

BIBLICAL WISDOM #3 - DEALING WITH OFFENSES

LUKE 17:1-4, PSALM 119:165

Offenses will come and the offender will pay the price. We must take heed so we will not stumble at the offense of another.

I. OFFENSES DEFINED

A. We often use these words interchangeably

1. Offend: Broadly, transgression of divine Law
2. Trespass: To offend by injury, violate rights
3. Transgress: To pass over any limit, i.e. sin

B. The Strong's Concordance lists types of (OFFEND)

C. LUKE 17:1 G4625 "skandalon" Scandal, occasion to fall

II. OFFENSES DEFINITE

A. Jesus said OFFENSES will come LUKE 17:1

1. Woe to the OFFENDER, millstone better (vs. 2)
2. Forgive like Jesus forgives repentance (vs. 4)

B. For the unrepentant - one response: (REBUKE) (vs. 3)

1. It means to CHECK or RESTRAIN (MATT. 8:26)
2. A rebuke is DIRECT and MEASURED
3. Mature Christians (EPH. 4:15 vs. 2 THESS. 2:10)

III. OFFENDERS DIFFERENTIATED

A. An ORDER in response to Transgressors PROV. 9:7-9

1. (REPROVE) means to correct with explanation
 - a. They don't know why it's wrong
 - b. REBUKE when they DO know why it's wrong
2. Trying to teach a scorner is pointless
3. Rebuking a wise man will cause:
 - a. He will love you for telling the truth
 - b. He will increase in learning, be wiser

B. It depends on the offender's heart

1. A scorner will reject and hate (count the cost)
2. A wise person will receive and love (fellowship)

IV. OFFENSES DIVERTED - PSALM 119:165

A. Great peace can be had, but only if we avoid stumbling

1. If we LOVE God's Law, we will not offend
2. If we LOVE God's Law, we will not ALSO stumble

B. Avoid stumbling blocks in our path PSALM 119:105

1. Lamp to feet - up close, find certain footing
2. Light to path - destination, chart a course

OFFEND

- H2254 - Bound, wrapped, as in a pledge, or with a rope
- H989 - A hidden/covert act of treachery or deceit
- H816 - Guilty as a matter of character, as their breath
- H4383 - Stumbling block, toppling to cause ruin

REBUKE (WEBSTER'S 1828) - 1. To chide; to reprove; to reprehend for a fault; to check by reproof. 2. To check or restrain. 3. To chasten; to punish; to afflict for correction. 4. To check; to silence. 6. To restrain; to calm.

MATT. 8:26 - "And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm."

EPH. 4:15 - "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

2 THESS. 2:10 - "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

REPROVE (WEBSTER'S 1828) - 1. To blame; to censure. 2. To charge with a fault to the face; to chide; to reprehend. 3. To blame for; with of; as, to reprove one of laziness. 4. To convince of a fault, or to make it manifest. 6. To excite a sense of guilt.