

THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE TO SUFFERING
(Heb. 12:12-17)

- I. Exhortation to CONTINUANCE (Heb. 12:12-13)
 - A. STRENGTHEN what is FEEBLE (Isa. 35:3)
 - 1. Find STRENGTH in the LORD
 - 2. Provide AID and ENCOURAGEMENT for others
 - B. STRAIGHTEN what is FALTERING (Prov. 4:25-26)
 - 1. Make the path STRAIGHT for YOURSELF
 - 2. Make the path CLEAR for OTHERS
 - a. To PREVENT further INJURY of the lame
 - b. To PROMOTE the HEALING of the lame
- II. Exhortation to DILIGENCE (Heb. 12:14)
 - A. Pursue PEACE among PEOPLE
 - 1. Can be understood as UNIVERSAL (Rom. 12:18)
 - a. We are OBLIGATED to live PEACEABLY
 - b. We must NEVER compromise HOLINESS to make PEACE
 - c. We will usually FAIL to ACHIEVE peace with ADVERSARIES

2. Should be understood as PARTICULAR to BELIEVERS
- B. Pursue HOLINESS before GOD (Mt. 5:8; Heb. 12:10)
1. It has been IMPUTED to us through CHRIST (12:10)
 2. It will be CONSUMMATED in us in the RESURRECTION
 3. It is being PRODUCED in us by the HOLY SPIRIT
 4. Without it "NO ONE will SEE the LORD"
 - a. No one who is not GROWING in HOLINESS is truly SAVED
 - b. The only way OTHERS will see the Lord is through His HOLINESS produced in US
- III. Exhortation to VIGILANCE (Heb. 12:15-17)
- A. See that none fall SHORT of God's GRACE
1. One who PROFESSES faith but then DEFECTS
 2. A believer who FAILS to CLAIM all the graces God PROVIDES for His children
- B. See that none are a ROOT of BITTERNESS
1. Will CAUSE TROUBLE
 2. Will DEFILE MANY
- C. See that none PRACTICE IMMORALITY
- D. See that none DEMONSTRATE GODLESSNESS