

The Chastening Of Our Father

Titus 2:11-14, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

Listen what the Prophet of God said about it:

Now, sometimes, I will admit this, that **our heavenly Father sometimes chastens us with sickness, permitting Satan to do it (James 1:13-15), to try us sometimes to bring us back.** If we go out of the way, then our heavenly Father might **let something happen to us** to bring us back. But it'll only be for the good (*Rom. 8:28-29*). See? The chastening of our Father is not pleasant for a season, but finally it brings... **All things work together for good to them that love the Lord.** And if I was way away from God **and out of the will of our heavenly Father,** why, if God would just... That He could do something for me and help me to come back, why, I would appreciate our heavenly Father, wouldn't you? [1]

We realize that this is like experience of a Christian. **Sometimes we have to go through terrible chastisement, chastening of the Lord, many things to correct us that we'll be fruit bearing Christians.** Sometimes **has to prune us,** cut off, take away, take out of our hands (*John 15:1-8*). We think sometime, "O God, what are You doing to us?" **But He knows what He's doing.** So we pray, Father, that today that You'll prune every one of us, from the least to the greatest, the pastor. God, we pray that You'll prune every one of us. **Take away all that's unlike You, Father. Take away the thing that's hindering us from being fruit bearing Christians.** [2]

Now, when they were down in Egypt, and God sent Moses and he stretched forth the rod, and fleas and lice come on the ground... He stretched forth towards the sun, and it went down. He stretched it over the waters, and they turned to blood. Why, Israel was over in Goshen (*Exod. 8:22; 10:23*), just having a glorious time; the sun never went down; the plagues never struck them; why, they were just having a glorious time, just like you did when you first got saved.

Everything, the birds sang different, and everybody was sweet. And, oh, my, how everything just was dandy when you first got saved. **Then come the trying time, the chastening, sanctifying time, sanctifying yourself from things of the world,** "laying aside the weights that do so easily beset you." (*Heb. 12:1-2*). You, a man, had to stop your smoking, stop your drinking, stop

your going to the pool room, your all night card parties. All those things, **you had to sanctify yourself from them by the faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ: sanctifying yourself** (*Heb. 10:14; Heb. 13:12; John 17:17*). You women had to let your hair grow out, lengthen your dresses, and act like different than what you were: sanctifying time. Many times they'd rebel and go back; well, that's not a child of God. See? **A child of God looks straight to Calvary and knows that it's for his good.** [3]

I said, "What, for instance, **if you got great faith...** and here stands a man on the platform all having a great time shouting, and the glory of God around." I said, "Now, maybe this man stole some money; he lived evil; maybe run around with some woman immorally, or he done a murder or something, **that God had put this sickness on him.**" You know, **God uses sickness for whips to bring us to Him.** You believe that?

Now, you have to notice, prophetic gifts can get yourself in trouble. Certainly can. Now, what if this man's done something evil, and I'm standing there, great big (what we call in America) **bulldog faith**, and I grab a hold of him, say, "Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Satan turn him loose. Glory to God." **And I take that disease off of him, and God put it on him for a purpose. I'm in trouble with God. You see what I mean?** [4]

Now, remember Job, all of his trials? Now, **that wasn't God chastening Job, but it was God approving His servant.** So it all worked for good, you see. And then the Book of Job was written for all generations, for a testimony. Now, **God's working it for good.** [5]

Job went through the trials and the tests. His children taken; everything else taken (*Job 1*). **The church members come, accused him of being a secret sinner**, and tried to say everything against him, but yet he wouldn't listen to any of it. **He knowed he had met God's requirements.** He knowed there's no need of Satan trying to tempt him. **He knowed it was the devil. And as long as Satan can make him believe that his sickness was his God doing it, he had Job whipped.** But when Job once struck that revelation, that it was not God! He was only going through his trials **to make him something.** It wasn't God doing it. **It was Satan doing it.**

And same thing today. He'll try to tell you these trials and thing **is your God trying to put punishment upon you.** It isn't so. No, sir. It's Satan doing that, **and God permitting it, to temper you;** to make you see **if you are tied to this earth, by the earth cares,** or whether your treasures are in Heaven. "For wherever your treasures are, there you are also." That's right. Your heart is where your treasures are (*Matt. 12:34-35; 6:19-21*). [6]

O God, fifteen years of hard preaching and scolding, and, God, Thou knowest the reason, love! **Love is chastening** (*Rev. 3:19*). Love is rebuke. **Love is disciplinant.**

O God, may I throw myself with this people, and **may You discipline us, Lord, to Your Word.** [7]

And now He says to His own, "**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.**" **He chastens with nail scarred hands! To rebuke is to reprove.** To reprove is to 'expose with a view to correction.' Chasten does not mean to punish. It means to "discipline because the subject's amendment is in mind." [8]

God brings tensions into the church, for every son that cometh to God must be tried, and proven, and tested (*Heb. 12:4-11*). He lets sickness strike you. **He lets diseases come on you to test you and to prove you, to show the world that you're truly the seed of Abraham.** He permits it by His own will. He permits disasters; He permits the friends to turn against you. He permits all these things, and turns the devil loose to tempt you, and he'll do all but take your life. He could throw you on a bed of affliction; he could turn your neighbors against you; he could turn the church against you; he can do almost anything, and it's God's will for him to do it. **We are taught that it is more precious than gold to us** (*I Peter 1:6-7*). [9]

Sometimes, believers put to the test. **Not sometimes; every time!** **"For every son that cometh to God must be chastened, tried, child-trained."**

Remember, the trials, the dusty roads, the hot sun of persecution, but the loyalty of your heart beats that material till she is ready to go into the mold. God's children are made up correctly on His Word, **for they are living examples, and the Word of God living through them.** See? The trial comes to shake you, to put you to the very bottom, to see where you'll stand. They tested, try every son that cometh to God. [6]

Noticing then, that when Daniel and three of his companions were down there they were put to a test, **a very beautiful example of what a true believer comes to when he really accepts the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. He's always put to the test. Satan's still in the testing business. And it only comes about to help you.** It's for your good. **"Every son that cometh to God must be tried, chastened, scourged;"** and other words, give a little thrashing, straightening up. And if God gives us some chastisement and we can't stand it, **then we become illegitimate children and not the children of God.**

Now, man that's really got his faith set towards heaven, **no matter what takes place here on earth, he's still got his faith set towards heaven.** His friends may forsake him; his family may forsake him; his pastor may forsake him; **but there's one that won't forsake him; that's God.** And when your mind is made up, I like that. [10]

Every one, we just have to be tried, God's whip laid on us, seem like being innocent. **God's doing that to prove that we are sons. Those who cannot stand chastisement are illegitimate children, or not true sons of God.** But that man or woman who can stand **and take their whipping, and**

everything going wrong, still look up and say, "**Lord, I love You**," that's the one. "He that endures to the end, the same shall be saved." (*Mark 13:13*). Now, I love that, don't you?

"And knowing this, that tribulation worketh patience; patience worketh hope; hope maketh not ashamed." (*Rom. 5:3-5*). There you are. See? "Tribulations worketh patience." Be patient. "And hope maketh not a shame." And we're got the hope today. In all of our tribulations, yet, **it works. Tribulations make us patient, waiting to the coming of the Lord.** [11]

The cloudy skies and storms of life are no signs of God's disapproval. Neither are bright skies and still waters signs of His love and approval. His approval of any of us **is only in the Beloved. His love is elective which He had for us before the foundation of the world** (*Eph. 1:3-7*). Does He love us? Ah yes. **But how shall we know?** We shall know because He said so, **and manifested that He did love us for He brought us to Himself and gave us of His Spirit, placing us as sons** (*Gal. 4:6-7*). And how shall I prove my love to Him? **By believing what He said, and by conducting myself with joy amidst the trials that He in His wisdom allows to come to pass.** [12]

Sovereign grace is from a sovereign One. Sovereign, what can it do? Sovereign can do whatever it wants to. Listen to this now. **Sovereign grace can only be given by One that's Sovereign.** And God is Sovereign, so He can give sovereign grace. **Therefore, being sovereign, grace doesn't have to ask anybody** (*I Peter 5:10-11*). It does what it wants to. Isn't that wonderful? It doesn't have to ask, "Can I do this? Or, shall I do this? Can I? Must I? Will I?" Doesn't do it. It does it itself. **Grace is sovereign;** therefore, He can save the vilest. He can save the worst. He can save the impurest. He can save the immoralst. He can heal the sickest. Hallelujah! [13]

Men are not infallible, **but God is. Man, you get your mind on a man, he'll make a mistake. Maybe not willfully, but he'll do it. God permits him to do it so that He can shake your faith away from man.** Our faith is not in the wisdom of man, but in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (*I Cor. 2:3-5*). That's where the true seed of Abraham rests their promise, **because they can only be the seed of Abraham when they receive the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit they're not the seed of Abraham** (*Gal. 3:7,29*). **And that same faith that was in Abraham comes into the believer.** No matter what takes place or how contrary, the believer marches right on. [9]

In Germany they've got a picture, they call it, "The Cloud Day," I believe it's called. And when you get off from a piece from it and look at it, oh, it looks hideous, looks like angry clouds a mixing around one another, like that, as the lights reflect on it. And look like the clouds are moving, as the way the picture is made to reflect the lights, makes it look like an angry storm coming to tear up everything. And then you're told by the guide, "Walk closer, and just keep watching it." **And when you get real close to it, it isn't clouds, it's Angels' wings a-beating together, rejoicing. It's a blessing in disguisement.**

Maybe your sickness, maybe your sacrifice to come out here, **was just a blessing in disguise.** The Angels of God are here present to join their wings together and rejoice, because it's written in the Scripture, that, "The Angels of heaven rejoice when one sinner repents." Think on that. For **THUS SAITH THE LORD**, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (*Heb. 13:8*). His grace cannot be exhausted. **And He's willing to give to you anything your hearts' desire.** [14]

But, however, when a picture is painted, **it must first go through the hall of critics before it can go in the hall of fame.** And what a beautiful picture that is of the Church. **Before the Church can ever be raptured and taken through the hall of fame, it goes here through the hall of critics.** "All that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions." (*II Tim. 3:12*). It must go through the criticism: **no criticism, no glory.** [15]

You've got something to do. God's got something for you to do. You may have some heartaches and some troubles, you may have some disappointments, but do we pray to shun them? **No.** "Lord, take me through them, whatever they are. Whatever it is, don't let me escape them. **If they're set for me, just give me grace to go through that** (*Psalms 34:19*). That's all." [6]

And if a man of this earth, by a vision, would be sure that everything was tested perfectly before he put it in the bridge because of his character, and because of his name, how much more did our blessed heavenly Father test every Word that was ever said, or written in the Bible. He tested every Word, every prophet. **And every son that cometh to God must be tested.** The material that goes in this great highway, every rock, every material, **before it's placed into the Body of Christ has to be tried, chastened.** Every son that cometh to God must first be tried, no exceptions, every one of them. Every prophet before he could write in that Bible, he was tested by the Holy Spirit.

Just as the bridge builder... Couple days ago I was reading the article how that he had everything tested. He got the best mechanics he could find. He got the best concrete men. He got the best that he could find to put together the best that he had.

Oh, my soul would cry, "Hallelujah to God," when I think that God puts in His Church the best that He can find. God takes His children and tests them with an acid test. **Then He places them into the Body of Christ because they are tested** (*I Cor. 12:13*). They believe. They've went through the trials. They've had the **experience.** They are witnesses of His, and know what they're talking about. **Not just an intellectual conception, but they've been borned again of the precious Holy Spirit** (*John 1:12-13*), **and time-tested and tried, until their souls are set like flint towards Calvary.**

Yes, they are time-tested. They are witnesses of His power. And through that, **God's building a bridge from earth to glory,** that the wayfaring man may come on the highway, set down under the tree in the cool of the day by time-tested material, those who take God at His Word. **No matter what the symptoms are, the circumstances, that doesn't stand in the way. God's got time-tested material as a witness, and He places it.**

And this great bridge builder, when finally the architect stood along on the side, and said to the builder, many of the critics, "It'll never stand."

So have they said the Church will never rise. So have they said the days of miracles are past. So, have they said that old time religion cannot be enjoyed any more.

But, oh, when this man placed all those materials together, he dug; he got blowers, and he blowed out those quicksand beds. He went on down, down, down for hundreds of feet beneath the water, until he blowed that shifting sands away, until he put this concrete anchored in the rock on the bottom of the sea. Oh, it was a price, yes. And anything that's worth having, has a price attached to it. How great this salvation, what a great price.

But he finally got down under the shifting sands. **And God has taken Christians and tried them, and tried them, He had to brush them off, and brush them off, and brush them off till finally one of these days He comes down to the solid rock.** Some men just takes this little wishy-washy of experience of shaking hands, and joining the church, and being sprinkled a few times, or baptized, or something. And he washes all the shifting sands back until he's anchored on the Rock, Christ Jesus. All devils of torment can't move him. [16]

Now, God doesn't tempt men, but God tries men, tests them (*James 1:13-15*). **God cannot tempt you, but God can test you.** And every son that cometh to God must be tested or child-trained **before he can be a son.** And if we can't stand chastisement, the Bible said we become illegitimate children and not the children of God, **'cause a child of God is borned of God, and he will stand the test anywhere, any time, on any condition, a child that's borned of God. He that's borned of God, does not commit sin** (*I John 3:9*).

[17]

Reference:

- [1] "Exhortation Of Divine Healing" (51-0501), par. E11
- [2] "The Supernatural" (56-0129), par. E9
- [3] "The Ever-Present Water From The Rock" (61-0723M), par. 68-69
- [4] "A Greater Than Solomon Is Here" (62-0725), par. E30
- [5] "The Evening Messenger" (63-0116), par. 50
- [6] "Three Kinds Of Believers" (63-1124E), par. 100-104, 118
- [7] "Shalom" (64-0119), par. 237-238
- [8] "The Laodicean Church Age", Church Age Book pg. 354
- [9] "Possessing The Enemy's Gates" (59-1108), par. 32, 35
- [10] "Beginning And Ending Of The Gentile Dispensation" (55-0109E), par. E9
- [11] "Jubilee Year" (54-1003E), par. 35-38
- [12] "The Smyrnaean Church Age", Church Age Book pg. 118
- [13] "The Message Of Grace" (61-0827), par. 130
- [14] "Elijah And The Meal Offering" (60-0310), par. 103-104
- [15] "Behold I Stand At The Door And Knock" (58-0617), par. E13
- [16] "Believe From The Heart" (57-0623), par. 22-25
- [17] "God In His Word" (57-0323), par. E14

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]