

Hebrews 12:5-11

The Blessedness of Chastisement

- in the previous verses, the readers are told to endure the opposition of sinners

- here, they are to endure the chastening of the Lord

(chastening is all about disciplining and correction)

Truth- God could use the opposition of the lost to teach us His good work of discipline

vs.5- the writer quotes a familiar passage to his Jewish readers from Prov.3:11-12

- these trials they are facing come from God (God uses this to educate and discipline believers)

- "exhortation"- (paraklesis) a summon to help, to admonish, to comfort, or to encourage

- "despise not"- meaning do not regard this lightly or think of it as just a small matter

- "chastening"- (paideia) to cultivate the mind and morals especially by correcting mistakes and curbing sinful passions

Truth- if its "of the Lord", its always good for us even when we don't understand

- "faint"- to grow weak and weary, to become wore down

- "rebuked"- (elegcho) to find fault with and correct, to reprove

vs.6- the writer brings encouragement in this verse by reminding them that God is doing this because He loves them

Truth- if He didn't care, He wouldn't bother

- "scourgeth"- the idea here is not that God will use a literal cat-of-nine-tails on His children but that He will go to whatever lengths He needs to get our attention

Truth- the length needed to go is always determined by the one in authority

vs.7- "dealeth"- (prosphero) to bring a present, to hand something to another

(The word implies this as a gift from God)

*these valuable lessons are indeed gifts from God as they lead to wisdom

- "what son is he?"- the question is rhetorical as the readers all knew that no one is a son without paternal chastening

vs.8- this verse concludes the rhetoric of the previous question

*one must understand that there is a big difference between God's discipline and His judgment

(We often suffer consequences for our sins, but will never experience God's eternal judgment for them- Christ took care of that)

Truth- the chastisement or correction comes because we have erred

- "all are partakers"- meaning all that are the children of God

(All are partakers because every person saved still needs correction from God)

- "bastards"- (nothos) illegitimate, one born from a concubine or slave

(The term implies one that has no inheritance)

*this verse gives 2 truths- 1) it gives evidence that a person is saved, loved of God, and has been received into His family

2) the lack of chastening is a sure sign that one does not belong to God

Truth- if one is living contrary to God's Word and receives no chastening of the Lord, its because that person, according to this, is no child of God

*all can be subject to God's punishment but only His children receive His discipline

(vs.9-10)- the writer now gives a parallel to that of earthly fathers

- "reverence"- it is the disciplined child that respects his parents

*notice the change in our entire culture once parents stopped disciplining their children

- even while growing up, children instinctively know that a parent that disciplines them genuinely loves and cares for them
- knowing this should cause us to see the love and care of our Heavenly Father even deeper
- Truth- the Bible never says “spare the rod, spoil the child (Look at Prov. 13:24)
- 10- this verse says that our parents disciplined us to make us better people
(God does it to grow us in holiness- both are for our benefit)
- “own pleasure”- this means that its up to the earthly fathers discretion
 - this means its sometimes severe, sometimes mild, sometimes might show favoritism, and sometimes they might be only concerned about their own interests
- (The idea is that parental correction can be flawed, not enough, or too much, but we respect it)
- *God always corrects perfectly and strictly for “our profit”
- vs. 11- God’s chastening is not pleasant nor is it meant to be
(If it was pleasant, it would yield no correcting power)
- Remember- God’s correction is to make us better, not bitter
- “righteousness”- this term means to be acceptable or approved by God
- *Notice the adjective “peaceable” used here- the chaos we seem to go through while God is correcting us miraculously brings about an inner peace that reminds us that we are His and loved by Him