

Proverbs 3:11 a; Stages of Reversionism, 1-2

Martin, Mary. "Miss Manners." St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 3 Sept. 1995, p. 2S.

Proverbs 3:11 - My son, do not despise ...

Qal perfect of the verb *ma'as* - "To reject, refuse, despise"

The Jews had rejected the purpose of divine discipline. When God inflicts us with the pain and suffering of His goads, his purpose is not sadistic but benevolent.

His desire is to bless us. He cannot do so if we are in rebellion against the plan which conveys the blessings. And, if we do not respond to His goads, but instead despise them, then our problems can only intensify.

Some people never learn until they are in pain. Some never change the way they think until the pain from poor decisions becomes so great they can no longer deny their error. And so, the commandment not to despise the *mûsar* + *yahweh* - "chastening from the Lord." This chastening includes the various stages of discipline and reversionism.

The law of volitional responsibility is the first stage of discipline. If no recovery results, then warning, intensified, and terminal discipline follows. When these final stages occur, we may conclude that the believer has unrelentingly continued in his reversionistic attitude toward the goads of God. That reversionism is expressed in eight stages of degeneracy:

Reaction: The believer becomes disillusioned with people whom he believes have let him down. This is hypersensitivity and unchecked leads to frustration, self-pity, and the sins of the arrogance and emotional complexes.

Frantic Search for Happiness: An antidote to the believer's disillusionment. In order to deal with the people or circumstances which have caused him to react, the believer sublimates in order to find happiness. Dependent upon the trends of the sinful nature, the manifestation will involve either sins of lasciviousness or asceticism. The frantic search for the lascivious type includes drunkenness, drug use, sexual promiscuity, or perversion. For the ascetic type it might be expressed in human good, crusader arrogance, religion, or social action.