

Sunday School Teaching & Sermon Outline

The Chastening of God

Hebrews 12:1-11

I Hardship & Suffering

- Universal experience of mankind since the fall
- Forms and degrees of suffering
- 3 broad categories of kinds of suffering
- Ultimate cause and purpose of suffering
- Specific purposes of suffering; primary for the Christian - chastening

II The Nature & Operation of God's Chastening

- Perplexed and forgetful
- What is chastening? 3 components:
 - Education, Instruction
 - Training, Practice Exercise
 - Warning, Reproof, Rebuke, Correction, Chastisement
- God's Means of chastening
 - Scripture
 - Holy Spirit
 - Godly men and women
 - Instructive experiences
 - Painful experiences
- Earthly fathers and the Heavenly Father

III Motive of God's Chastening

- God's sovereign love
- Deals with us as sons
- Assurance of His love

IV Purposes, Fruits, & Our Response to God's Chastening

- Purpose – Spiritual Training, Growth
 - Submit ourselves gratefully; fruit of the Spirit
- Purpose – Learn to Depend on God's Sufficient Grace
 - The end of ourselves; prayer for help; trust
- Purpose – the Good and Betterment of His People
 - Highest spiritual benefit; wait patiently; fruit of renewal; partakers of holiness
- Purpose – Preparation for the Future and Heaven
 - Present vs. afterward; take the long view; trust for future; peaceable fruit of righteousness