

THE
DISCIPLINES
OF
GOD.....Keswick, 1974

I. Introductory note:

A. In this series the intention is to treat a very few of the means used by God in "training" his children--helping them mature--and increase in "usefulness" to the testimony. There are many reasons underlying our consideration of this particular subject but one of the largest is the simple fact that these means are not often understood, sometimes are resented, and occasionally misrepresented into the bargain. It is not our opinion that they can all be dealt with in a very short time but the hope is to have them before us and in the formulation of life, being aware of the service they render, to profit by the training aspects.

Admittedly the definitions of some parts of the study will be very hard...many training cycles overlap and, since we are for the most part, slow learners, there may be the need to re-teach a particular lesson from a different approach. But if we are familiar with some we will be the better for it and the likelihood of being benefitted by other disciplines will be increased.

B. Our study grows, of course, from the passage in Hebrews 12, notably vs 5-11. These are based against a Solomonic teaching in Proverbs and are used by the Apostle to put a challenge before the persons to whom he writes. The challenge is put in simple words--to remember that the wise Father trains his children and all who belong to him in a family sense should expect that sort of training.

The word "chastise" is the word we are rendering as training. It is a term that relates to the total training cycle of children...both in noun and verb sense. In 2 Timothy 3:16 it is mentioned as "instruction" and it has within it enough meaning to cover every part of "child-training". It is unfortunate, in my judgment, that "chastisement"