



# F. Y. C.

## For Your Consideration

❖ MAY 2017 ❖

### ‘Spare the Rod ...’

Discipline (corrective punishment) never is pleasant. It hurts physically and pains our ego. It is also painful to the parents who administer the punishment. “This hurts me more than you” is often said. If such punishment causes so much pain, why do it? Why not spare the child and the parent such agony?

The matter of punishment as a tool in the raising of children is now being questioned. Some parents, wishing to have their offspring be spared the pain they suffered while being raised, are forgoing such correction. They believe they’re doing their children a favor (“My children won’t have to put up with that.”) Such thinking is disastrous in the development of their offspring.

These parents fail to realize that it was corrective discipline that helped mold their character. The punishment made an indelible mark on their consciousness. Training by the “rod” made them what they are today. Without it some offsprings have become “weeds” in the garden of humanity. Such thinking is akin to coaches not wanting their team members to sweat, tire, and suffer pain during training. It’s ludicrous.

These thoughts must give way to common sense and what the Scriptures say. “*All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*” Hebrews 12:11.

The book of Proverbs contains many “jewels” on this subject. Here are a few:

*He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

3:24

*Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.*

22:15

*Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you beat him with the rod, he will not die.*

*You shall beat him with the rod, And deliver his soul from Sheol.*

23:13-14

*The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.* 29:15

#### ABUSE

(A much “abused” word.)

It is described as physical or emotional mistreatment:

- brutalization
- injury
- maltreatment
- molestation
- cruelty
- beating
- assault

Corrective and corporal punishment do not fit the description.

# 'IT IS FINISHED'

## The Sacrificial Death of Jesus

The Apostle John, along with Mary (Jesus' mother), watched Jesus being crucified, suffering unimaginable pain and anguish. No doubt they heard those passing by hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "*Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!*" (Mark 15:29-30). It's hard to even try to form a mental picture of this event.

Later, John recorded his eye-witness account in his Gospel. In chapter 19, he wrote:

*:26-27 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.*

*:28-30 After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be accomplished, saith, I thirst. There was set there a vessel full of vinegar: so they put a sponge full of the vinegar upon hyssop, and brought it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "**It is finished,**" and he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.*

[**bold** emphasis added]

## 'IT IS FINISHED!'

**The scheme of salvation** – long promised by God – long expected by the prophets – and long hoped for by the people – **is finished!**

**His ministry:** the toil, the persecutions, the mocking, the suffering in the garden, the agony of the cross **is finished!**

**His sacrificial death** for our redemption and salvation **is finished.**

In Romans 3:23 we read, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*" but in verses :24-25, the solution to the dilemma is given, "*being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.*"

## HUMBLE ATTITUDE

As Jesus humbled Himself, let us humble ourselves as we recall His sacrificial death on the cross for you and me. Not just when we partake of the communion, but in our daily life as we interact with family, friends, brethren, and all others.

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*  
Philippians 2:5-8

**Christ died once for all that we might live. Let us daily live for Him!**

*He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.* 2 Corinthians 5:15

*Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.* 1 Corinthians 15:1-2



## A Humble Meeting Place

During my Army training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, a church in Augusta sent out young men to preach at small rural congregations. I was asked to drive to Louisville (about 50 miles away) to speak at a very small congregation.

There were eight members who met in a small building next to a gas station. There was only one male member, an elderly man. (A non-member did attend with his wife.)

When the elderly man was able to attend he would lead a prayer. That meant I did everything else. I taught the class, led the singing, serve the communion, and preached the sermon.

Attendance usually was about 10. One Sunday we had a record crowd of 16 in attendance.

During my brief time there the husband who attended with his wife was baptized into Christ. The members were overjoyed. We had to drive to Augusta for the baptism.

While they were small in number, they were strong in faith. And they treated me and my wife, Marie, with true southern hospitality.

I drove to Louisville each Sunday for only a few months, but during that time my wife and I grew to appreciate and love the members there.

When Christians assemble, the size of the group is not important. It's how large is the heart, faith, and love that matters. And I gained much from the experience.

Oh, yes, it was there that my wife was introduced to souse meat (head cheese). ☺

# Vile Name Calling

HATE SPEECH

## JESUS

### A Drunkard and a Friend of Sinners

*"The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"*

Luke 7:34

### Possessed by the Demon Beelzebul

*The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."*

Mark 3:22

### A Blasphemer

*The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."*

John 10:33



## DISCIPLES WILL BE MALIGNED

*"It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!"*

Matthew 10:25

## TODAY DISCIPLES ARE ASSAILED WITH ABUSIVE LANGUAGE

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you ... If you are reviled; for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ... if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.*

1 Peter 4:12,14,16



**Name calling reveals more about the caller than the one being abused.**



# Ponder This

## Preventing Strife

### PROVERBS AND ADAGES

*“He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.”*

Proverbs 14:29

The one who “flies off the handle” is sure to make a crash landing.



*“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”*

Proverbs 15:1

You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

Stirring “road apples” only raises a stink.

Fanning the flames will not make the fire go out.



*“A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger pacifies contention.”*

Proverbs 15:18

It's hard to become embroiled in a dispute when one throws cold water on it.

There's often plenty of fuel for a fire - so don't light a match.



*“Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. Answer a fool as his folly deserves, lest he be wise in his own eyes.”*

Proverbs 26:4-5

Don't dignify a foolish question with a serious response.

Never wrestle with a pig because you both get muddy, but the pig loves it.



### WORD STUDY

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## SINCERE

It is commonly held that the word sincere comes from two Latin words – *sine* ‘without’ and *cera* ‘wax’. One explanation is that craftsmen, who during the Republic of Rome, would generally have been slaves or foreigners, and these marble workers would cover imperfections in the stone with wax.

Sincerity in religion is a must, but it alone is not enough to establish what is correct. One may be sincerely wrong as much as one may be sincerely right.

### Greek Words Translated Sincere

*adolos* “guileless, pure” – *gnesios* “true, genuine” – *hagnos* “with pure motives” *eilikrinia* “purity” – *aphtharsia*, “incorrupt.”

*But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a*

### **sincere faith.**

1 Timothy 1:5

*Let us draw near with a **sincere heart** in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Hebrews 10:22

*This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your **sincere mind** by way of reminder.*

2 Peter 3:1

*Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a **sincere love** of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*

1 Peter 1:22-23

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