

TEXT- Hebrews 12:4-11

INTRO –The key word in this chapter is “endure”; it is found in **Heb 12:1** (translated “patience”), **2-3, 7, and 20**. The word means “to bear up under trial, to continue when the going is tough.” These Christians were going through a time of testing **Heb 10:32-39** and were tempted to give up **Heb 12:3**. None of their number had yet been called to die for Christ **Heb 12:4**, but the situation was not getting any easier

I. The Example of the Son of God Heb 12:1-4

In **Heb. 11:1-40**, his readers looked back and saw how the great saints of the OT won the race of life through faith. Now the writer urges them to “look up to Jesus” and have their faith and hope strengthened.

Our Lord went through many trials while on earth. What was it that helped take Him through to victory? “The joy that was set before Him” (**Heb 12:2**). This was His goal — the joy of presenting His church before the Father in heaven

Php 3:12-15 *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

Christ has already run this race of faith and conquered for us! He is the Author (Pioneer, Trailblazer) and Finisher of our faith; He is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. What He starts, He finishes; He can see us through to victory.

. **“Consider Him!” “Look unto Jesus!”** These words are the secret of encouragement and strength when the race gets difficult. We need to get our eyes off of ourselves, other people, and circumstances and get our eyes on Christ alone.

II. The Loving Correction of God Heb. 12:5-11

These Christians had forgotten the basic truths of the Word Heb 5:12 *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

Heb. 12:5 *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:*

Pro 3:11 *My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:*

They were spiritual babes; one way God had of maturing them was to put them through trials.

Punishment is handed out to uphold the law; chastening is given out as a proof of love, for the bettering of the child.

Satan tells us that our trials are proof that God does not love us; but God’s Word says that sufferings are the best proof that He does love us!

- **When suffering comes to believers, they can respond in several ways. They can resist the circumstances and fight the will of God, growing bitter instead of better. Why does this have to happen to me? God doesn’t care anymore! It doesn’t pay to be a Christian! This attitude will only produce sorrow and bitterness of soul.**

The writer argues, “We have had earthly fathers who chastened us, and we respected them. Should we not respect our Heavenly Father who loves us and desires to bring us to maturity?” After all, the best proof we are God’s children, and not illegitimate children, is that God disciplines us.

Chastening is for our profit that we might be sharers of His holiness, and our submission brings the most glory to His name.

- **God’s Chastens His Children (Hebrews 12:5)**
 1. God is active in the life of a believer
 2. God is a Father (Isaiah 64:8) of His Creation, but especially of Believers!
 3. God doesn’t leave us alone –doesn’t leave us to ourselves you alone!
 4. God WILL leave people to THEIR father, the devil

The first key is keep you eyes on Christ alone (vs. 1–2)

The second key is remember the hardships endured are measured against our Savior’s endurance

The third key is remember that discipline from God is a privilege of sonship

The fourth key is embrace the chastening received from God

The final, fifth key is lean on the Holy Spirit to shepherd you through the discouraging times (vs. 5–6).

CONCL-

III. The Purpose of God's Chastening – Why Does God Do It? (Hebrews 12:10,11)

- 1. To Prove He Loves Us (Heb 12:7,9)**
- 2. To Awaken Our Sorrow for Sin (Heb 12:11)**
- 3. To Give Wisdom – to teach us (Heb 12:11)**

Pro 13:1 *A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.*

Ecc 7:5 *It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.*

- 4. To Produce Holiness in us – biggest goal!**

In His great love, He is fully determined to bring us to holiness and godliness, and He uses many differing means to that end.