

Concluding Exhortations

The Example Of Christ & The Value Of Discipline (Heb. 12:1-17)

Introduction

The author has concluded his main presentation of the Superior Christ and His Superior Covenant. He has emphasized the kind of faith necessary to live faithfully to God under the new covenant. He also provided examples of this faith worthy of our emulation. Truly, man in the gospel age has been given "something better" than all other men have ever enjoyed (**cp. 11:40**). As a result, man must "give the more earnest heed" to the truths of the Superior Covenant, knowing he will not escape judgment (**cp. 2:1-3**).

As the writer brings his epistle to a close in **chs. 12-13**, there are various exhortations he offers and closing arguments he makes. These parting words are all intended to complement the previous 2 main sections: **chs. 1-7 & 8-11**.

In this lesson, the author will highlight the ever-present example of Jesus Christ (**12:1-3**), and the value of discipline the Father allows His children to experience so that their faith will be strengthened (**12:4-17**).

The Example Of Christ (Heb. 12:1-3)

1. Who do you think are the "great cloud of witnesses" in **v. 1a**? What testimony would they offer?
2. Because these "witnesses" surround us, what does the author encourage his readers to do? (**v. 1b**) How is sin aptly described in **v. 1b**?
3. What is the metaphor used in **v. 1**? Be able to discuss the appropriateness of it in correctly describing N.T. Christianity. [*Hint: think back to 10:36*]
4. So that we will be able to finish our "race," of what else does the author remind us? (**v. 2**) How is Jesus described in this verse? Be able to define these terms.

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Lesson 9

5. According to v. 2, what did Jesus do to finish His race?

6. Thought questions: what do you think was the “joy set before” Jesus? What would it mean to “despise the shame” of His death?

7. What is the author’s exhortation on which we should focus? (v. 3)

The Value Of Discipline (Heb. 12:4-17)

8. What is the point of v. 4? How might it connect back to what was presented in the previous verse?

9. Not only had these Christians “...not resisted to bloodshed,” but what also had the author’s readers done? (vv. 5-6) From where does the author quote for support?

10. Thought question: what do you think is this “discipline,” and from what source might it have come?

11. How does the author discuss the purpose of discipline? (vv. 7-10)

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Lesson 9

12. What truths does the author use to make the unpleasant topic of discipline more acceptable? (v. 11)

13. From vv. 12-17, list in the spaces below the "fruit" from our discipline we should be able to bear as a result of being disciplined by our Father.

v. 12 _____

v. 13 _____

v. 14 _____

v. 15 _____

vv. 16-17 _____