

PSALM 6; June 10; An Example Prayer of Confession of Sin

ANALYSIS:

1. What does God do to His children when He is angry and displeased with them? _____
2. What two parts of David were vexed, or afflicted, by God's chastening? _____
3. Can you find the godly way to reason with God that you are not ready to die? _____
4. Hyperbole is obvious exaggeration. What is a great example of hyperbole? _____
5. Who would be vexed by David's prayer, and how much would they be vexed? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Here is one of David's penitential psalms, where he confesses his sins and prays for God's mercy. He knows that the enemies persecuting him are God's chastening rod for his sins. He begs for leniency (6:1); he begs for pure mercy (6:2); he admits weakness and pain from the chastening (6:2-3); he asks how long it must continue (6:3-4); he begs for pure mercy again (6:4); he uses holy reasoning to save himself from death (6:5); he tells the Lord he cannot take much more (6:6-7); and he identifies the tool God was using to correct him (6:7). Do you understand the power of such praying? Though David sinned many times, prayerful confession preserved him as God's favorite.

Do you know how to reason with the Lord in ways that He accepts? This psalm gives several examples. The Bible has many other illustrations of how to deal with the Lord while confessing your sins. Merely complaining or whining about chastening will not work. Confess your sins, admit your stupidity and weakness, beg for his mercy, tell Him how much the correction hurts, and plead for Him to end the pain and restore your joy and pleasure. He is a good Father, and He will hear you.

HELP:

1. He chastens them (6:1). It is loving discipline, very different from condemning the wicked (I Cor 11:32; Heb 12:5-11).
2. His bones (6:2) and his soul (6:3). Can you relate to soul pain that makes your body weak?
3. Appeal to the fact that you cannot remember or thank Him in the grave (6:5).
4. David's grief and crying were so great, his bed swam in the tears, and he soaked his couch (6:6)!
5. All David's enemies would be vexed, and they would be sore vexed (6:10).