

“Paideia”
The Missing Element of Our Society
8/6/2017 Sunday AM

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 12:4-13

Introduction

- Last week we spoke about Are You a Sheep or a Goat? as we looked at what happens on Judgement Day.
- For every one of us, there is coming a day of judgement where Christ will separate the believers from the nonbelievers and send them to their separate fates.
- In the context of the parable that Jesus was telling, you want to be a “sheep” and spend eternity in Heaven.
- That requires you to surrender your life to Christ here on earth and to live for Christ every day.
- This morning we are going to talk about “*Paideia*”: The Missing Element of Our Society.
- *Paideia* (pie-die-ah) – means tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction: chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.
- It refers to the whole training and education of a child, so it is not just instruction, but also discipline.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- What is the function of the Bible? Why did God give it to us?
- This Scripture answers those questions for us.
- The Bible’s function is to teach, rebuke, correct, and to train.
- God gave it to us so that we could become equipped for every good work He sets before us.
- I want us to spend some time on the word “training” from v.16 because that is the Greek word *Paideia*.
- If you look at the definition that was given earlier and apply that to these two verses, you will see that the Bible was meant to fully train us like we train children.
- It is not here just as a historic account of what took place thousands of years ago, it is a training manual.
- God takes our training seriously and at times throughout our training God has to discipline us.
- I want us to look at another passage of Scripture that uses *Paideia* that will give us a little more context.

Hebrews 12:4-13

⁴In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." ⁷Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! ¹⁰Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹No 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.

- Here the author of Hebrews is speaking of *Paideia* in terms of discipline.
- As you read this passage on discipline, look at the analogies that are given around a parent and a child.
- This passage could be taken out of context and someone could use it as a confirmation that beating a child is okay as a form of discipline.
- However, when you actually read what the verses say and you understand what *Paideia* means, you get a wonderful picture of how God parents us.

- Parenting is nothing more than being the one that fulfills the definition of *Paideia* for your children.
- This means that you train your child wholly and at times that will be that you will have to discipline them.
- God takes great care to instruct, train, and discipline us as His children.
- He goes as far as to say in v.8 that “If you are not disciplined..., then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.”
- What is missing in our society is this element of training and instructing people.
- Parents are not stepping up to the plate and fully training their children and disciplining.
- Parents today send their children to school to be *Paideia*(ed).
- They expect the teachers of the school to fully train their children.
- The problem with that is the teachers barely have the capacity to teach the curriculum to the children, much less trying to raise the kids.
- But this is not just in normal society today, it bleeds right over into the church.
- The church should be a place where people come together to fellowship as well as, be a place where the functions of the Bible are employed.
- That is quickly not being the case in our world today.
- No one is willing to step up and disciple people as God has called us to do. (Notice disciple and discipline!)
- Furthermore, people are not willing to be disciplined either.
- Discipleship requires, as does parenting, that you teach, rebuke, correct, and train.
- People in this world today want to do what they want and they do not want anyone to tell them otherwise.
- In a society where everyone thinks their way is the right way, not much can get done.
- We must get back to a place in our society where you restore *Paideia* - “training and discipline.”
- This should start in our homes with our children and flow throughout every part of our society.
- We can rest assured that God is going to be “raising” us as Christians and at times this will mean that we will have to receive some “training” this is not all that pleasant to us.
- This does not mean that God is “punishing” us, it means He is “instructing and teaching” us.
- How trained do you feel right now in your life?
- Do you feel that you were prepared well for the life circumstances you are in right now?
- When it comes to your faith, how disciplined do you feel you are?
- Can you commit to doing your part in training your family and others in your sphere of influence?
- Can you commit to humbling yourself to the point that you can receive training from God’s Word, God himself, and other people that are close to you?
- Those are the things we need to commit to in our world today: Doing our part to train others, and allowing others to train us in righteousness.

Wednesday Night Bible Study:

Who’s Who in the Bible? Balaam