

“Training”

by Wayne Goff

“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

The word “**training**” (*paideia*) is generally used in the upbringing of children, as we see in **Ephesians 6:4**. It is the educating of the child in the ways of the Lord through the instrumentation of the parent. It is the concept of discipline.

But notice that such “*training*” or *discipline* is also part of the Christian’s life and the Divine Scriptures are the instrumentation of such training. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,” (2 Tim. 3:16)*. The “*instruction*” (*paideia*) in righteousness is to be administered by spiritual leaders – elders, preachers, etc. and members of the church are to be so disciplined by it. But a Christian can also assist in this teaching by studying the Word of God himself (see **Acts 17:11**). Either way, the concept here is that we are being taught God’s Way through the Scriptures and we are to amend our thoughts, our actions, and our lifestyles to harmonize with the Scriptures. How many Christians do you know who actually go to the Scriptures to see what God would have them think, do, or be in a certain area of concern – morals, righteous living, benevolence, love, etc.? It’s not as common as it should be. God’s Word should be a “*lamp to our feet*” and a “*light to our path*” (see **Psalm 119:105**). It is not that brethren do not want to be taught, warned and disciplined, as much as it is a lack of forethought and consideration.

Finally, we see the word used in **2 Timothy 2:25** and translated there as “**correcting**.” *“In humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.”* Paul is telling young Timothy that as an evangelist, it is his job to humbly correct those who are in error so that they might be right with the Lord. It is possible for Christians to be “*snares*” by the Devil and to do his will instead of Christ’s. So dear brethren, the next time you feel a little uncomfortable at the preacher’s gentle rebuke, consider the importance of what he is doing and make amends.

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