

Hebrews Lesson 16 Article

Our Lord went through many trials while on earth. What was it that helped take Him through to victory? “The joy that was set before Him” (v. 2). This was His goal—the joy of presenting His church before the Father in heaven one day (Jude 24). Note also John 15:11, 16:20–24, and 17:13. His battle against sin took Him to the cross and cost Him His life. Most of us will not run on that course; it will probably be our task to live for Him, not die for Him. “Consider Him!” “Look unto Jesus!” These words are the secret of encouragement and strength when the race gets difficult. We need to get our eyes off of ourselves, other people, and circumstances and get our eyes on Christ alone.¹

These verses compare and contrast God’s discipline of his children with parental discipline of their children.

Good parents provide training and instruction for their children. Such training demonstrates that they were **true sons** and not **illegitimate children**. A good God, like a good parent, will show love by providing nurture, guidance, and direction for the child.

Children respect their human parents because of their discipline. Believers must also be submissive to **the Father of our spirits**. Instead of turning away from God in apostasy, we must turn to him in obedience.

Verse 10 turns from comparison to contrast. Earthly parents discipline their children only **for a little while**. Children grow up, leave home, and move beyond the discipline of their parents. God, however, never finishes with his children. God disciplines us for a lifetime. For this we should be thankful rather than complaining.

Earthly parents discipline their children as they think best. All of us have made dreadful mistakes in our efforts to discipline our children. Fortunately, God knows precisely what he is doing and **disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness**. God will never commit an overkill, nor will he neglect to give discipline. The fact that we receive discipline from a wise, omniscient God who never errs in his work gives us cause for commitment to his loving discipline.²

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (710). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Lea, T. D. (1999). *Vol. 10: Hebrews, James*. Holman New Testament Commentary (220). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.