

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 12:5-11**.
- B. As we grow older, the less we like to be disciplined. We begin to thank that discipline is only for small children.
- C. But if discipline does not promote self-discipline, then we need to be disciplined!
- D. As children of God, we are disciplined by Him.

I. THE MOTIVATION FOR DISCIPLINE IS LOVE (Heb. 12:5-6).

- A. The easy way out of a difficult situation is to do nothing at all.
- B. But true love desires the best for a child, or adult; a love that works calls for discipline.
- C. God loves us, and disciplines us because we do not know what we need or how to live (Prov. 14:12; Exo. 23:2a).
- D. Three purposes in God's discipline are:
 - 1. *Correcting our faults*. This makes us better Christians (Jn. 15:2).
 - 2. *Strengthening our faith*. Both tribulation and perseverance are in X (Rev. 1:9).
 - 3. *Promotes our eternal welfare*. God knows how to meet our true needs (Mt. 7:7-11).

II. THE MODEL OF DISCIPLINE IS JESUS CHRIST (Heb. 5:8).

- A. JC showed self-discipline in His life. By the things He suffered He learned obedience. He did not blame God for the "bad things" in His life, rather He further trusted the Father.
- B. Jesus fits the model of discipline in the following ways:
 - 1. He was *truthful, just, and fair* w/ everyone.
 - 2. He used His *authority correctly*.
 - 3. He *expected the best* and was *patient to all*.
- C. Unfortunately, too many people come to obedience through the disastrous consequences of their disobedience. God's loving discipline wants to save us from that fate.

III. THE METHOD OF DISCIPLINE IS LEARNING (Heb. 12:11).

- A. Some call it the school of hard knocks.
- B. God disciplines in various ways:
 - 1. *Sometimes by pain*:
 - a. We test the temperature of something with a "quick finger."
 - b. Job suffered many physical illnesses (Job 2:7-8).
 - c. God pinned Jacob's hip after wrestling w/him (Gen. 32:25, 31).
 - d. Paul bore the marks of JC on his body (Gal. 6:16).
 - 2. *Sometimes by a sifting by Satan*.
Jesus allowed the apostles to be sifted (disciplined). Unfortunately, Peter didn't respond correctly (Lk. 22:31).
 - 3. *Sometimes by removal of blessings*:
 - a. Moses could not enter in the Promised Land because of sin (Num. 20:11-12).
 - b. The covenant of blessing and cursing spoke to this (Deut. 28:1-2, 15).
 - c. God did not allow David to build the temple because he was a man of war (1Chr. 22:7-10).
 - 4. *Sometimes by the destruction of life*:
 - a. The great flood destroyed all wicked people (Gen. 6:5-7).
 - b. God wanted to destroy Israel after the giving of the Law (Ex. 32:9-14).
 - c. The death of the firstborn of man and beast in Egypt (Ex. 12:29-30).
 - d. Assyrian and Babylonian captivity came upon Judah and Israel. (Never again did a Jew bow

before an idol to worship.)

- D. Not all pain is bad; it is good if we learn from it. Pain and suffering, if not to excess, will help us grow and mature.

IV. THE RESPONSE TO DISCIPLINE (Heb. 12:9-10).

- A. Life is more than commandment keeping! Obedience is good, but it needs to be mixed with zeal.
- B. DISCIPLINE is an inner conviction that allows us to live as we should and LIKE IT! Have you ever said, "I'll do it, but I'm not going to like it." This is not spiritual discipline.
- C. The goal of outward discipline is SELF-DISCIPLINE.
- D. Our response to God's discipline should be:
 - 1. We must *not despise it* (12:5). It is for our good.
 - 2. We must *not faint under its impact*. Don't fall away or blame God for working in your best interest!!
 - 3. We must *submit to it*. Saying always, "Thy will be done."
 - 4. We must *cooperate with God's divine purpose*. This means no matter the circumstances.
- E. Why is it that some people can stay on diets better than others? DISCIPLINE! They are completely convinced (from the inside out) that certain foods are good and others bad, and to have nothing in excess.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The ultimate benefit of discipline is the peaceable fruit of righteousness.
- B. Godly discipline is:
 - 1. Done in love.
 - 2. Exemplified in JC.
 - 3. Supplied for our learning and maturing.
- C. No pain, no gain. No discipline, no sonship (Heb. 12:8).
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.