

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 3

Lesson 40

TAKING REBUKE

8 May, 2015

This morning we'll look at the importance of taking rebuke, allowing it to correct you, and not despising the person who brought the rebuke, but truly loving that person. This is Christ-like behavior that rises above our sin nature and allows us to accomplish much for the Lord, whereas resistance to rebuke will hinder the work of God. **"Rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee"** (Prov. 9:8).

BIBLE EXAMPLES OF REBUKE EXERCISED PROPERLY

THE REBUKE

MATTHEW 16:13-23 Peter is blessed by God and commended by Jesus for knowing who He was through the revelation of God. Shortly after that Peter is openly rebuked by Jesus for not savoring the things that be of God, but those that be of men. (see Prov. 27:5).

THE RESULT OF THE REBUKE

JOHN 21:15-17 The Lord asks Peter, **"Lovest thou me?"** Peter responds, **"Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee."** He understood that the Lord had rebuked him out of love (Heb. 12:6). He took the rebuke and continued to love the one who gave it.

THE REBUKE

GALATIANS 2:11-16 Paul rebuked Peter **"to the face"** (vs. 11) and **"before them all"** (vs. 14) because Peter wrongfully separated the Jewish believers from the Gentile believers in Galatia, thereby obscuring the doctrine of all believers being one in Jesus Christ and promoting the continuance of Old Testament works under the Jewish Law.

THE RESULT OF THE REBUKE

2 PETER 3:15 Peter refers to the man who sorely rebuked him as **"our beloved brother Paul."** He didn't hold a grudge. He didn't quit serving God. He took the rebuke and corrected his error and never did it again. Most importantly, he didn't lose his love and respect for Paul, his beloved brother in the Lord.

THE REBUKE

ACTS 13:13, 15:36-39 John Mark had failed Paul on the first missionary journey, so Paul wouldn't take a chance with him on the second trip. Barnabas told Paul, "You're wrong about Mark" and tried to convince Paul to give him a chance, but Paul wouldn't take a chance on him and they separated for a time.

THE RESULT OF THE REBUKE

COLOSSIANS 4:9-11 Years later, Paul commends John Mark to the believers at Colosse, calling him a "fellowworker" and a "comfort unto me." Paul must have come to a point where he said, "Barnabas was right; I was wrong; Mark is truly a faithful companion in the work of the Lord." Notice that Mark didn't hold a grudge against Paul for rejecting him and Paul didn't continue in his stubbornness against him.

THE ULTIMATE RESULT: everyone benefits as the Gospel is proclaimed and churches are established and strengthened through the joint efforts of believers who love and respect one another.
