

## An Exposition of Hebrews

### Lesson 18 – Chapter 12:3-17 <sup>3418</sup>

Passage NASU	Commentary & Analysis	Bible Interprets the Bible References
<p><b>Contextual Transition:</b> <u>For</u>, a preposition denoting a conclusion derived from the previous argument. The previous argument (Heb 12:1-2) concluded with - - - <i>let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.</i> <sup>12:3</sup><u>For consider Him</u></p>		
<p><b>The Discipline of God</b> The discipline of God is that which strengthens our faith walk by bringing righteous discipline to our life. This discipline is a necessary thing to make us strong and sure in our faith!</p>		
<p><b>12:3</b> <u>For consider Him</u> who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that <u>you will not grow weary and lose heart.</u></p>	<p>This <u>For</u> defined as meaning #16 of <i>The American Heritage Dictionary</i> means “Notwithstanding, despite”. Here we are to consider the gross hostility that Jesus took upon Himself in order that <u>you will not grow weary and lose heart.</u> His suffering at the hands of wicked men, His resurrection unto glory, His ascension to the right hand of God all physically demonstrate for us the power that is ours to overcome the world and its sinful course!</p>	<p><b>Heb 13:11-14</b> <i>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp.</i> <sup>12</sup>Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. <sup>13</sup>So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. <sup>14</sup>For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.</p>
<p><b>Col 2:13-15</b> <i>When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,</i> <sup>14</sup>having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, <u>He made a public display of them,</u> having triumphed over them through Him. <b>Jesus has already made a public spectacle of our ultimate enemies!!</b></p>		
<p><b>12:4</b> <i>You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;</i></p>	<p>Most of us, those who remain, have not yet resisted the world’s hatred to the point of shedding our blood in our holy striving against the sinfulness of the world.</p> <p><b>Heb 13:11-13</b> <i>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp.</i> <sup>12</sup>Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. <sup>13</sup>So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, <u>bearing His reproach.</u></p> <p><b>We must so identify with Christ in His death that we come to recognize that indeed, in our Holy Spirit regeneration, we did in fact die with Christ in our flesh!</b></p>	<p><b>Gal 2:19-20</b> <i>For through the Law <u>I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.</u></i> <sup>20</sup><u>I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;</u> and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.</p>
<p><b>Lk 9:23-26</b> <i>And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but <u>whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.</u></i> <sup>25</sup>For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? <sup>26</sup>For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.</p>		
<p><b>12:5</b> <i>and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE</i></p>	<p>In Proverbs, the people of God (Hebrews) are referred to as “sons”. As sons we are not to regard lightly the discipline of our fathers, and especially of <u>our Father.</u> Nor is your faith to faint into weakness when we are reproved by our Father. Rather we must learn from such reproof, which God intends for our good, that we</p>	<p><b>Ps 119:74-76</b> <i>May those who fear You see me and be glad, because I wait for Your word.</i> <sup>75</sup>I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are righteous, and that <u>in faithfulness You have</u></p>

<p><i>DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; Pr 3:11-12</i></p>	<p>might be great in faith, and diligent in holiness and righteousness. We are not promised ease of life, but rather we are promised glory with our God and Father and with His only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ of Israel.</p>	<p><i>afflicted me. <sup>76</sup>O may Your lovingkindness comfort me, according to Your word to Your servant.</i></p>
<p><b>12:6</b> <i>FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."</i> <i>Ps 119:75</i></p>	<p>It is not true that when hardship and trial come to you as a Christian, that it is caused by Satan and his demons. Rather one should always assume that the ultimate cause is that God loves you enough to shape and prepare you for eternity as His son. As a faithful Father, He has the responsibility to fully mold and sanctify you in preparation for your eternal state with Christ!</p>	<p><b>Php 2:1-8</b> <i>Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. - - -</i></p>
<p><b>12:7</b> <i>It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?</i></p>	<p>Discipline, understood as coming from a loving father brings endures and strength. God, the ultimate Father of our souls deals with us as the perfect Father. No human father, who loves his sons and daughters withholds discipline, but rather administers such discipline in love.</p>	<p><b>Prov 13:24</b> <i>He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.</i></p>
<p><b>12:8</b> <i>But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.</i></p>	<p><b>1 Pet 5:8-10</b> <i>Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>But resist him, firm in your faith, <u>knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.</u> <sup>10</sup>After you have suffered for a little while, <u>the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.</u></i></p>	
<p><b>12:9</b> <i>Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?</i></p>	<p>If our earthly, imperfect father's discipline strengthened our moral character, increased our diligence, taught us about serving others, and humbled us before our fellows, - how much more will such discipline be effective at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening our moral character!</li> <li>• Teaching us the importance of diligence in life!</li> <li>• Teaching us that there is transcendent purpose in life beyond just ourselves!</li> <li>• Making us humble in order to get along with others!</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12:10-11</b> <i>For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. <sup>11</sup>All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.</i></p>	<p>Our earthly fathers, imperfect as they were, enriched our lives in preparation for living successfully in a civil community of fellows.</p> <p>Their discipline of us taught us to respect the authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our mothers and extended family.</li> <li>• Our neighbors and community.</li> <li>• Our teachers and church leaders.</li> <li>• Our employers. and</li> <li>• Civic authorities.      What a mess we've made in our civic society and our children's welfare.</li> </ul> <p>As 2 years old we had none of this discipline training! Without a discipling father, we remain emotionally a 2 year old, lacking skills necessary to live peacefully in community with others.</p>	
<p><b>Renew Your Spiritual Vitality</b> The church body is expected to purify itself to stand before the world as different regarding sin and immorality. Purity, righteousness, and holiness are not to be optional. We are expected to demonstrate such attributes within the body of Christ!</p>		
<p><b>12:12-13</b> <i>Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet,</i></p>	<p>Picking up on the metaphorical race that we run during this life of faith (Heb 12:1-2) we continue with exhortation of how we are to run this race.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen our arms and hands as they are critical in assisting our running.</li> <li>• Likewise, feeble knees that lack strength and flexibility will defeat us in this race of faith.</li> </ul>	

<p><i>so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A limb that has not been trained through use and care will only defeat us in this metaphorical race.</li> </ul> <p>Our body is the vehicle that carries us through a sanctified lie of service.</p>	
<p><b>12:14</b> Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.</p>	<p>We saints have peace and sanctification with God. The lost cannot pursue such because of their own depravity of heart and mind. It is only as we saints openly live a life of peace with all men and sanctification unto God that the lost man can even know about our faith.</p> <p>We can tell them of our faith, but they cannot imagine such a thing as being real unless they can see it lived out in consistent daily living.</p>	<p><b>Rom 14:16-19</b> Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; <sup>17</sup>for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God <b>and approved by men.</b> <sup>19</sup>So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.</p>
<p><b>12:15-17</b> <u>See to it</u> that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; <sup>16</sup>that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup>For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.</p>	<p>A verb form of the noun translated as overseer, bishop or elder. <i>επισκοπουντες episkopountes</i> (Str. 1983) 2x a verb meaning to look into, to inspect, to oversee, to exercise the office of Elder/Bishop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The churches are to ensure the absence of bitterness which defiles many Christians.</li> <li>• The churches are to ensure the absence of immoral or godless persons who lack faith in God which is reflected by true repentance (turning from their old ways of depravity).</li> </ul> <p>In other words, church leadership is to take seriously their responsibility to apply church discipline within the church body, ensuring that such persons are not allowed to remain in the congregation, shaming the name of Christ, tearing the saints away from Biblical purity, or creating cynicism about the truths of Scripture within this body of Christ, the Church!</p>	
<p><b>Summary/Conclusions/Comments:</b></p> <p><b>2 Cor 5:20-6:10</b> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. <sup>6:1</sup>And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain — <sup>2</sup>for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION" — <sup>3</sup>giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, <sup>4</sup>but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, <sup>5</sup>in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, <sup>6</sup>in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, <sup>7</sup>in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, <sup>8</sup>by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.</p>		

**Important Quote(s)**

Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace as a doctrine, a principle, a system. Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer** - *The Cost of Discipleship*

Just as the Bible was used to justify one philosophical school over another in the Middle Ages, in our day it is shaped like a wax nose to suit the latest fad. The problem is that this happens in churches that claim fidelity to the inerrancy of Scripture. The unfaithfulness is difficult to mark objectively, since there is a high view of Scripture in theory, whatever the practice. While liberals of various stripes undercut biblical authority by direct assaults, evangelicals of various stripes are today undermining biblical authority by claiming one thing in theory (the authority of an inerrant Bible) while in practice giving priority to secular disciplines and popular culture in defining and shaping the spiritual diet. Theology is considered irrelevant, whereas "practical" tips for success in business, marriage, child rearing, and personal self-fulfillment seem to suddenly be the Bible's major preoccupation. In other words, the Bible is meant to say things that it does not actually say and to be interested in things it does not actually show a marked concern for, and all the while it is still touted as inerrant and inspired. But after it has been made "relevant" to our "felt needs," it is no longer the Bible; it is actually our culture that is speaking in the guise of the Scripture.

**Michael Horton;** from *The Coming Evangelical Crisis*; p. 253

In this world, royal children have to undergo extra training and discipline which other children escape, in order to fit them for their high destiny. It is the same with the children of the King of kings. The clue to understanding all His dealings with them is to remember that throughout their lives He is training them for what awaits them, and chiseling them into the image of Christ. Sometimes the chiseling process is painful and the discipline is irksome; but then the Scripture reminds us: "The Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons . . . No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (Heb 12:6-7 &11)

**J. I. Packer;** *Knowing God*; p. 222