election sure (v. 10), as well as having an entrance supplied into the eternal kingdom (v. 11). Second, there is the character of the one who promised. We are assured that these promises are granted by Him who cannot fail. Peter has described Him by words that show “the righteousness of our God and Savior,” and speaks of “his own glory and virtue” (vv. 1 & 2). The promises of men are always weak and subject to the whims of the one making them; they often fail, are faulty, or cannot be kept. But the promises of God are assure and certain as His own righteous character. Third, there is the conditions attached to those promises. We trust God’s promises because we know He requires on our part what any loving child of His could fulfill. He has granted these precious things to us, but He lets us know that we must do our part to have the true blessing of them all. He tells us that He expects “diligence” on our part. He calls upon us to “supply or add” certain virtues as we grow. He lets us know that if we “do these things” (v. 10) we not only will not stumble but we will certainly have the reward.

5) So Great And So Many Are God’s Promises. We could never mention them all here, but consider some we should never forget. There is salvation from our past sins, access to cleansing forgiveness for our present sins, answers to our prayers, help in times of temptation, the assurance that all works out for good, rest from labors, and eternal life. What exceeding great and precious promises!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm