

Sunday Morning | August 16, 2015

FAITH-FAMILY-FRIENDS
ENDURING THE HARD TIMES

HEBREWS 12:5-11

Why this series?

1. Motivate you and your family to consistent worship on "The Hill."
2. Life Group fellowship
3. Serving Christ and others through a ministry

Why this is important...

I. DOUBTFUL PREACHERS PRODUCE DRIFTING PEOPLE.

INSIGHT: Never in the lifetime of anyone listening today have the American people and the pulpits of their churches drifted so far from Jehovah God!

TRUTH: I never need the Truth of the Word more than when I am in the midst of hard times.

INSIGHT: "The" source of pessimism in your life, the source of a spirit of discouragement on your soul, a loss of hope in your countenance comes from a lack of knowledge of God's love and sovereignty.

II. HARD TIMES FOR CHRISTIANS NOTHING NEW

INSIGHT: The faithful through the ages have suffered, the more faithful, the more suffering (II Corinthians 4:8).

III. OUR SUFFERING IS UNDER GOD'S SOVEREIGN CONTROL.

INSIGHT: Satan is God's servant (Isaiah 45:7).

IV. GOD'S PURPOSES IN SUFFERING

INSIGHT: Trials are God's method to conform us to the image of Christ.

Four purposes in the discipline of a trial of life:

1. Retribution

INSIGHT: Nothing creates an aversion to sin like pain.

2. Prevention, II Corinthians 12:7

INSIGHT: Often pain in our lives is to cleanse us of pride; it's to humble us.

3. Education

4. Anticipation

V. THE PERIL, v. 5

INSIGHT: Some Christians never see past their pain to God's plan and message, and become angry and resentful; their countenance falls and a root of bitterness grabs their spirit.