

Sermon Quotes
October 15th, 2006
Study of Hebrews- Chapter 12

“God’s people can never by any possibility be punished for their sins. God has punished them already in the person of Christ, Christ, their substitute, has endured the full penalty for all their guilt, and neither the justice nor the love of God can ever exact again that which Christ has paid.”

C.H. Spurgeon

“It is essential to observe the distinction between punishment and discipline. Punishment and discipline may agree as to the nature of the suffering: the one suffering may be as great as the other. The sinner who, while here is punished for his guilt, may suffer no more in this life than the Christian who is only disciplined by his parent. They do not differ as to the nature of the punishment, but they differ in the mind of the punisher and in the relationship of the person who is punished. God punishes the sinner on his own account, because he is angry with the sinner, and his justice must be avenged, his law must be honored, and his commands must have their dignity maintained. But he does not punish the believer on his own account, it is on the Christian's account, to do him good, He afflicts him for his profit, he lays on the rod for his child's advantage; he has a good design towards the person who receives the discipline. While in punishment the design is simply with God for God's glory, in discipline, it is with the person disciplined for his good, for his spiritual profit and benefit.”

C.H. Spurgeon

“Someone might ask, “Does this principle of discipline apply to things like natural calamities and sicknesses that are not caused by the hostility of sinners?” Should we see these things as part of God's overarching discipline of his children for their good? I would answer with a question: Which is harder to attribute to God's design: the hostility of sinners against God's people or the destruction of a hurricane? I believe the hostility of sinners is more difficult to attribute to God's design. The reason is that in both cases - hostility and hurricanes - you have to deal with the pain caused by the event. But in the case of hostility you have the added difficulty that people's wills are involved, whereas in the case of a hurricane you don't have that difficulty. No human agent is causing the hurricane, but a human is willing the hostility. So if we say that God is governing the hostility of sinners against the saints, we imply that he governs not just natural effects but human wills, and what harm they bring to the saints.”

John Piper

“I know that in our time of deepest affliction, none of us find comfort by endlessly focusing on that suffering. There’s an element of mystery in all our suffering and in this life we can’t fully understand it, yet we face a subtle temptation to relive and review our suffering. That is an exercise that will never bring rest and release. What will bring rest and release is spending more time meditating on the cross and on the God of the cross.”

C.J. Mahaney