

Hebrews 12:7a: Summary; Hebrews 12:7b

Little, Joan. "Training Urged on Handling of School Violence." St. Louis Post-Dispatch. 19 Nov. 1995, p. 1A.

hupomeno describes a mental attitude which does not become discouraged under pressure and therefore does not waver or become unstable. Such an approach is among the fruits of the Holy Spirit and thus cannot be enjoyed by the reversionist. This is part of his discipline—he cannot endure it. Therefore, from this we can illustrate a principle which we have studied in the past but which you may not have understood:

"Logistical Grace is guaranteed every believer from the moment of salvation until his physical death regardless of whether he is advancing spiritually or enmeshed in reversionism."

Why? If God's desire for imposing discipline is so that the reversionist might recover, then the only way he can do so is for his logistical supply to continue.

From this principle we can also understand an implied warning:

"Do not take the continued provision of logistical grace support while in rebellion against God lightly."

Remember the warning to Jezebel in:

Revelation 2:21 - And so I gave her time in order that she might change her mind, nevertheless, she did not desire to change her mind about her fornication.

SUMMARY

Again, we must remember the principles from our study of the divine decrees to appreciate this command.

By means of omniscience, God is able to determine in eternity past every thought, decision, and action of every person in human history. Motivated by His love, God's righteousness serves as the standard by which divine justice deals with the human race. Thus, within the divine decrees, God has inserted a divine response to human volitional choices.

Whenever an individual submits to the plan of God, that is, complies with divine mandates, then righteousness demands that justice bless and reward that believer. Whenever an individual rebels against the plan of God, that is, refuses to comply with divine mandates, then righteousness demands that justice discipline that believer. Such discipline is administered as a corrective measure to restore the reversionist to the required standards of divine righteousness.

The desired end is that blessing and rewards might be conveyed to the child of God rather than pain and suffering. Thus, discipline is a means by which God uses shock treatment to get the attention of an errant child. The entire process is motivated by love. God never disciplines from a negative emotion such as hatred, anger, or vindictiveness.

Therefore, when the believer falls under the corrective discipline of God, he is to consider it as a positive rather than a negative. Since the discipline is a sign of love, since it indicates that the recipient is a child of God, and since its objective is to bless and reward, then the believer under discipline is commanded to endure it.

Again, endurance cannot begin to sustain the believer until he submits to the recovery process. CTL: Because of corrective discipline, endure!

The second sentence of Hebrews 12:7 gives the explanation of why the reversionist must orient and adjust to discipline and also gives the motivation for recovery. It begins with the noun: *Θεοῦ*

Theos - “God.” This is followed by the present passive indicative of the verb: *prosferw*

prosphero - In the active voice this verb means: to bring; to offer; to present as an offering; to bring someone to someone.

But in the passive voice, used here, it means: “to deal with.”

There is the same idiomatic use of this verb in the English and fits perfectly here into our translation:

Cowie, A. P. and R. Mackin. Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English. Vol. 1 New York: Oxford University Press, 1975, p. 75:

deal with [pass] to handle some offence (with the suggestion that the reckoning will be unpleasant). present - Static; a condition which perpetually exists.

All justice toward the believer is always administered in the context of a Father/child relationship.

As your human father will forever be your human father, so also your heavenly Father must always be your heavenly Father. Consequently, you are dealt with as sons.

If you commit some offence to God’s righteousness, then justice must deal with it in a manner which is unpleasant to you. What results is a reckoning. A reckoning refers to a settling of accounts.

God’s righteous standards have been violated thus righteousness demands of justice that a settlement, or reckoning, be achieved.

According to the Scriptures—namely 1 John 1:9 — the desired settlement is confession alone to God alone. God’s grace plan permits us to correct self-centered rebellion to divine mandate by self-judgment.

1 Corinthians 11:31 - If we judged ourselves correctly [*diakrino*: a legal decision reached from the norms and standards of one’s conscience that sin has occurred, followed by confession], we should not now be under judgment [*krino*: judicial decision to impose divine discipline in an effort to gain a confession].

This is another passage which illustrates our sonship by means of discipline. The amplification is clear in the next verse:

1 Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged [*krino*: administration of justice] by the agency of the Lord [under the aegis of the Supreme Court of Heaven] we are disciplined [*paideuo*: chastisement] in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.