

Sunday, March 29, 2009—The World's Most Dangerous Doctrine—Chastisement Part I

Introduction

- For the first quarter of this year we have been studying through a series entitled The World's Most Dangerous Doctrine.
- I have been trying to demonstrate the costs associated with using the Bible but failing to rightly divide the Bible.
- Most recently we spent two weeks studying through the issues of Total Forgiveness and the Confession of Sins. Today we are going to begin looking at our last topic and a closely related issue of Chastisement.
- Simply stated is God punishing believers for the sins we commit? Is God giving you flat tires, marital strife, problems with your kids, economic hardship, or any other sort of physical trial to punish you for your sin?
- There are many people today even Grace Believers who are afraid of the punishment of God. They are always looking at their circumstances trying and attempting to try and figure out what God is trying to teach them.
- Is the current economic downturn God's punishment upon a wayward nation that has largely turn their back to the truth of God?

A Misapplied Passage

- Hebrews 12:5-11—See whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth
 - Scourgeth—means to flog or beat with a whip
 - Matthew 10:17
 - Matthew 20:19
 - John 19:1
- There is great confusion and consternation over this passage because people don't understand that the book of Hebrews is not written to the Body of Christ.
- Hebrews 2:1-2—The readership of Hebrews has a reference point in God's prophetic history. The writer of Hebrews is drawing their attention to some things they had already been taught.
- Ephesians 2:11-12—the gentiles do not possess the same historical perspective because in time past we were strangers from the covenants of promise without hope and without God.

- Ephesians 3:3—The formation of the Body of Christ is the subject of the mystery, therefore we have no prophetic reference point like the readers of Hebrews possess.
- So the question become if the book of Hebrews is not written to the Body of Christ does God still chasten believers and if so what form does Chastening take?

Two Important Definitions

- To properly understand this issue we must first look at how the Bible defines Chastisement.
- We find that there are two forms of chastisement found in the Scriptures.
- Psalm 94:10-12—The first definition is that of correction.
- This form of correction takes the form of instruction, the law provided correction which is a form of chastisement.
- Therefore, the first definition simply means to educate or inform with the goal of correcting.
- Proverbs 3:11-12—Once again we see chastisement associated with correction.
- This second definition deals with keeping the law and fearing the punishment of God that is outlined in the Law.
- This is the form of Chastisement that believers are taught is in effect today.
- Deuteronomy 28
 - Verses 1-14—delineate a series of blessings that would be given to Israel for following the Law.
 - Verses 15-44—delineate a series of curses that would come upon Israel for their failure to comply. The Law contract said they would be cursed for disobedience.
- Deuteronomy 28:45—these curses would designed by God to pursue after them until they were destroyed.
- Deuteronomy 28:46—this system of curses were to serve as a sign that is a flag or indicator that would tell the nation where they were at with their relationship with God.
- So where does the idea come from that God will punishment me for my sin? The Bible

- Who is it that requires a sign? I Corinthians 1:22—the Jews require a sign.
- Today we are to walk by faith and not by sight. Our circumstances are not a sign today of God's favor or disfavor.
- Grace believers who want to function in this mindset might as well believe in speaking in tongues and all the miracles demonstrations of Israel sign program because this form of punishment was part of that sign program.
- The word of God is our sole instructor. That is why it is so critical that we are careful to rightly divide the word of truth.
- Leviticus 26:16, 23-24, 27-28—this chapter lays out the five courses of punishment that the curses of Deuteronomy 28 would bring upon the nation for their disobedience.

The Prophetic Witness

- Isaiah 26:16-17—Tribulation context
- Jeremiah 30:11-14, 31:18
- Hosea 7:11-12, 10:9-10
- How many people today are afraid of being punished for their sins?
- These prophetic verses coupled with the those in the Law and Hebrews 12 are what people use to teach direct physical intervention from God to punishment his children for their sin.
- People today who try to discern the bad things happening to them as the punishment or chastisement of God have failed to rightly divide the word of truth.

Upon What Basis?

- Upon what basis would God deal with the Body of Christ this fashion?
- Exodus 14:13—here we see the physical intervention of God to save his earthly people from a physical enemy.
- Are you saved this morning? Can I tell just by looking at you? No, our present salvation today in the dispensation of grace is spiritual not physical.
- II Corinthians 5:16—God does not deal with his spiritual heavenly people after the flesh.

- II Corinthians 5:19—if God is not even imputing men’s trespass unto them today during the dispensation of grace upon what basis is God judging or punishing anyone saved or unsaved.
- Colossians 2:13—believers have already been forgiven all trespasses why would God punish us for things for which we have already been forgiven?
- Romans 6:14-15—we are not under the Law system. Therefore, we are not under the sign program. The things that happen to us are not indicative of God’s favor or disfavor with us.
- Romans 5:1—based on the merits of his son God is at peace with us. If God is a peace with out he is not out to destroy us when we mess up.

Conclusion

- II Timothy 3:16-17—do we still need correction? Yes. What provides our correction? The Scriptures.
- Remember the first definition of chastisement we learned at the beginning, to educate and inform with the goal of correcting.
- This is the form our chastening takes not the physically punitive for God used with Israel in time past.
- Come back next week and we will study the details of how God corrects us as members of the Body of Christ.