

The Biblical Concept of Chastisement

Introduction

- A. The Bible reminds us that when a person becomes a believer God assumes all responsibility for that individual.
- B. This does not mean the believer may relax into a passive way of living. In reality the battle of life is only now beginning. God will work in our lives in every way, without violating the believer's free-will, to lead and enable us so we may become a mature and responsible person in our daily life and service.

I. The Meaning of Chastisement.

- A. Chastisement is related to the achieving of God's purpose, II Samuel 7:14.

I will be his father and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the children of men.

Observation: This verse is the Lord's promise regarding Solomon. God covenanted with David regarding his sons. He said He would give David sons that would rule on his throne for ever. If these men failed to walk in the will of God He would deal with them in chastisement to maintain the promise. This principle applies in the life of the Christian.

- B. Chastisement is designed for the believer's profit, Hebrews 12:9,10.

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? 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.

Observation: Here the goal of chastisement is made clear. God desires our best. He wants us to be holy. As sinners we rarely understand the true values of life. God works with us as a father with his children so we may not miss life itself.

II. The Evidence of Chastisement.

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Hebrews 12:7,8

Observation: The true Christian will recognize chastisement in his life. There must be some evidence of conviction, direction, and progress in spiritual things for a person to have assurance of salvation. Paul spoke of chastisement in his life as a minister that gave evidence of his call to service.

III. The Purpose of Chastisement

- A. Chastisement is related to obedience, Deut. 8: 5,6.

Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee. Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him.

Observation: This section of Deuteronomy is reflecting on the forty years in the wilderness. God sought to teach His people obedience. Note how this is related to the Bible, walking in fellowship with God and fearing Him (the reverence of love).

B. Chastisement is related to being blessed and taught, Psalm 94:12.

Blessed is the man whom Thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of Thy law.

Observation: Chastening makes it possible for God to bless and teach us. It is evident that God cannot bless and help us in our sinful practices.

C. Chastisement is related to preservation, I Corinthians 11:32.

But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Observation: As sinners we have a "natural" tendency to be worldly, i.e. live for ourselves. God works in us to inhibit this manner of thinking and living. This should be a warning to us.

D. Chastisement is related to righteous living, 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.

Observation: Here we are reminded that God's goal in chastening is that we might be righteous people and thereby have peace. This again points out the importance and value of righteousness.

IV. The Exhortations Related to Chastisement.

A. We are not to despise the work of God in chastisement, Hebrews 12:5.

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.

B. We are to respond to chastening with love and repentance, Rev. 3:19.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, be zealous therefore, and repent.

Observation: We must be grateful for this merciful and loving way God works in our lives. What would happen to us without this?

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