

So far in our study of the book of Hebrews we re-discovered a wonderful truth in the first 10 chapters.

And the truth is simply this: **JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY**

Then at the end of Chapter 10, the writer of the book of Hebrews encouraged us not to give up hope in Jesus, regardless of difficulties we may face. HE WROTE

*v32 Don't ever forget those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. v33 Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. v34 You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail. When all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew you had better things waiting for you in eternity. v35 Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. Remember the great reward it brings you! v36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. v37 "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. v38 And a righteous person will live by faith.*

Then in chapter 11 the writer of the book of Hebrews reminds us about living by faith

Two weeks ago, we looked at the first few verses of Chapter 12 at some: **TOOLS TO HELP US NOT GROW WEARY AND LOSE HEART.**

In the passage we are going to look at today, the writer of the book of Hebrews, reminds us of:

## **GODS WORK IN US TO MAKE US MORE LIKE JESUS**

*v1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. v2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. v3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. v4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. v5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, v6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." v7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? v8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. v9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! v10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. v11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. v12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. v13 "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. Hebrews 12:1-13*

## THE FIRST THING GOD DOES TO MAKE US MORE LIKE JESUS IS:

### 1. HE REMINDS US OF WHAT JESUS SAVED US FROM FACING

*v2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. v3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men*

- 1.1 **Jesus endured the cross** – so we would not need to pay the penalty for our sin.
- 1.2 **Jesus faced rejection from His Father** – so we could be restored in fellowship with the Father.
- 1.3 **Jesus suffered at the hands of sinful men** – which includes us in our sinful state.

## THE SECOND THING GOD DOES TO MAKE US MORE LIKE JESUS IS:

### 2. HE ENCOURAGES US THROUGH DISCIPLINE

*v5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:*

#### 2.1 **DISCIPLINE IS A SIGN OF RELATIONSHIP**

*v5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son do not make light of the Lord's discipline*

*v7 ... God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? v8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.*

I am sure we have all been in the company of ill-disciplined children. I know as a school Principal my hand has often itched to put a naughty child over my knee and give them a good spanking.

I know one of the biggest frustrations of Teachers are the rules and regulations regarding disciplining disobedient learners in the school environment. Another frustration is the response from some parents when their children have been legitimately punished.

Of course, we exercise discipline at our school. The simple reason is: WE WANT OUR LEARNERS TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE!!

However, we don't go around disciplining every child we come across. The simple reason for this is: WE ARE NOT INVESTED INTO THE LIVES OF THOSE CHILDREN!!!

#### 2.2 **DISCIPLINE IS A SIGN OF LOVE**

*v5 ... "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, v6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves.*

I am sure most people who are being disciplined, don't see discipline as a sign of love. I think most of us think of discipline as a sign of punishment. SO HOW IS DISCIPLINE A SIGN OF LOVE:

1. DISCIPLINE SETS BOUNDARIES. – Without boundaries we could be exposed to dangerous situations.
2. DISCIPLINE DEMONSTRATES CONSEQUENCE. – Every action has a consequence. If you constantly “Push the boundaries”, you will suffer negative consequences at some time.
3. DISCIPLINE CREATES LEARNING MOMENTS. – Good discipline is not only punitive, (Just Punishment), good discipline should be redemptive, (Prisons are now called “Correctional Centres”)
4. DISCIPLINE BUILDS ENDURANCE. – A successful athlete does not achieve the top without being pushed. God disciplines us to help us reach our goals.
5. DISCIPLINE ENCOURAGES EMPATHY. – As we may have faced discipline, we are able to come alongside those who are going through the same struggles
6. DISCIPLINE DEVELOPS RESPONSIBILITY. – People who have been raised to be motivated from within to help around the house, school and in the world at large, see the value in contributing to the whole rather than just thinking about their own needs.
7. DISCIPLINE FOSTERS RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY. – We constantly need to be reminded who IS GOD in our relationship with HIM!

### **THE THIRD THING GOD DOES TO MAKE US MORE LIKE JESUS IS:**

#### **3. HE CHANGES US TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS!**

*v10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.*

##### **3.1 GOD MAKES US MORE LIKE HIM**

*v10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we **may share in his holiness.***

The only way for us to enter the presence of God is to BE HOLY. While I know that we enter the presence of God based on the HOLINESS OF JESUS, we should none the less make every effort to seek to be holy as well.

*1 Peter 1:14-16 v14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. v15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; v16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

##### **3.2 GOD HELPS US LEARN TO LIVE WITH OTHERS**

*v11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, **it produces a harvest of righteousness** and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

Holiness refers to our horizontal relationship with God.

RIGHTEOUSNESS points to our vertical relationship with those around us.

### 3.3 **GOD HELPS US LIVE AT PEACE WITH OURSELVES**

*v11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, **it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace** for those who have been trained by it.*

One of the main reasons people rebel against God is that they have no peace in their heart. God disciplines us so that we may have peace in our heart.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **SO, WHAT MUST WE DO WHEN FACED WITH DISCIPLINE?**

- A. **GET RID OF SIN** - *v1 let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles,*
- B. **REMEMBER DISCIPLINE IS CORRECTION NOT PUNISHMENT** - *v5 (Don't) have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons.*
- C. **SURRENDER TO GOD** - *v9 How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!*
- D. **PUT ON YOUR BIG BOY PANTS!!** - *v12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees*
- E. **DON'T REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES** - *v13 "Make level paths for your feet,"*
- F. **LOOK TO JESUS** - *v2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus!*