

June 30, 2024 - Order of Worship

TIME OF REFLECTION

“Hard times create strong men, strong men create good times, good times create weak men, and weak men create hard times.”

~ G. Michael Hopf, *Those Who Remain*

“How, then, *are* people to behave at home? If a man can’t be comfortable and unguarded, can’t take his ease and ‘be himself’ in his own house, where can he? That is, I confess, the trouble. The answer is an alarming one. There is *nowhere* this side of heaven where one can safely lay the reins on the horse’s neck. It will never be lawful simply to ‘be ourselves’ until ‘ourselves’ have become sons of God... home life has its own rule of courtesy—a code more intimate, more subtle, more sensitive, and, therefore, in some ways more difficult, than that of the outer world... The alternative to rule is not freedom but the unconstitutional (and often unconscious) tyranny of the most selfish member.

In a word, must we not either cease to preach domesticity or else begin to preach it seriously? Must we not abandon sentimental eulogies and begin to give practical advice on the high, hard, lovely, and adventurous art of really creating the Christian family?”

~ C.S. Lewis, “The Sermon and the Lunch”

SERMON – “The Spirit of Discipline” – *Pastor Ryan Bouton*

SERMON PASSAGE – *selected passages (ESV)*

Hebrews 12

⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly
the discipline of the Lord,

nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Proverbs 1

⁸ Hear, my son, your father’s instruction,
and forsake not your mother’s teaching,

⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head
and pendants for your neck.

Proverbs 19

¹⁸ Discipline your son, for there is hope;
do not set your heart on putting him to death.

Proverbs 22

¹⁵ Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,
but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Proverbs 29

¹⁵ The rod and reproof give wisdom,
but a child left to himself brings shame
to his mother.

¹⁷ Discipline your son, and he will give you rest;
he will give delight to your heart.

Ephesians 6

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.