



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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LEARNING THE HARD WAY

Divine discipline may incidentally help someone other than the person being discipline. Divine discipline is a private mentor of the one in pain, in whom God confronts the ignorance of Bible doctrine. Believers who fail to learn doctrine will suffer (divine discipline and self-induced misery) all their lives until they are removed by sin unto death.

They may be negative at different points in the learning process, which involves reception, retention, and recall of doctrine. Those who refuse to listen to Bible doctrine will live out their days in chaos of ignorance, self-induced misery, and divine discipline. They will be unhappy and will never understand why.

Some listens consistently, but reject Bible doctrine they do not like to hear. The points of doctrine they resist must be learned another way, the hard way through divine discipline. Where the believer has reception and retention but no recall of doctrine for application then divine discipline solves the problem by forcing the believer to concentrate on doctrine in shattering situation. God must teach and all of us must learn a certain number of lessons through suffering.

We have a choice: Learn the easy way through Bible teaching, or learn the hard way through suffering. These are the two systems of learning in the Church Age. Biblical instruction from one's pastor is God unlimited means of communication. The spiritual orthodox pastor who teaches the Word of God line by line, verse by verse can cover the whole realm of truth, resulting in spiritual momentum and growth of the listeners.

Divine discipline can only motivate the believer to return to the plan of God and resume learning doctrine under his local church. Discipline has a very limited objective of informing, alerting and motivating the believer outside the plan of God and return by rebound. Concentrating in Bible class may be difficult from time to time, but it is not as painful as receiving divine discipline directly from God.

God takes punitive action in order to teach and train His children. Divine discipline motivates us to learn so that the renewing of our minds becomes a way of life. We learn the hard way from time and that is something we cannot escape:

Those whom I love, (believers, who possess God's imputed righteousness) I reprove (warning discipline) and discipline; (intensive disciplines) be zealous (motivation from discipline) therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door (opportunity for rebound) and knock; (warning discipline) if anyone hears My voice (believers in the cosmic system) and opens the door, (rebound) I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me (restored fellowship with God -a grace provision) [Revelation 3:19-20].

The Church Age believer always belongs to Christ's royal priesthood, even when he lives in the cosmic system. He always has the right to approach the throne of grace with rebound and restored to his own palace (Hebrews 4:16).

Divine discipline alerts the carnal believer to the reality that something is wrong with his life. The Lord graciously keeps knocking, giving every believer continuing time and opportunities to rebound. The failure of a believer to respond positively after hearing the knocking results to intensive divine discipline. God will never administer the sin unto death unless the carnal believer has totally become callous and insensitive to Bible doctrine.