

A Better Way
A Better Chastening
Hebrews 12.4-13

Hebrews is the book of the Better Way, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**

- Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- **Our Better Purging** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- **Our Better “So Great A Salvation”** (2.3)
- **Our Better Word From God** – This King James Bible
- **A Better Anchor of the Soul** (Heb 6)
- **A Better Blood** (Heb 9)
- **A Better Presence** (Heb 10.19-22)
- **A Better Faith** (Heb 11.1)
- **A Better Race** (Heb 12.1)

Today we discover our Better Race

Read Text – Heb 12.4-13

A. The Requirement of Correction (vs 4-6) – The chastening hand of God.

Hebrews 12:4–6 - Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. ⁵And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: ⁶For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Jer 17.9

In our lives we find ourselves in need of correction, often. As human beings we tend to be,

- **Stiff Necked** – Meaning strong willed. We want things our way.
- **Proud** – Thinking we know much more than we really know. The teen-ager syndrome wherein a teen-ager thinks they know better than their parents.
- **Rebellious** – bucking all authority
- **Ill-informed** – In our day of social media we get much of our information from online hear say. Much of which is just not right.

*Romans 1:21–22 - Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; **but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,***

We people like to think to highly of ourselves because we tend to **trust our hearts** to guide us into truth and right,

*Jeremiah 17:9 - **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?***

2 Tim 3.16

The older one gets the more one realizes, or at least the more a wise person realizes, that your heart will often lead you in very wrong ways. We need instruction in righteousness, we need correction, and often we need a strong rebuke.

*2 Timothy 3:16–17 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, **and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in***

righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly** furnished unto all good works.

The Word of God is our source for,

- Sound or True Doctrine (teaching)
- Reproof
- Correction
- Instruction in Righteousness.

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A. The Requirement of Correction

There are times when the Word of God teaches us things and reveals things that stand in stark contrast to our culture, our world, and our desires. At times like these always remember,

Romans 3:4 - God forbid: **yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;** as it is written, *That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*

God, and the Word of God (this King James Bible) is always true and right. People in our world of internet illumination tend to want to believe people more than they believe God. God is always right.

Our text reveals much of what the Word of God manifests throughout its pages, God often Chastens or Corrects those who are a part of His family.

How God Chastens us,

- **Through the Word of God** – The Word of God reveals the mind and way of God and as we read and study the Word of God we will be often corrected. For this reason we are told by God, through the Word of God,

James 1.19

1 Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, **desire the sincere milk of the word,** that ye may grow thereby:

2 Timothy 2:15 - **Study to shew thyself approved unto God,** a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

James 1:19–25 - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: ²⁰For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. ²¹Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, **and receive with meekness the engrafted word**, which is able to save your souls. ²²But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵**But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**

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A. The Requirement of Correction –
God chastens us,
- Through the Word of God

2 Tim 4.2

We need to Welcome the Word of God into our hearts and lives surrendering to it in every thought and way.

- **Through the Preaching of the Word**

2 Timothy 4:2 - *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

But be careful not to settle for the ear tickling preaching of our day.

2 Timothy 4:3 - *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

You need the Fundamental Preaching of the Word of God

Eph 4.14

- **Through the Nurturing of the Church**

Ephesians 4:14–16 - **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵But

speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

As the Word of God teaches us we, as the Children of God, very much as our own children, need what the Word of God offers for growth and maturity.

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

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**A. The Requirement of Correction –
God chastens us,**
- Through the Word of God
- Through the Preaching of the Word
- Through the Nurturing of the Church

Far too many people today have lost sight of the fact that a person must be taught **the way they should go**, rather than allowed people to go the way they want to go. As it is with our young children so it is for Christians in their spiritual journey, we must be taught and then corrected and sometimes chastened.

Our Heavenly Father when He chastens us will bring upon us,

- **A Gentle Conviction** – This is just like a parent taking their child as speaking to them, seeking to teach them that they should not do the things that they are doing.
- **A Stern Rebuke** – When the gentle correction does not work, as often is the case, then there comes a very stern rebuke. Often the response to a Stern Rebuke is “you are mean.” probably due to the raised voice and the articulated displeasure and body language.
- **A Chastening Hand** – God will bring physical rebuke and correction into our lives if we, as His children, continue to rebel against Him.

Often the hardships and trials we endure as Born Again Christians are the result of our heavenly father Chastening us in our rebellious and prodigal way. Trials and

hardship are NOT always the result of Chastisement but may be the result if we are rebelling against our Heavenly Father.

Always Remember our text,

*Hebrews 12:5–6 - And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, **My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:** ⁶**For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***

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God chastens us,**
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Catch that word **“Scourgeth”** this can be nothing less than a solid Wood Shed family moment. Let that get your attention.

Just like any parent that Loves their children they will instruct their children and when necessary chasten their children, so it is with our Heavenly Father and His children.

Which brings us to our next point.

B. The Revelation of Correction (vs 7-8) – We are part of the Family of God.

Who are the Children of God?

*Hebrews 12:7 - If ye endure chastening, **God dealeth with you as with sons;** for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

If you are a Child of God, and not every one who claims to be a Child of God is a child of God, then your Heavenly Father will Chasten you when you need chastening. Without any doubt our Heavenly Father will absolutely chasten His children.

*Hebrews 12:8 - But if ye be without chastisement, **whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.***

If you are living in open and rebellious sin against God and you are not being chastened of God, then our text says you are not a Child of God at all.

Gal 4.4

Not everyone alive in this world is a Child of God. One must become a Child of God by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

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A. The Requirement of Correction
B. The Revelation of Correction

John 1:12–13 - But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Galatians 4:4–7 - But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ⁵To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. ⁶And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. ⁷Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

When a person recognizes who the Lord Jesus Christ is and what He has done for them and they ask Him to save them from their sins and come into their life, they are then adopted into the Family of God and become the Sons and Daughters of God.

One of the great evidences that you really are a child of God is the Chastening hand of God in your life.

When a child of God lives in rebellion to God, as revealed in the Word of God, this King James Bible, then God will absolutely chastens His Child. If there is no chastening then there is no relationship and you are not saved.

C. The Result of Correction (vs 9-12) – Righteousness and Holiness

Hebrews 12:9–12 - Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰For they verily for a few days chastened us after their

own pleasure; **but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.**
¹¹Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: **nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness** unto them which are exercised thereby. ¹²Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

The goal of all of God's conviction and chastening in the lives of His children is given in our text,

Hebrews 12:11 - Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: **nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness** unto them which are exercised thereby.

The result is righteousness in the heart and life of the children whom our Heavenly Father deeply loves.

Not righteousness as you see righteousness, but righteousness as God sees righteousness.

Romans 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be **conformed to the image of his Son,** that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The goal of any and all divine chastening in our lives is that we might be acceptable in the sight of God.

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**A. The Requirement of Correction
B. The Revelation of Correction
C. The Result of Correction**