

Despise Not The Chastening Of The Lord

Hebrews 12:4-13

Rock Hill Baptist Church

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FOCAL Read Responsively Hebrews 12:5-11^{KJV}

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: {6} **For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. {7} If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? {8} But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. {9} Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? {10} For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. {11} Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. "**

1. God Is Love In The Framework of Family

FOCAL Hebrews 12:6-7 "For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. {7} If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?**

If you want to understand the nature of the *spiritual*

KJV all texts are King James Version (Authorized), unless otherwise noted

battle that is going on all around you, you must understand the Biblical and godly concept of *family*. People say, “**God is love**” (1 John 4:8), but this really means nothing unless you and I have the same definition of “**love**” that God has. The Bible defines **God's nature as love** – but *what does that mean?*

The ancient world had a strong and good concept of *family*, something that is greatly missing in America today. You see, **God is love in action**. We say **God so loved the world**. Go no further, and think about the love of God toward this world. So called “scientists” have looked for life on other planets. Billions – perhaps trillions of dollars have been spent on sending shuttles and ships to outer space. The only planet that scientists have *ever* discovered life on is this third rock from the sun that we call “earth”. This incredible planet was created to be self sustaining by the **God who is love**. Think about the earth. It travels through space, orbiting the sun, at **65,000 miles per hour while spinning at 1000 miles per hour**. Every year the earth travels in it's orbit *more than half a billion miles*. This planet has a constantly renewing supply of oxygen. Humans excrete the waste that the planet's other living forms absorb.

Proverbs 3:19-20 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. (20) By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

Why did God go to so much trouble for us? Because

God is love as a Father is love. Listen Beloved – FAMILY is important to God. God made this earth and all that is in it in *six literal days*, and rested on the *seventh literal day*. Why did God do this? Why take *six days*? God made all things in six days, then rested on the seventh day, because **God is love in the context of family**.

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God is love, fatherly love – and this is why Satan constantly attacks the family. Satan came in the Garden of Eden and drove the wedge of sin between God and Man. Satan has attacked the family from the beginning. He now attacks the family through the **doctrines of abortion, evolution, and same sex marriage**. He has attacked the family **through every media, through television, through news and radio**. He attacks the family in **the courts of America**. I recently read of a father who was placed on *trial for assault* because he punished his child in public. When the jury returned a *not guilty* plea, the father – a good Christian man – said “Praise the Lord” and raised his hands. The judge *found the man in contempt of court* and held him, without bail, for several hours – though the man offered to apologize to the court. Beloved, that evil court judge should be removed from the bench and be forcibly held in contempt until *he apologizes to America*. That will never happen, though – for Satan protects his own.

God is love, He is saving love. He calls all who will come into the *great Family of God*.

Ephesians 3:14-15 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

You enter this Great Family by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You repent of the *wide road that Satan leads many down*, and **enter through the narrow gate of “believe on the Lordy Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”**.

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. {14} But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. "NIV

When Christianity was a *narrow path* - Jesus the only Way, and the Way of Life that *Jesus Christ* promoted the only Life - few wanted to walk that path. It is true that salvation is by **faith in Him, not by works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9)**. Salvation comes only when we **confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead ... this is what brings eternal life (Romans 10:9-10)**.

We are not saved from the *pollution of sin* by our works. Only by the Blood of Christ are we purchased from the slave market of sin, only by the Cross of Calvary are we *justified* or declared righteous forever.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Illustrate We are not saved from the *guilt* of sin, nor the *defilement* of sin, nor the *pollution* of sin by anything other than faith in Christ. A trial from God, like fire, cannot purge that which has not been first forgiven.

You may steal a bar of gold and melt it down a hundred times, but that gold is still *stolen*, polluted by the offense you made against God when you illegally took it. Forgiveness must first be found before any other work.

Have you been *born again by faith in Christ*? If not, today is the day of salvation. Once you are *born again*, declared righteous by the work of God in your life, you are a *son of God*. Let's look what the Lord says to the

son of God.

2. The Saved Believer *Must* Be Tried By The Father

Does the Heavenly Father chastise the Christian? Look at the clear teaching of the Scripture:

FOCAL Hebrews 12:5 "... My son, **despise not thou the chastening¹ of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:**

The text doesn't say IF you are rebuked by God but WHEN thou art rebuked of Him. The God Who saved you because He loves you is the *exact same God* Who rebukes and chastens the believer. The word **chasten** literally means "**to exercise disciplinary correction over a child**". That may be a strange concept to many of you who believe that children should never be punished - but God the Father disciplines His children as *proof of His love*. We read in the next verse:

FOCAL Hebrews 12:6 For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

God the Father *disciplines and corrects* His children. God's trying of the saint is an integral part of our *progressive sanctification*.

1 G3809, παιδεία, paideia, *pahee-di'-ah*, From G3811; *tutorage*, that is, *education or training*; by implication *disciplinary correction*: - chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.

Listen Beloved: God **does not discipline unbelievers in this life - He only disciplines His children**. His destructive wrath may fall on the unbeliever, but this is a far cry from the discipline of the believer. If you profess to be a **believer** in Christ and yet sin freely without discipline, mocking the Father of Light, then the warning God gives you is:

FOCAL Hebrews 12:8 But **if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**

The Heavenly Father chastises, disciplines, corrects, and molds every Blood Bought Child. The Bible tells us that we should *rejoice* in tribulations, because the trials that afflict us are proofs that God loves us. We rejoice in our tribulations though they do not *seem joyous*. Why? Again, because God cares much more for the believer, His child by faith, than He does for the unbeliever who has rejected the Covenant of Blood.

Many times in the midst of affliction and chastisement the trials may *seem* greater than they are. We are told in verse 11:

FOCAL Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present **seemeth** to be joyous, but grievous ...

Illustrate: seeming Many times our eyes and our feelings can be fooled. When trials come it *seems* to us as if God does not love us. We are *fooled by our senses*

oh too often. The world *seems* to stand still yet we know it to be always spinning and always in orbit around the sun. The sun *seems* to move through the sky from east to west, and yet it remain still while we move around it. When the sun moves to set or rise, it *seems* to be larger. The world that we stand on *seems* to be flat, though we know that to be untrue. *Seeming* has brought many an error to both science and faith. We must remember that:

2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

The atmosphere around us and our relative position of smallness compared to the greatness of the rest of God's creation effects what we perceive. Our other failings often effect how we perceive the chastening of God. For instance, **fear** may magnify every creak in the dead of night, every thump, every trial we undergo. Likewise **unbelief** in the heart of the Christian can lead us to magnify God's corrective hand. **Despair** or **depression** may make the Father's loving touch seem like a Roman guard is beating you with a rod. **Ignorance** or **superstition** may choke your happiness, robbing you of the joy of the Lord.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

When *feeling* replace *faith* in the life of the Christian, our joy drains away.

Illustrate: Peter In Prison When the Apostle Peter was kept in prison for preaching the Gospel of Christ, bound by chains, kept under heavy guard, the **faithful praying Church** approached the throne room of God and made intercession for him. We are told:

Acts 12:6-7 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. (7) And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

God protects that which belongs to Him, and loves every child He has purchased by the shedding of His own Blood. We may not see God's deliverance on the horizon, but rest assured, Beloved Believer, God watches over you even in the midst of trials.

Our focal text further states:

FOCAL Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening **for the present** seemeth to be joyous, but grievous ...

Illustrate: present We are creatures *of time*, created by The Eternal and Almighty God. It is He Who declares

Isaiah 46:10 ... the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

We view trials and tribulations in the *here and now*, but God, knowing all things, views the effect of these trials on our lives *in the long run*. God saved us, and we are now

Ephesians 2:10 ... His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

The Eternal YAHWEH, our Savior, has determined that we *will walk in good works*. The Christian will not *naturally* walk in good works apart from the corrective hand of the Father.

We are His creation, His new Creature, His children. His afflictions, like the hand of the Master Craftsman, never cause more suffering than is necessary to bring about what He desires in His Children. We need to try and look at afflictions, not with *temporal* eyes, but with *eternal* eyes. When our Lord Jesus Christ prepared to go to the Cross for our sins He prayed, saying:

John 12:27-28 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto

this hour. (28) Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

Though our Lord did not look forward to the trial that was to come, He surrendered to it for the *glory of God*. His trial would not make Him better, but would save many sons by His Blood. His suffering was for us. Shall we, being in suffering, question the Savior Who loved us so?

Suffering for the Christian is ordained of God, but only that which is necessary to form in us the *character of godliness*.

Illustrate Paul & Silas imprisoned The God Who allowed **Peter to escape from prison could have kept him from prison in the first place** if He had so desired. The God Who allowed **Paul to be imprisoned with Silas** expected these dear believers to focus, not on the prison, but *on the Lord Who saved them*. We read:

Acts 16:25-26 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. (26) And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

God could have kept them from prison - is there anything too hard for the Lord. Yet it glorified the Lord *more* to have them imprisoned, then to release them from prison. But God was glorified *even more* when neither **Paul nor Silas attempted to escape, but remained in that broken jail**. Why do such a thing? Because they were faithfully *focusing on God* and not *focusing on their trials*. God rewarded their efforts by bringing the **Philippian jailer to salvation, he and his whole house**.

Illustrate the race car Our Heavenly Father *does chastise us*, does bring corrective discipline to our lives, and does this for His glory and for our growth. I have never understood why anyone would purchase a fancy sports car, for there are few places in America where you could drive one to it's best use. Most of these sports cars are better used on the German Autobahn, where there is absolutely no speed restriction in place. Why would you buy a *race car* just to drive to the local grocery store? You drive a race car to *race* my friends. Here you are, a Christian, a new creature by faith in Christ Jesus. Wouldn't God be less loving if He didn't *test your faith* periodically so that you could grow to be more and more like Jesus? This is what the Scripture is teaching when it states:

Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Could we test this if there were no evil around us? If all were good and peaceable, how could we grow in our faith to where we *know* that God is faithful? The

Christian's faith is meant to be an *overcoming* faith:

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

God is greater than Satan. God is in you, and your faith is meant to be an *overcoming and victorious faith*. How to know this unless it be tried? How to know that the boat floats unless you put it under the trial of water?

"Faith sees that in her worst sorrow there is nothing penal; there is not a drop of God's wrath in it; it is all sent in love. Faith sees love in the heart of an angry God. Faith says of her grief, "Why this is a badge of honor, for it is the child that must have the rod," and she sings of the sweet result of her sorrows, because they work her lasting good. Nay more, says Faith, "These light afflictions which are but for a moment do work out for me a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." So Faith sits down on the black throne, out of which she has expelled reason and carnal sense, and she begins to the praise of divine wisdom, to lift up her voice in a joyous song."²

Our Heavenly Father *does* chastise us, He does *correct* us, He does *test* us - but always because He *loves* us.

² Chastisement Now And Afterwards, by C.H. Spurgeon, delivered on Sunday morning September 6th 1863

Look now at the next point:

3. What Does Chastening Do For The Believer?

FOCAL Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: **nevertheless afterward** it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Let's focus on those two words, **nevertheless afterward**. The fruit that God would produce in the Christian's life *does not naturally come*. It will come through God's loving chastisement and discipline.

Those who are *never* afflicted, who never suffer, who never suffer the heat of Divine Correction will *never* amount to much in the Christian walk. Take gold in it's natural environment, which is *rotted quartz*. Nothing ever looked less like gold than gold that has not been heated. But crush the quartz, fire the rock, and watch the dross and the impurities rise to the top. Once the poor rises to the surface, the craftsman skims off the bad, leaving the beautiful gold behind.

The heat of affliction makes sin and impurities rise to the surface in the Christian's life. The heat of Divine discipline draws us away from complacency, and to God our Father. The Holy Spirit, like a Master craftsman, draws the dross from our lives so we can better serve the Jesus Who saved us. For this reason we are to **rejoice**:

1 Peter 1:6-7 Wherein **ye greatly rejoice**, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: (7) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

The trial of faith always, if we focus on the Savior and not on the suffering, will cause us to bring forth **fruit unto God**. Look at the steps found in this verse:

FOCAL Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: **nevertheless afterward**

it yieldeth the peaceable fruit

of righteousness

unto them which are exercised thereby.

The fruit that God would grow in you will first of all be **peaceable**. This is no *wild fruit*, no *riotous fruit*, no *blackberry bramble*. There are some who claim to be "Christian", and yet wish to produce evil and vile fruit, bitter to themselves and to others. The Christian is **the branch from the Vine that is Christ**:

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Jesus Christ our Savior would have us bring forth **much fruit**, but that fruit is **domesticated by God**. It does not come from the **children of wrath**, but comes from the **Children of God**.

God gets glory out of us not by our being *merely Christians*, but He gets His glory out of us by our being *fruitful Christians*.

We are not just to be *fruitful Christians*, but *peaceable and fruitful Christians*. How dare anyone claim to bear fruit for God if their life does not imitate our Lord Jesus? He is the Vine, we the branches. The Life that is in the Vine runs through the Branches, make no mistake!

Thomas Watson wrote³

"God brings us into the valley of tears, that He may bring us into the valley of humility ... When men are grown high, God hath no better way with them, than to brew them a cup of wormwood. ... God's thorns are to prick the bladder of pride ... "

God's thorns may tear at us, but they produce **much fruit, peaceable fruit, and righteous or godly fruit**. Do

you not remember the Scripture that says:

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

You will find no arrogance, no pridefulness, no short tempered meanness, no sexual immorality, no lying, no coveting, no idolatry, no "me first" ideology in the Christian tried by God. Those who have patiently suffered under the corrective hand of God have a sweet spirit about them. The sun of God's righteous love has vine ripened that believer. There are professing believers who, when you first meet them, you are tempted to put the title "Judge" before their names. They know best, they are God's brightest, they never misstep but condemn soundly every other believer who is not as holy as they are. Let these "judges of Israel" be placed under God's corrective hand, though, and watch the title fall to the ground. While pride rules the roost, God's chastising hand will shadow your every moment. Surrender to Him, repent of your sins, and you will see yourselves to be **favored sons of God**.

4. What Should My Attitude Be During The Chastening of God?

FOCAL Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward **it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto**

³ The Art of Divine Contentment, <http://www.bibleteacher.org/watsondc3.htm>

them which are exercised thereby.

Not every believer receives a blessing from affliction – this is the emphasis of the words **unto them which are exercised thereby**. Too often the believer, rather than **exercising his faith** during the trial, expends way too much energy *running away from the problem* rather than trusting the Lord. The Christian is likened to a tree:

Jeremiah 17:7-8 Blessed [is] the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. (8) For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and [that] spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

God is glorified by the *fruit bearing Christian*. When trouble comes do you spend your time trying to find a way out of the trial, or do you seek to remain faithful to God no matter what may come? If you are like the **tree planted by the waters** it is certain that you neither move toward the trial nor run away from it. You are, instead, to trust in the faithfulness of God. The trial before you is an opportunity to test and exercise your faith.

FOCAL Hebrews 12:11 **unto them which are exercised⁴ thereby.**

4 Perfect Passive Participle of G1128, γυμνάζω, *gumnazō, goom-nad'-zo*, From G1131; to *practise naked* (in the games), that is, *train*

The word **exercise** is a Greek word *gymnasium*. This word referred to the place where young Greek men were trained in the art of combat. The **training master**, an expert at hand to hand combat, would challenge the young people to fight with him. The young men would approach the master, striking at him and being struck, until through repetition they learned all of the master's methods. Once trained, the youth could participate in public games, or enlist in the military.

Only those who *stepped forward, yielding themselves to be exercised* ever achieved any ranking in Greek society. Only the Christian who steps forward, even in the midst of trial, will ever achieve any growth or yield any fruit to the glory of God.

If the Apostle **Paul** had quit after the first whipping, he would have never established as many local churches as he did, nor would he have written as much Scripture. If the Apostle **Peter** had quit after being chastised by Jesus following His resurrection the Gospel would never have been spread throughout the world. If the Deacon **Stephen** turned away or modified the Gospel preached in order to preserve his life, the Apostle **Paul** would have not been converted to our faith. God only gives the honeycomb to those who are willing to suffer the sting of the bee. Our hope lies not in the *seeming*, but in the promises of our Savior.

(figuratively): - exercise.

The best part of the corrective hand of God is that it *proves our sonship*.

Are you a Christian? Then prove your faith by loving the Lord and drawing near to Him even in the midst of trials. The unsaved find it easy to mouth the word “Christian” and apply it to themselves. Let the fire of affliction burn and, through it, God will prove the wheat from the tare. I pray that all of you will hear the words, “Come, ye blessed of the Lord” in that great and final day. Some of you may instead hear, “Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire”. When trials come prove yourselves, weigh your faith, and make sure that Christ is your personal Savior and Lord. May God touch your hearts with these words.



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