

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Knowing God through
Discipline

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Proverbs 12:1–28

Theme: Know God by loving his discipline.

Introduction: There are people in this world who discipline themselves to the extreme in order to achieve a particular goal. We can see discipline in our own lives, such as our daily routines. Discipline is a common concept in the Proverbs. Take any Proverb and you will see that it takes training and correcting to come in line with it. We must take particular delight in the loving discipline of our Lord.

Proverbs 12 gives four ways we can love the Lord's discipline:

1. From Crown to Root (1–4)

- Discipline brings knowledge of God.
- As God's image bearers, there is nothing greater for us than to know him.
- The illustrations of the "root" (v. 3) and the "crown" (v. 4) are the equivalent of saying "from head to toe." From "root to crown" we must be disciplined and seek the knowledge of God.

2. Through Every Aspect of Life (5–12)

- There is a strong contrast in verses 5 through 12 between the righteous and the wicked.
- The worldview of the Proverbs speaks in binary terms; it is black and white.
- These verses display a broad range of righteous versus wicked actions, such as thoughts and counsels (v. 5), the words that we speak (v. 6), and the long term outlook for each (v. 7).

3. In Speech (13–25)

- James lays out Christian speech ethics in James 3.
- If we love discipline, we will learn the kind of speech that God loves and hates, and our speech will be conformed to righteousness.
- Conviction for sins of speech is a sign of life, not death.

4. In Work and Way (26–28)

- While the language of "spiritual journey" is largely unhelpful, the Scriptures do refer to life as a path and a way.
- Everyone is either on a righteous path or a wicked path.
- Part of being on the path of righteousness is diligence; we are to work on the way.

Questions:

1. How are you tempted to shy away from calling out the binary between righteousness and wickedness in this world?
2. Which Proverb from 12:13–25 most challenges you to grow in righteous speech?
3. How can you be working on the way of righteousness, putting slothfulness to death?