



TITLE:

Let Us Endure the Chastening of the Lord

TEXT:

Hebrews 12:5-13

INTRODUCTION

- Paul wrote the Book of Hebrews for Jewish believers who are experiencing trials that have the tendency to renounce their faith.
- Hebrews 12 and 13 contain the concluding exhortation.

LET US ENDURE CHASTENING

- Paul quoted Prov. 3:11-12 and described it as the “exhortation of a father unto a child”.
- He commanded them not to despise the chastening of the Lord nor faint when they are rebuked.
 - The word despise (ὀλιγώρει - oligōrei) means to have little regard for, to care little for, regard lightly, make small account.
- Is there anyone from us who doesn’t need a continual correction from God?
 - No one. We have the old sinful nature that leads us to sin. Paul calls it as the body of this death (Rom. 7:24).
- Three Aspects of God’s chastening to His children.
 - Chastening (It appears in all verses from v.5 to 11 except v.9).
 - The word chastening (παιδείας - paideias) means tutorage, training, education, instruction, nurture.
 - This involves teaching and instruction.
 - The word chastening is translated as “nurture” in Eph. 6:4. The idea is to bring up or to train our children on how God chastens, corrects and instructs His children. It is not just spanking. It is more on teaching and instruction.
 - Rebuke (v.5)
 - The word rebuke (ἐλεγχόμενος - elegchomenos) means to confute, admonish, convict, tell a fault.
 - This involves verbal correction and reproof.
 - Where do we get verbal correction and reproof? The church. This is why biblical preaching with reprove and rebuke is important.
 - Scourging (v.6)
 - The word scourging (μαστιγοῖ - mastigoi) means to scourge. It means “paghagupit” in Tagalog.
 - This involves physical punishment.
 - Compare Pro. 23:13-14. Many people are in hell right now because of a lack of beating with the rod.
 - There are two errors in child discipline: lack of spanking and spanking without teaching and instruction.
- As believers, how does God chasten us?
 - God chastens by the conviction of the indwelling Spirit (Eph. 4:30).
 - God chastens by the preaching of God’s Word (2 Tim. 4:2; 1 The. 5:19-20).
 - God chastens by the personal exhortation of the brethren (Heb. 10:25).
 - God chastens by the personal ministry of church leaders, who watch for the souls of the saints (Heb. 13:17).
 - God chastens by circumstances (e.g. Jonah).
 - God chastens by the government (Rom. 13:1-2).
 - God chastens by sickness and death (1 Cor. 11:28-30; Jam. 5:14-15).
 - God chastens by church discipline (1 Cor. 5:5).

- Paul shows that the trials that the Jewish believers are experiencing are because of God's paternal care and love for them.
 - Chastening is what a father does to his child.
 - Chastening is one of the evidences they are children of God (v.7-8).
 - There are evidences of salvation. Compare 2 Cor. 5:17, John 10:27-29. One of them is divine chastisement.
 - Paul asks "for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"
 - Today, we live in a world where chastening is against the norm. Before, the fathers normally chasten their children.
 - There are many professing Christians who are living in sin and don't have any chastening from the Lord.
 - If you are living in sin and you don't have chastening, you are a bastard (νόθοι - nothoi means illegitimate son).
- Furthermore or as an additional consideration, Paul exhort the Jewish believers to receive the chastening of the Lord with subjection (v.9-10).
 - If we have earthly fathers who correct us to whom we give reverence. How much rather we give reverence and be in subjection to our Heavenly Father who is the father of our spirits?
 - Children, what is the proper response whenever our parents correct us? Give reverence and be in subjection.
 - Our earthly fathers chastened us for a few days. It is a chastisement that had reference mainly to this short life of the earth.
 - Our earthly fathers chastened us for their own pleasure. Sometimes they did it to gratify their passion rather than to correct our manners.
 - Our Heavenly Father chastened us for our own profit.
- Profits of Chastening or Trials:
 - Chastening is not joyous but it is grievous (λύπη - lypē means sorrow, pain, grief, annoyance, affliction) but it has profit for us.
 - That we might be partakers of God's holiness (v.10).
 - This is the elevated object at which God aims by our trials. It is not that he delights in producing pain.
 - It yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby (v.11).
 - We do not expect the fruit to form and ripen at once. Same with us, it frequently requires a long time before all the results of affliction appear.
 - Trials make us more holy, more dead to sin and the world, and more alive to God.
 - Trials produce peace, calmness, and submission in the soul.

CONCLUSION:

- In verse Heb. 12:12-13, there are two imperatives: lift up and make.
- What do we ought to do during the trials or chastening of the Lord?
 - Forget not how God operates through sufferings in our lives (v. 5).
 - Despise not the chastening of the Lord (v.5).
 - Don't faint when thou we are rebuked (v.5)
 - Give reverence to the Lord (v.9).
 - Be in subjection (v.9).
 - Lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees.
 - Renew your courage from weariness and exhaustion. Make a new effort to bear them.
 - Make straight paths for our feet.
 - Compare Heb. 12:1.
 - Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us.
 - And let us run with patience the race that is set before us.