

Responding To God's Discipline

Hebrews 12:12-17



Review – An Overview of Hebrews

- Jesus is superior in His person (1:1-4:13)
- Jesus is superior in His ministry (4:14-10:39)
- Faith in the Lord is essential and has been the pattern of redeemed people throughout biblical history (11:1-40)
- General conclusions: theology and history demonstrate that
 - Forgiveness of sins and a personal relationship with God are possible only through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ
 - The mark of the true believer is faith in Christ that endures to the end, regardless of the circumstances of life
- Personal application (12&13)

Responding to God's Discipline

How should we respond to the trials and difficulties of life the Lord brings our way, no matter what form they may take?

Essentials for success in the race (12:12-13)

The images of verse 12...



Essentials for success in the race (12:12-13)

1. Don't become weary and discouraged by the trials of life; stay focused on Jesus' person and work and the prize that awaits those who remain faithful
2. Run straight for the goal, being directed by godly wisdom gained through knowing and applying the Scriptures, creating a path for others to follow (13)

Three Characteristics of the Godly Life (14-17)

1. Living in relationship with others: pursue peace (14a)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. “But if your enemy is hungry, feed him and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:18-21

Three Characteristics of the Godly Life (14-17)

1. Living in relationship with others: pursue peace (14a)

I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.

Luke 6:27-31

Three Characteristics of the Godly Life (14-17)

1. Living in relationship with others: pursue peace (14a)
2. Living in relationship with God: pursue holiness (14b)
3. Living life in the church: be watchful of each other (15-17)
 - The command: “See to it” (i.e. be watchful of each other)
 - Reason 1: To prevent anyone from falling short of God’s grace (15a)
 - Reason 2: To prevent the poison of bitterness (15b)
 - Reason 3: To prevent ungodly self-centeredness (16-17)

Questions to consider in responding to God's discipline / living the Christian life

1. Do the trials of life weigh you down... or do you accept them as God's training of you, focusing on the Lord, His person, His work and His promises?
2. Do you make straight paths for your feet by knowing and applying God's word, setting an example for others to follow?
3. Do you pursue peace in your relationships with others?
4. Are you actively pursuing growth in personal holiness?
5. Are you watchful over the spiritual condition of others?