

God's Chastening

And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? Hebrews 12:5-7

-In Christ, we are the spiritual sons of God. God is holy, and because of this, He will not allow His children to continue in sin. His desire is to have fellowship with us, but this cannot happen as long as sin separates. God chastens us for our own benefit. He desires for us to return.

But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Hebrews 12:8

-One who professes salvation, but lives a wicked life and receives no chastisement from God should take serious notice to their spiritual situation.

For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. I Corinthians 11:29-30

-The Corinthian church was sinning in the way they conducted themselves towards the Lord's Supper. Because they were Christians, God brought sickness, weakness, and death in order to turn them from their sin of irreverence.

I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: II Samuel 7:14

-God promised to be with Solomon, but in doing so, He would not permit sin in the life of his son.

Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. Proverbs 19:18

-The same principle is seen in God's command to earthly fathers to correct their children. What father would permit his son to charge headlong into destruction without attempting to turn him back onto the right path?

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. Revelation 3:19-21

-Christ loved the church of the Laodiceans and sent a warning in an attempt to turn them from their sin. God chastens us because He greatly loves us. Chastening is for our benefit.