

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 12:7-11**.
- B. "Do not forget," the Hebrews writer said, "the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons..." (Heb. 12:5-6).
and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; 6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."
- C. One of the more humbling of Xian experiences is that of being disciplined. God does it to make us stronger.
- D. According to the passage, discipline gives four things:
 - 1. Sonship.
 - 2. Life.
 - 3. Holiness.
 - 4. The fruit of righteousness.

I. **FIRST, SONSHIP.**

- A. Scripture text: Hebrews 12:7-8.
It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.
- B. If we are sons, then heirs and have the privilege of suffering with Him (Rom. 8:17).
and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.
- C. We are sons of God by our faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:26).
For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- D. And as sons we receive discipline. This can mean three things:
 - 1. Education (Eph. 6:4).
And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
 - 2. Training (2Tim. 3:16).
All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
 - 3. Discipline (1Tim. 4:7).
But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;
- E. Think about it; what earthly father who cares for his children does not educate, train, and discipline? Therefore, why shouldn't God do all these things too?!

II. **SECOND, LIFE.**

- A. Scripture text: Hebrews 12:9.
Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?
- B. The world has a warped view of life. Jesus and the NT tells us what life is really all about.
- C. Life does not consist of one's possessions (Lk. 12:15).
And He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."
- D. Jesus came to give us life and that abundantly (Jn. 10:10).
"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.
- E. Jesus came to release us from the captivity of sin (Lk. 4:18-19; Jn. 3:17).
(Lk 4:18-19) "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND

RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN, **19** TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”

(Jn 3:17) “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.

III. **THIRD, HOLINESS.**

- A. Scripture text: Hebrews 12:10.
For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.
- B. To be holy is to be set apart from the rest. To be different from the rest as to be better or of greater value.
- C. Paul says we are to be holy and living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1).
I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
- D. We are not to destroy the church, but keep it holy (1Cor. 3:17).
If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.
- E. God has, from the beginning, wanted His people to be holy and blameless (Eph. 1:4).
just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love

IV. **FOURTH, THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- A. Scripture text: Hebrews 12:11.
All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
- B. Godly discipline is not without ultimate effect and reward.
- C. Our fruit, the deeds and attitude of our life, is very important. People will know us by our fruits (Mt. 7:16a).
“You will know them by their fruits.
- D. The Xian graces are to be in our life and ever increasing (see 2Pet. 1:5-11).
- E. The fruit we bear (including other Xians) should last (Jn. 15:16).
“You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.
- F. We should all strive to have lives that produce the fruit of the Spirit. It takes no discipline to bring forth the fruit of the world, but it does take God’s help (discipline) to bring forth good fruit (Gal. 5:22-23).
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Discipline is profitable, especially discipline that comes from above.
- B. We have studied that heavenly discipline means:
 - 1. “A proof of Sonship.”
 - 2. Life.
 - 3. Holiness.
 - 4. The fruit of righteousness.
- C. Begin today to let God work with you. Obey Him now.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.