

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is our Spiritual life referred to as a race? What things are similar in preparation for each?
2. What effect does God's chastening have on our lives? Why do men like to reject the thought of God's chastening?
3. What things are necessary for our lives if we are to see God?
4. What does God expect of a holy life?

SUMMARY:

Our lesson deals with four commands for the development of our spiritual lives.

We must run the race! We can't be a spectator and sit on the sidelines. We must be a participant and we must seek to win the race.

We must endure chastening! As a child of God we must expect this. We dare not resent His chastening because one who does not receive chastening is not His child. Just think! This is one of the marks of our relationship with God. Let us expect chastening and learn from it.

We must be holy! The Word says, "*be ye holy even as I am holy*". How important for us to put aside all flippant and frivolous things of life and be as Jesus. How many Christians hate to hear these words because their lives do not measure up to the "measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"?

We must serve God! We cannot serve two masters. We cannot love both. We can only love one and hate the other. As we look at our lives, which master do we really love? To which one do we devote our time, energy and talents? Let us measure ourselves by the yardstick of God's Word.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #13

September 25, 2005

Third Quarter

THE BELIEVER'S DEVELOPMENT

LESSON TEXT: *Hebrews 12:1-29*

LESSON SETTING: Written from Italy to the Palestinian Jews, probably by Paul.

TIME: Approximately 64 A.D.

I. RUN THE RACE! Hebrews 12:1,2

- A. Many Watching Us (vs. 1)
- B. Persevere (vs. 1) Galatians 6:9; 1 Peter 1:13; Revelation 3:11
- C. Run the Race (vs. 1) 1 Corinthians 9:24; Philippians 3:14
- D. Look to Jesus (vs. 2) Matthew 11:29; John 13:15; 1 Peter 2:21

II. ENDURE CHASTENING! Hebrews 12:3-11

- A. Accept Chastening (vs. 5-6) Proverbs 15:5b; Ecclesiastes 7:5
- B. The Mark of a Son (vs. 7-8) Proverbs 13:23; 19:18
- C. Bears Good Fruit (vs. 11) John 15:2, 5

III. BE HOLY! Hebrews 12:12-17

- A. Be Strong (vs. 12) Ephesians 6:10; 2 Timothy 2:1
- B. Be at Peace (vs. 14) Romans 12:18; James 3:17
- C. Be Holy (vs. 14) 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 3:11
- D. Be Watchful (vs. 15) 1 Corinthians 16:13

IV. SERVE GOD! Hebrews 12:18-29

- A. Refuse Him Not (vs. 25) Luke 14:18; Acts 28:27
- B. Serve Him Acceptably (vs. 28) Proverbs 16:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:1
- C. Serve Him with Reverence (vs. 28) Psalm 4:4; 89:7
- D. Serve Him with Godly Fear (vs. 28) 1 Samuel 12:14

GOLDEN TEXT: *LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND THE SIN WHICH DOETH SO EASILY BESET US, AND LET US RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US.*

Hebrews 12:1

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Hebrews 13:1-22

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 18:1-16
Romans 13:1-14
Colossians 3:12-25

QUARTERLY THEME: BOOK OF HEBREWS

TOPIC: THE BELIEVER'S DUTIES

INTRODUCTION:

Probably the best way we can witness for the Lord and let others know what He has done for us is in our attitudes toward them. Our love for the Lord, or the degree of it, is manifested in our love toward others, in our homes, at church, at work or at school or wherever we may be. It is by our actions that men will judge us. Yes, even God will judge us by our actions because what is in the heart is reflected by what we do. Let us make no mistake. Our mode of dress or our very appearance, if it is not appropriate, is evidence of a rebellious spirit.

This is when our duty to Christ takes preeminence. Here too, is when we must serve Him above all else. So many people want to be Christians, but when they hear they are to surrender all to Him then "that is carrying things too far". How often it is that people are not willing to take time to visit the sick or the aged because they "need time to relax or keep physically fit". They seemingly do not believe we should be expendable for Him.

We also have a duty to those who are our spiritual leaders. The Word of God says we are to submit to them. They have been appointed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28) and they must give account to God for the conduct of those who have been placed in their charge. Let us not be a Korah (Numbers 16:1-34) but rather be charitable and obedient.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The Christian life manifests itself in love and service to Christ and others.

GOLDEN TEXT: *LET YOUR CONVERSATION BE WITHOUT COVETOUSNESS AND BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS AS YE HAVE; FOR HE HATH SAID, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE.*
Hebrews 13:5

In this age of affluence many people are afflicted with covetousness. So many try "to keep up with the Joneses". And it is so easy to fall into this sin with our credit card economy. It is so easy to charge something and pay later. Why not have what our neighbor has? But the painful part comes when we must sooner or later pay the bills, and how often the things we should have done for the Lord suffers because we do not have enough money and have to work so much harder and so many more hours to make ends meet. We find we have neither the time nor the money, and last but not least, we have lost the desire to let God come first in our lives.

We often are not content with what we have. Not always that we set our goals too high, but because we have not the faith to trust in God believing His promise to care for us. We think we have to prepare for a rainy day or for our retirement (not that this is wrong) but we fail to fully trust Him. May we learn to keep these things in their right perspective.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Sept. 26 – Oct. 2

M. *The Believer's Duties. Hebrews 13:1-22
T. Mindful of Others. Romans 14:1-12
W. Careful of Others. Romans 14:13-23
T. Pleasing Christ. Romans 15:1-6
F. Walking in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-26
S. United in Love. Ephesians 4:11-16
S. Considerate of Others. Ephesians 5:25-32