

THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD

Rick McFarland

I. The Two Judgments of God

A. Many Christians do not understand the dealings of the Lord towards them.

B. Many think that God judges his children for their sin.

1. Many think this judgment for their sins are the calamities of life- They think God sends disaster or disease to punish them.

C. This arises from a misunderstanding of the two types of judgments of God

1. **There is a judgment for sin**

a. For a Christian this judgment is **passed** and **incurred by Jesus**. [John 5:24]

b. For an unbeliever this judgment is future- "Great White Throne Judgment"- [Rev. 20:12-15] This is a judgment for sin [rejection of Jesus]- which includes the **book of life**; **and books of works**.

2. **There is a judgment of works or deeds**- This type of judgment is the only judgment a believer experiences from God in this life or in eternity.

a. After death- Judgment seat of Christ- [1 Cor. 3:13-15, 2 Cor. 5:10]- This is a judgment of **works** not **sin**.

b. In this life- [1 Cor. 11:31-32]

D. There are two main words for judgment in the bible.

1. **Gr. katakrino**- To make a verdict **against** someone- This word is translated "condemnation" in the Bible. This is reserved for unbelievers only. They are judged against.

a. [Romans 8:1]- Therefore, there is **now** no condemnation [**katakrino**] for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. **Gr. krino**- To make a verdict concerning someone. God does judge [or make verdicts concerning] his people in respect to their deeds and **FOR THEIR GOOD**. When a Christian is judged by God they are judged for their good. When an unbeliever is judged they are judged against [to their detriment].

II. 1st type of judgment- Judgment for sin

A. The judgment for sin is spiritual death

1. [**Romans 6:23**]- The wages or penalty [judgment] of sin is death

2. This deals with the guilt incurred by sin

3. Jesus took this judgment in our behalf and as us on the cross

a. [**2 Cor. 5:14**]- He died for all

b. [**Hebrews 2:9**]- He tasted death for all

c. He was our **propitiation**- satisfaction and turning away of God's wrath- [**Romans 3:25, Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:2, 1 John 4:10**]

4. God will never judge us [**for our sins**] because they have been judged in Jesus. This would be double jeopardy.

a. [**John 3:18**]- He who believes in Jesus Christ **IS NOT JUDGED** [for sin]. "*Is not judged*" is present tense in the Greek. Believers are "not **being** judged [**for their sins**]".

b. [**John 5:24**]- He who has believed upon Christ shall not come into judgment [**for sin**]. "Shall not come into judgment" is not future tense in the Greek. It is **present** tense. "Those who have believed upon Christ **are not being** brought into judgment [**for their sins**]".

c. These two scriptures are straight for our Lord Jesus' mouth! We are not being judged for our sins as a believer.

5. We will not incur this judgment because we have accepted Christ and all our sins have been paid for and removed from us.

a. [**Ephesians 1:7**]

b. [**Colossians 2:13**]

c. [**Hebrews 9:28, 10:2**]

III. 2nd Type of Judgement- Judgment of works

A. Some have taken the verses such as [**John 3:18**] and [**John 5:24**] to mean that God never judges his people. This is a biblical error. God does judge his people. However, this judgment is not for sins, but is upon deeds [works].

B. [**Hebrews 10:30**]- God shall judge [**Gr. krino**] **His** people.

C. [**1 Cor. 11:31-32**]

1. We are to judge ourselves lest we be judged [**Gr. krino**]

2. When we are judged [**Gr. *krino***], we are chastened of **THE LORD**

D. The verses above plainly say that God will and does judge his people- this judgement [**krino**] is upon our deeds and is for our good.

IV. The chastening of the Lord

A. [**Hebrews 12:5-9**] The Lord chastens those he loves.

1. chasten- Gr. ***paideia***- lit. *child training*; this is just for his children- not unbelievers who are not his children.

2. rebuked- Gr. ***elegcho***- *to admonish*

B. However, what is this chastening? How does God chasten His children? Does He send disasters upon them? Does He send cancer upon them? Does He cause them to suffer financial lack?

B. God will not put on His children curses that Jesus took for them on the cross.

1. Jesus redeemed us from sickness- [**1 Peter 2:24**]

2. Jesus redeemed us from calamity- [**Isaiah 54:14**]

3. Jesus died for our prosperity- [**2 Cor. 8:9**]

V. The Four Stages of God's Discipline

A. **Stage #1**-[**2 Tim. 3:16**]- God's main way he will bring chastening [**paideia**- child training] to His children is by **HIS WORD!**

1. The Word of God is profitable for

a. Teaching- Gr. ***didaskalia***

b. Reproof- Gr. ***elegcho***- **SAME WORD AS IN HEBREWS 12:5**- "rebuke"

c. Correction- Gr. ***epanorthosis***- *straightening up again*- God uses his Word to straighten us up!

d. Instruction- Gr. ***paideia***- **SAME WORD AS IN HEBREWS 12:5**- "*chasten*"

2. Whenever someone opens up God's Word it will work to straighten them up and child train them. Open up the bible and speaks to them in an area that is wrong in their life. They turn on TV and Joyce Meyer is talking right at them! Turn on the radio and Copeland is saying the same thing. God will first and primarily bring discipline to His children by **His Word**.

B. **Stage #2- [Galatians 6:8]**-If Christians do not let the Word of God "spank" them and straighten them up, then God permits their own consequences to "spank" them. If we sow to the flesh we will reap **FROM THE FLESH [Not God]** corruption and harmful things. God allows them to experience these things to bring them back to Him.

C. **Stage #3- [1 Cor. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:20]** -They are handed over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh- If they do not listen after the first two stages then after a **protracted** period of time, God will take his protection off of them and allow the devil to attack their flesh [natural life]. God does not do the work of destroying, Satan does! This stage is when one's sin is not only affecting them but others around them.

1. [**1 Tim 1:20**]- They were handed to Satan to learn [Gr.

paideuo- child trained] not to blaspheme.

2. God disciplines at this stage by taking his protection off.

3. Many think every time they sin, the devil is free to come in and destroy them. Notice it was not until this stage could Satan have the authority to do any harm to a Christian. For a Christian who knows and uses their authority, Satan cannot come in and destroy them even with they mess up!

D. **Stage #4- [Acts 5:5;10, 1 Cor. 11:30]** This stage is where one dies early before their time. Satan is the cause of this and not God.

VI. Sin

A. Sin does not change God, it changes you.

B. God's inheritance and what Jesus died for is given by grace

1. [**Ephesians 1:3**]

2. [**Romans 8:32**]- All that God gives he gives by his grace- **FREELY**. They must be received however by faith.

C. But they must be received by faith

D. When we sin we

1. [**Hebrews 3:13**] Harden our own heart and turn from Him. He does not turn from us!

2. [**1 John 3:20-21**] Lose our confidence [faith/trust] in God- It is our faith that receives God's grace. When we sin we do damage to our heart and faith and confidence to receive from God.

E. We regain our confidence before the Lord by acknowledging our sins and trusting in the blood of Jesus Christ which cleanses our conscience.

D. Our sin and sins have been judged in Jesus and our standing in Him is secure. God will judge our deeds for our good and for the good of others. This judgment is for us and not against us as in the unbelievers.