

DIVINE DISCIPLINE

Hebrews 12:5-13

Discipline is an essential part of discipleship!

(2 Timothy 3:1-5) But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

(Proverbs 13:24) He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

(12:5, 6)

Three aspects of divine discipline:

(1) Chastening - paideia: refers to the whole training and education of children; instruction to increase virtue, (righteousness and morality).

(2) Rebuke – alegcho: to convict, correct by word.

(3) Scourges – mastigoo: literally, to whip.

(Proverbs 12:1) Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.

(Proverbs 6:23) For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

“The biggest room in the world, is the room for improvement!”

(12:7-8)

Two reasons to be encouraged.

(1) God’s discipline is always for our good.

(2) We become partakers of God's Holiness. (12:10b)

Holiness – hagiotes – state of consecration, sanctify (in a moral sense).

God wants us to be “partakers” not “spectators.”

Partaker - metalambano: to partake of; to take (some) food. To feast on “His goodness!”

(John 4:32-34) But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

(Isaiah 1:2-3) Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: "I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me; The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider."

(Psalm 30:5) For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

(12:11)

Trained – gymnazo: to exercise naked in a palaestra / school of wrestling athletes.

(Psalm 85:2) You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin.

(v. 12-13)

Don't give up! “press on,” in your “upward call,” in Christ Jesus!

His discipline “builds us up,” it never “tears us down!”

CONCLUSION:

(Psalm 65:11) You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance.