

Hebrews 12:1-11

LESSON 23

The Chastening of the Lord

1. Hebrews 12:1 – The Great Cloud of Witnesses

- a. *“Wherefore ...”* – We left off in Heb 11:39-40 and the fiery trial in 1Pe 4:12-17
- b. *“we also”* – The same covenant Hebrews identified in Hebrews 2:3-4
- c. *“cloud of witnesses”* – The dead saints in Heb 11 or the bulls of Ps 22:12-13,16, 40:12
 - i. What they don’t witness is the mystery – Col 1:26, Eph 3:9, Rom 16:25
- d. *“lay aside every weight”* – faith in Christ vs. continual work - Matt 11:28, 23:4
- e. *“let us run with patience”* – How do they run? They endure, wait, do the will of God
- f. *“the race that is set before us”* – “The time is come for judgment” – 1 Pet 4:17

2. Hebrews 12:2-4 – The Author and Finisher

- a. *“Looking unto Jesus”* – The point of Hebrews, look to Jesus not what they see on earth
- b. *“author and finisher”* – First and last, Alpha/Omega – Isa 44:6,48:12, Rev 1:8,11,17-18
- c. He authored their faith in his earthly ministry – Heb 2:9-11, 5:7-10; 1 Pet 2:21-25
- d. He finishes their faith when he returns in glory – 1 Pet 1:9, Acts 3:18-21
- e. *“resisted unto blood”* – as Christ did, so they are called – Mt 10:38, Jam 5:6, 1 Pet 5:9
- f. *“ye have forgotten...”* – Like exhortations to Hebrew churches also found in Rev 2-3:19

3. Hebrews 12:5-8 – The Chastening of the Lord

- a. *“the exhortation which speaketh unto you...”* – Prov 3:11-12
- b. Chastening *def.* A correction or purifying through punishment or affliction
- c. This is a dispensational distinctive: God is not chastising the church – Ro 5:1, 2Co 5:19
- d. The only time Paul mentions punishment now is when it is inflicted by men not God
 - i. (1 Cor 11:32 speaks about “when we are judged” which is 1 Cor 3:13)
 - ii. We operate not under a time of chastisement, but of grace and peace
- e. Do not judge chastisement by circumstances – see Eliphaz – Job 5:17
- f. Judge chastisement by doctrine: this is covenant doctrine – Deu 8:5
- g. If they are not being chastened, then they are not sons; (we are sons by grace)
- h. Chastening of the Lord is visible judgment – Deu 11:2
- i. Chastening is associated with the suffering servant: Christ – Isa 53:5, 2Sa 7:14
- j. These Hebrews are going through dispensational judgment/purifying – John 15:2

4. Hebrews 12:9-11

- a. The chastening brings fruit (or destroys) - Matt 3:12, Mal 3:3, Isa 4:3-4; Matt 24:9-13
- b. They will separate the true and false sons by their fruit through chastening/refining
- c. David’s Ps 118:18 is the inspiration for this Hebrew group; they will live and not die