

May 31th Sunday 2015

Text: Hebrews 12:4-13

Topic: God disciplines His Sons

The passage portrayed to us situation where the Hebrews have suffered persecution for Christ sake but have not yet shed their blood or die for Christ. Their sufferings have not reached the level of the Old Testament heroes of faith. The Hebrews should not let themselves be discouraged quickly by their trial, they should remember that God will not allow a trial to come on them that they cannot endure because he is merciful (1 Cor. 10:13) whatever trial comes upon the Hebrews it comes as disciplines from God. God's discipline is a sign not of anger but of His love toward them and us. The author helps by sitting Proverbs 3:11-12 when trouble and sorrow come upon us, let us not complain against God, let us remember that in allowing such trouble and sorrow to come upon us, God disciplining us as children for our good. Whatever trouble and persecution comes to us has been allowed by God. Men persecute us because of our obedience to Christ, but God uses that persecution to disciplines us so that we might obey Christ the more. Every son needs disciplines; no one comes about discipline illegitimate children. They will not inherit anything but fathers care about His own son. Father wants to train his son well because he knows one day the son will be given great responsibility. It is same with God. If we are disciplined by God let us rejoice because He is treating us like son and is preparing a place of responsibility for us.

If we have no experience of trouble in our life we will wonder if truly we are God's children. When God disciplines us he makes no mistake. It is always beneficial. It benefits us in making us holy, through Christ sacrifice (Heb. 10:10). Holiness is the righteousness of Christ which we believe when we first believe (Rom. 5:1). Holiness or perfection is the final goal of life we will obtain this when we reach heaven. (Heb. 10:14) God is continually making us more and more holy here on earth through allowing all kinds of troubles and persecution to come upon us in the form of discipline. Paul said, "We must go through hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22) we respond to God discipline in two ways:

1. We reject His discipline and become angry and complain against God.
2. We can thankfully accept God's discipline as training and let Him to train us.

If we accept it we increase us in righteousness (Holiness) and peace. We will turn from sin to righteousness and obedience. Then we reap fruits of righteousness which is peace with God.

Lesson: Let us not be discouraged when trouble comes but accept it as a form of training which will make us mature unto righteousness let's welcome it and look for grace to bear.

Prayer: Troubles and persecutions are difficult times help me Lord Jesus to accept and be righteous in the end. Amen.

DAILY LINK JUNE 2015

WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO BE SAVED AND OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE?

INTRODUCTION

If we ask most people this question, "What should we do to be saved and obtain eternal life"? They may say if you do more good than bad things, you will obtain eternal life but if you uphold this view, you have reserved for yourself seat in Hell. There is no good work we can do to be saved nor obtain eternal life. When we disobey God's righteous Holy laws, we have sinned and this disobedience will lead us to hell. But when we repent and call on Jesus who paid our penalty with his blood on the cross, then we are saved. To obtain salvation and eternal life you need faith in Jesus Christ. Thus the steps to take:

- (a) Repent of your sins and have change of mind to go the right way.
- (b) Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, His death, His burial and resurrection from the death.
- (c) Obey the word of God, the Bible as the word that shows you direction in life outside which you will be blind.
- (d) Change your old ways to a new way.

Read (John 3:36, Romans 6:23, 1 John 5:11-12, Romans 3:23, Roman 3:4)

Remember Jesus is the main focus, trusting Him, obeying and worshipping him, without Jesus there is no Salvation, no heaven and no life eternal. Hell awaits every enemy of Jesus Christ. We were at one time enemies but when we trusted Him we were saved and become friend of Jesus Christ and Sons of God.

June 1st Monday 2015

Text: Acts 18:1-12

Topic: Paul in Ephesus

After he had met with the disciples in Galatia and Phrygia (Acts 18:23) He came to Ephesus where he met the disciples who believed in Christ but had not yet received the Holy Spirit. When he discovered this, He asked them what Baptism have they received? They answered, John's Baptism. He told them such baptism was given only to prepare men for the coming of Christ (Mark 1:2-4), Acts 18:25). But now having believed in Jesus, they were all baptized in Jesus' name. This is the only place where we read about someone having being baptized twice. But we should know that this is the only time they were baptized in Jesus name. Everyone who calls upon the name of Jesus shall be saved, not on John's Moses or Elijah's name. Once someone is baptized in Jesus' name, in whatever form, there is no need again to rebaptise the person. After the baptism they spoke in tongue. This is the third place Luke spoke about speaking in tongue and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4, 10: 44-46). In the New Testament time's, speaking in tongues is a sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit. However the same New Testament did not say that all people must be filled with the Holy Spirit to speak in tongues. Paul taught every Saturday in the Jewish Synagogue in Ephesus. However due to increase in apposition he had to move on. Paul preached every day to all people, Jews and gentiles. As a result of these efforts of Paul the Gospel was heard

in the whole of the province of Asia and beyond. God did extraordinary miracles through Paul in that many who heard about his message were encouraged in their faith. (Mark 5:27-29, Acts 5:15). Paul used his handkerchief and aprons in faith to heal many.

Lesson: It is true and certain that the only means and way to salvation is found in Jesus Christ. Have you found Jesus? Are you still searching with no certainty? Repent and accept Him today.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that salvation is found only in you. I call on you today, help me to believe and trust in you daily, accept me as your servant in Jesus name. Amen.

June 2nd Tuesday 2015

Text: Acts 19:13-20

Topic: Sons of Sceva and the Power of Christ

In the New Testaments times, there were numerous sorcerers, and many of them Jews. When they saw Paul driving out demons in Jesus' name, some of these sorcerers tried to intimidate him (Acts 8:9-13, 18-19). Seven Sons of the Jewish priest named Sceva once tried following Paul's example to drive out evil spirit out of a certain man. But the evil spirit did not recognize these seven brothers. The demon possessed man overcame and severely beat them. Christ's name and power are indeed great. But only those whom Christ appoints have the authority to use His name and His power. Sorcerers and magicians have no authority to use Christ's name. Only true and obedience servant of Christ have the authority to act in His name. Christ's name and use of His authority cannot be faked. Even demons know those that truly accepted and obeyed him. When people saw how demons fled, whenever Paul calls on the name of Christ they were filled with amazement and were afraid. They realized that opposing Christ is in fact serving Satan. They saw that no magic or demons could protect them from the power of Christ's. Therefore many people repented and believed in Christ.

Lesson: We cannot claim the benefits of Christ and exercise them, unless we are truly rooted in Him.

Prayer: My Lord, I pray that you will anoint me and give me the authority to free people from the power of evil through your Name.

June 3rd Wednesday 2015

Text: Acts 19:19-22

Topic: Deception of Magicians and Sorcerers

The Sorcerers and Magicians in the New Testament times used to recite various Mantras which consist of meaningless word written on scrolls. Great value was placed on such scrolls, because it was widely believed that by reading these mantras one could gain great power. But even some of the sorcerers repented and believed in Christ. They put their scrolls together and burned them. The value of the scrolls burned amounts to fifty thousand drachmas. This is very large sum, the drachmas was a silver coin used in ancient Greece. This is same with the value of charms or certain modernized objected placed in a car or home for protection. Even so called Christians go to prayer homes,

use charms, holy water and visit shrines which are forms of magic. Christ has delivered us from these practices.

Paul's ministry was very truthful despite the many dangers he faced (Acts 20:19, 1Cor. 15:30-32, 2 Cor. 1:8-10). It was during this time that Paul wrote the first and second letters to the Corinthians.

Lesson: The Christian life should be without double standard. Using double standard in Christ life has no value. The power in the Name of Christ is higher than any deceptive powers of the devil. Trust in Christ and all other powers will bow.

Prayer: My Lord and my Saviour Jesus Christ, manifest your power in my life always as I testify about you in Jesus name. Amen.

June 4TH Thursday 2015

Text: Acts 19:23-41

Topic: The Riot in Ephesus

Toward the end of Paul's stay in Ephesus a great disturbance arose in connection with the way Christianity grew (Acts 9:2). Persecution in every time of history helps Christianity to spread, grow, refine and deepens in faith. This is another level of persecution as experienced in the above verses. Although persecution is difficult and painful, it enhances Christianity and filters the faith of compliance. When Christians are persecuted, they tend to pray harder, be united in faith and spread to other parts. Persecution is like a seed carried about by the wind.

The Ephesians have a big temple which house the goddess (Artenis), she was termed as mother of all gods (men and women). The image of this goddess was sold to people in huge numbers. But as Christianity advances, the sells dropped down. Therefore the silver smith had two reasons to be angry with Paul. They are as follows:

1. Religion (The spread of Christianity)
2. Finances (The drop in their financial gain)

These silver smiths make their living by the man made god's image, while Paul teaches that these gods are not God at all. They are worthless images. This development arose the anger of the silver smiths. Paul was willing to stand before this angry people to defend the gospel, if given the opportunity, he was ready to face danger for the sake of Christ. But he was asked not to appear. The anger was doubled against Paul and the Jewish population who do not worship the goddess. Imagine a building that is able to accommodate twenty five thousand people was left empty. All turn to Christ as a result of Paul's effort with his team.

Lesson: Persecution arises always as a result of the great effort of the believers within that region. What efforts are you putting to make Christ known to the people of your region? Look at North- East and pray.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, help my effort to cause peoples movement that will empty the temple of all gods around me in Jesus Name.

June 5th Friday 2015

Text: Acts 20:1-6

Topic: Great Movement through Macedonia and Greece

Paul had sent Titus ahead of him to Corinth in order to find out the situation in the Corinthian church after leaving Ephesus. He went on to Macedonia where Titus gave good news about the Corinthian church (2 Cor 2:12-13, 7:5-7).

Paul spent about a year travelling through Macedonia, during which he reached as far as Illyricum, (Modern Yugoslavia (Rom 15:19)). After that, Paul arrived in Greece in Achaia. He remained there for 3 months and wrote his New Testament letter to the Romans. From Achaia, Paul planned to return by boat to Syria and Jerusalem (Acts 19:21). But just as he was about to get on boat, he heard that the Jews of Corinth were plotting to kill him, Paul decided to change his plans and travelled by land through Macedonia to escape the plot against him.

Paul's travelling companions however, took the boat and went to Troas where they waited for Paul. Paul met Luke at Philippi; Titus and two brothers who were representing the churches in Macedonia, were responsible in taking the collections raised for the poor Christians in Jerusalem. (2 Cor. 8:6, 18-24).

Lesson: Brethren it should be known that whenever we are involved in real, true and honest evangelism of a region, we should expect persecution and plot to harm. Let's learn from Paul's strategy and not give up ourselves to our persecutors, when God still has more work for us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus provides me with the courage and the grace to advance your gospel even when people are persecuting me. Amen

June 6th Saturday 2015

Text: Acts 20:7-12

Topic: Eutychus Raised From the Dead At Troas

Paul and his companions stayed in Troas for seven days. The last day of their stay was a Sunday which is customarily called the first day of the week. The believers of Troas had gathered to celebrate the Lord's supper, This is the first time Christians were mentioned in the New Testament holding their weekly service on Sunday as opposed to Saturday (a Sabbath for the Jew).

As Paul was talking, a young man from the crowd named Eutychus fell asleep. Perhaps he fell asleep as a result of the smoke from the lamps. Whatever the reason, he fell out from the third storey window and was picked up dead. This is a report from doctor Luke. Paul put his arms around him and his life returned, let us always be alert at every church gathering to avoid what happened to this young man. The devil is always ready to attack believers but God is with us. Often people are accused of being unspiritual for sleeping in the church, but most often, they are attacked by the devil and are made weak.

This is why it is necessary to pray hard before starting every gathering to subject every contrary spirit under the control of the Holy Spirit. After the celebration of the Lord's Supper (eating a meal together), Paul continued talking until day light and he left for Jerusalem.

Lesson: Whenever the children of God are gathering, expect the presence and activities of the enemy to manifest. We should be encouraged that our Lord will come to

our aid just as he did with Eutychus. God is in total control despite the activities of evil forces against his children.

Prayer: Oh, Lord Jesus manifests your power in every situation of our lives. Help us to overcome every evil that comes our way.