

Why God Disciplines Us



Text: Hebrews 12:4-13

I. Introduction

- We cannot go through the school of hard knocks via correspondence school; we **must** take the class in person
- Our text from Hebrews is about God's discipline

II. Discipline Is An Important Part Of A Successful Life

- Personal discipline is a key to success in life
- Everything but the children can be controlled by a switch; but even they too can be controlled by the switch
- There are many who rebel against discipline
- We all know we ought to be more disciplined in our personal lives but our heart may not be in it
- There is a tendency to be more lenient with our own children than our parents were with us; also true for grandparents and grandchildren
- What the Bible says about "Spare the rod and spoil the child"
- **Proverbs 13:24**
- Discipline does not equal punishment
- Discipline is administered for our own good to help us grow and mature into responsible adults
- **Proverbs 3:11-12**
- **Hebrews 12:7-11**

III. Discipline Means Enduring Hardships

- However we need to see to it that we don't endure hardships and that others don't endure hardships that He intends for us to endure! God has not picked us out to punish us!
- Jesus ended that controversy for all time on the cross
- For the Christian, the saying "either way I win" holds true
- We bring some of our problems upon ourselves through undisciplined living, but there are many others that simply happen

IV. With God's Help We Can Learn And Grow From Our Hardships

- All of us learn best through hardship

- We need to learn to glorify God in all circumstances
- Larry Julians' "Seven Hidden Blessings that come through pain"
 1. Pain motivates us to seek God; with the possible outcome of growing closer to God
 2. Pain clarifies our motives, driving us to take inventory of what is truly important to us and why; with the possible outcome of gaining greater clarity of purpose
 3. Pain refines us like fire refines gold; with the possible outcome of getting our egos out of the way so we're prepared to serve a greater good to all of humanity
 4. Pain defines us; with the possible outcome of developing character that reflects the Lord Jesus Christ
 5. Pain teaches us what we need to learn; with the possible outcome of increasing our wisdom and understanding
 6. Pain makes our lives richer as we experience the possible outcome of living fuller lives in appreciation of God's gifts
 7. Pain helps us to gain valuable experience; with the possible outcome of developing compassion; and understanding; and sympathy; and empathy for others who experience pain or loss

V. Conclusion

- God doesn't cause our pain, but He can use it to His glory
- God will always help you to be all that He has called you to be
- When we reap a harvest of righteousness and peace, we will realize that our hardships have not been in vain