

## ~Hebrews~

## Lesson 34 – The Father’s Loving Hand of Correction (part 1)

Over the last several lessons, we have been seeing Paul’s encouragement to persevere and endure persecution

- Chapter 11 showed us exploits of faith leading to victory in life and death
  - And we saw that every example in chapter 11 pointed toward the future hope of eternal life in Him
- This took us into the beginning verses of chapter 12 in which Paul told us to look unto Jesus as our example of perseverance and endurance.
  - Looking unto Jesus, *aphorontes*, ἀφορῶντες, looking away from everything else and focusing intently on Jesus and Him alone.
  - He is the author and finisher, the *archegon kai teleiote*, ἀρχηγὸν καὶ τελειωτὴν, the principal leader and perfecter of our faith, Heb 12:2
    - Look to Jesus as our example of perseverance through persecution from *the hostility of sinners*, Heb 12:3
- This is where I want to pick up our lesson today, in verse 3.
  - We briefly spoke on verses 3 and 4 last time, but these verses flow right into our message today.
- Our text in Hebrews today leads us to discuss the discipline of God.
  - This concept has had a wide range of interpretations.
  - Most of which I would consider incorrect. Even from great Bible teachers that I admire deeply.
  - The topic of the chastisement of God is so important to understand.
    - It forms the fundamental way you look at life and its circumstances, both good and bad
    - It forms the way you view the Father and His mercy and lovingkindness
  - This topic has basically two theological viewpoints
    - 1) Those who believe God beats you up and hurts you to teach you a lesson.
      - a. They believe God allows bad things to happen in your life to make you stronger and teach you from these
        - i. There is no doubt, and I have taught on this previous, that the evil trials of this life will intensely work your *dokimion* implementing *hupomene* which will strengthen you to persevere in this life.
        - ii. God will even call you into these trials to be a witness of His Truth to the fallen world
          1. However, we must understand IT IS NOT GOD DOING THIS TO US TO TEACH US A LESSON
          2. This is not His chastisement
    - 2) Or the other viewpoint on chastisement, of which I personally hold, is that God is a loving, nurturing, God who teaches us and trains us through His Word.
      - a. He cleanses us and prepares us with His gentle, loving hand to bear fruit so we can walk with Him in holiness.
  - So I am going to show you from the Word of God what Godly discipline is.
    - This is a two part discussion
      - Today we will be defining what chastisement is
      - And the next lesson we will see the process of how God makes it work in our lives

- Lets read our text in Hebrews 12 and then we can start defining chastisement

#### Hebrews 12:3-11

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed, for a few days, chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

I am starting this section at verse 3 to show you a distinction in Paul’s explanation of suffering.

- Many Bible teachers group the sufferings of the Old Testament saints in Hebrews 11:35-38 and the sufferings that Jesus endured from the hostility of sinners in Hebrews 12:3-4 and say this is all the chastisement of God.
  - This is an incorrect assumption
- The sufferings Jesus endured in verses 3 and 4 are specifically named as the “hostility from sinners”, Heb 12:3, not from God.
  - Jesus did take on Himself the wrath of God concerning sin, but that was the judgement of God against sin, not the reproof or chastisement that Paul is now discussing.
  - Jesus was sinless and lead a sinless life, so there was no need for God to reprove or correct Jesus through chastisement.
- The Hebrew Christians in the first century were encountered with many terrible things that we as American Christians have never experience. (but things seem to be heading that direction)
  - They were suffering an enormous amount of hostility from sinners, non-believing Jews, because they professed themselves as Christians.
  - It was because of this that they had their possessions plundered, they were tortured, and even killed for confessing Jesus, Hebrews 10:32-34.
  - This is why, in verses 11:35 thru 12:4, Paul is encouraging the Hebrew Christians to endure the persecution of following Jesus, knowing that they have a better resurrection and a lasting possession in heaven.
    - Which is the hope of the resurrection unto eternal life in Jesus
  - Paul then tells them because they are considering rejecting Jesus by falling back under the Law to avoid persecution, they now have to endure the chastening of the Lord because of this luke-warm, unbelieving heart that is creeping in.
  - The suffering of the hostility from sinners is not the chastening of the Lord
    - God is not using the hostility of sinners to teach us a lesson
    - These are two separate issues
      - The suffering of hostility from sinners

- The chastening of the Lord
  - these both cause pain, so Paul is sorting this out for the Hebrew Christians.

Lets read Hebrews 12:3-6 with this idea.

- Notice the change from verse 4 to 5
  - Verse 5 starts with an “And”.
  - Implying from Paul, “I know you are suffering from the hostility of sinners, **AND** you are also experiencing pain in your hearts from my letter of chastisement to you, so let me continue to give you this word of encouragement to help you through all of this”

Hebrews 12:3-6

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

- I want to bring you to the Word of God through the Prophet Isaiah- Isaiah 28
  - This chapter in Isaiah has many parallels with the book of Hebrews and ultimately ends with an example of the chastening of the Lord.
  - Isaiah is writing an exhortation of warning to those in Ephraim and their leaders in Jerusalem, v.1, 14
  - They have rejected God’s word, Is 28:10-13
  - They have put their trust in the things of this world rather than God, Is 28:14-15
  - God then gives them a hope to stand on
    - God tells them *He is laying in Zion a stone for a foundation, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation*, v.16
    - *Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame*, v.16; 1 Peter 2:6; Rom 10:11
    - Isaiah warns them that if they will not believe in God’s word and stand on the Sure Foundation that is coming, they will be *swept away in the destruction that is determined for the whole earth*, v.17-22
    - So Isaiah pleads with them saying, “<sup>23</sup> *Give ear and hear my voice! Pay attention and hear my words!...* <sup>26</sup> *And you will be disciplined, by the judgment of God, and you will be cheerful.*”
      - (disciplined- παιδεύω- same word as chasten in Heb 12)
      - Isaiah continues to give an example of chastisement, but that will be part of our discussion next week.
- For now, I want to show you how Isaiah is focusing on Jesus, the Messiah to come
  - He says, *Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame*, v.16; 1 Peter 2:6; Rom 10:11
  - This is exactly what Paul is saying in this letter to the Hebrews.
    - *Lay hold of the hope in Jesus, Who is the anchor of your soul, both sure and steadfast*, Heb 6:18-19
    - He is the sure foundation, the precious cornerstone
  - Why is He the sure foundation?
    - Paul gives us this answer in his letter to the Hebrews

- Better than Moses and the angels, Heb 3:1-6
- He became the surety for a better covenant, Heb 8:22
- He is the anointed priest living forever to make intercession for us, Heb 5:5-6
- He is the captain of our salvation, Heb 2:10
- The author and finisher of our faith, Heb 12:2
- It is through Him that we have been redeemed, our sins forgiven, we have been cleansed, and **reconciled to the Father as His children**

It is through Jesus that we have our Salvation and can be called a child of God

- He is our Rock, our sure foundation because as Peter said, “*To those who believe, He is precious.*” To those who believe in the Chief Cornerstone, “*we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.*”
  - To reference our text in Isaiah 28, “*To those who believe in Him will not be put to shame*”
  - Those who believe in Jesus “*to them gave he the right to become children of God*”, John 1:12

Paul is writing to Hebrew Christians, those who are children of God

- This is a very important concept to understand concerning the context of chastisement

To understand the chastening of God, we must begin by defining what chastisement is

- The word chasten is paideia, παιδεία,
  - It is used 7 times in these 7 verses, Heb 12:5-11
  - It means - education, training up, instruction, discipline, correction.
- This word paideia, παιδεία, comes from the word, paidos, παιδός,
  - meaning- a child or a servant under training and strict oversight
  - This is Paul’s mindset as he is writing. He is focusing on the Father-child relationship.
    - Look at how many times in these verses that he refers to the father-son relationship

#### Hebrews 12:5-9

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to **sons**: “**My son**, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every **son** whom He receives.”

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with **sons**; for what **son** is there whom a **father** does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not **sons**.

9 Furthermore, we have had human **fathers** who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the **Father** of spirits and live?

Paul is making it very clear that there is special relationship of training and correcting between a father and a child

- He is encouraging the Hebrew Christians, and anyone who is a child of God, to embrace this training and correction.
- It is the chastening of the Lord that gives proof to our Divine sonship
  - This is the evidence of His love and our adoption as sons

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God**!

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to **become children of God**, to those who believe in His name:

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the **Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, “**Abba, Father.**”

Now I want to take you through a few places in Scripture that will help us define this word *paideia*, παιδεία,

- Below are some examples taken from the New Testament and the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament)
- The best way to understand a word is to see how else it is used in the Bible and then apply that meaning to our text

2 Timothy 3:16 **All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction** (*paideia*, παιδεία) in righteousness,

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the **training** (*paideia*, παιδεία) and admonition of the Lord.

Acts 7:22 And Moses was **learned** (*paideuo*, παιδεύω) in all the wisdom of the Egyptians...

2 Timothy 2:24-25 <sup>24</sup> And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup> in humility **correcting** (*paideuo*, παιδεύω) those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

Titus 2:11-12 <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> **teaching** (*paideuo*, παιδεύω) us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

1 Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are **chastened** (*paideuo*, παιδεύω) by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke (*elegcho*, ἐλέγχω- convict Heb 11:7) and **chasten** (*paideuo*, παιδεύω). Therefore be zealous and repent.

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and **instruction** (*paideia*, παιδεία), To perceive the words of understanding,

Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the **instruction** (*paideia*, παιδεία) of your father...

Psalms 18:30-36 <sup>30</sup> As for God, His way is perfect; The **word of the LORD is proven**; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. <sup>31</sup> For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? <sup>32</sup> It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect. <sup>33</sup> He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places. <sup>34</sup> He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. <sup>35</sup> You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your **gentleness** (*paideia*, παιδεία) has made me great. <sup>36</sup> You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The **chastisement** (*paideia*, παιδεία) of our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

- Isaiah 53:5 is the expression of the three elements of Salvation through Jesus
  - **Justification**- *He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities*
  - **Sanctification**- *the chastisement of our peace was upon Him*
    - The avenue of instruction, correction, and the training of our peace and reconciliation with God was laid on Jesus
    - It is through Jesus in whom we have our peace with God
    - The training and discipline of our peace is the sanctifying process in our life
      - Leading us to be partakers of His holiness as we read in Hebrews 12:10
  - **Glorification**- *by His stripes we are healed.*
    - Through Jesus we are resurrected and glorified unto eternal life in Him
    - 1 Peter tells us “*that we might live to righteousness- by whose stripes we are healed.*”
- It is through Jesus in which the Father instructs, trains, and corrects us

- More specifically it is through His Word, in which Jesus is rightly named, Jn 1:1, 14

John 1:1-2, 14 <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. <sup>2</sup> **He** was in the beginning with God.  
<sup>14</sup> And the **Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- In 2 Timothy 3:16, what was it that “**instructs**” us?
  - It is **Scripture, the Word of God** that is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and **instruction** in righteousness.

Hebrews 1:1-2 <sup>1</sup> God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son...**

- This entire letter to the Hebrews has been an inspired Word of instruction from God to the Hebrew Christians.
  - It is a letter of reproof, correction, instruction and training.
- This letter to the Hebrews was written to Christians, those who are in Jesus.
  - It has been a letter of encouragement and exhortation through the Word of God to sanctify them, separate them from the Law and admonish them *to lay aside every weight of Legalism and the sin of unbelief that easily besets them*, Heb 12:1.
  - This is the chastening of the Lord.
    - It is the reproofing and cleansing through His Word so that we might be partakers of His Holiness
- Chastisement, that we have defined as instruction, training, discipline, and correction, is done by the loving hand of the Father toward his children through His Word
  - God is not beating us up to teach us a lesson, but rather “*it is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance*”, Rom 2:4
  - This is a security for the believer to keep us sure footed and on track in the will of God
  - Remember Psalm 18:35-36 <sup>35</sup> *You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness* (paideia, παιδεία) *has made me great.* <sup>36</sup> *You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip.*

We should be yearning for the discipline of the Lord, because it is through this that we are trained in righteousness and holiness, made able to be a partaker of His holiness and become a fellow-worker in Christ Jesus.

Next week we will wrap up our discussion on the discipline and training of God.

- It is God’s chastisement that cleanses and purges our soul so we can be fruitful and glorify Him.
  - We will be digging into the process of how being trained and corrected by God will purify and separate us from the sin of this world
    - so that we will be partakers of His holiness and bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness.