

Sunday, November 20, 2022

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: Abiding in Christ Involves Discipline

Series: Abiding in Christ ... 5

Text: John 15:1 - 17, Hebrews 12:1 - 14

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation about the DIVINE INTENT of our Heavenly Father to discipline His children in order to release in them His divine authority, power and purpose.

1. Abide in Wisdom:

~ Proverbs 1:7, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

~ Proverbs 9:10, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

~ Proverbs 3:1 – 12, (11) “My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, (12) for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.”

~ Proverbs 12:1, “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”

~ Proverbs 1:23, “If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.”

~ Proverbs 10:17, “Whoever heeds instruction is on the path of life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.”

~ Proverbs 25:4, “Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel;”

Cf. 2 Timothy 2:21, “Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.”

2. Abide in the Correction of the Lord:

~ Hebrews 12:1 – 14

~ vs. 1, the reference is to those in chapter 11; we too most lay aside sin to run the race

~ vs. 2, our focus is to be on the Lord Jesus Christ and his example

~ vs. 3 – 4, recall his obedience and not just at Communion

~ vs. 5 – 6, the promise of the Lord is he will discipline those he has called

~ vs. 7 – 8, the greatest personal witness that we are His, is the fact of discipline!

~ vs. 9 – 10, the example of good earthly fathers who discipline their children

~ vs. 11, the pain of discipline and its fruit

~ vs. 12 – 14, call to lift others up and not put them down

~ Matthew 16:13 – 23, consider Peter and his com-

ments to the Lord; Peter listened to the Father and then listened to Satan!

3. Acknowledge that we have an Enemy:

~ John 16:33, “I have said these things to you, that in me (remember our theme is abide) you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Cf. Romans 12:2 and Romans 8:7, “For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.”

~ Ephesians 6:12, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

~ James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

I have made the sad discovery that I can submit to God and the devil will flee, but even as I submit to God myself does not flee; I am always with me and need to learn personal obedience to God. Dr. John Maxwell has made a statement like this- where ever you are, there you are!

4. Acknowledge our own Errors:

~ Repent (confess), James 5:16, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

~ Renounce, Titus 2:11 -12, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, (12) training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age;”

~ Restore, Galatians 6:1, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

~ Renew, Titus 3:1 – 8

Conclusion:

Lord God Almighty, it is my sad confession that I am so far from being completely formed into the likeness of Your character; but how I long to be, and I know that requires You to lovingly guide and discipline me until the day I stand before You

– “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

1 John 3:1 – 3