

feb 5

like it or not

"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." heb 10:25

i think i want to start this daily out with a little joke. are you with me?

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go to church william

on a sunny morning, william's mother came into her son's room and said, "william, it's sunday. time to get up! time to get up and go to church! get up!"

from under the covers came mumbles, "i don't want to go!"

"what do you mean?" she said. "that's silly! now get up and get dressed and go to church!"

"no!" he shot back. "i'll give you two reasons. i don't like them and they don't like me!"

"nonsense," she told him. "i'll give you two reasons to go. first, you are 42 years old, and second, you are the pastor!"

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now most of us might find that a little amusing. i suppose a lot of pastors feel that way at some point in their ministry - like the congregation doesn't like him. it's a sad truth that too often it may be the case. if a preacher tries to teach the whole word of God (no holds barred), there is often rebellion in the masses. none of us like to hear that we need to straighten up and fly right. everyone needs to pray for their pastor; for His endurance and boldness for truth.

the truth is, we all fall short of the glory of God. does that stop God from wanting better from us; from wanting better for us? scripture says, "for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." heb 12:6 if God loves you He will correct you when you are wrong, and God really does love us. i know. i have felt His loving correction in the past and undoubtedly will again.

again scripture says, "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." prov 22:6 we are all God's children if we accept His correction we are sons indeed, but we must and allow Him to train us up "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." eph 4:13 we are to be joint heirs of Christ and His kingdom and whatever chastening or stripes our body must bear is a small price indeed. "for i consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." rom 8:18

so fret not, the good shepherd weilds the rod and staff not out of anger but out of protective correction and

loving guidance. accept his correction to lead you to the narrow gate because "wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it." matt 7:13