"Uncommon Sense" from The Proverbs—About Discipline

Sunday Evening, November 15, 2026 – WOCC – Rich Howell

EVENING DEVOTION: Tough Love!

The "tough love" I am talking about is discipline. In particular, the discipline of the Lord with His own people, and the discipline of parents with their children. And while the human race commonly denies the merits of such discipline, or even the need for it, the consequences of non-discipline are evident and undeniable … and disastrous! Let's see what Proverbs and other Bible passages have to say about this "tough love."

A PROVERBS PASSAGE TO GET US STARTED: Prov 3:11-12

SIX THINGS YOU SHOULD "KNOW" ABOUT DISCIPLINE: Deuteronomy 8:1-5

"Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you."

I. KNOW THAT GOD DISCIPLINES YOU: Life's _____ and _____ can be part of God's training program. (Heb 12:5-8; Rom 8:28-29)

- *Does God cause or allow this disciplinary pain? (Job 5:17-18; Job 37:13; Amos 4:6-12; 2 Cor 12:7-10) _____!*

II. KNOW WHAT HIS DISCIPLINE IS LIKE: A _____ to his _____. (Heb 12:7-9; Prov 22:6; Eph 6:4)

III. KNOW WHY WE NEED DISCIPLINE: We are not _____ the _____ we are! (Prov 22:15; Gen 8:21; Isa 53:6; 64:6,8; Rom 3:9-10,23; 5:12; 6:23)

- _____tion is the only alternative to _____tion (29:1; 5:23; Titus 2:11-12).

IV. KNOW WHAT HIS DISCIPLINE IS FOR: For our own _____—to make us more _____ and _____ (Heb 12:9-11; Rom 8:28-29; Prov 20:30; 29:17,19; Psalm 32:8-9)

V. KNOW WHAT HIS DISCIPLINE MEANS: We are His _____ and _____, and He _____ us! (Heb 12:5-9; Prov 13:24; 23:13-14; Rev 3:19)

VI. KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIS DISCIPLINE:

a. _____ to it! (Heb 12:9; Isa 64:6,8)
b. _____ it! (Heb 12:7; Prov 3:11)
c. _____ from it! (Prov 29:15)
d. _____ it! (Prov 3:11-12; 12:1; 15:10; James 1:2-4; Rom 5:3-5)
e. Even, _____ it! (Jer 10:23-24; Psalm 23:4)

ONE LAST THING you should know about discipline: John 3:16; Rom 5:6-10; Jude 24

- God went to great lengths to save us, and He will _____ at _____ to keep us!