

LET US AROUSE OURSELVES TO SERVICE

Hebrews 12:12-17

INTRODUCTION:

A. This congregation had forgotten the exhortation of God about correction.

- 1) It was written in *Proverbs 3:11-12*
- 2) They were not considering it as they should, they were despising God's correction.
- 3) They were tired and giving up
- 4) They had felt the pain but they had not borne the fruit of God's discipline.

B. In this condition they were showing a great physical and mental stress.

- 1) They were slouching physically and spiritually
- 2) They were wandering from the path
- 3) They were becoming cantankerous
- 4) They were becoming immoral
- 5) They were showing signs of bitterness
- 6) They were not appropriating God's grace
- 7) They were approaching the place of no return, a time when repentance would not be effectual.

I. They Must Arouse Themselves *verse 12*

A. *"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees."*

- 1) *"lift up"* = ανιστημι = "to cause to stand up"
- 2) *"hang down"* = "to let fall at the side", "to be listless, drooping, hence to give way, to yield"
- 3) *"feeble"* = παραλυω = "to loosen from the side", "to undo", "to be weak", "lame"
- 4) *"So tighten the grip of your slipping hands"* WMS
- 5) *"Stiffen the stand of your knocking knees"* WMS

B. *"And make straight paths for your feet..."* vs 13

- 1) *"straight"* = ορθος = "straight"
- 2) *"paths"* = τροχια = "a wheel-track, the track of a wheel", "track made by the feet of runners"
- 3) "Stay in the straight path that has been made for your feet by those running before."
- 4) *"Ask for the old ways, (paths)"*

C. *"...lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but rather let it rather be healed."*

- 1) *"lame"* = το χωλος = "the crippled member"
- 2) *"turned"* = εκτροπομαι = "a limb put out of joint"
- 3) "Then the disabled limb will not be re-injured"
- 4) *"healed"* = ιαομαι = "to revive, to recover"
- 5) "But may rather be restored" WEY

II. They Must Mature Spiritually vs 14

A. *"Follow peace with all men..."*

- 1) *"follow"* = διωκω = "to pursue after in order to find and overtake", "to earnestly follow after"
- 2) *"peace"* = ειρηνη = "peace", "rest", "the end and absence of strife"

B. *"...and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."*

- 1) *"holiness"* = αγιασμος = "that which is sacred and pure", "clean"
- 2) Pursue after that which made you clean in God's sight. Seek to be more like Him.

III. Avoid Those Things That Defile verse 15

A. *"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God..."*

- 1) *"diligently look"* = επισκοπεω = "to look upon", "to look over" The position of an overseer.

- 2) "fail" = ὑστερῶ = "to come short of", "to be the last",
"not to reach"
- 3) They should pursue the things offered in God's grace lest they not reach the goal of spiritual maturity.

B. "...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

- 1) "root" = ρίζα = "a root"
- 2) "bitterness" = πικρία = "of taste, bitter, hence of temper, venom, spleen"
- 3) "springing up" = φύω = "to sprout", "generate"
- 4) "defiled" = μιάινω = "to stain with color", "to tinge with color, as staining of glass or ivory, to spot but not necessarily to blot"
- 5) "trouble" = υνοχλέω = "to annoy", "to harass"
- 6) "That no one cultures a root of bitterness to cause a disturbance, and so poison the whole congregation."
- 7) The Old Testament basis *Deut 29:9-29 vs 18*

IV. An Example Of One Who Defiles *vs 16-17*

A. "Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau,..."

- 1) "fornicator" = πορνος = "immoral", "sexual vice"
- 2) "profane" = βεβηλος = "allowable to tread" (πέραν a threshold), "unhallowed", "not initiated"
- 3) "That no one turn to sexual vice or become irreverent as Esau did."

B. "...who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright."

- 1) "morsel" = βρωσις = "food", "the act of eating"
- 2) "sold" = αποδιδωμι = "to sell"
- 3) "birthright" = τα πρωτοτοκια = "the privilege of the firstborn son"
- 4) "Who for the sake of one meal yielded up his own firstborn rights." RHM

- 5) *Genesis 25:29-34*
 - 6) God had spoken to Rebekah and hold her that, "*the elder shall serve the younger*" 25:23 When Esau sold his birthright for a meal, his reasoning was flawed, he thought life was more important than spiritual commitment. Because he "*despised his birthright*" 25:34, he was not then fit to receive the "*blessing*".
- C. "*For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing he was rejected:...*" vs 17
- 1) "*rejected*" = αποδοκιμαζω = "to reject after trial"
 - 2) "When he desired the blessing as an inheritance he was turned away."
- D. "*...for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*"
- 1) "He found no way to recall the decision..."
 - 2) "*sought carefully*" = εκζητησω = "to seek out", "look for"
 - 3) "Though he sought it desperately and with tears" PHI

