

## FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES - Saturday, July 4, 2015

Do we dare even talk about discipline these days? Personally I find the subject intriguing. On first blush many will choose to define discipline along the lines of deliberate punishment as a means to alter some irrational behavior. I'd like us to take a different view towards discipline. Discipline has its place in every culture. Without discipline there would be chaos or at least ineffectiveness. What would happen if our first responders conducted their jobs without proper discipline? A disciplined approach is important in all our endeavors. Consider an undisciplined choir or a dance troop. Sports teams must remain disciplined in order to work together for the good of the team.

Having served in the US Army I certainly saw the need for discipline. Through organized sports our teams followed a discipline approach to excel in our mutual endeavors. In education, we've all witnessed the expertise needed to acquire a certain discipline. In work, we've all seen the need for a disciplined strategy to meet desired business goals. Yes, there is need for discipline in the family and I thank my Mom and Dad for providing the guidance I needed as a young boy. And of course there's God's discipline for those who follow His precepts and laws. In fact, those precepts and laws are there for all His creation to heed even though many people simply prefer to determine their own view of right and wrong. Let's take this discussion on discipline a bit further.

Let me share a few personal examples of discipline in action. My tours of duty in Vietnam as an artillery officer required my attention to a disciplined approach to my job for the safety and well-being of my fellow troops and the country we were commissioned to protect. In a similar manner, my high school and college baseball career required a disciplined effort in all aspects of the game to bring about success on the playing field. Upon completing my Chartered Life Underwriter designation in 1992 I came to realize that I had gained critical knowledge in my chosen discipline, which has served me well in my 32-year insurance profession. In all our business endeavors we understand the need to remain disciplined in our approach to reach company goals. Yes, we need to raise our kids in a fashion that will afford them the foundation to survive and thrive in this challenging world. And, for those who understand God's desire for His creation, we must take seriously the laws and commandments He has laid out for our well-being.

In summary, there are foundational truths that have been in God's word for many centuries and we'd be wise to become more familiar with them and put them into practice in all aspects of our lives. CBMC and our local weekly Monday Manna discussions have helped me personally stay on track for years and there is much value in the concept of *"iron sharpening iron."* (Proverbs:27:17) We need to meet together and *encourage one another* as "teams" focused on Christ for His glory and purpose. (Hebrews 10:24-25) As followers of Christ, I truly believe that our Heavenly Father needs to have a much higher priority in our lives this day forward. Please join me!

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Deuteronomy 8:5; Job 5:17; Proverbs 3:11-12; Proverbs 16:21-22; 1 Corinthians 11:31-32; 1 Timothy 4:7-8

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### **Deuteronomy 8:5 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.

### **Job 5:17 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> “Blessed is the one whom God corrects;  
so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

### **Proverbs 3:11-12 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline,  
and do not resent his rebuke,  
<sup>12</sup> because the LORD disciplines those he loves,  
as a father the son he delights in.

### **Proverbs 16:21-22 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> The wise in heart are called discerning,  
and gracious words promote instruction.  
<sup>22</sup> Prudence is a fountain of life to the prudent,  
but folly brings punishment to fools.

### **1 Corinthians 11:31-32 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>31</sup> But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. <sup>32</sup> Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

### **1 Timothy 4:7-8 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. <sup>8</sup> For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.