

"CHASTISEMENT"**Introduction**

1. This is a very important subject.
2. Chastisement = chastening.
3. It is an experience of the Christian.

1. WHAT GOD'S CHASTISEMENT IS

- 1) God's painful dealings with us as Christians. See: v.5: "rebuked"; v.6: "scourge"; v.9: "corrected"; v.11: "grievous".
ILLUSTRATION: I once to a grown-up in N. Wales;
Texts in Proverbs to show this to be right.
DOCTRINE: Parents must wisely chastise.
- 2) Examples in Scripture
 - (i) The life of Jacob = deceived by others
 - (ii) The brothers of Joseph: their humbling
 - (iii) Moses: could not enter Canaan
 - (iv) David: the sword of chastisement**OBSERVE:** "Be sure your sin will find you out."
APPLICATION: If we want a comfortable life as God's people, let us be humble and tread carefully lest we displease God.

2. HOW WE ARE TO THINK OF THIS CHASTENING

- 1) It is "not punishment" in the sense of God's strict judgement.
ILLUSTRATION: a great judge who has a son.
- 2) We must grasp this great difference
 - (i) chastisement: from a parent
 - (ii) punishment: from a judge
- 3) The difference explained:

- (i) punishment has an eye primarily to justice – the aspect of vengeance:
ILLUSTRATION: "an eye for an eye..."
- (ii) chastisement has an eye for the correction and improvement of the offender.
N.B. "retribution" v. "correction"
OBSERVE: The Christian's sins are never dealt with by "retribution", as others' are.
APPLICATION: We must thank God for this and look gratefully to Christ for He has borne our punishment.

3. CHASTISEMENT IS GOOD FOR US

- 1) "folly" is in our hearts = fascination with sin. This needs to be cured.
ILLUSTRATION:
 - (i) I as young Christian – a Bible
 - (ii) A moth to the candle**APPLICATION:** God may let us singe our wings.
- 2) God's motive is always one of "love", as we see in v.6. It is not loving to let children off with sin.
- 3) Every Christian needs chastisement as we see in v.8. I refer to:
 - (i) Moses
 - (ii) Peter...**OBSERVE:** Minister + elders need it just as all others do.
APPLICATION: The preacher does – danger of pride.
- 4) Chastening is to make us holy: v.10
ILLUSTRATION: a very, very dirty cloth or garment. It needs to be soaked and soaked again; so does man's heart – again and again.
- 5) Chastening is painful at the time but profitable afterwards: v.11
OBSERVE: Notice this: "for the preacher" v. "afterwards"
APPLICATION: When under chastening, think of the benefit to you later on.
So Job 23:10: "when he hath tried me..."
This came exactly to pass: "twice as much".

APPLICATION: Be patient in your chastisement:
"Mute Christian under the rod".

4. GOD'S WORD TELLS US HOW TO FACE CHASTISEMENT

- 1) v.5: God speaks lovingly to exhort us to be well-behaved under it.
- 2) We are not to "despise" it: "to take no notice of it:
ILLUSTRATION: laugh it off.
- 3) We are not to faint "under" it:
That is, to be discouraged, to sink into despondency or depression.
- 4) After all, if we had no chastisement we should not be God's children: v.8

CONCLUSION

Our attitude should be:

- (i) to welcome it for its benefit to our character: v.11:
peaceable fruit of righteousness
- (ii) to go cheerfully on our way to heaven. So v.12.

Quotation from John Calvin

"God grants this privilege to his elect – that He chastises them paternally as His children, whilst He deals with the reprobate as a severe judge, so that all the punishments which they endure are fatal...God acts as a Father towards His elect, and as a judge towards the reprobate."

That sums up the matter exactly.

<p>PSALM</p> <p>42: 8 – 11</p> <p>73: 13 – 18</p> <p>119: 65 – 70</p>
