

# Discipline

- Righteousness demands a well ordered society.
- God has always sought fairness and justice for He is a God of love, always seeking the best interests of others.
- There is no place for selfishness and a desire to put ones own needs above others.
- If everyone is to be treated fairly, with equity and justice then those who seek to disrupt and reject it must be stopped.
- We are witnessing in our society what happens when this is set aside and indulgence and tolerance for evil replace it.

# God Has Seen this Many Times

- *Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Eccl. 8:11-12*
- When a society is more concerned about criminal rights than a victim's rights, grave damage follows.
- God focuses on innocent victim.
- The punishment must be fair and fit the crime, but there must be punishment.
- *you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. Ex. 21:24-25*
- Fair and swift punishment strikes fear in other evil doers. *those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. Deut. 19:20*

# Downward Spiral Begins in the Home

- When Parents do not execute judgment,
  - Children fully given to do evil
- When Teachers do not execute judgment,
  - Pupils fully given to do evil.
- When Coaches not execute judgment,
  - Players fully given to do evil.
- When Employers do not execute judgment,
  - Employees fully given to do evil.
- When Judges do not execute judgment,
  - Citizens fully given to do evil.
- Truth of this is all around us.

# God Never Tolerates Rebellion

- He gave to Parents, Teachers, Employers, civil Government and the church to obligation to teach self-discipline and if that failed to take discipline over them. If they fail to do this, at some point God intervenes.
- *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Gen. 6:5-8*

# In the End God will bring Discipline

- *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 2Pet. 2:4-6*
- God has always and will always do this.
- Every nation that refuses to bring discipline will face God's need to be righteous.
- All who are righteous feel exactly as God does.

# Lot Manifests Righteousness

- 7 and delivered **righteous Lot**, who was oppressed by the sensual conduct of the lawless 8 (for **that righteous man**, dwelling among them, tormented **his righteous soul** from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 2 Pet. 2:7-9
- Very Unusual for Scripture to repeat something 3 times.
- **Righteous** Lot was a **righteous** man with a **righteous** soul.
- First, **oppressed** by the **sensual** conduct of the **lawless**.
- Second, **tormented** his righteous soul from day to day each time he heard or saw their lawless deeds.
- God knows how to deliver such **godly** men and women.
- Do we share in Lot's righteousness and godliness?

# God takes Charge but Seeks Righteous

- *"Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand." 2 And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer's inkhorn at his side. Ezek. 9:1-2*
- *And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side; 4 and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it." Ezek. 9:3-4*
- God prepares as for another flood, another Sodom and Gomorrah because Jerusalem has reached that same low.

# God Knows How to Identify and Deliver

- *To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. 6 Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary."*
- Those like Lot, who sigh and cry over the abominations that are done in their midst will receive a mark that will deliver them.
- *then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 2 Pet. 2:7-9*
- How we feel reveals both our righteousness and godliness.
- Based on Lot, are we enough like him to be marked?



# It Always Begins in the Home

- *The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. Pr. 29:15 God's strong words to parents' discipline.*
- *He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly, Pr. 13:24*
- *chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.” Pr. 19:18*
- These are Critical passages for our convictions living in a nation of indulgence and laxity toward rebellion. God gave prudent wisdom for parents:
- *Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from the grave. Pr. 23:13-14*
- Do we still reflect Lot's attitude of righteousness?

# Godly Parents Bring Blessings

- Parents instilling self-discipline are a blessing both to their child and to the teachers who teach them.
- Unruly children are not only very disruptive to others, but they diminish their own success.
- *He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.* Pr. 15:32
- All godly parents of successful godly children seek to:  
● *Train them up in the way they should go.” Pr. 22:16*
- But this path is strewn with ungodly influences.
- Permissive atmosphere of schools and the influence of friends and entertainment greatly complicate their task. While parents are training, but they must be vigilant “*lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.*” (Heb. 12:15).
- Roots of bitterness can destroy everything.

# The Role of Civil Government

- God created government to bring stability, peace and safety to those in their nation. They are
- *“God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil”* and *“for the punishment of evildoers.”*
- While man have abdicated this role, it doesn't lessen the guilt of those who rebel.
- *“whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.”* (Rom. 13:1-4; 1Pet. 2:13-14).
- As a nation drifts toward unrighteousness and anarchy, Christians must resist the temptation to follow.
- *“Bad company corrupts good morals.”* 1Cor. 15:33
- With everyone getting away with it, some grow lax. We can't if we want the mark of righteousness and godliness.

# The Church must Be Disciplined

- We can't control the society, but we can in our home and in the Lord's church.
- Jesus was clear in His expectations.
- *"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Mt. 18:15-17*
- Discipline must be maintained.