

## When Our Cradle Rocks Part II

Intro: Last week we thought about having our cradle rocked and the bough breaking. Then following that, for someone somewhere, the wind swirled, their cradle rocked, and the bough broke. In the midst of it all, a person could easily be tempted to think, what did I do wrong that brought all this suffering and pain. What is going on? Is God punishing me?

Lets begin by clarifying some things such as desires and definitions, then we will put them into a timeline

First in the way of clarification lets clarify the word desire by asking, What is God's great desire for mankind? That answer can be found in *II Peter 3:9 The Lord isn't slow about keeping his promises, as some people think he is. In fact, God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.*

Second lets clarify the word punishment. Punish means ( 1 a: ) to impose a penalty on for a fault, offense, or violation b: to inflict a penalty for the commission of (an offense) in retribution or retaliation ( 2 a: ) to deal with roughly or harshly b: to inflict injury on : hurt

Thirdly lets clarify the word **discipline**. Discipline on the other hand does also mean punishment, but there is another definition that is over looked and that is Discipline is also, training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character

So let me try and explain it with this time line

### A. In time past

Romans 5:8 reminds us with this, *But God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful.*

So at the cross Jesus took the **PUNISHMENT** as described above, the penalty, the rough treatment for transgression, the hurt. He took the penalty or punishment for the sin of mankind

### B. In time present

Here he waits for us to come to him. Remember *II Peter 3:9 The Lord isn't slow about keeping his promises, as some people think he is. In fact, God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.*

It makes no sense for God, on the one hand to wait patiently for mankind to come to him, and at the same time beat him up which would cause him to run from him. Correct?? The great and marvelous thing is that we can come without fear because Jesus took our punishment already.

So that leaves us with the word discipline. Let me give you again, from my sermon notes, what I said in last weeks message

I said, sometimes He lets the storms of life strain us. Jesus wants our best. Remember, I said The gold is put into the fire because it is gold. There would be no use putting a rock in there would there. The finer the diamond, the more the cuts in order that it may reflect light through numerous facets, and become thus more glorious.

**Remember:** I also said if we are tried and chastened, it is because we are sons, not because we are illegitimate. Hebrews 12:8 says *But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.*

That word discipline here has the idea of teaching, not necessarily spanking. So you may be asking, where does that word punishment come in when dealing with trials in our lives. **It doesn't!!** The believer is being disciplined not punished.

I clarified definitions earlier and discipline did mean punishment but it also meant, training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character. So for the believer the storms are to perfect us **not punish us**

Punishment is reserved for those who refuse Gods gift of Jesus taking mankind's punishment on the cross. Therefore if a man refuses to let Jesus take their punishment then when that man dies, he will have to pay the penalty all by himself and that is done in a place called hell where there is no escape.

But for the believer, he may indeed find himself in intense heat, but don't forget, it is for perfecting and there is an escape. Heaven is coming!!!

*I Pet. 1:6-9 On that day you will be glad, even if you have to go through many hard trials for a while. Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold that can be destroyed. They will show that you will be given praise and honor and glory when Jesus Christ returns. You have never seen Jesus, and you don't see him now. But still you love him and have faith in him, and no words can tell how glad and happy you are to be saved. That's why you have faith.*

So in a nut shell God spends his time **in the present** wooing unsaved men to the cross for salvation. And he spends his time **in the present** perfecting those who have received

Christ so that they can show off his handiwork amongst men, in order that others might desire Christ for themselves before it is too late

*But as far as punishment*, that is saved for those who refuse Christ and his offer of salvation. Listen to the words of Hebrews 2:3a *how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*

And the answer is **they shall not escape**. They must pay the penalty forever because they refused Christ' gift. So if you are here and you are a believer but you feel you are being punished when your cradle rocks and trials overwhelm you, you are not being punished, you are being perfected

On the other hand, If you are here and you have never received Christ and your cradle rocks you are being wooed to accept the gift and still, if you are here and have not, **or have decided you will not**, accept Christ then he has no choice but to make you pay the punishment and penalty all by your self and it will be a forever task.

So why not receive the gift today so he can have the rest of your life to perfect you as you await your meeting in heaven? All you need to do is read a few more lines think about what they say and decide to follow the instructions and you will more from punishment to discipline

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at [lapeerchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerchurch@gmail.com) Subject line: (Salvation)