

## The Promise: Disciplined for Holiness

Hebrews 12:12-17

Sunday, March 18, 2012

### INTRODUCTION

- **Hebrews 10:32-36**

#### **A. Endurance is for Discipline (vv.12-13)**

1. Lift drooping hands
  - a) To neglect; relax
- b) **Isaiah 35:3**
2. Strengthen weak knees
  - a) Paralyzed
- b) **Job 4:4**
3. Make straight paths for feet
  - a) Make an orthodox course
- b) **Proverbs 4:26-27**
4. You will be healed
  - a) Limping (don't have to be crippled)
  - b) Lunging (moving forward)
    - (1) From here...
    - (2) Practical holiness lived out in community
    - (3) That incremental suffering is endured by the ultimate joy

#### **B. Discipline is for Holiness (vv.14-17)**

1. The both / and (**v.14**)
  - a) This is not works salvation / This is not automatic as far as the human experience is concerned / It demands obedience, which bears evidence

#### **b) **Hebrews 10:14****

- c) This is salvation at work
- d) "without which" points to the importance of the striving (**2 Peter 1:3**)

#### **2. For peace (**v.15**)**

- a) The gospel of peace
- b) Reconciled sinners living reconciled lives
  - (1) "See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God..."
  - (2) **Deuteronomy 29:18**
  - (3) This is strongly ecclesiastical

#### **3. For purity (**vv.15-16**)**

- a) The gospel exercised in holy, distinct living
- b) Moral purity
- c) Satisfaction as sons
- d) Community impact
- e) **Genesis 25:31-34**
- f) **Hebrews 13:8**

#### **4. For life (**v.17**)**

- a) There have been four stout warnings in Hebrews (Hebrews 2:1-5; 3:7-4:13; 6:4-8; 10:26-39; 12:25-29)
- b) **Genesis 27:38**

#### **C. Holiness is for Gospel-running**

1. The charge is to start running well again
  - a) Arms drop
  - b) Legs fade

- c) When false teaching and sinful living enters the church, it is discouraging and weakening
- 2. Lift and strengthen
  - a) Lift
  - b) The language is communal
  - c) Preach the gospel to each others and yourself
  - d) This is where life in community like and ABF or LifeGroup is so vital and we must insure that it is gospel application we seek (teaching to observe)
- 3. Make straight
  - a) Keep moving toward the goal of joyful fellowship in Christ
  - b) Do not be disqualified or unnecessarily injured
  - c) Guard each other's life & doctrine, and that includes not allowing our goal and passion to be anything less than seeing Christ face to face
- 4. Strive for peace and holiness
  - a) See to it (this serves the imperative to strive for peace)
  - b) It's a gospel-exhortative term
  - c) Be at peace within your church relations & have a good name in the community
    - (1) If you are at odds with a current or former member you are to reconcile
    - (2) **John 13:31-35**
- 5. What's at stake
  - a) The warnings we've seen throughout this book
  - b) So close, yet so far
  - c) It is dangerous NOT to do the Word of God -- rejection of the Word is rejection of Christ, every time