

There Is No Remedy for Foolishness

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The Rod of Correction a Remedy for Foolishness (Prov. 22:15).

There Is No Remedy for Foolishness (Prov. 27:22).

If children are given proper guidance, including appropriate correction for wrongdoing, they have a much better chance of becoming decent law-abiding citizens when they reach adulthood. However, if children are not given this direction during their formative years, when they become adults, it will be extremely difficult to unlearn bad habits that were instilled earlier in their life,

Train up a child in the way he should go, and (even) when he is old he will not (completely) depart from it (Prov. 22:6; Ed. notes in parentheses; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Part of this early education involves corrective action on the part of parents. If parents refuse to discipline their children for disobedience, they are not expressing godly love,

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him (Prov. 22:15).

For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights (Prov. 3:12; cf. Dt. 8:5-6; emphasis added).

Sadly today, many children are growing up devoid of correction for wrongdoing. This is mainly due to the fact that God's word is not considered relevant, and parents prefer to follow the advice of child psychologists who refuse to acknowledge God's truth in this matter. The apostle Paul warned that as this world got closer to Christ's return, it would become more ungodly despite increases in knowledge,

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves (self-centered), lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power (looking good rather than being good). And from such people turn away (cf. Rev. 18:4)! ⁶For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women (cf. Gen. 3:1-5) loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷**always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth** (2Tim. 3:1-7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Without the proper respect toward God, mankind is doomed to learn lessons the hard way because they reject His truth,

The fear (proper respect) of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction (Prov. 1:7; cf. Ps. 119:160; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments... (Ps. 111:10a).

By rejecting or ignoring God's instructions for righteous behavior, mankind will become foolish and reach a point where they will refuse to change. Many scriptures confirm this will occur as the return of Christ approaches,

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine (referring to God's truth), but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves (misguided) teachers; ⁴and **they will turn their ears away from the truth**, and be turned aside to fables (2Tim. 3:3-4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

In this mindset, there is no remedy for foolishness,

Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him (Prov. 27:22).

By combining the scriptures mentioned in the heading of this study, it is clear that no contradiction exists. Instead, God's love for mankind is expressed through His instructions and commands. His word makes it clear that early correction is essential to righteous conduct in adults. This preserves families and, by extension, entire countries. When proper early instruction is ignored, the outcome is foolish adults who will not accept God's direction in their lives, no matter what happens to them. This has occurred numerous times in man's history and will happen again just before Christ returns to restore righteous conduct (Isa. 2:1-4).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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