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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Today, we pick up following Paul's advice to:

"Keep our eyes on Jesus"
(Hebrews 12:2)

- **Hebrews 12:3**

Think of him

**who endured such
opposition against
himself by sinners,**

- **so that you may not grow
weary in your souls
and give up.**

- Hebrews 12:4

You have not yet resisted to the point of bloodshed in your struggle against sin.

- **Hebrews 12:5**

**And have you forgotten
the exhortation addressed
to you as sons?**

***"My son, do not scorn the
Lord's discipline
or give up when he
corrects you.***

- Hebrews 12:6

"For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son he accepts."

- This quotation is from Proverbs 3:11-12,
 - And it is here applied forcefully to all citizens of the kingdom.

- Paul had just been speaking of the fact that they had not been required to **seal their faith** with their blood;
- He now stresses that even the **hardships** and **sufferings** which they did experience,
 - Are exactly what they should **have expected.**

- **1Peter 4:12**

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you,

- ***as though some strange thing happened unto you:***

4:13 *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings;*

- ***that, when his glory shall be revealed,***
- ***you may be glad also with exceeding joy.***

- He now charges them with having forgotten that the sufferings of Christians are grounded in the benevolent purpose of God.
- And reminds them that our creator imposes upon his children the kind of chastening that will strengthen and correct them.
 - Do we believe it?

- The doctrine of the chastening of God **is a neglected topic today;**
- And it is likely that some have **scarcely heard of it;**
- It is a valid teaching of the scriptures. . .
 - And the knowledge of it in Christian hearts **can be the source of glorious light** on many a dark day.

- The writer to the Hebrews sets out still another reason why men should **cheerfully bear affliction** when it comes to them.
- He has urged them to bear it **because the great saints of the past have borne it.**

- He has urged them to bear it because anything they may have to bear is a little thing compared with what Jesus Christ had to bear.

- Now he says that they must bear hardship because it is sent as a discipline from God and no life can have any value apart from discipline.

- God disciplines in the sense that he allows such things to befall us.
- He doesn't pick you out for specific discipline.

- With the holy and benevolent intention of improving the quality of our spiritual lives.
- Did you think that when you obeyed the gospel that life would be all roses?

- Lest we forget.
- An Old Testament example is Job who suffered the loss of wealth, loved ones, reputation, health, and honor.
 - All upon the specific permission of God.

- **David** also suffered chastening in the matter of **Shimei's** **throwing stones** and **cursing the king** (2 Samuel 16:9);
- And David's submissiveness to that sore trial was evidenced by his saying, **"The Lord hath bidden him."** (2 Samuel 16:11)

- It is, therefore,
a mistake
for the Christian
to view his tribulations
in a sense of:
 - **Indifference.**
 - **Blind chance,**
 - **Law of averages.**

- The child of God is confronted with actual tribulations **designed to** test the **heart** and **allegiance.**
- The chastening of Israel showed **"wounds and bruises"** (**Isaiah 1:5,6**)

Isaiah 1:2

The children I raised
have turned against me.

1:3 Oxen and donkeys
know who owns and feeds
them, but my people
won't ever learn."

- Isaiah 1:4

Israel, you are a sinful nation
loaded down with guilt.

- You are wicked and corrupt
and have turned from the LORD,
the holy God of Israel.

- 1:5 Why be punished more?

- Why not give up your sin?

- Your head is badly bruised,
and you are weak all over.

- **Isaiah 1:6**

From your head
to your toes
there isn't a healthy spot.

- Bruises, cuts, and
open sores
go without care or oil
to ease the pain.

- Isaiah 1:7

Your country lies in ruins;

- your towns are in ashes.

- Foreigners and strangers take and destroy your land while you watch.

- 1:8 Enemies surround Jerusalem,
alone like a hut
in a vineyard
or in a
cucumber field.

- Isaiah 1:9

Zion would have disappeared like Sodom and Gomorrah,

- if the LORD All-Powerful had not let a few of its people survive.

- 1:10 You are no better

than the leaders and people of Sodom and Gomorrah!

- So listen to the LORD God:

- Isaiah 1:11

"Your sacrifices mean nothing to me.

- I am sick of

your offerings of rams and choice cattle;

- I don't like the blood of bulls or lambs or goats.

- The purpose of chastisement, as revealed in Hebrews 12 is totally benevolent.
- And springs from the infinite love of God for his weak and sinful human children.

- Three goals
are involved:
- (1) That of correcting
our faults;
- (2) Strengthening
our faith;
- (3) Promoting our
eternal welfare.

- **It is not God's will**

that his children

should have everything

they desire in this life.

- **Riches** and **luxuries**

may cause pride

to flourish in the heart;

- **Success**

in life's various projects
may cause people
to trust in themselves;

- **But against all such**

eventualities,
the chastening rod
of the Lord
is upon the believer.

- The response of Christians to chastisement is fourfold:
 - (1) The child of God must not despise it (Hebrews 12:5).
 - Do not regard it as a trivial thing.

- The response of Christians to chastisement **is fourfold:**
- **(2)** He must **not faint** under the impact of it.
 - An example of how not to respond to chastening is that of **Peter**,
 - When Jesus permitted Satan to "**sift him as wheat**"
(**Luke 22:31**)
 - Peter's response **was to faint,**
but he quickly **recovered.**

- The response of Christians to chastisement **is fourfold:**
 - **(3) He must submit to it** **(Hebrews 12:9)**,
 - saying at all times, **"Not my will but thine"**.
 - Neither murmuring nor complaining.

- The response of Christians to chastisement **is fourfold:**
 - (4) **He must be exercised thereby.**
(Hebrews 12:11).
 - Meaning that one's faith **grows stronger.**
 - Giving God the glory,
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

- **Verse 7**

***It is for chastening
that you endure;***

- ***God deals with you as sons;***
- ***for what son is there whom
his father chastes not?***
- The chastening of sons
by their fathers
has gone out of style
in the current generations.

- Had these lines been addressed to the present age, they might well have been reversed,
 - "***What son is it whom his father does chasten?***"
 - Our age is the loser in the abandonment of this principle old as humanity
 - And which carries the sanction of divine approval.

- **Verse 8**

- **But if you are without chastening,**
- **whereof all have been made partakers,**
 - **then are you bastards,**
and not sons.
 - This is only to say that **there are no exceptions,**
 - That God does **not overlook any**
of his children
in meting out
the needed chastening.

- So, then, the writer insists that we must look on all the hardships of life as the discipline of God.
 - Not for our harm but for our ultimate and highest good.
 - To prove his point he makes a quotation from (**Proverbs 3:11-12.**)

- There are many ways in which one may **look at the discipline** which God sends him.
- Again, may I remind you that it is **what God allows.**

- (1) He may stoically accept it.
 - That is what the Stoics did.
 - They held that nothing in this world happens outside the will of God;
 - Therefore, they argued, there is nothing to do but to accept it.
 - It serves no purpose.
 - If anything the result of an angry, vengeful god.

- (2) A man may accept discipline with self-pity.
 - Some people, when they are caught up in some difficult situation, give the impression that they are the only people in the world whom life ever hurt.
 - Ever lost in their self-pity.

- (3) A man may accept discipline as a punishment which he resents.
 - There are still people who regard God as vindictive.
- "What did I do to deserve this?"
- It never dawns upon them to ask:
"What is God trying to teach me through this experience?"

- (4) A man may accept discipline as coming from a loving father.
- Jerome said a paradoxical but true thing:
"The greatest anger of all is when God is no longer angry with us when we sin."
 - Supreme punishment is when God lets us alone.
 - God gave up.
(Romans 1:26)

- Verse 9

Furthermore, we had the fathers of our flesh to chasten us, and we gave them reverence:

- *shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of Spirits and live?*

- Hebrews 12:7-11

are actually commentary on

Proverbs 3:11,12.

- Shedding light on:
- The contrast is between:
 - The fathers of our bodies
 - and
 - The Father of our spirits.

- Verse 10

*For they indeed
for a few days chastened us
as seemed good for them;*

- *but he for our profit,*
- *that we may be partakers of his holiness.*
- The punishment imposed by earthly parents is, at best, subject to error.
 - But the chastening of God is never unreasonable.
- Never more than the child of God can bear (**1 Corinthians 10:13**)
 - It is solely for our profit and ultimate holiness.

- Verse 11

All chastening seems for the present

- *to be not joyous but grievous;*

- *yet afterward it yields peaceable fruit*

unto them that have been exercised thereby,

- *even the fruit of righteousness.*

- Several things appear here.

- The chastening of God is not expected

to be a pleasant

or delightful experience,

but

"grievous,"

- Verse 11

All chastening seems for the present

- *to be not joyous but grievous;*
- *yet afterward it yields peaceable fruit unto them that have been exercised thereby,*
- *even the fruit of righteousness.*
 - Also note the word “exercised”.
 - To make stronger!
 - By forcing one to adapt painful, sorrowful, discouraging circumstances;

- **We shall cease from:**
 - **Self-pity,**
 - **Resentment**
 - **Complaining**
- **Only if we remember**
that there is
no discipline of God
which does not take
its source in love
and is not aimed at good.

- **Verse 12**

***Wherefore lift up the hands that hang down,
and the palsied knees;***

- ***and make straight paths for your feet,***
 - ***that that which is lame
be not turned out of the way,***
 - ***but rather be healed.***
- With this passage the writer to the Hebrews comes to the problems of **everyday Christian life and living.**
 - He knew that sometimes it is given to a man to mount up with **wings as an eagle.**
(**Isaiah 40:31**)

- But he also knew that of all things it is hardest to walk every day and not to faint.
- Here he is thinking of the daily struggle of the Christian life.

- He begins by reminding them **of their duties.**
- To those who are weaker and more likely to **abandon the struggle.**
- It is the duty of those **who are stronger** to put fresh vigour **into listless hands** and fresh strength **into failing feet.**

- The phrase used for ***slack hands***

is the same as is used **to describe the children of Israel**

in the days when **they wished to abandon the rigours of the journey**

across the wilderness

and to return to the

the fleshpots of Egypt.

(Exodus 16:3)

- One of life's greatest glories is to be an encourager of the man or woman who is near to despair.
 - A Christian has a double duty;
 - He has a duty to God
 - A duty to his fellow men.

- It is our Christian duty
to make the journey easier
for the faltering
and lagging feet.
- A man must offer
his heart to God
- And his service and example
to his fellow-men.

- Verse 14

- *Follow after peace with all men,
and the sanctification*
 - *without which no man
shall see the Lord.*

- Follow after
means to
"pursue"

- And carries with it the idea of diligence and urgency.

- Pursue what?

- Pursue what?
 - *Peace with all men*
is the objective of Christians.
- Blessed are the peacemakers.
(**Matthew 5:9**),
- Paul commanded believers to be at peace with all men,
 - "*if it be possible*"
(**Romans 12:18**).
 - A holy life
sometimes makes
peace difficult
or
impossible of attainment.

- Verse 14

- *Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord.*

- Sanctification
is a reference to
holiness

- **Blessed are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.**

(Matthew 5:8)

- **None others need apply!_**

- **The holy life is not
an option for Christians,**

- **Verse 15**

*Looking carefully lest there be
any man that falls short of
the grace of God;*

- *lest any root of bitterness springing up
trouble you,*

- *and thereby many be defiled.*

- This verse emphasizes God's grace
*which has appeared to all people
and brought salvation to the world,*

(Titus 2:12)

- **Yet may be ineffective in some**
because of their failure
to abide by the conditions
upon which salvation is offered.

- **Root of bitterness**

is reference to an evil man,

- A root of bitterness
is a person

who is utterly corrupted.

- And who by his
errors and vices
corrupts others.

- Christ himself was called a root **but not a bitter root.**

(**Revelation 22:16**)

- He is called the

"root and offspring of David,"

- And in the same verse,

"the bright and morning star."

- Thus, the bitter root of this passage

is the opposite of Christ.

- A low earthly minded character,
 - Working his evil slowly **and defiling others.**
 - ***A little leaven defiles the whole lump.***
(Galatians 5:9)

- Who could restore the old prophet at Bethel to his devotion of former years.

(**1 Kings 13**)

- Or King Saul from his rebellion.

(**1 Samuel 15**)

- Old habits of sinning render conversion

difficult,

if not hopeless.

- The contrast between a root and a star is infinite.

- The contrast is as follows:

- Between what is:
 - NEAR and FAR.
 - INVISIBLE and VISIBLE.
 - EARTHLY and HEAVENLY.
 - SMALL and GREAT.
 - LOW and HIGH.
 - Christ is in
one sense or another,
all of these things.

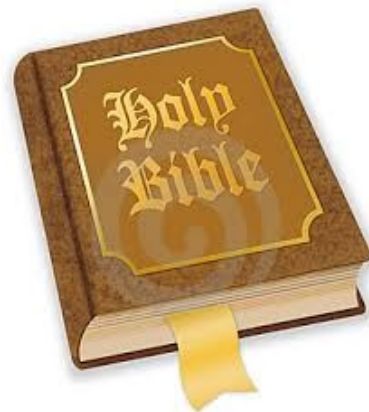
- ***“Be thou faithful unto death, and i will give you a crown of life.”***
(Revelation 2:10)

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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