

**Series:** Hebrews

**Lesson:** #56

**Title:** THE CHILDREN'S CONSOLATION

**Text:** Hebrews 12: 5-17

**Date:** Sunday, November 16, 2008

**Place:** Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

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

### About Chastening

A. The Lord corrects his children, not in wrath, or anger or vengeance, but in love.

The chastening spoken of here is loving correction. The chastisement of our peace was laid on Christ our Savior. For the true child of God, when Christ bore our stripes we were healed. At Calvary, God the Father poured out judgment in wrath, in anger, avenging his holy justice in our Substitute. Now, toward those in whom he has sent forth his Spirit, toward those whom he has made willing to trust him, who have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father--to his children he will not execute justice a second time. This chastening is faithful, loving correction of a Father to his child, not as a Judge upon the wicked.

Therefore it is important for you and I, as children of our Father, to understand that our Father knows best how to deal with his children. It is not for you and me to take the place of Job's friends and say it is for this sin or that sin.

**Illustration:** Do you allow your own children to discipline one another in your household? We teach them to be supportive and to direct their siblings to their father, but we don't teach them to do it themselves do we?

**B. Listen to the instruction: 5: Despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked. 6: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

It is impossible to despise the Lord's correction without despising the Lord who is doing the instructing.

**Illustration:** When you correct your child do you allow that child to cry out in anger? No, because that anger is directed at you.

If you are a child of God then you know that you are his love, his delight, you know something of his love for you by what he freely did for you--chosen by him in Christ before time existed, bought with the high-price of his blood, sought out and called by the Holy Spirit, provided for with all spiritual blessings, preserved by his hand of grace--knowing

something of his love for us in all this, let us not despise his correction. Everything he has done for us has been for our good, because he loves us.

So whatever the affliction, the trial, however the Lord rebukes me--by his Word, his Spirit, in providence--as Pink says, we would do better to "humble ourselves beneath His mighty hand."

**Hebrews 12: 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.**

### **God dealeth with you as sons.**

Those who are not his sons are under the just condemnation of God. If God will not allow you to join in with those who are illegitimate children, it is because he deals with you as a son. **1 Corinthian 11: 32: But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.**

### **Scriptural Illustration**

**Hebrews 12: 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.**

**Proverbs 22: 6: Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.**

A father's rules teach his children the way he should go. The father's way is the good way but our heavenly Father's Way is the right way, the perfect way, the way that leads to life and joy, instead of evil, sorrow and death. When we strayed out of the way which our earthly father trained us to go, he corrected us and we gave him reverence. When the child of God strays to the left or to the right, our Father turns his children to keep us Christ the Way.

Christ Jesus the Son of God is the Way in which God the Father trains up his children to go. All God's Word has its end in Christ the Way. When God graciously quickens his children the repentance he grants turns his children from every false way to the narrow Way. The faith he gives his child brings us into this Way which few ever find, and which we never would, but for his discovery of the Way unto us. This is a narrow Way, few find this Way. If we turn one step toward ourselves or this world we are out of the Way.

This life is called a race. It is a race the children of God begin running when the Holy Spirit puts us in the race of faith. It is a race we run following the Way he has laid out for us. It is a race we run with our eye fixed on Christ the Way.

We are not to look to Christ sometimes but all the time, and away from all else. When we grow weary and would faint we are exhorted to consider Christ the Way. And now we are reminded that our Father is faithful to keep us running in the Way, looking to the Way, considering the Way and will not allow us to turn out of the Way--**that we might be partakers of his holiness.**

When a child disobeys her father's word, she disobeys her father's law, she attempts to turn out of the Way in which the father is training her to go. But if the father is faithful and loves the child, the father will not allow her to go the way she should not go. So it is with God the Father. **Isaiah 30: 20: And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: 21: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.**

During his prayer in John 17, who did God the Son pray to, to keep his brethren from the evil? He asked his Father. Who do you ask? What we are told here, is through faithful correction, our heavenly Father keeps his children from the evil by his faithful correction in turning us to Christ our Separation from this evil world, to Christ in whom we are consecrated to God?

If we are honest, every time the Lord has turned you in faithful correction, has it not been away from yourself and this sinful world to Christ your Lord?

**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.**

I never once remember enjoying my father's correction while it was it happening. I have never once seen my children taking great joy in correction while it is happening. Nevertheless, afterward, I took great joy in the right way.

**Illustration:** When you know how to get from point A to point B you are at peace--knowing the way brings great peace; knowing Christ the Way brings the greatest Peace there is. It is when you are not sure of the way that you become uneasy. We may not have enjoyed it when our father took us out of the wrong way and set us in the right way, but afterward we found his way to be so peaceful that we would not want to walk in other way. This is the peaceable fruit of righteousness produced by God the Father's loving correction.

Those who have never been "exercised", made to walk in the way they should go, say, "Nonsense!" But every friend I have who did not have a father who was faithful to train them up in the way they should go has expressed in some way or another that they wish they would have had one.

**Illustration:** Probably most of us remember wanting to grow up to be out from under the roof of our earthly fathers, to be on our own.

The child of God starts out, way out in the wilderness out from under that roof, but the Father brings him home, and teaches him, and all our days we long to be brought home to him, under his roof, and out of this wilderness.

We teach our earthly children to grow up and move out. God teaches his to grow up and move in.

**Hebrews 12: 12: Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13: And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.**

**Taken from Isaiah 35: 3: Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. 4: Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.**

#### WHEREFORE

Knowing what a great gift it is to have a faithful, heavenly Father who will always keep us in the Way we should go, why are we discouraged? Why do our hands hang down? Why have our knees grown weak in this race?

#### MAKE STRAITH PATHS

**Proverbs 4: 25: Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. 26: Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. 27: Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.**

Instead of running this way and that way, instead of looking here and there, instead of considering all the mistakes we've made, "Run the race looking to Christ, consider Him, make a straight-line for your Father's house."

Any other path is simply due to us being lame and will lead to more sickness, turning out of THE WAY. If we continue looking to ourselves, to our obedience, to our past, to our sins, continue looking for some sign of assurance in something we have done, we will continue to be lame, turning out of the way. Instead, make a straight path to Him and be healed.

**Proverbs 3: 5: Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

**Illustration:** Some of you have called me and talked to me and asked me to pray for you. I spoke with someone this week that I've never met, who asked me to pray for them. I will and I do. But *you* make a straight path--*you* go to him in prayer--*you* have access in Christ, there is access into his holy throne room. It is good to have brethren to pray for you, but don't take the long way around when you can go straight to him.

**Hebrews 12: 14: Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**

This word "holiness" is not that holiness with which God makes his people--it is separation--be separate from this world of sin and from this world's sinful religion. If you walk through this world, pondering the path of thy feet, you will lead a peaceful life, separated from this sinful world.

**Quote:** Spend 50% of your time minding your own business and the other 50% leaving the other fellows business alone and you want find a quarrel with men and you want be tempted to take part with them in their sinfulness.

We just saw where our Peace is, where our Holiness is. If we follow Christ the Way, if we remind our brethren of him--who Christ is, what he has done, where he is now, to look to Him, to Consider Him, to find consolation in God the Father's chastening hand--then we will lift up the feeble hands, and strengthen the weak knees, not by our own wisdom, not with the sinful methods this world uses, but by the same gospel, the same word, of our gracious Lord through which he made himself our strength and you will follow Peace and Holiness with all.

**WITHOUT WHICH**

Turn with out, follow another, go out of the Way which God the Father has trained you to go, look another direction, consider yourself instead of him, begin pondering the path of the other man's feet, walking in the way of man--and you shall not see the Lord--not now and not hereafter. This word "holiness" is not that holiness with which God makes his people--it is separation--be separate from this world of sin and from this worlds sinful religion.

**Hebrews 12: 15: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;**

Looking diligently--here we go again! Looking where? **V2: To Christ.** Looking how? Diligently, constantly, continually. Why? In Christ is the grace of God. Go out of the Way, look another way, consider another One, you will find no strength, you will grow feeble, weary, faint, lame. But look diligently--believe--faint not--and you will not fail for God says, "my grace is sufficient for thee."

**There is a difference between the root of bitterness and the fruit of righteousness.**

If it is to the will and wisdom of our flesh, or of other men, that we look then the root of our old nature is sure to spring up bearing only the bitter grapes of trouble. For those who are God's husbandry 'looking diligently' means a continual looking to Christ the Vine from whom we are filled with the fruits of righteousness.

**Here is an illustration:**

**Hebrews 12: 16: Lest there *be* any fornicator, or profane person,--now you know what fornication is, you know what profanity--but listen to this definition of fornication and profanity--as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17: For ye know how**

**that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.**

All Esau was looking to was himself. His god was his belly, his momentary craving right now. He dishonored his father. He showed he cared nothing about taking or honoring his father's name, his father's household, his father's children and his brethren, he sold his right to all future inheritance for one bowl of stew which he ate in one sitting. Dishonoring God, caring nothing for the name of God the Father, or his Son, or his children, selling your right to all future inheritance to gratify the momentary cravings of your heart is the very definition of, not the act of fornication, but of one who is nothing but a fornicator, profane person, before God. The root of Esau's heart was bitterness. What did it yield afterward?

Afterward, when it came time for his father to give the inheritance and Esau beheld he did not get it, he came to his father crying tears out of the same lustful fountain of his evil heart simply because once again he coveted what his brother had. The fruit that his bitter root produced was rejection by his father.

That is the fruit you can expect from this old bitter root called the flesh. What a contrast from the peaceable fruit of walking by faith in the Way our Father has trained us to go!

**Illustration:** A rebellious child wants to be out from under the roof of their father. The child of God makes a straight path for his house longing to be under his roof, his care, in his presence forever.

**Application:**

What God has done for us, let us do for one another. When the Hebrew writer came to these weak and lame brethren who were almost ready to faint, how did he lift up their hands that hung down, how did he give strength to their wobbling knees? From Hebrews chapter 1 all the way up till now, he has declared the glorious person of God the Son, Christ Jesus our Prophet, Priest and King. He has set before them the finished, work of victory which he accomplished. He has declared to them how he has not failed one who was entrusted to him but has left us a dense, full, cloud of witnesses who testify of the faithfulness of our Lord. He has urged them to look to Christ, to consider Christ, to rejoice in the faithfulness of our God. How do you think he is urging you to, "Lift up the hands of your brethren which hang down?" The same way. If the lame will be healed it will be by the great Physician. If the weak will be strengthened it will be by the grace of our God. If the child will walk in the way it will be the faithful correction of God the Father. Point sinners to the Path and encourage them to make a straight dash to Him.