

### III. The Permissive Will of God – *Cont'd*

#### E. Chastening

- a. Heb. 12:1 - "*And let us run the race that is set before us...*"
  - i. God has a course He has laid out for each believer to run
  - ii. The course pertains to God's desirous will for the believer
    1. There are impediments to running the race
      - a. Weights
      - b. Sin
    2. One can choose to stray from the course ("Let us...")
- b. Heb. 12:3 - "*For consider him that endured...*" – experiencing fatigue because of the sin
- c. Heb. 12:5
  - i. Chastening – *paideia* – "the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment)" – Thayer
    1. God desires to teach the believer by "*the word of His grace*" to overcome spiritual enemies and how live a life that honors Him – Acts 20:32; Titus 2:11-13
    2. The believer is encouraged to be continuously assessing their behavior – 1 Cor. 11:31
      - a. Is my life consistent with God's desires?
      - b. How am I relating to other believers?
    3. When the believer resists His desirous will, God provides corrective instruction – 1 Cor. 11:32
      - a. These believers persisted in carnality and chastening was therefore necessary – Heb. 5:12
  - ii. "*And ye have forgotten the exhortation...*"
    1. "to be utterly oblivious of" – Strong's
    2. Perfect Passive Indicative – they had been made to forget and continue to forget the exhortation
  - iii. Two problematic responses to God's chastening:
    1. "Despise not" – "to have little regard for" – Strong's
    2. "Nor faint" – "to weaken, relax, exhaust; to despond, become faint hearted" – Outline of Biblical Usage
- d. Heb. 12:6
  - i. "*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...*"
    1. Chastening is an aspect of God's love
      - a. His desirous will for us is "the best plan"
      - b. When the believer chooses to pursue desires contrary to God's desirous will they are experiencing a vastly inferior reality – no Eternal value

- ii. *"...and scourgeth every son..."*
  - 1. Chastening is normal and expected for fallen beings who have been given a free will
  - 2. There are no sinless Christians – 1 John 1:8
- e. Heb. 12:7
  - i. *"If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons..."*
    - 1. Endure – "to endure, bear bravely and calmly" – OBU
      - a. Opposite of despising and fainting
      - b. The believer recognizes that the chastening is coming from God and does not resist
        - 1. Confession – "Own it!" – 1 John 1:9
        - 2. Restored fellowship – renewed enjoyment of one's sonship
- f. Heb. 12:8
  - i. *"But if ye be without chastisement..."*
    - 1. If a professed "believer" does not experience God's chastening it is an indication that they are not a part of His family
    - 2. They do not share in the benefits of a son of God
- g. Heb. 12:9
  - i. Since the believer gave honor to their biological father, shouldn't they give much greater honor to their heavenly Father?
- h. Heb. 12:10
  - i. *"...they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure..."*
    - 1. Pleasure – *dokeo* – "to be of opinion, think, suppose; to seem good to..."
      - a. Passage states that their biological fathers chastened them according to what they thought best
      - b. Do parents ever make mistakes?
  - ii. *"...but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness..."*
    - 1. God's chastening provides us with an eternal benefit
    - 2. God's chastening is not designed to merely change behavior
    - 3. God's chastening has the potential to enable the believer to share in God's set apartness
- i. Heb. 12:11
  - i. *"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous..."*
    - 1. God's correction is not a pleasant experience
      - a. Heb. 12:6 – Scourgeth – from "a whip, scourge; a calamity, misfortune, esp. sent by God to discipline or punish" – OBU
      - b. 1 Cor. 11:30 – weakness, sickness, death

2. God's chastening is lovingly designed to remind the believer that His will is best
- ii. *"...afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."*
  1. Exercised – gymnazo – "to exercise vigorously, in any way, either to the body or the mind" - Thayer
  2. When the believer owns their sin and accepts chastening, God produces a righteousness that results in peace
- j. Heb. 12:12-13 – Believers are exhorted to not be discouraged or give up but rather allow chastening to have its desired end