

The Soul Winner's Manual

LECTURE 4 (PART 1) OUTLINE BY RALPH "YANKEE" ARNOLD

Chastening and Rewards

Eternal life is guaranteed to all believers, but they should never make the mistake of thinking Christians can live as they please without consequences. They cannot. This is very important because failure to make this clear can keep a person from wanting to trust Christ as his Saviour.

1. **Privileges** When you are saved, you become God's son and God become's your Father. While you have certain privileges as God's child, your Father also has the responsibility of taking care of you.
2. **Punishments** If a person thinks a Christian could live in sin and not be punished for it, he doesn't know much of the Bible, nor does he understand the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian. **Heb 10:29** *Of how much sorer **punishment**, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith **he was sanctified**, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*

God deals with His children mainly in two ways:

(1) **For Blessings** When you respond to and obey the Lord's leading in your life, God's discipline for you will be mainly one of guidance, encouragement, and further instruction;

(2) **For Chastenings** When you rebel against God's leading, He will deal with you in as strong a measure it takes for you to obey Him.

People are motivated mainly by two things: **love and fear**. God uses each in a perfect blend that is just right for each Christian.

1. **Proverbs 3:11, 12**, "... For whom the Lord LOVETH He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." This is quoted in Heb. 12:6. Notice, when God corrects you, is it because He hates you? No, but because He loves you and delights in you, and knows what is best for you.
2. **Job 5:17**, "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty."
3. **I John 1:9** When a Christian disobeys God, he should confess it right away. Every time you confess your sin, you will be forgiven. When you know that God will forgive and does forgive, it is your clue to accept God's forgiveness by forgiving yourself.

Please notice two other things about I John 1:9:

- a. God does not guarantee **restoration of fellowship** on the basis of confession of sin. Fellowship with the Lord comes when a Christian disciplines his life so that he has "things in common" with the Lord. **You must correct the walk to restore the fellowship.**
- b. God does not guarantee **restoration of damage** resulting from sin based on confession of sin. For instance, perhaps a Christian has gone away from things of the Lord and starts to drink, and he ruins his kidneys. If he confesses his sin, yes, the Lord will forgive him . . . but that forgiveness doesn't heal his damaged kidneys.

4. There is a natural result of sin as well as God's personal chastisement in your life. **Galatians 6:7** says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Notice that God does NOT add, "EXCEPT if he confesses it."

A Christian can do wrong things, but he cannot escape the CONSEQUENCES of doing wrong things. A person can put his hand into the fire if he wants to, but he cannot escape getting his hand burned.

Some Christians want to sow wild oats all week long and then pray for CROP FAILURE at the end of the week!

1. People want to know "what God will do to them" if they do "this or that, but rest assured, you will receive "personalized" attention.
2. One could not say how often you could commit the same sin before God would severely chasten you for it. The Lord uses His discretion in every instance. **Hebrews 12:11** says when God chastens it will not be pleasant: **God may show mercy, but you cannot demand it.**
3. **I Cor. 11:30-32** A disobedient child is never happy for long. Continued sin often brings weakness and sickness into your life. If you refuse to respond to God's dealings with you, if you refuse to discipline your life, God can even take you home earlier than He would have otherwise.

Fellowship is broken because **YOU BROKE THE WALK** and restored when **YOU RESTORE THE WALK**. **Confession is for Correction**. Confession is a **STEP** in the right direction, but it is not the walk!

4. **I Cor. 5:1-5** This example of a Christian that is threatened to be taken home by God before his time. Sin in the life of a Christian will result in a loss of his joy, power, testimony, fellowship, and reward.
5. **I Cor. 3 :11-15**, should be clearly understood because it gives a good picture of what happens at the Judgment Seat of Christ for believers.
 - a. **Verse 11**, The only foundation God recognizes is the foundation of Jesus Christ.
 - b. **Verse 12**, The Christian may build either good or bad works in his life once he is saved.
 - c. **Verse 13**, We find that God will judge every person's work to see what was good and what was bad.
 - d. **Verse 14**, Says that those who have done good work will receive reward, but
 - e. **Verse 15**, Clearly teaches that those who have not done good works will suffer loss of reward even though they will not lose their salvation.

God has many ways of seeing that those who serve Him are rewarded, and those who do not suffer loss of blessings on earth and rewards later in heaven.

6. **Ephesians 2:8, 9** tells us we are saved by grace, but verse **10** says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,...." God wants His children to live a life of service to Him-**not to be saved**, but because they are saved.
7. After a person trusts Christ he should heed **Romans 12:1, 2** for service, "... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable **service**. And

be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

1. The "secret" of "Christian Victory" is obeying God.

- a. **Gal. 5:22** A life of service for the Lord will be richly rewarded both now and later. When you obey God's Word and let the Lord run your life, you will have love, joy, and peace in your life.
- b. **Job 36:11** God promises, "If they obey and serve Him they shall spend their days in prosperity and their years in pleasures".
- c. **John 10:10** Jesus said, ". . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly".
- d. **John 12:26** If you want God to honor your life, you must serve Him. And if you DO serve the Lord, God is BOUND to honor your life. ". . . If any man serve me, him will My Father honor".

You might sometimes think that to discipline your life to serve the Lord is difficult. What you want to do will often be the opposite of what God wants you to do, but the reward is great . . .

2. Consider what it will cost you if you don't serve the Lord?

- a. **Job 9:4**, ". . . who hath hardened himself against Him, and hath prospered?"
- b. Listen to the warning in **Deut. 28:47, 48**, "Because thou servest not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, . . . he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck until he have destroyed thee."
- c. In **Isaiah 30:1** God says those Christians who rebel against Him will have trouble . . . "Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, but not of Me; and that cover with a covering, but not of My spirit, that they may add sin to sin."

Satan will always give you the best excuses why you shouldn't obey God. But the decision as to what you will do with your life is completely up to you. As we have mentioned before, **salvation** is voluntary, and **service** is voluntary.

3. If you don't serve the God, you can only blame yourself.

Perhaps you may feel you have no particular "talent" to give to the Lord. **God says the greatest ABILITY in Christian work is DEPENDability.** ". . . It is required in stewards that a man be found FAITHFUL."

(I Cor. 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.) It is not required that you are (1) popular, (2) wealthy, (3) successful, (4) educated, or (5) influential.

God honors the believer who faithfully with the Lord.