

means "punishment" to so many for while this may be part of the package it is by no means the total significance of the Greek word involved. When the writer speaks of a father chastising his child he indicates that the father provides a full program of training for the child that may include a lot of hard jobs as well as proper punishment when that is needed.

C. The reasoning of the writer of the Hebrews letter (the author of these notes is a "Paul" man) is very precise and we may summarize it briefly in this manner:

1. The Father loves the children. They are born into the family by grace for the Divine pleasure and therefore have purpose assigned from heaven.

2. The children need the benefit of wise parental guidance. Contrary to their own desires they do not know enough to fully superintend their lives or make certain of coming to a reasonably successful maturity.

3. The guidance, in whatever form it is given, may seem a bit severe for the children for that is the nature of children. Any form of guidance may be more than they want. But...

4. The Wise Father knows what they need and his desire is for their well being in all parts of life and reality of spiritual fulfillment.

5. Understandably, the aforementioned points are easier to say about the Father than they are to follow in the course of life. But there can be no challenge as to their validity so the final thrust is this: Let the children profit accordingly as the father gives instruction.

D. Now when we come to the disciplines or training procedures of our Lord, there is a danger both to say too much or to say too little. To some the chastisement of God is such an awesome thing that they make him a frightening spectacle of whom the normal believer is mostly frightened. This is a poor picture.