

Without Discipline

No. 298

Introduction.

I. Today I have chosen to speak on a very unpleasant subject.

A. It is a subject that most people despise and hate.

B. It is the subject of discipline

II. I have chosen to speak on this subject because without discipline we will never be the kind of people God wants us to be. Without discipline we will not enter heaven.

III. There are three kinds of discipline we must have to reach heaven.

I. **Self-Discipline** - The first kind of discipline we must have is self-discipline.

A. The Hebrew writer penned these words. (Heb. 12:1-3).

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

B. The Hebrew writer compares the Christian life to a race.

1. To be a successful runner required great self-discipline.

2. **Runners had to “lay aside every encumbrance.”** They had to watch their diet and shed every unnecessary pound. They had to train to exhaustion day after day if they had any hope of finishing the grueling marathon race. Nothing short of absolute self-discipline would bring victory.

C. **Running the race of Christianity requires self-discipline.** (Acts 24:24; 1 Pet. 1:6; Gal. 5:22, 23; 1 Cor. 9:24-27).

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have

preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

1. Brethren, the Christian life is not a sprint or a jog in the park, but it is a marathon lasting the whole of life.
2. It requires absolute devotion and dedication to the Christian life.
3. It requires our eyes be fixed on Jesus “the author and perfecter of faith.” (Heb. 12:2).

II. Discipline Of Parents - The second kind of discipline we must have is the discipline of parents.

A. The Bible is full of admonitions for parents to discipline their children.

1. The book of Proverbs is filled with admonition to parents. (Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 29:15).
2. Paul wrote these words in Ephesians 6:1-4.

B. The point of these admonitions is clear.

1. God knows children left to themselves will shame Him and their parents and society.
2. He knows that children brought up with love and discipline will serve and glorify Him. (Prov. 22:6).

C. Thank God for parents who out of love discipline their children.

III. God’s Discipline - The third kind of discipline we must have is God’s discipline.

A. The Hebrew writer wrote,

4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; 6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives. " 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

B. The Hebrew writer makes it plain that a loving father will always discipline his children

1. The words of the Hebrew writer remind me of a **woman who one day was sitting on a park bench** when she noticed two boys engaged in a terrible fight. They were both equally bad, shouting and

hitting each other. Suddenly from somewhere nearby a man appeared and he grabbed one of the boys and began to spank him while he ignored the other boy. The observing bystander got up and approached the man indignantly and asked, "Why are you punishing the one boy while ignoring the other one?" The man replied, "This one is my son, the other is not!"

2. The father disciplined the boy who belonged to him. The other boy was not his concern.

3 The father disciplined his son because he loved him, not because he hated his son.

C It is obvious therefore that the loving heavenly Father will for certain always discipline His children.

D. There are several points I would like to make about God's discipline.

<p>1. It is motivated by His love.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an immense love for us. • He gave His Son to die for us. (Jn. 3:16). • He gives us blessings. (Matt. 5:45). • He also disciplines us. (Heb. 12:6). 	<p>5. God's discipline teaches us valuable lessons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependence on God • Appreciation of blessings • What is really important • Material things not as important as spiritual
<p>2. It is not pleasant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline is not a pleasant thing. • I have never known anyone who enjoyed it. • I can remember the discipline of my mother and father. Ex. of mother • It was out of love not to make me cry. It was not always perfect. (Ex. of sister) • God's discipline is always perfect though not pleasant at the moment. • Child who accidentally took sleeping pills. 	<p>6. God's discipline may come in a variety of ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sickness • Financial • Lost of a job • Persecutions
<p>3. It is to build our character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humility • Strength or endurance • Obedience • Love • Holiness 	<p>7. It makes us ready for heaven.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is redemptive in nature. • It is never for the sake of seeing us suffer.
<p>4. Without discipline we are not sons. (Heb. 12:8).</p>	

A young child accidentally took sleeping pills from the family's medicine cabinet one day. The doctor instructed the parents to keep the child awake by any means necessary for the next 4 hours, including the pain of slapping is necessary. That pain was necessary for the child's survival. They had to slap her over and over again to keep her alive. It was not pleasant, but it kept her alive. (Heb. 12:11).

Conclusion.

I. A medical missionary was once ministering in a part of Africa that had many swift rivers. They were tough to cross without slipping or being pushed over by the strong current. He noticed that the natives who lived there

had solved the problem of getting across. They would simple find a heavy rock and carry it over with them. The added weight gave them sure footing against the swift current of destruction. They learned to walk over in confidence. The heavy weight was their helper.

- A. **How true this is today too.** God may ask us to carry a heavy weight at times, but the heaviness will help us from being swept away by the ruthless and crazy currents of sin in this world.
- B It is certain that without discipline we will not grow into spiritual maturity. It certain that without discipline we are not God’s sons. It is certain that without disciple we will never enter heaven.
- C. When discipline comes we may not feel like shouting “hallelujah,” but in heaven we will praise God every day because He loved us enough to discipline us and prepare us to live for an eternity with Him.

II. **Yes, discipline matures and prepares us for heaven.**

- A. We pray all of us will in faith accept the loving discipline of God.
- B. We pray all that have not obeyed God will become His children through faith and baptism.
- C. God will save you, love and discipline you, and make a home in heaven for you.
- D. Come as we stand and sing.

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