

PREPARATION FOR HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP

BIBLE TEXT : Hebrews 12:1-29; 13 :1-25.

LESSON 444 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:6).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Hebrews 12:1-29

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5 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.

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

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 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?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own

Bible References:

Notes:

The Law on Mount Sinai

In this lesson we have one more comparison of the Old Covenant with the New. "For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, . . ." (Hebrews 12:18, 19). In this statement Paul is speaking of the awesome event of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. The earth shook, billows of smoke rolled from the mountain, and a trumpet blew long and loud (no one knew who was blowing it). It was enough to frighten the stoutest heart. God had already warned that if even an animal touched the mountain at that time, it was to be killed. God wanted to impress upon them His holiness, so He made the rule that no one was to approach the mountain. It was holy ground, and anyone who walked on it was to be killed at once.

God is just as holy today, but in this Dispensation He does not send judgment right away when a person disregards His holiness. He is longsuffering and merciful. He is holding out His arms and saying, "Come unto Me." Jesus loves us so much that He has even shed tears over the sinners. He realises more than we do the fearfulness of hell, and He does not want anyone to go there.

Greater Judgment

Judgment fell upon those people who disobeyed God when the Law was given on Mount Sinai. We now have the Better Covenant, the merciful loving Saviour with open arms, the price of our redemption paid. Do you not think people who disobey God now deserve to go to hell? God warned that greater judgment would fall on the people who disregard Jesus in this Dispensation. Then the mountain shook, but when God rises up to judge at the end of this age, both the heavens and the earth will be shaken. In fact the Apostle Peter tells us: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (II Peter 3:10).

Hard Places

Paul gives some instructions in Hebrews 12 and 13 on how we can be prepared to meet Jesus, so we can escape all the judgment. Perhaps we have been saved and served God faithfully for a while, but as time goes by and Jesus does not come, some may become careless or tired of serving God. They think they have so many trials or hard places, they wonder if it pays. Remember that Jesus had some hard places, too. Most people rejected Him, did not love Him; and eventually He had to die on the cross. We have never had to suffer anything as bad as what Jesus suffered for us. That should encourage everyone to hold fast until Jesus comes.

Sometimes we may unintentionally or thoughtlessly do something we should not, and our parents or our ministers may reprove us. We are not to fight back or justify ourselves. Let us try to improve through the instructions we get. If parents really

pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.

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.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

16 Lest there *be* any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

21 And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear

love their children they will punish them when they do wrong. They want to have good children whom everyone will love.

A Blessing to Others

After we have become Christians ourselves we are to do what we can to help others. Often people could forget their own troubles if they tried to relieve the distress of someone else. Let us try always to make peace and not be the cause of trouble for anyone. When we are sanctified, made holy, the Bible tells us we will all be of one accord, we will agree. It is going to take that holiness to prepare us for Heaven. God will not have people in Heaven who cannot get along with others. Heaven is going to be a happy place where everyone will be peaceable.

The devil wants people to backslide, so he will suggest things to the Christian that might, if he continues to think about it, make him bitter. That bitterness in his heart has robbed him of his salvation, and usually will cause many other people to be unhappy, also.

"Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:1,2).

It is good to have friends, and people of similar dispositions enjoy being together; but we will find a real joy in being friendly to others who may not be so likeable. Try befriending someone whom others have neglected, and see how happy it will make you. Invite someone to your home who will not be able to return the invitation. If you invite those only who can do as much for you, you are not giving a thing. You are merely lending, expecting it back. The Lord expects His people to be generous.

This is what He expects of Christians: "Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" (Isaiah 58:7). Sometimes People will not even take care of their own family -- their own flesh.

Jesus said: "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away" (Matthew 5:42). Paul said: "I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

An example of the blessing that come with giving is given in I Chronicles 29:9, at the time David asked an offering for the building of the Temple: "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy."

The Narrow Way

Another advice Paul gave was for people to be subject to (or obedient to) those who are their leaders. In fact, he mentioned it twice in one chapter, so he must have felt it was very important. Your parents and your ministers "watch for your souls," and though you may think the rules are very strict, when you come to the end of your life (and no doubt much sooner) you will realise that was what you needed to prepare you for Heaven. Jesus said the way to Heaven was "narrow," there is no room for our own ways and sin. We must take Jesus' way only. "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" (Isaiah 1:19). The Lord will take care of those who obey Him.

The trials and chastening that come to us along life's way are from the Lord -- at least the Lord permits them -- and will perfect us for the heavenly Kingdom if we learn from them. If we resist corrections, become embittered by trials, we will lose our soul. Jesus will make us happy overcomers if we ask Him every day to

and quake:)

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not* we *escape*, if we turn away from him that *speaketh* from heaven:

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.

Hebrews 13:1-25

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

help us. We overcome by the Blood of Jesus. He is our great Shepherd and will lead His sheep into green pastures if they follow Him.

QUESTIONS

1. What happened on Mount Sinai just before God gave the Law?
2. What kind of judgment was sent upon people who disobeyed the Law?
3. What will shake when Jesus comes back to earth in judgment?
4. What can a person do to help him forget his troubles?
5. What does sanctification do for people?
6. What does the Apostle say about entertaining strangers?
7. How are we to treat those who watch over our souls?
8. How can we overcome all our trials?

5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that

they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

18 Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

19 But I beseech *you* the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

22 And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.

23 Know ye that *our* brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

25 Grace *be* with you all. Amen.