

Oh Lord, Correct Me  
By Trey Sullins

Does anyone like to get in trouble? Most people do not enjoy being told that they have done something wrong and need to change. Humans tend to want to feel like they are always right in whatever they may be doing. However, the Bible also reveals that humans have a tendency not to be right in many things: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Because of this problem there is a need to be guided by the Almighty God. In the case of Jeremiah, the prophet, he understood this very clearly. Jeremiah 10:23-24 presents Jeremiah asking for God to direct and correct him.

Jeremiah begins by asking for the direction of God. He says, “O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” What does Jeremiah mean by this? He understood that it is not up to man to make up their own way in life. God allows people the freedom to choose many things in life: jobs, marriage, location. But, in relationship to spiritual things which have eternal implications, God has made the choices already. The choices which God has made lead people to being righteous and being good. Psalm 37:23 says, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.” It is quite clear a good man is someone who is continually guided by God in their every step.

Christians should have the same attitude of asking God for direction in life. Just like Jeremiah, God’s people today have been told exactly what they need to do. Proof of such is found in 2 Timothy 3:16 which reads, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” In His revelation, God has left nothing out as is found in 2 Peter 1:3: “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.” This means everything necessary to be right in life and live godly are found within the word of God which was given to mankind by His divine power. God has told His creation exactly what to do without any details left out!

Jeremiah asks for the correction of God. Jeremiah 10:24 continues by saying, “O LORD, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.” The attitude of Jeremiah is truly great. No one likes to be corrected, but Jeremiah is asking for God to correct Him. He also asks that God correct him with justice. This shows one of the important parts of being corrected: to be led back to the right path. In conjunction with verse 23, Jeremiah not only wanted to be directed into the right path, but also to be corrected when he was wrong. With an attitude like that everyone would be on the right path to salvation.

Christians should have an attitude that seeks correction. In Hebrews 12:11 the Bible says, “no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful.” While the act of correction might not be enjoyable, the verse continues, “nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” Christians must understand that correction is necessary to keep people on the right path. This correction today might come through our brethren or even through our own study of the word of God. Either way if it is the correction from God, then it will lead to righteousness!

The words of Jeremiah present an incredible lesson on how God's people should act today. The proper mindset of someone seeking righteousness is to desire the direction and correction of God. God has always guided people to be what He wants them to be. When His creation heeds his instruction then they have the great reward of heaven to look forward to someday.