

## SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Hebrews 12:5-11, (NKJ) “My son, do not despise the chastening (training or discipline) of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him. For whom the Lord loves, He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.

“If you endure chastening, God deals with you as sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, **that we may be partakers of His holiness.**

“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of **righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.”

Prov. 3:11-12, “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction. For whom the Lord loves, He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.”

II Tim. 3:16-17, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof (scolding), for correction, for

instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete (mature) and thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Please notice that in the Hebrews verse and in the Timothy verse, the result of God’s discipline was to perfect, mature, complete us, and to make us like Him in holiness, and to have some fruit of righteousness, or results of our right standing with God!

## THE WORD OF GOD IS HIS PREFERRED TOOL

Also, in the Timothy verses, the Word of God is the means to accomplish this. Here are some more verses that say the same thing so you’ll know that it is a strong teaching in the Scripture Col.1:28, Heb.5: 12-14, I Tim. 5: 7, 6:2, II Tim. 2:2, 3:15-17, 4:2, I Thes. 2: 11-12, II Thes. 3:11-15, and Acts 20: 31-32.

One of the ways we hear the Word is from our Pastor or whoever is preaching at our church meetings. The leaders that God has set over us, the sheep, are supposed to lead and help us in our process of growing up and becoming all God wants us to be. In Titus 1:9, a leader is supposed to be able “by sound doctrine (teaching) both to exhort and convict those who contradict...” And Titus 1:13, about some unruly church members, “... rebuke them sharply that they may be sound in the faith.” Titus 2:15, “Speak these things,

exhort, and rebuke with all authority.” (Exhort means to urge strongly.)

In Matt. 28:19-20, in the great commission, Jesus says to teach believers to **do** what He commanded! There is much in the letters (Romans through Jude) that is written as correction and guidance, telling the believers to **do** the right things. This is necessary teaching, and the church today should be teaching those things also! Additional brochures: *What about Judging*, and *You do not need anyone to teach you.*

## SEVERE MEASURES

There are two Scriptures that speak of rather severe measures taken by church leaders. I Cor. 5 tells of a case where a Christian man was guilty of sleeping with his father’s (probably second) wife, and no one was feeling ashamed about it! Paul (the writer of the letter) tells this church what to do. Verse 5, “Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

Here’s an illustration: I heard this true story from another speaker. There was a man who had a wife and five children, and they were all saved, and the husband had a good job. But he would get upset with the preacher and wouldn’t come. He’d talk about him and stir up strife and keep the kids home. The wife was praying for him and she had the entire church praying

for him. For two years they tried to help but he got worse. Finally one day, the Pastor drove up to where this man worked, and hollered at him that he wanted to talk. The man hollered back that he didn't want to talk. The Pastor said, "Well, I just thought you'd like to know that tonight at church we are going to turn you over to the devil."

"Oh my! What does that mean? I don't want that! Oh, please, don't do that!" Well, he never missed a meeting after that. He tithed, and never criticized anymore. This is church authority. A similar scripture is I Tim. 1: 18-20.

### **ARE THERE OTHER WAYS?**

I don't have any scriptural proofs for these, but here are some testimonies of God's dealing with me and my family, and I'm sure after reading them, you will agree that these are from God.

In the two brochures, *Hardships, do they improve us?* I have told two testimonies which I will only summarize here.

One is about my husband T.A. getting all wet at a car wash because he was resisting God about having prayer-times on the weekends, not just weekdays.

The other is about a blurry spot that hindered my vision for only one

afternoon because I wasn't trusting God to lead T.A. in the handling of our money.

One morning at home, I was eager to get started with a craft project, but right away I realized I'd misplaced one of my tools. I searched and searched for it. I prayed like I always do, "Lord, You know where this tool is, and because You love me, You will tell me where it is. Because I'm Your sheep, I know I can hear Your voice, so thank You for telling me where it is." As I listened for His answer, He said (in my thoughts), "You haven't had your time with Me yet this morning." So I did that, and then I found my tool. He told me that anytime I put a project before I have time with Him in His Word, I have made an idol of the project.

### **BUT I WORK!**

If you are going to a job without spending time with God first, you are failing to recognize that God is your Source; not that job, (Deut. 8:17-19) and you are idolizing your job. Put them in their right priority and God will give you success on that job! (Matt. 6:33 & Psa. 1:2-3)

# God's DISCIPLINE?



A mini Bible study  
By Cheryl Boone