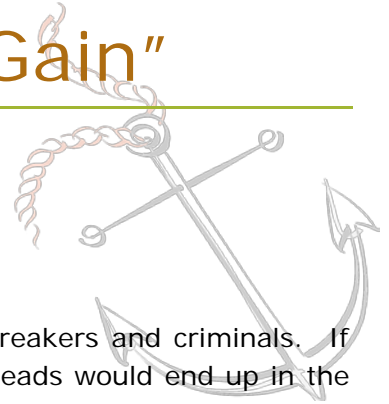




## "Pain Causes Gain"

(Jimmy Stevens)



**H**AVE you noticed how soft our society has become on law breakers and criminals. If we were to trace the source of such tolerance many of the leads would end up in the home.

One might say, "Don't punish little Susie or Johnny. It may hurt their feelings." This spineless attribute is too often seen in religion. For that reason many religions have become nothing more than social clubs. Everybody is always entertained and no one is ever called in question for ungodly living. Preachers preach only things that "tickle the ears" of the listeners. For whatever reason they do not preach the need to stop sinning and change. More than likely, it is because they don't want to hurt someone's feelings (2 Tim 4:3-4).

One of the most sensitive and caring writers of the Bible was the apostle Paul. He loved the Lord and his brethren. However, that love and care did not stop him from hurting the feelings of his brethren from time to time. It was never pleasant for him to reprimand erring saints, but he believed in the power of hurting ones feeling to make them understand the need to change. He wrote and told one church to deliver a fornicator *"to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved"* (1 Cor. 5:5). To the same brethren he wrote that he had no regrets for causing them to sorrow when he reprimanded them for their conduct (2 Cor. 2:1-6, 7:6-12). In Hebrews we read where one of the expressions for God's love is shown when he inflicts the pain of discipline and corrects his children (Heb. 12:5-11).

The pain of correction stimulates improvement in anyone's life. Not hurting one's feelings when he is wrong only allows him to believe that there is nothing wrong with being wrong. In fact, one begins to believe there is no wrong so why change. Pain can bring about change and change will offer great spiritual gain.

