

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

April 2014

## *Hebrews*

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

### **Lesson #16: God's Discipline**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Why do you think most people think they can sin and “get away with it?”

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

##### **Read Hebrews 12:1-12**

*Note: “Race” comes from the Greek “agōn” from which we get agony. This implies the race is grueling and hard, requiring self-discipline, determination and perseverance. “Scourge” refers to flogging with a whip, a common and extremely painful Jewish practice.*

1. Why would sin prevent us from running a good race? (ask Tiger or King David?)
2. Would you describe the Christian's life more as a sprint or a marathon? Why?
3. As Christians our race is not a race of work (to see how righteous we are or how many good deeds we can do) but a race *by* faith. Eph 6:16 Our competition is Satan, his world system, our own sinfulness (the flesh). Our strength is not ourselves, but the Holy Spirit. What does winning look like? Matt 25:21
4. If God uses hardship and affliction as a means of discipline, how can we tell the difference between His discipline and His punishment? How can we know if it's from God or Satan? (Job)
5. What are some of the responses that Christians have to God's discipline?
6. If Christ paid for our sins (Rom 8:1), why do we have to suffer the consequences?
7. How can God's discipline prevent us from sinning? 2 Cor 12:7-10
8. We are more likely to listen to God in times of affliction than blessings. How can God use discipline to teach us? Job 42:5
9. How does God's discipline prove His love and our sonship? Pr 3:12; Isa 69:9; Jn 1:12; Pr 13:24
10. If disciplined children respect their parents, why don't more parents discipline? Pr 29:15

#### **APPLICATION**

Are you embracing your sonship? What is preventing you from running a good race?

*Form the habit of heeding His taps and you will be less likely to receive His raps.*

*Arthur Pink*

*All men are subject to God's punishment, but only His children receive His discipline.*

*You do not know what living is all about until you have experienced some hardships and problems. No one lives so well as the believer who loves God's law and will, who receives everything from his Father's hand willingly and joyously.*

*John MacArthur*

*The goal of God's fatherly activity is 'that we may share in his holiness' (v. 10), and this will be a lifetime work. C. S. Lewis, in his book 'The Problem of Pain', encapsulates it vividly. 'God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain, it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world'.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Hacking, P. H. (2006). *Opening up Hebrews*. Opening Up Commentary (83–84). Leominster: Day One Publications.