

~Hebrews~

Lesson 35 – The Father’s Loving Hand of Correction (part 2)

Last week we started our discussion on the discipline and correction of the Father

- We spent the lesson learning the definition of the word “chastisement”, *paideia*, *παιδεία*,
 - We discovered that the word “chastisement” was in fact not a good translation
 - The true Biblical meaning of, *paideia*, *παιδεία*, is not a physical beating or whipping,
 - but rather a loving correction and instruction from the Father to His children
 - This is a special privilege as His children that we are instructed, trained, disciplined, and corrected by the loving Hand of our Father
 - This is not available to just anyone, only to those who are in Jesus, only to His family
- We discussed the two main theological viewpoints on the *paideia*, *παιδεία*, of God
 - 1) First, there are those who believe God beats us up and hurts us to teach us a lesson
 - a. These are they who believe God allows bad things in our life to make us stronger
 - i. We saw last week that this is not how God trains us
 - ii. This thinking is a misunderstanding of Scripture, specifically the understanding of *paideia*, *παιδεία*
 - 2) Second viewpoint, and the Truth,... is God is a loving, nurturing, God who teaches us and trains us through His Word.
 - a. He cleanses us, corrects, instructs, trains us with His gentle, loving hand to bear fruit so we can walk with Him in holiness.
 - i. If you believe God gives you persecution, affliction, sickness and disease to teach you something,
 1. how can you confidently run to His loving arms?
 2. This idea is just a fabrication of theology and does not make practical sense
 - a. And this is not what the Bible teaches
- There are three areas of life that are wrongly attributed to God’s *paideia*, *παιδεία*, the correction and training of God:
 - Persecution, trials, and sickness
 - In Truth, God is not doing or allowing any of these things to come on you, but rather He is the Way out these things
 - 1) Persecution, affliction, and tribulation comes from the hostility of sinners
 - a. When we shine the light of the gospel onto the darkness, we expose their evil deeds, Eph 5:8-14, John 1:5
 - i. The darkness hates the light and in turn they hate us, Jn 15:20-24
 - 2) Evil trials, *periasmos*, *πειρασμός*, come from the enemy, not God
 - a. James tells us, “*God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone with evil*”, James 1:13
 - b. Trials are from the hostility of sinners and the enemy trying to tempt us to sin
 - i. Luke 8:13 *But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.*
 - ii. Acts 20:19 *serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;*
 - iii. If we give in to the temptations and trials, James says it is then that he is “*drawn away by his own desires and enticed*”, James 1:14-15

- 3) We experience sickness and disease as a result of this fallen world
 - a. God is our Healer. He is not making us sick to teach us something
 - b. This world is still under the curse and our physical bodies have not yet been redeemed, Rom 8:23, 7:24; 2 Cor 4:16, 5:2-4
 - i. Romans 8:23 tells us, “*our bodies are groaning to be redeemed*”
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 4:16 says, “*our outward man is perishing, but our inward man is renewed day by day*”
 1. This is why we must be running into His loving arms as our Healer not the one making us sick
- Let’s look at a few verses from last week that show us the true Biblical definition of, paideia, παιδεία, God’s correction and training

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,

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

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.

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

Now that we have a good Biblical understanding of Godly correction and instruction, let’s read our Hebrews text substituting chastisement for the correct word:

Hebrews 12:5-11

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

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

⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who **corrected and instructed** 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 **corrected and instructed** us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, **that we may be partakers of His holiness.**

¹¹ Now no **correction and instruction** 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.

- Let’s start by drawing out these verses from our Hebrews text now that we have a better understanding of what the correction and instruction of God is.

Hebrews 12:5-6

⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the *correction and instruction* (παιδείας) of the LORD, [†]Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked (convicted- ἐλεγχόμενος) by Him; ⁶ [†]For whom the LORD loves He *corrects and instructs* (παιδεύει), [†]And scourges every son whom He receives.”

Paul is reminding the Hebrew Christians and all those who are in Christ not to despise or be discouraged when the Lord corrects and trains us (Paul is referring to Proverbs 3:11-12 from the Septuagint)

[†] *Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked*, elegchomenos, ἐλεγχόμενος ...

- The rebuke is part of the correction and instruction
 - But it is not a casting out but a conviction of the Truth, a reproving- elegchomenos, ἐλεγχόμενος,
 - God is guiding us back into holiness and righteousness by His loving hand
 - Revelation 3:19 “*As many as I love, I reprove* (elegcho, ἐλέγγω) *and correct and instruct* (paideuo, παιδεύω). *Therefore be zealous and repent.*

[†] *For whom the Lord loves, He corrects, and instructs...*

- The loving, nurturing hand of the Father is cleansing us through His Word, 2 Tim 3:16, for the purpose of being useful in His plan of redemption

[†] *And scourges every son whom He receives*

- This word scourge can cause people to think God is hurting us physically to train us
 - God is correcting and instructing us with His Word, not whipping or scourging us physically
 - This word scourge refers to the rebuke, elegcho, ἐλέγγω, the convicting of the heart
 - Heb 12:11 - *Now no correction and instruction seems to be joyful for the present, but painful...*

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, **piercing** even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- When the Holy Spirit, through the hearing of the Word, convicts us, and it can seem like a scourging
 - When Peter spoke the Word of God to the Jews directly after Pentecost, it says “*they were cut to the heart*”, Acts 2:36-38

Hebrews 12:7-8

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

[†] *If you endure correction and instruction...*

- This word endure is, hupomenete, ὑπομένετε, an under-abiding, steadfastness, endurance
 - This is the same word that was in Heb 12:1, *let us run with endurance...*
 - Let us abide under His loving correction

[†] *of which all have become partakers...*

- All of God’s children have become partakers in God’s correction and instruction
 - This is an encouragement from Paul telling them that if you submit yourself to God’s correction, then rejoice because this gives proof to your Divine sonship

- This is the evidence of His love and adoption as sons

Hebrews 12:9-10

⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who *corrected and instructed* 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 *corrected and instructed* us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be †partakers of His holiness.

† ...*partakers of His holiness*

- This is the entire reason for God’s correction and instruction
 - The paideia, παιδεία, is for our purification that we might be receivers with His holiness
 - That we might be partakers in His holiness and goodness and *the inheritance of the saints in light*, Col 1:12
- This word holiness comes from the root word, hagios, αγιος, meaning “holy” or “separated”
 - God wants us to be partakers of His holiness- but How? ...
 - Through His Word

1 Peter 1:15-16, 22-23

¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy, (hagios, αγιος).”

²² Since you have purified, (hagnizo, αγνιζω), your souls in **obeying the truth (the Word is Truth)** through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure, cleansed, heart. (katharas, καθαράς, Jn 15, 1s 28)

²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, (participial phrase) through the **word of God** which lives and abides forever,

Hebrews 12:11

¹¹ Now no *correction and instruction* 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.

† ...*yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness...*

- We are cleansed, corrected and instructed so that we can produce the peaceable fruit of righteousness, Jn 15:2

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all ~~people~~, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Psalm 34:14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

† ...*to those who have been trained by it*

- To those who have exercised themselves to submit and be corrected by the Word of Truth
 - The peaceable fruit of righteousness is to those who humble and abide themselves under the correction and training of God
- The purpose of the correction and instruction of God, the paideia, παιδεία, is two-fold
 - 1) that we might be partakers of His holiness, v.10
 - 2) that it would yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness, v.11

- John 15 gives us an excellent example of how this works in our life

John 15:1-3

¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch **in Me** that does not bear fruit He takes away (*αἶρει*); and every branch that bears fruit He prunes (*καθαίρει*), that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already, you are being cleansed (*καθαροί*) **because of the word** which I have spoken to you.

- The Father, the Vinedresser, nurtures the branches and the fruit of the Vine.
 - He cleanses, prunes, and sanctifies the branch so that it will “be holy” and “bear fruit” that we might partake in holiness
 - God’s correction, instruction, and training is the means by which the Father makes us holy and able to bear fruit
 - In the case of, *paideia*, *παιδεία*, we, the branches, those who are in Jesus are corrected, instructed, trained up, and disciplined by His Word.
- This passage is a way of life for the Christian
 - A fellowship with the Father as we live this life
- In this passage we see two stages of the believer
 - 1) This first stage is the, *airei*, *αἶρει*, cleansing and lifting up of the believer who is in Christ but not bearing fruit
 - a. This is the branch, the believer, who is laying on the ground not bearing any fruit or producing anything for the kingdom
 - b. It is this child of God that the Father, through His Word, lifts him up, cleanses, and takes away, *airei*, *αἶρει*, any thing prohibiting him to bear fruit
 - i. The Father cleans him, prunes him, trains, and instructs him, to separate himself from sin and the evil of this world so he can start bearing fruit.
 - ii. This is the *paideia*, *παιδεία*, the instruction, training, and correction of the Father
 - 2) The second stage is the *kathairei*, *καθαίρει*, the pruning of the believer in Christ who is already bearing fruit
 - a. This is the same word as *airei*, *αἶρει*, with an intensifying *kata* in front
 - b. The Vinedresser, the Father, continues with His loving Hand to nurture and train and instruct this child, along with harvesting the fruit that the branch is producing
 - c. The branch is bearing fruit and the Vinedresser harvests the fruit, prunes the branch of any sprouts or dead leaves and anything that would prohibit the branch from bearing fruit
 - i. This is an intense pruning to collect the harvest and keep the branch healthy
 1. In order for a vine to keep producing the most fruit continually, it must be pruned and cleansed regularly to stay healthy and keep bearing fruit
 2. The process of the *kathairei*, *καθαίρει* is an intense pruning by clipping the bunches of grapes from the branch and also pruning the dead leaves and sprouts away to keep the branch clean and healthy
 - ii. This is the cycle of the life of a believer.
 1. The believer bears fruit, the Vinedresser, harvests and prunes the fruit so the branch can continue to always bear new fruit
 - iii. If the fruit were never harvested, it would stay on the branch and rot
 - iv. This is the loving hand of the Father nurturing and taking care of His children
 - v. This is God shaping us to be fellow-workers with Him, so that we might be a

partaker of His holiness and bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness

- Jesus continues in v.3 by telling us how we are cleansed and purged
 - We are being cleansed, *katharoi*, *καθαροί*, by the Word of God
 - Cared for, pruned, lifted up and nurtured by the loving hand of God, through Jesus, through the Word
- The Hebrew Christians were in Christ, but needed the convicting proof of the Word of God by the nurturing hand of the Father to train and instruct them back to Jesus
 - This is the purpose of the entire letter to the Hebrews
 - A letter of reproof, correction, and instruction

I want to direct us back to Isaiah 28 for another example of God's loving hand of correction that ties in with our text

- As we saw last week, this chapter in Isaiah has many parallels with the book of Hebrews
 - Isaiah is writing a word of exhortation. A word of reproof, correction and training to 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
 - But 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - This is also similar to the warning to the Hebrews in 10:26-27, ²⁶ *For if we sin willfully* (by rejecting Jesus and going back under the Law) *after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,* ²⁷ *but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.*
- Isaiah pleads with them starting with verse 23...
 - This is taken from the Septuagint translation of Isaiah 28 because I want to show you some comparisons in the New Testament

Isaiah 28:23-29 LXX English	Isaiah 28:23-29 LXX Greek
²³ Give ear and hear my voice! Pay attention and hear my words! ...	²³ Ἐνωπίζεσθε καὶ ἀκούετε τῆς φωνῆς μου, προσέχετε καὶ ἀκούετε τοὺς λόγους μου.
²⁶ And you will be disciplined, (instructed- <i>παιδεύω</i>) by the judgment of God, and you will be cheerful.	²⁶ καὶ <i>παιδευθήση</i> κρίματι θεοῦ σου καὶ εὐφρανθήση.
²⁷ For black cumin is not purified (<i>καθαίρεται</i> - same word as <i>cleansed in John 15:2</i>) with harshness, and a wagon wheel will not be led around over the cumin (<i>as to crush it</i>); but rather black cumin is shaken out by a rod. (<i>by Gods gentle, nourishing hand the fruit is purged and separated</i>)	²⁷ οὐ γὰρ μετὰ σκληρότητος <i>καθαίρεται</i> τὸ μελάνθιον, οὐδὲ τροχὸς ἀμάξης περιάζει ἐπὶ τὸ κύμινον, ἀλλὰ ῥάβδῳ ἐκτινάσσεται τὸ μελάνθιον,

- This is the cleansing and harvesting process of those who have been corrected and trained by the loving hand of God
- This is the purification process of training and instruction.
 - cleansing and sanctifying us from the sin of this world
 - He doesn’t hurt us, or crush us
 - But rather we are cleansed by His Word, Jn 15
 - We are sanctified by the Word of Truth, Jn 17:17, “*Your Word is Truth*”
- When the cumin is harvested, it is separated from the chaff
 - It is cleansing and separating us from the sin of the world
 - It is the cumin that is being shaken away from the chaff in order to be preserved and brought into the storehouse
 - *The correction and instruction of God is designed to loosen us from the world, to separate us from the chaff, and prepare us for use*
 - *God is not crushing or bruising His children, but rather correcting and instructing us so that we can be cleansed and be gathered into the barn*
- God is correcting and instructing us “*for our profit*,” Heb 12:10:
 - 1) That we might be partakers of His holiness
 - 2) That we would yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness

Lets read our text in Hebrews again with this thinking in mind, starting with v.5

Hebrews 12:5-11

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We must humble ourselves to God’s Word and allow Him, and
yearn for Him to correct and train us;
to cleanse and purge
our souls.

*By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;
so you will be My disciples.*

John 15:8