

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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## **Discipline**

"Discipline is not a nasty word." – Pat Riley

"Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment." – Jim Rohn

"You can judge the quality of their faith from the way they behave. Discipline is an index to doctrine." – Tertullian

"The only discipline that lasts is self-discipline." – Bum Phillips

"The discipline of daily devotion to God undergirds decisions." – Edwin Louis Cole

People in our day despise the concept of discipline because they equate it with punishment. Therefore it has become a bad word in many circles. It is a shame since discipline is much needed in society today.

Discipline is understood in a variety of ways. We think of it in regard to raising children. (Although far too many would prefer no discipline at all; which explains the out of control children in society and in schools.) There is another form of discipline which involves the enforcement of law. There is also a self-discipline which we need to exercise to move forward for God. And let's not forget, there is a discipline in which God chastens us (Heb. 12:5-11).

Although extremely important, it is interesting that the word *discipline* only appears twice in Scripture in the NKJV. "Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die" (Prov. 15:10). "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:27).

Of the various types of discipline, perhaps the most needed in the church today is self-discipline. Many Christians know what they need to do, but seem to lack the ambition and drive to get it done.

For example, we know that our Lord's mission was to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He gave the great commission, "'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" (Matt. 28:19-20). Yet we struggle today to get ourselves to reach out to the lost.

There are also the daily struggles of this life. There are things that we know we need to abstain from. How sad that Christians cannot find the strength to overcome the temptations even though our Lord revealed through His apostle that it is there for us: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).