

INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITION OF DISCIPLINE

By Seeing Truth Ministries

“the peaceable fruit of righteousness...”

TEXT: *Hebrews 12:5-13 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6, For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7, If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8, But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9, Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10, For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11, Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. 12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13, And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*

INTRODUCTION: Hebrews twelve clears up all questions about the propriety and purpose of Biblical DISCIPLINE.

- We learn that discipline is proper because God does it.
- It is an act of _____ from God.
- The purpose of God’s discipline is to produce holiness and righteousness.
- It is done for the child’s own good. It is something done for the child not to the child.
- It is biblically mandated in the Old Testament and reinforced in the New Testament.
Prov. 3:11,12 “My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12, For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”

I. PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE

- **Biblical discipline is an act of LOVE.**
For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
- **Biblical discipline produces _____.**
God’s discipline brings assurance of sonship. (vs. 7,8) *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8, But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*
- **Biblical discipline is _____.**

It looks not at the immediate circumstances, but towards the future, towards a finished product. (vs. 11), *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

- Biblical discipline is _____
It includes more than one method. It includes:
 - The positive, “Exhortation, Teaching, Training, Encouragement”
 - The negative, “Chastening, Rebuking, Scourging, “Biblical punishment or correction is:
 - Verbal, “rebuke”
 - Physical, “Chastening”, and “scourging”
 - Severe if necessary. Scourging was extremely harsh punishment.

II. PROGRESS OF DISCIPLINE

- **The EXHORTATION of discipline.** (Admonition & Encouragement)
“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children,” “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. (Heb. 12:5a, 6)
 - Scourging (*training by affliction*) is to be taken _____ (*seriously*).
 - It was accepted _____. (*by reasonable understanding*)
 - Scourging is to be taken not only soberly and sensibly but _____. The spiritually discerning believer will recognize the disciplines of life to be evidence of the Lord’s love.
- **THE _____ of discipline**
(Heb. 12:7,8) The very fact that God chastens proves us to be sons.
It is expected that discipline will accomplish something. It is one of two things.
 - It will give evidence that a person is a son, not a sinner. (7) *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*
 - It will give evidence that a person is a sinner, not a son. (8) *But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*
- **THE EXAMPLE of discipline**
(Heb. 12:9,10) Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10, For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Next he gives an example, an analogy from everyday life. There is the obvious lesson from parental chastening. Since we have had to submit to human chastening and have learned to respect our fathers because of their authority

how much more must we yield to God and hold Him in awe. Yet, how many people rebel and say, "Why is this happening to me? Why should I have to suffer? How can this be for my good?"

The obvious lesson from human chastening lies in its equally obvious limitations. With all the best intentions in the world, parents make mistakes. They under-discipline, over-discipline, fail to discipline at all, or discipline from wrong motives, in the wrong time. God makes no such mistakes. He always chastens for our good and to draw us closer to Himself.

- **THE _____ of discipline**

(Heb. 12:11-13) Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. 12, Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13, And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

The actual experience of chastening is not pleasant, and the writer of Hebrews has more insight than to pretend it is. However, chastening does bring about a CHANGE.

- Chastening brings a CHANGE.
- CHANGE determines our CHOICE.
- The CHOICE is a CHALLENGE to be:
 - _____
 - _____

CONCLUSION: *(Heb. 12:14) Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:* We are empowered to love the Lord and the brethren. Getting along with others requires sanctification through holiness. The need for a holy life is decided by our divine calling but is maintained by our daily conduct. Discipline provides the platform for peace of heart, purpose to please the Lord and patience to love the brethren.