

The Fruit of God's Discipline
Hebrews 12:12-17

“Truth that is known, but not obeyed, becomes a judgment on us rather than a help to us. Teaching and exhortation are inseparable. Teaching sound doctrine that is not applied is worthless, and exhortation that is not based on sound doctrine is misleading. God’s method for instruction is simple—explain the spiritual principles and then illustrate the application of them.

Many people have an intellectual grasp of the doctrines of Scripture but know nothing of practical Christian living. As someone has said, they understand the doctrines of grace but do not experience the grace of those doctrines. It is one thing, for instance, to believe in the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture; it is quite another to live under the authority of Scripture. It is one thing to believe that Jesus Christ is Lord; it is quite another to surrender to His Lordship. It is one thing to believe God is omnipotent; it is quite another to lean on His mighty arm when we are weak or in trouble... The biggest fool of all is the one who knows the truth but does not apply it to life.” MacArthur

- I. The word **therefore** is a transition word that moves us from doctrinal truth or truths to exhortation. Doctrine is **“God’s truth.”** Exhortation challenges us to put God’s truth into practice. The word *therefore* in verse 12 says that because of the truth of God’s discipline, which shows us that we are loved as his legitimate children, which is for our good, which enables us to share in His holiness, which produces a harvest of peace and righteousness in due time, because of this wonderful supernatural loving process of sanctification, then let it show by bearing up under it as those who desire to be toughened by Him to fight the good fight of faith for the sake of the spiritual well-being of the church.

Hebrews 12:12-13

James 1:22

Romans 15:1

Isa. 35:3-4

Prov. 4:25-27

Gal. 6:2

1 Cor. 9:24 *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.*

Deut. 24:14 *Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.*

- II. God's discipline trains us to produce a plenteous harvest of righteousness and peace. It is a harvest that is to be shared with others so that they can benefit from what God has so graciously produced in our hearts. It becomes the salt and light Jesus uses to draw the unsaved and it becomes the fruit that keeps His church spiritually healthy and submissive to His headship. It is our collective responsibility to make sure that we are a church of peace toward one another as we put into practice the righteous decrees of His Word. We will be judged accordingly, why not then make every effort to do what He wants. In so doing, we will find that we can fight the good fight of faith well as a team of godly saints sold out for Christ.

Hebrews 12:14-15
Duet. 29:18

episkopeō = see to it, to look upon, inspect, oversee, look after, care for

"We are to have oversight with each other, helping each other grow in holiness and Christlikeness. We are also to look out for, oversee, those in the our midst, especially within the church, who may not be believers. We are not to judge, but to be sensitive and concerned for opportunities to present them with the claims of Jesus Christs. And since this letter speaks often to such people in the assembly, this is a critical point."
MacArthur

- III. Two sins that are especially damaging to the churches witness and spiritual wellbeing are **pornos** and **godlessness** . They are an affront to the holiness of Jesus Christ and should be an affront to us also. They both take on many forms of expression and if not swiftly dealt with can destroy or cause irreparable damage to a church. Sexual immorality is a cancer that always kills innocence, peace, relationships, marriages, trust, and the spiritual wellbeing of those tragically affected by it. Godlessness, on the other hand, brings the world's godless, irreverent, unhallowed ways into the church to keep its focus off Christ and His righteousness. It is our responsibility to make sure that never happens, and if it does, then we will be judged for it.

Heb. 12:16-17

Rev. 2:18-22 *To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. 19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. 20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.*