

HEBREWS 12 vs 1

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Growing up in a world drowning in disbelief... amid a generation of lovers of self rather than lovers of God, who haven't got a clue what the Word of God says, but are very confident through the genius of 21st century education... that it is no longer relevant.

Dr. Dallas Willard of USC lamented walking the now clueless halls of academia throughout the world... seeing etched in their historic marble walls: **You Shall Know The Truth -- And The Truth Shall Set You Free**... remarking: Oh, really?

Jesus, when He lived among us, was a very good Teacher; **His first word to his class of students was: METANOIA**, meta = change + noia = mind; too bad it was now means: re-pain... which is no word I have ever heard used in school. Have you? There is not a first-grade teacher who uses that word. Jesus said: **change your mind, reconsider**... as Dr. Willard pointed out: **only a changed mind... can lead to a changed heart.**



This chapter is full of opportunities to rethink and relearn... until we think correctly.

¹ **Wherefore** / based on what was previously mentioned about those of whom the world is not worthy.

seeing we are surrounded with so great a cloud of witnesses / of martyrs... a great number of those willing to put their life on the line and if necessary, give up their life for this Good News,

let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily entangles / Paul says to the church: put off, strip off, throw down some things. F.B. Meyer wrote: Thousands of Christians are like water-logged vessels. They cannot sink; but they are so saturated with inconsistencies and worldliness, that they can only be towed with difficulty into the celestial port,

let us run with endurance... the race that is set before us / the speed of the people of God is well beyond dawdling and strolling... and always beyond wandering in darkness... while yawning in boredom. Do you know? Life is not boring! If it is for you, how unfortunate, your boredom is not something we can help you with... because life is not boring!



² **looking to Jesus the originator and finisher of faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and at the right of the throne of the God, sat down** / Jesus never deviated, He did **not** complete my faith or your faith, but He was first to complete the race of faith showing us how we are to run in faith... that we also complete the course:

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³ **For consider Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself** / there are reasons why Jesus spent time alone with His Father; there was not a day He did not observe goofy people pushing to get to the front of the line; and the envious... seeking how to destroy Him,

consider Him so that you won't be weary and give up / the fact that He stayed, when He didn't have to; or that He came, when He didn't need to, is a miracle in itself; evidence of His great love for His Father.

⁴ **You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood striving against sin** / for which of us has given a drop of our blood?.

⁵ **And have forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as His children,**

My son, do not despise the chastening / paideia, means... to instruct, nurture, to train, continuing the theme of running the race to the finish line. Regarding these 7 verses, we may need to change our thinking. These lessons of the heart have much to do with training and instructing -- best done by example; and nurturing children -- best understood by fathers who are real fathers... and mothers who are real mothers... which always includes best correction, not like Hitler or Inquisitor wannabes... but from God fearing parents!



A 350-pound feeble health teacher for 9th graders, is not a best example for instruction! But most first grade teachers are! It's amazing how they instruct and correct the littlest to excel.

My son, do not despise the training and instruction of the Lord, nor faint when you are corrected by Him:

⁶ **For whom the Lord loves He trains and instructs / paideuo,** and scourges with a tongue-lashing, if necessary... every son who He receives.

⁷ **If you endure training and instructing,** God is dealing with you as with children; for what child is there that the father does **not train and instruct?**

⁸ **But if you are without training and instructing, of which we all receive then you are bastards, and not true children** / the New English Bible says: if you escape the discipline in which all share, wow! That's a KJV bible verse we don't hear much, isn't it?

⁹ **Moreover we had earthly fathers as trainers and instructors, and we respected them; shouldn't we all the more submit to the Father of spirits, and live?**

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10 For they **train and instruct** us for a short time after their own pleasure, at their whim; but He for our benefit, so we can share His holiness.

11 No **training and instructing** at the time seems to be enjoyed, but painful: yet to those who are exercised by it, later it yields the peaceful fruit of doing right.

12 **Wherefore strengthen the tired hands, and the knees that are weak** / exercise your weak arms, and wobbly knees;

13 **and make straight paths for your feet, so what is lame is not impaired in the way; but instead healed.**

14 **Pursue peace with all** -- set apart and whole, without which no one will see the Lord / as far as possible, be at peace with one another; and help the relationship grow; Jesus, the night He was betrayed, said... taking to heart His Father's word sets us apart; and makes us holy:

15 **overseeing all these things, so that no one falls short of the grace of God;** so that no root of bitterness springs up causing trouble and defiling many / like a noxious weed ruining the whole effort;

16 **and that there is no fornicator or profane person like Esau who sold his birthright for a bowl of soup** / who was born first - the legitimate heir of what God promised first to Abraham and Isaac. God created sexuality to be shared between a husband and wife, to responsibly enjoy. God created grapes to enjoy; but the misuse of freedom created drunks. Those drunk on sex, mentally masturbating their minds with boobs and biceps and butts, misuse their freedom, which for that one is about the furthest thing from reaching God who is spirit, and must be worshiped in spirit and truth. God is not obligated to talk to any drunk who wants His attention. Heaven will not be populated with earth's trailer trash.

17 For you know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected even though he sought it with tears: for he found no way to change his mind.

18 **For you have not come to a mountain that may be touched** – burning with fire, nor to darkness, gloom and tempest, The Mountain of Moses was not to be breached

19 **and the sound of a trumpet, and the sound of words;** which sound those who heard begged that **no further word be spoken to them** / these words echo what Moses faced with those who receive the 10 instructions and no more, written by God – Deut. 5; the LORD said your will be done:

20 **for they could not endure the command: If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned:**

21 **and so awesome was the sight, that Moses said, I am full of fear and trembling:**

²² **instead you have come to Mount Zion, to the City of the living God -- the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels** / this whole book is about training us to run the race of faith, the new and better way; until one day we run into Jesus; and nothing is better than JESUS;

²³ **to the general assembly of the firstborns, whose name are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,**

²⁴ **and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to His blood shed for us** which speaks of **better things** than the blood of Abel / murdered by his brother.

²⁵ See that you do not reject the One who speaks. For if they did **not** escape when they rejected Him who warned them on earth, even so we will **not** escape, if we turn away from Him who warns from heaven: / Jesus said, Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away; His words still speak to us today.

²⁶ **His voice then shook the earth: but now He has promised, saying, Yet once more I will shake not the earth only, but also heaven** / on the great Day of God's wrath... foretold by Haggai the prophet, when the LORD says, I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry lands... I will shake all the nations.

²⁷ And this word: **“yet once more”** indicates the removal of what can be shaken – that is created things, so that what cannot be shaken, will remain / all created things of God's creation will be shaken; F.B. Meyer wrote, theological systems are shaken, ecclesiastical systems are shaken, political systems are shaken, character and lives are constantly shaken; examples of what cannot be shaken: God's Word, God's love, God's eternal kingdom.

²⁸ Therefore since we receive a kingdom that cannot be moved, let us give thanks. By it we may serve God acceptably with reverence and awe / prophet Isaiah wrote: Let the Lord be your fear, and your dread; and He will be for you a Sanctuary:

²⁹ **For our God is a consuming fire.** Dr. Dallas Willard also reminds us... God is loving; but to love everything, including what is evil, is to love nothing. **Proverbs 6** speaks of **6 things God always hates wherever He finds them**. God is also powerful, and if His power is anything like electricity, then He is dangerous! And we better learn how to approach Him correctly.

God of Wonders

Every Praise

JESUS it is YOU

O Come Let Us Adore Him ; The Privileged Planet

Three Days Are Still On His Calendar