

Looking at Chastening

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Deuteronomy 8:5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

Deuteronomy 8:6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

The chastening of the Lord is not talked about much in the bible nor by men. Some form of the word is found only 26 times in the entire bible. I suspect that God didn't think it necessary to talk a lot about it and men for sure find it too uncomfortable to talk about. On the other hand, I think that the Lord's chastening is something that we need to be schooled about in order to understand it better and to be able to profit fully from it.

Let me say at the start that every child of God will be chastened of the Lord. It is part of our inheritance. We will look at aspects of that in a minute. But we want to be clear on the idea that if we are saved we will be chastened. The reason it has to be that way is because we will sin and the Lord will be faithful to deal with us about it. We would be arrogant to imagine that we did not deserve chastening. In fact, we would be arrogant to wonder why God was chastening us when He does. It is a gracious act of God to take the time to deal with us in this way. And we want to look at some aspects of it now.

To examine these gracious acts of God we will look at Hebrews 12:3-11:

I. **Heb. 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:

■ Guidance For Attitude

- ▶ First, we don't want to make the mistake of disregarding it.
 - This would be like getting a snake bite from a 6-foot cottonmouth and saying "Aww it's just a little snake bite...nothing to worry about...I'm going to ignore it."
- ▶ Second, we don't want to fall apart over it

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

■ Proof of Being Accepted or Received of the Lord

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

■ Signature of Fatherhood and Sonship (the Relationship)

- ▶ God's message to David about Solomon is a great declaration of this reality: 2Sa 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...."

▶ There is another side to this coin we need to think about: what about the “if ye be without chastisement....?” How is it that such a condition would occur? We know that every person alive goes through some negative experiences and some down times. So, are such times chastening from God? If so, we would have to say that everybody is chastened of God, therefore all are sons. But we know that is not true. So how is it determined that it is or is not chastening? It is determined when you or I are given the understanding from God that it is chastening. So, the opposite is: if a person never acknowledges that he or she is chastened of the Lord, THEN they are bastards and not sons.

IV. **Heb. 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?

■ **A Call to Submission**

V. **Heb. 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.

■ **An Act of Omniscient Good Will**

VI. **Heb. 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 Feeling Versus the Outcome**

▶ Anybody who has ever eaten black walnuts knows that they are good. But how to get at the kernels inside those nuts? Put them in a pile in your driveway and drive a car over them. This beats off the hard and protective outer shell, then you can break open the nut and get at the nutmeat.

▶ **Job 5:17-18** “Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: 18 For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.”

■ **The process isn’t just about wounding, but there is a healing process also**

▶ In the medical profession, there are times when people are treated for a broken bone that has actually healed crooked. What do doctors do about this? They re-break the bone, so that it can be properly set and heal properly. The doctor wounds, then heals.

VII. Last, notice from our text what God wants the outcome regarding our experience of being chastened to be: **Deut. 8:6** “Therefore thou shalt **keep the commandments of the LORD** thy God, **to walk in his ways**, and to **fear him.**”

■ Obey the Lord

■ Walk like Christ

■ Have the proper reverence for Him