

Lasting Results Part 15 The Bit and Bridle (Iron Chief)

This is a layered teaching for Part 15 of *Lasting Results* series. However, **application** must be in the **mix**.

James 1:22 (AMP)

But be **doers** of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth].

Hebrews 4:2 (TLB)

For this wonderful news—the message that God wants to save us—has been given to us just as it was to those who lived in the time of Moses. But it didn't do them any good because they didn't believe it. They didn't **mix** it with faith.

The concept of the "**bit and bridle**" serves as a profound metaphor, drawn from scriptural references, to illustrate the importance of guidance, discipline, and understanding in personal and spiritual growth. This message explores the significance of reminders, corrections, and instruction in shaping character and achieving long-lasting results.

1. The Role of Reminders (Bit and Bridle)

In **Psalm 32:9**, the "bit and bridle" are used to describe the tools necessary to guide those who lack understanding. Just as a horse or mule requires these instruments to stay on course, individuals often need reminders to align their actions with wisdom and purpose.

- **Positive Perspective on Reminders:** Reminders are **not** merely nagging; they are **tools** that can save lives and prevent individuals from straying into harmful paths. As seen in **2 Peter 1:12-13** and **Jude 5**, even spiritual leaders like Peter and Jude emphasized the value of reminders to reinforce truth and wisdom.

- **Sources of Reminders:** These can come from various people in our lives—spouses, family members, teachers, pastors, employers, or even law enforcement. Each reminder, whether gentle or firm, serves as a guide to steer us toward better decisions.

2. The Importance of Understanding

The ultimate goal is to cultivate understanding so that external reminders become unnecessary.

Proverbs 15:32 highlights the value of instruction and correction, stating that those who heed reproof gain understanding. A person with understanding becomes self-guided, no longer reliant on the "bit and bridle."

- Three Choices for Guidance:

- 1. Bridle Only:** Gentle guidance for those who are receptive.
- 2. Bit and Bridle:** Necessary for those who require firmer reminders.
- 3. Neither Bit nor Bridle:** The ideal state, where individuals are self-disciplined and guided by wisdom.

Psalm 32:8 provides the key to achieving this ideal state: “I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.” A teachable spirit and willingness to heed wise counsel allow individuals to progress without external enforcement.

3. The Consequences of Neglect

Neglecting reminders or refusing correction can lead to frustration for both the person giving reminders and the one receiving them. This dynamic can also result in bitterness, as described in **Hebrews 12:15-16**. Addressing issues early—**while they are still seeds**—prevents them from growing into deep-rooted problems.

- Proactive Measures:

- Nip problems in the bud by addressing them early.
- Embrace discipline as a means of growth rather than a source of frustration.
- Understand that ignoring reminders leads to greater consequences later.

4. Character Development as the Remedy

The key to moving beyond the need for constant reminders lies in character development. By cultivating godly attitudes, discipline, and understanding from an early age, individuals can grow into self-reliant, wise adults.

- **Parental Responsibility:** Parents play a crucial role in shaping their children’s character while they are still impressionable (like wet concrete). **Proverbs 22:6** reminds us to “train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

- **Personal Responsibility:** For adults, self-reflection and a willingness to grow are essential. Developing character involves embracing correction, learning from mistakes, and striving for continuous improvement.

5. The Pain of Discipline

While the "bit and bridle" may feel uncomfortable or even painful at times, they serve an essential purpose. **Proverbs 2:11** emphasize that understanding provides protection and preserves us from danger. Recognizing the value of discipline helps us endure temporary discomfort for long-term benefits.

6. A Choice Between Two Approaches

As outlined in **1 Corinthians 4:16-21**, there are two ways to provide guidance:

1. **With a Rod:** Harsh correction for those who resist.
2. **With Love and Gentleness:** A softer approach for those who are receptive.

Ultimately, the choice lies with each individual. Will we respond to gentle guidance, or will we require harsher measures to stay on track?

7. Evaluating Teachings Like "Iron Chef"

Drawing a parallel to the popular **TV show "Iron Chef,"** we can evaluate teachings based on three criteria:

1. **Taste:** Is the teaching sweet with wisdom or bitter with correction? **Proverbs 24:13-14** likens wisdom to honey—sweet and nourishing.
2. **Plating:** How is the teaching presented? **Matthew 28:18-20** emphasizes the importance of delivering instruction with clarity and purpose.
3. **Originality:** Does the teaching inspire creativity and innovation in applying its principles?

Conclusion

The metaphor of the "bit and bridle" reminds us of the value of **guidance, discipline, and understanding** in our lives. While external reminders may be necessary at times, our ultimate goal should be to cultivate self-discipline and wisdom so that we no longer require them.

Let us strive to embrace correction with humility, seek understanding with diligence, and develop character with perseverance. In doing so, we align ourselves with the principles of **Psalms 32:8**—allowing God's instruction to guide us along the best pathway for our lives.

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