

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps

Lesson 1

Chastening and Rewards

return pages 5 and 6

Yes! Eternal life is guaranteed to all believers, never make the mistake of thinking Christians can live as they please. This should be made very clear as you witness. This is very important because failure to make this clear can keep a person from wanting to trust Christ as his Saviour.

When you are saved, you become God's son, and while you have certain privileges as God's child, remember that God is now your Father and has the responsibility of taking care of you. If a person thinks a Christian could live in sin and not be punished for it, he does not understand the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian. God deals with His children mainly in two ways:

(1) 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) When you rebel against God's leading, He will deal with you in however 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.

Proverbs 3:11 *My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.* This is quoted in Hebrews 12:6 also. Notice, when God corrects you, it is because He loves you and knows what is best for you. Job 5:17 *Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:* When a Christian disobeys God, he should confess it right away.

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* Every time you sin, you should confess it. Every time you confess your sin, you will be forgiven. Please notice two other things about 1 John 1:9.

(1) 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.

(2) God does not guarantee restoration of damage resulting from sin on the basis of confession of sin. For instance, perhaps a Christian has gone away from things of the Lord and starts to drink alcohol, ruining their kidneys. If they

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confess their sin, yes, the Lord will forgive them . . . but that forgiveness does not heal their damaged kidneys.

There is a natural result of sin as well as God's personal chastisement in your life. Galatians 6:7 ***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." Some Christians want to sow sin all week long, then pray for crop failure at the end of the week.

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. You will receive "personalized" attention. Hebrews 12:11 ***Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*** People often want to know "what God will do to them" if they commit a certain sin. Be sure of this chastening is not pleasant. A disobedient child is never happy. 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. An example of a Christian body dying because of sin before their appointed time is 1 Corinthians. 5:1-5. This person was committing adultery with his mother (or stepmother). Verse 5 says this person's body was destroyed - he was taken home - but please notice, he did not lose his salvation. In 1 Corinthians 3:15 ***If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*** Sin in the life of a Christian will result in a loss of joy, power, testimony, fellowship, reward and sometimes death of the physical body.

Even though everyone is a sinner, and even though Christ has given complete forgiveness of all sin to all those who receive Him as Saviour, yet God still has many ways of seeing that those who truly serve Him are rewarded, and those who do not serve Him suffer loss. Notice, in 1 Corinthians 3:11, that the only foundation God recognizes is the foundation of Jesus Christ. Then, in v. 12, the Christian may build either good or bad works in his life once he is saved. In verse 13 we find that God will judge every person's work to see what sort it is, either pleasing or not pleasing to God. Verse 14 says that those who have done good works will receive reward, but 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.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 tells us we are saved by grace through faith, but Ephesians 2:10 says ***For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*** "God wants His children to live a life of service to Him - not to be saved, but because they are saved. After a person trusts Christ for salvation he should

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heed Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 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.*

If you want God to honor your life, you must serve Him. If you do serve the Lord, God is bound to honor your life. “. . . John 12:26 *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.* The “secret” of “Christian Victory” is no more or less than obeying God. You might sometimes think disciplining 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 . . . and have you considered what it will cost you if you do not serve the Lord?

Isaiah 30:1 *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:* God says those who refuse the counsel of God in the Scriptures so that they can live their own lives of sin can expect trouble.

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. If you do not serve the Lord, you will have no one to blame but 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. According to 1 Corinthians 4:2 a steward is required to be found faithful. You are not required to be popular, wealthy, successful, educated, or influential. God honors the believer who faithfully does his best for the Lord each day. Look at the life of Paul the reason that God put Paul into the ministry; Paul had proven to be a faithful servant already, and God put him into the ministry because he could be counted upon to continue being faithful.

A disciplined life for the Lord will cost you work, time, and effort. But an undisciplined life costs much more. Usually you will find it is not so much a question of knowing God's will for your life as being willing to do it.

Remember that happiness is not found in pleasure, money, fame, or getting what you think you want . . . but is a by-product of a Spirit-controlled, useful life for the Lord Jesus Christ. Your future is being determined by what you do today. If you want to accomplish great things for the Lord in the future, you must accomplish something for the Lord today. Even unsaved ministers, doctors, and psychiatrists know the best advice they could give a depressed unhappy person is to help someone else - go and be of service. This brings joy. The Lord, our Great Physician, knows that serving Him brings the highest

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joy possible. Instead of trying to “buck” God's plan, why not follow His advice and share in all the good things God wants to bring into your life?

We should serve the Lord for the praise of God and not for the praise of men. It is the Lord who will reward you. Certainly men will not. Ephesians 6:8 ***Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.***

Situations are bound to occur in your Christian service in which you have done something for the Lord but another Christian seems to be receiving all the credit. Don't let it bother you. The Lord is keeping the books. YOU will be rewarded for what YOU do regardless of how people look at it on earth. 1 Corinthians 3:8 ***Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*** 1 Corinthians 15:58 ***Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.***

Notes

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Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 1
Chastening and Rewards

Name _____

Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. What was the purpose of this lesson?
2. What is meant by the term "you reap what you sow"?
3. What is wrong with not serving the Lord?
4. Does God force you to serve Him to keep your salvation?, explain!
5. Why did God select Paul to be an apostle for Him?
6. What are the two ways God deals with His children?
 - a.
 - b.
7. Explain 1 John 1:9
8. Explain why God chastens us.
9. What could happen to a Christian that continues to refuse God's instruction?

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10. In the long run, what will it cost you if you decide not to serve the Lord?
11. What should I do when others get the credit for my service to the Lord?
12. Define the following scriptural words: (all definitions are in this lesson)
 - a. what sort
 - b. wood, hay and stubble
 - c. foundation
 - d. gold, silver, precious stones
 - e. wise masterbuilder
13. Why is it that God did not insert the phrase "Except if he confesses" into Galatians 6:7?
14. When is God bound to honour your life?

True/False

- Your salvation is secure, even if you do nothing for the Lord, after you get saved.
- God chastens us to get even for not doing what He said.
- God is more impressed by your faithfulness than he is about your education and popularity.

**Scripture memorization**

Proverbs 3:11; Job 5:17; 1 Corinthians 3:15

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)