

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SERMON NOTES
JULY 19, 2020

"SERMON IN A BAG: Transformation"
Hebrews 12:11-13

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. ¹²Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³"Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed."

This morning our object is _____

Which is an object of _____

But it originates with _____

The transformation is affected by extreme heat and pressure!

That reminded me that God _____

A. As our text points out, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time..."

In the broader context of this passage (vss. 1-13) it is plain that what the author has in mind is not

_____, but any and every hardship which the Lord allows to come to us to teach us important lessons of

_____. This is His way of refining His people and, as far as I know, there are no short-cuts.

B. Our text continues that such suffering, "produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

I think of Pastor Chuck Swindoll who wrote about handling the difficulties of life: "*I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes.*"

And it is not just Christians who understand the power of pain to bring about growth.

King Hezekiah, "Surely it was for _____

_____."

(Isaiah 38:17)

Viktor Frankl (Jewish Psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor), wrote, "*Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.*"

And, "_____."

Friedrich Nietzsche (An Atheist, Nihilist), "_____

_____."

C. And for those of us who are "in Christ", we understand as our text concludes that these are not just random events, but the loving "discipline" of our Heavenly Father!

It is _____!

(Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 2:13; Colossians 1:29)

God _____ wastes our pain! It is always an investment in ourselves or others or both!

1. God permits _____ not in order to destroy us but to refine and to strengthen us and to bring us to Christ-likeness!
(Cf., James 1:2-4, Romans 8:28-31)

2. And to use us in the lives those who God will bring into our lives. (Cf., 2 Corinthians 1:3-4). He means to use our suffering to bring

_____ into the lives of others!

"This morning let's commit ourselves to trust God and His goodness as He works in and through us to bless us and others even in our suffering!"