

III. The Divine Power System Part 2

The equal privilege is the honor of being placed into Jesus Christ and sharing with Him the attributes associated with His resurrection.

The equal opportunity comprises the phenomenal advantages imputed to the believer who, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, may access plenipotentiary power and authority to execute the Christian way of life, contribute to the resolution of the Angelic Conflict, and glorify of God in time and eternity.

Maximizing these attributes enables the believer to completely divorce himself from the Law and place himself under the total grace plan of God.

Summary Questions and Analysis Related to Paideia Part 1

Since our analysis of the noun paideia began on Sunday, September 17th, we have noted quite a number of associated doctrines which contribute to one's understanding of the concept of chastisement.

We have noted that the noun means “corrective discipline” and refers to parental infliction of pain and suffering by means of a switch applied to the backside of a rebellious child.

So, several questions arise. How does this noun relate to:

1. Divine discipline
2. The Mosaic Law
3. Pedagogues
4. The doctrine of humility
5. The doctrine of adoption
6. The infralapsarian order of the elective decrees
7. The doctrine of election
8. The doctrine of predestination? First of all, our central passage is

Hebrews 12:5 - And so, you yourselves have forgotten the doctrinal instruction which teaches you as sons:

Proverbs 3:11 - My son, do not reject the chastening [*MÛSAR*] of the Lord; do not loathe His punishment.

Proverbs 3:12 - For whom the Lord loves, He disciplines like a father to a son in whom he is well pleased.

Hebrews 12:5b – My son, stop making light of the Lord’s chastisement [*paideia*].

In Proverbs 3:11 and Proverbs 3:12 and its quote in Hebrews 12:5, we see divine discipline compared to the parental use of corporal punishment on a child. Consequently, as a father chastises his son with the rod of punishment, so also the Father chastises his children with the pain and suffering of divine discipline. Obviously, the use of chastisement is strictly a family matter between the parent and child, or between the heavenly Father and the believer.

Prior to being placed under the authority of the heavenly Father at the point of faith alone in Christ alone, the unbeliever falls under the authority of the Mosaic Law. Although he may not perceive it as such, his life functions under the principles of the laws of divine establishment and not the grace plan of God.

No member of the human race is born a believer and thus a member of God's royal family. Each child is born, separated from God under the principle of total depravity. Further, each child is born with no thought of any kind circulating in his stream of consciousness thus his soul is created with a mentality which is *tabula rasa*.

In addition, he is infected with the corruptive influences of the genetically-formed sinful nature which is fully operational. All this occurs at the moment of physical birth where the child is selected into human life by the divine creation and imputation of soul life to biological life.

We know from Scripture that it is God's desire that all who are selected are desired by Him to become believers and members of His royal family.

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Therefore, how may a member of the human race, who is born into a rebellious status, transformed into a believer?

Each person must be brought to understand that he is hopelessly lost and, if a life-changing decision is not made, he will continue under divine judgment eventuating in an eternal incarceration in the Lake of Fire.

No person is willing to change anything about his conduct unless he is convinced that it is to his advantage to do so. Attitudes, dispositions, and points of view are developed in a child's mind from the trends, strengths, weaknesses, and lust patterns of his sinful nature.

As a result, these thoughts will manifest themselves in rebellious behavior such as, violence, greed, thievery, boorishness, ill manners, temper tantrums, pouting, sulking, whining, and mewling.

How are such attitudes and behaviors corrected? This becomes the duty of the parents, otherwise they will develop into a lifestyle. Such manifestations reflect an ultra-self-centeredness which if not corrected will result in an arrogant adult who never accepts responsibility for his own mistakes. Thus, in order for a person to submit to the ultimate authority of God, he must first learn to submit to the delegated authority of his parents.

Therefore, at selection, a child is assigned two parents whose duty it is to organize his soul under the principles of the laws of divine establishment with the objective developing a mental attitude of genuine humility.

It is God's desire that all come to repentance. But all are selected totally depraved and under the tyrannical control of their sinful natures.