

Today is January 05, 2025

There is something fascinating in GRIEF

By John Newton, he also wrote the hymn "Amazing Grace".

There is something fascinating in GRIEF. As *painful* as it is, we are prone to *indulge* it, and to brood over the thoughts and circumstances which are suited (like fuel to fire) to *heighten* and *prolong* it!

When the Lord afflicts — it is His design that we should grieve; but in this, as in all other things — there is a certain *moderation* which befits a Christian, and which only grace can teach. And grace teaches us, not by *books* or by *hearsay* — but by *experimental lessons*. All beyond this, should be avoided and guarded against as sinful and hurtful.

GRIEF, when indulged and excessive . . .

preys upon the spirits,
injures health,
indisposes us for duty, and
causes us to shed tears which deserve more tears.

This is a weeping world. Sin has filled it with thorns and briars, with crosses and calamities. This poor world is a *great hospital*, resounding with groans in every quarter. It is as a *field of battle*, where many are falling around us continually! It is more astonishing that we *escape* so well — than that we are sometimes *wounded*. We must have some share of grief; it is the unavoidable lot of our nature and state; it is likewise needful in point of discipline. The Lord will certainly chasten those whom He loves, though others may seem to pass for a time with impunity. *That is a sweet, instructive, and important passage,*

"And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: *'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son.'* Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:5-11.

It is so *plain* — that it needs no comment. It is so *full* — that a comment would but weaken it.

**WELCOME TO THE
SOVEREIGN GRACE**

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

*"Where the truths of God's word have been taught
For sixty-three years." Since October 21, 1961*

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Our Prayer List

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders, Mark and Kathy Johnson.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

Pastor's thought for the week."

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;" 1 Peter 5:2

An Attempt to Restore Sinning Believers.

"But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23

God wants us to all understand His will for us in this life on earth. Our life is our purpose, to serve the Lord our God with everything we have been blessed with. We know that our sins were all paid for by the blood of Jesus, however, it is because of this glorious gift of forgiveness we owe God everything. We could never possibly return to God what He has given to us who are saved, He gave His own Son to the wicked hands of hater for our sins. God hath cleansed us, bought our redemption, and gave us sonship, and ordered us to go into the world and do His work for His glory. God has given us the blessing or working with Him in redeeming lost sinners, allowing our work of planting, and watering the field for Him to give the increase in everything. The Lord's churches have the greatest work of getting the gospel message to the world, which is to every living soul. Mark 16:15 *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* In the Old Testament times God had many chores for His people, from building a ship by hand, to being the father of many nations, to sacrificing their life, family, and churches as martyrs, so please do not allow the work in our time be a burden to any of us. However, throughout time people blessed of God have failed God, and many never returned to the service of God. God speaks of scourging us, rebuking us, and even chastening us, all in the name of love. Heb. 12:7 *"If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"* Christians sometimes believe blessings are only in the good things in life, but they are wrong, God's blessing to His children are also in our rebuke, and chastening of God. God's chastening is God's love for His children, God's correction to His children whom He loves so dearly. As one writer put it, *"badges of our sonship."* therefore, it is an honor for God to correct us. Always remember "God corrects none but his own" therefore, when we are corrected, we need to remember God is just tweaking us to be more righteous in our earthly walk. God also need to remember that God uses the church as a corrective tool, and that tool is expulsion. While many churches balk at expulsion it is a scriptural tool to correct undisciplined members. God said of expulsion, *"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."* Matthew 18:17

Pastor's Thought Continue.

Albert Barnes said, *"The meaning of this is, cease to have religious contact with him, or to acknowledge him as a Christian brother."* The purpose of discipline is not about hate, but love. All church members love one another and pray for one another, and help one another, but the goal of a church is to be in unity and our service to the Lord. Paul wrote in Philippians 2:1, 2 *"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."* Then there is an entire church, Jesus will chasten an entire church if we as a unit fail in His word and service. Jesus warned disobedient churches, *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."* Revelation 2:5. But notice Jesus said, *"except thou repent."* Discipline whether it is from God, or the church is an act of love and not of hate. It is to bring a disorderly member or back in line with the Lord or the church in their earthly walk. Beloved, we all need correcting, we all walk disorderly at times, the question is how much correction does it take to return to righteousness. Beloved, please remember that God knows everything and nothing is ever hidden from Him. Our live and our hearts are an open book to God, and if the church does not know to discipline a disobedient member the Lord does. None of this discipline is designed to hurt a believer, we are all God's elected family, but what kind of Father would our God be if He just let us walk in disobedience, or what kind of a church would we be if we also just let our members live in open sin? Christians that let their pride get in the way of discipline do not care about the Lord. They rebuke corrections and allow themselves to lose most if not all crowns and rewards in glory because of pride. The question is, are you prepared to stand before Jesus in judgment and to be in heaven for eternity as an excluded member of the Lord's church? If not then it is time to fix it, if the Lord has disciplined you, it is time to fix it, after you leave this earth, that time has expired. It is time to be restored by the Lord and the churches.

Church information and Happenings

- Please be in much prayer for our dear brother in Christ Jerry Dodson as his time is limited.
- Please remember to be in much prayer for Brother Ronnie Henderson and Sister Sarah.