

Hebrews 12:12-30

12 Therefore - because discipline is good - because it produces the fruit of righteousness, because it comes from a loving Father...in the midst of discipline, buck up. Literally make your arms straight instead of relaxed. Is this the prayer posture being referred to? Today we say 'weak kneed' when we mean a lack of determination. Our attitude affects our posture. If we feel the discipline is a bad thing we slouch, when we have joy and hope in it, we straighten up. Stand tall ! You are God's child!

13 A quote from Proverbs 4:26. Accepting discipline as a child results in the healing of our handicaps.

14 We must make the effort to be at peace with all men for the sake of the Gospel. No one will listen to my words if I have offended them in some way. Paul became all things to all men to win some. Romans 12:18, Ephesians 4:2,3 It is a surrendering of personal rights for the sake of the lost. We must also make every effort to be holy (sanctified life, sinless life, set apart life). 1Peter 1:15,16 That type of life is an example to nonbelievers. It says there is a difference and a reason to be a Christian. It also says we see sin as destructive and undesirable -- quite a different message than the one we get from the world. 2Peter 3:11 Why is holiness required to see the Lord? How do we obtain this holiness? Romans 6:22

15 This peacefulness and holiness is with a heart to see people receive the grace of God instead of becoming bitter. We need to watch this area of our life. Bitterness eats us up like a cancer. It grows within us and spreads to others.

16-17 Sexual immorality is one of the enemies greatest weapons of destruction. What was it about Esau's act that exhibited godlessness? Some acts cause changes from which there is no return. The writer is warning us that to play with sin can have eternal consequences.

18-21 Exodus 19:12-13, 16-19 To meet with a holy God meant a fearful encounter with power and might under the Law. The quote is from Deuteronomy 9:19.

22- 24 What a difference in scenes! The difference was made in verse 24, the new covenant made with the blood of Christ. We are back in the stadium we began the chapter with. Can your eyes of the Spirit see it all around us right now? The blood of Abel speaks of a sacrifice by faith, the blood of Christ of the perfect sacrifice for all men that that faith can be placed in.

25 Jeremiah 11:10 If those in the past were judged for not hearing the words of the God who brought the Law, how much more will we be judged if we refuse the One who was incarnated and paid the price for our sins in his body so that we could be right with God?

26–30 Deuteronomy 4:24 Anything physical can be shaken throughout the universe. God is going to shake it all one day and only the unshakable will remain. The consuming fire that God is will devour what is temporal and only the eternal will remain. Psalm 16:8 Thank God He is moving our hearts from the focus on the temporal that is soon to pass and moving it toward the eternal. How far are you in this direction? Knowing the Kingdom we are receiving (present perfect tense) cannot be shaken we should be THANKFUL and worship God with reverence and awe. That is the acceptable way.