

The Promise: Enduring as Sons

Hebrews 12:3-13

Sunday, February 26, 2012

INTRODUCTION

1. Enduring like the Enduring Son (v.3)

- a. Think carefully on Christ
 - a. We don't just take our exemplary cues from Christ
 - b. When we gaze upon Him, we see our example, yes, but we see that we are able to live as He did because we see our Redeemer, our treasure
- b. Consider His endurance through hostility
 - i. From sinners
 - ii. Against Himself
- c. Guard against growing weary or fainthearted

2. The Facts of Enduring as Sons (vv.4-6)

- a. We will struggle against sin
 - i. Sin always dwells in our mortal bodies
 - ii. **1 Peter 3:14-17**
 - iii. Suffering helps
- b. We must remember our sonship
 - i. **Hebrews 2:10-18**
 - ii. Invert the understanding (discipline is assurance NOT doubt)

- (1) We treat it as if its origination is Satan
 - (2) God is the ultimate Prime Mover here
 - (3) Founder and Perfecter is ALL over every text here
- iii. **Spurgeon**, "GOD'S PEOPLE CAN never by any possibility be punished for their sins. God has punished them already in the person of Christ, Christ, their substitute, has endured the full penalty for all their guilt, and neither the justice nor the love of God can ever exact again that which Christ has paid. Punishment can never happen to a child of God in the judicial sense, he can never be brought before God as his Judge, as charged with guilt, because that guilt was long ago transferred to the shoulders of Christ, and the punishment was exacted at the hands of his surety. But yet, while the sin cannot be punished, while the Christian cannot be condemned, he can be chastised, while he shall never be arraigned before God's bar as a criminal, and punished for his guilt, yet he now stands in a new relationship—that of a child to his parent: and as a son he may be chastised on account of sin."
 - iv. When living righteously, and we suffer, we rejoice in its effects
 - v. When in sin, we labor through the cause of suffering, but trust God to reprimand for our hearts, not merely our behavior
 - c. We must NOT regard discipline lightly
 - i. How is the struggle against sin discipline from the Lord?
 - ii. We can choose not to be weary of His reproof
 - (1) He disciplines those He loves
 - (2) He chastises every son
 - (3) He is the FOUNDER and PERFECTER

3. The Point of Enduring as Sons (vv.7-11)

- a. For discipline
 - i. Enduring the discipline of the Lord
 - ii. This endurance yields progress and assurance
- b. For assurance
 - i. Validating legitimacy
 - ii. Earthly examples
 - (1) How difficult is it for us to convince our children that we love them as we discipline them?
 - (2) They believe the greatest good is giving them what they want
 - (3) How much greater is the distance between ourselves and God than ourselves and our children in wisdom and understanding!
 - (4) Greater still is the love of the Father for His own than the love we have for our children
 - iii. Nature of Fatherly love...to live
 - (1) For life
 - (2) For good
 - (3) For holiness
 - (4) When God works it together for good, it is His good, for there is no other
- c. For righteousness
 - i. Momentary & painful
 - (1) Honest acknowledgement to the sting
 - (2) Imperative to "Consider..." is put to the test
 - (3) Learn NOT to despise any discipline, nor its stinging reminder, for it produces new affections for Christ

- ii. Eventual & pleasure
 - (1) Peaceful fruit of righteousness (Christ on display)
 - (2) This is joy (incremental / ultimate)
 - (3) Trained (return to athletic terminology)

4. The Healing of Enduring as Sons (vv.12-13)

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