

“The Chastening Of The Lord!”
Hebrews 12:4-11

Introduction:

1. Last Week Looked At The Susceptibility Of & Solution To:
 - Being “Wearied And Faint In Your Minds!”
 - And, As Our Verse For This Week Reminds Us:
 - “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not!” (Galatians 6:9)
 - This Is An Important Lesson To Learn!
 - Especially As We Undergo The Situation In Our Lives That Is Addressed In Our Next Passage!
2. Read Hebrews 12:4-11!
 - The Situation That The Lord Addresses Here Is:
 - “The Chastening Of The Lord!” (12:5)
 - And You Should Not Be “Wearied And Faint” In Them!
 - Because Of What We Saw Last Week! But Instead, Continue To Exercise Your Faith Through Them!
3. 12:4 Is A Transition Verse:
 - Explaining That You Really Have No Reason To Be “Wearied & Faint In Your Mind!”
 - Introduces A Reason Why Sometimes You Are “Wearied & Faint In Your Mind!”
 - It Is Because You Have Forgotten Some Very Important Things!
 - About The Lord!
 - About Your Circumstances / Situations!
4. Have You Ever Wondered Why Things Happen The Way They Do To You?
 - Why Was I Made Like This? Why Was I Not Made Like This?
 - Why Do I Have This Sickness / Disease / Handicap?
 - Why Am I Going Through These Trials & Difficulties?
 - Why Are People So Difficult / Hard To Get Along With?
 - Go On And On!
 - We All Wonder About These Things! Have / Do / Will!
5. The Lord Wants You To Understand Why Things Happen The Way They Do To You – Answer: You Are Being Chastened!
 - And The Lord Wants You To Not Grow Weary & Faint Through These Situations / This Chastening!
 - So When You Find Yourself In The Middle Of Difficult & Trying Situations, Here Are Some Things You Must Not Forget!

1. *Don’t Forget Your Father’s Comfort In Chastening!*

- 12:5a - “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children!”
 - “Speaketh” - Present Tense Of An Old Testament Quotation From Proverbs 3:11!
 - God’s Word Is Not Just For Them!
 - God’s Word Is For You!
 - Especially During Chastening – Times Of Difficulty, Trial & Suffering!
 - God’s Word Is There For You!
 - To Comfort When You Are Hurting!
 - To Challenge When You Are Content!
 - To Mend When You Are Broken!
- * Do Not Forget Your Father’s Comfort In Chastening!
 - Do You Really Avail Yourself To His Means Of Comfort?
 - **IE:** Instead Of Self-Help Books – God’s-Help Book!

2. *Don’t Forget Your Father’s Work Of Chastening!*

- 12:5b - “My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him!”
 - The Children Of God Will Undergo “The Chastening Of The Lord!”
 - What Is His “Chastening” Work?
 - “Chasten” - Also Translated “Nurturing” & “Instruction”

- Not Just What We Think Of Correction Or Punishment For Wrong Doing!
- But Child-Rearing / “Son Training” (Pink)
- When You Experience Times Of Difficulty, Trial & Suffering – It Is The “Chastening Of The Lord!”
 - You Are Being Trained By God, As A Father Trains / Rears His Son!
- Sometimes His Chastening Is For Correction! (“Rebuke”)
 - 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 - “For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body; For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep!”
- Sometimes His Chastening Is For Prevention!
 - 2 Corinthians 12:7 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure!”
- Sometimes His Chastening Is For Refinement!
 - James 1:2-3 - “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience!”
- How Do You Know What God Is Doing Through His Chastening?
 - Don’t Assume! Search! Find Out God’s Reason!
 - Response:
 - Job 10:1-2 - “My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; ***shew me wherefore thou contendest with me!***”
 - 1 Corinthians 11:28, 31-32 - “But let a man examine himself / For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world!”
 - Remember: “God’s Correction Is No Condemnation!” (Matthew Henry)
 - 2 Corinthians 12:8-9a - “For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness!”
 - Don’t Despise It! Don’t Despair In It!
- During Times Of Difficulty, Trial & Suffering:
 - Don’t Forget Your Father’s Work Of Chastening!
 - It’s Not Just The Work Of Nature / People / Devil!
 - It Is The Providential Work Of God!
 - Remember 12:1 - “The Race That Is Set Before Us!”
 - And Be Ready To Listen, Learn & Grow!

3. ***Don’t Forget Your Father’s Meaning Of Chastening!***

- 12:6-8 - “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. / 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 (illegitimate), and not sons!”
- When God Chastens, It Means He Loves You!
 - He Knows What Is Best! Isn’t This What Love Is?
 - He Knows Our Tendency!
 - Sometimes, It Takes A Rod Of Correction!
 - Proverbs 22:15 - “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him!”
 - What Is Your Focus On Through Chastening?
- When God Chastens, It Means He Is Your Father!
 - He Has A Vested Interest In You!
 - He Created / Redeemed / Sanctifying You!
- When God Chastens, It Means You Are His Child!
 - Without It, You Have No Guarantee!
 - God Will Chasten ***All*** His Children!

- “Every Son” (12:6)
- “Whereof All Are Partakers” (12:8)
- During Times Of Chastening:
 - Don’t Forget Your Father’s Meaning For It!
 - Thinking Of These Things Will Help You To “Endure” (12:7)

4. ***Don’t Forget Your Father’s Purpose For Chastening!***

- The Lord Has A Purpose For His Chastening!
 - Jeremiah 29:11 - “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end!”
 - It Is For Your Best! Your Growth!
 - What Is His “Expected End”?
- “Life!”
 - 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?”
 - One The One Hand:
 - We Would Often Respond Properly To Our Dad’s Instruction & Correction!
 - On The Other Hand:
 - Shouldn’t We Respond Properly To Our Heavenly Father’s Instruction & Correction!
 - And Submit To What He Is Trying To Teach Us!
 - The Purpose He Has In Mind Is:
 - Life! Real Life – Meant To Be! Abundant /Eternal!
- “Holiness!” (Nature)
 - 12:10 - “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!”
 - On The One Hand:
 - Our Dad’s Instruction & Correction Was Sometimes Ruled By Their Own Passion!
 - On The Other Hand:
 - Our Heavenly Father’s Instruction & Correction Is Always Done “For Our Profit!”
 - The Purpose He Has In Mind Is:
 - “That We Might Be Partakers Of His Holiness!”
 - He Calls Us To “Be Holy For I Am Holy” & Brings Us Into His Holiness!
- “Righteousness!” (Actions)
 - 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!”
 - On The One Hand:
 - God’s Instruction & Correction – His Chastening – “Seems” Hard & Painful!
 - On The Other Hand:
 - God’s Instruction & Correction Actually Yields / Produces Peace!
 - The Purpose He Has In Mind Is:
 - “Righteousness!”
 - As We Do Right, We Have Peace In Our Hearts!

Conclusion:

1. Are You Undergoing “The Chastening Of The Lord?”
 - If Not, Why Not?
 - Do You Understand What It Is?
 - Do You Understand What It Means?
 - Desire It!
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9b-10 - “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong!”
 - If So, How Are You Responding?
 - Are You Despising It? Grumbling / Griping!

- Are You Despairing In It? Resigning To It!
- Remember The Purposes!
- Should Bring You To God & His Word!
- Search Out His Purpose! Respond When Revealed!

Grace Baptist Church of Mohawk
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace