

I. Introduction and review.

II. Remember God's Word which teaches you about discipline. v. 4-5

- A. You haven't yet fought sin to the utmost. v. 4
 - 1. Your suffering has not yet been so great in comparison to what Jesus faced.
 - 2. Striving against sin produces suffering.

- B. You have forgotten about what the Bible teaches about your need for the Lord's discipline. v. 5a Pr. 3:11-12
 - 1. *Discipline* is education by correction.
 - 2. If you had remembered, you would not be losing heart.
 - 3. The Old Testament is written to us. II Tim. 3:16-17 Prov. 3:11-12
 - 4. The contemporary evangelical church has forgotten about discipline.

- C. Don't respond poorly to discipline by: v. 5b
 - 1. Despising it.
 - 2. Becoming overwhelmed and despairing.

- D. Instead be trained by your trials and be thankful. Pr. 19:25

III. Remember God's fatherly care in disciplining you. v. 6-8

- A. Discipline proves that God loves you as a son. v. 6-7 Rev. 3:19 Deut. 8:5 I Co. 11:32
 - 1. Discipline is a privilege of sonship. Amos 3:2
 - 2. Your trials and troubles are particularly designed by God for your good.
 - 3. He does not chastise you lightly. Lam. 3:31-33
 - 4. Discipline is inevitable for the child of God. I Pe. 4:12-13
 - 5. Discipline is continuous. Acts 14:22
 - 6. Discipline is painful. Mt. 10:17 23:34
 - 7. Accept your Father's discipline so that you might enjoy its benefits. v. 7a

- B. If you are left without discipline, you are not a son of God. v. 8
 - 1. An undisciplined child is an unloved child. Pr. 13:24
 - 2. The wicked may seem to prosper in the short run. Ps. 73:1ff 37:1ff
 - 3. God leaves them in their sin and allows them to harden their hearts. Ro. 1:26ff
 - 4. Discipline establishes our status as beloved sons.
 - 5. Are you a son of God?

- C. What is the nature of divine discipline?
 - 1. Discipline is not retributive punishment because Christ has already borne the punishment we deserve. 10:10,14 Rom. 8:1 Isa. 53:4-6
 - 2. Corrective discipline may come as the direct result of sin. Ps. 32:1ff 89:30-34 II Sam. 7:14 I Cor. 11:32 Acts 5:1-6 Js. 5:15-17,19-20 I Jo. 5:16 Num. 32:23
 - 3. God may bring hardship, not as the consequence of sin, but simply to build character. 5:7-9 2:10 I Pe. 4:14-16 Js. 1:2ff II Co. 12:7-10 Job. 42:3-6
 - 4. No hardship comes by chance. Rom. 8:28

IV. Remember God's beneficial purpose in disciplining you. v. 9-11

- A. If you respected your earthly father's discipline, how much more should you submit to your heavenly Father's discipline. v. 9-10**
 - 1. Your earthly father is merely the father of your flesh. God is your spiritual Father. Num. 16:22 27:16**
 - 2. Your earthly father only disciplined you for a short time. God's discipline is ongoing.**
 - 3. Your earthly father's discipline was fallible. God's discipline is perfect and wise.**

- B. Consider the outcome of God's discipline. v. 10b-11 10b-11 Ps. 119:67,71 Mt. 5:10ff**
 - 1. Discipline is hard and painful when it takes place. v. 11a**
 - 2. Those who are trained by discipline are greatly blessed.**
 - 3. We share in His holiness. v. 10b I Pe. 1:16 II Pe. 1:4 Ro. 8:29**
 - 4. We enjoy the peaceful fruit of righteousness. v. 11b Isa. 32:16-18 Js. 3:17-18**
 - 5. Consider the outcome of Jesus' suffering. v. 2**

- C. Willingly embrace God's discipline. v. 9b**
 - 1. Mere affliction does not make you better. You must respond in faith. 12:5**
 - 2. Instead of recoiling from discipline, receive it as valuable and beneficial.**
 - 3. Trust God that the benefits of suffering surpass the cost. II Co. 4:17 Ro. 8:18**
 - 4. Acknowledge His sovereignty and goodness. Rom. 8:28**
 - 5. Seek to share His holiness. 12:14b**

- D. There is an implicit lesson here for parents and children.**
 - 1. Sadly, many parents today are failing to discipline their children.**
 - 2. Fathers, if you love your children you will discipline them. Eph. 6:4 Pr. 13:24 29:15 23:13-14**
 - 3. Children, embrace the discipline of your parents. Eph. 6:1-3**
 - 4. This also assumes a loving parent-child relationship. Ps. 103:13-14**

V. Concluding application: Endure to the end. v. 12-13

- A. Our author resumes the athletic imagery.**

- B. Two texts are cited to encourage us not to give up. Isa. 35:3-8 Prov. 4:26-27**
 - 1. Stay on the path God has set out before you. v. 13 Pr. 4:26-27**
 - 2. Don't give up. v. 12 Isa. 35:3-8 Heb. 11:3b,5, 10:38-39**
 - 3. Help others who are weak and struggling.**

Discussion questions.

- 1. How does the author of Hebrews use the Old Testament in today's passage?
To which texts does he allude or cite?**
- 2. What are two improper responses to God's discipline?**
- 3. Why should you be encouraged by the fact that God disciplines you?**
- 4. What would it mean if God did not discipline you?**
- 5. How is God's discipline superior to that of our earthly fathers?**
- 6. What is the purpose of God's discipline?**
- 7. What should be our response to God's discipline?**
- 8. What are our corporate responsibilities to those who are growing weary and weak in the midst of suffering?**
- 9. How does this text point to Christ?**
- 10. Is all disciplinary suffering the direct and proportionate consequence of personal sin?**