

Hebrews Chapter 12

“Therefore” refers to the previous chapter’s content.

The cloud of witnesses. So we should lay aside our weights and our sin so we can run the race. Imagery of an athletic contest. Weight is everyday life, our physical selves and situation. More love for this life than we should have. Makes our spiritual journey more difficult. Sin is a hindrance also. So we can run the race – surrender, service, obedience.

We have examples of faithful servants who ran that race.

We look to Jesus as the motivation because of what he did. What he endured. Author and finisher. Fulfills the whole Plan. Despises the shame. Joy set before Him. Mediator of the New Covenant. Makes a way for sinners to become adopted sons. Sits.

Think about what He endured before you become discouraged. We are disciplined by God like a human father disciplines his children. Stronger. Fight against sin. If you endure chastening, you are really children. We give earthly parents respect and honor after *they* discipline us. God disciplines us for much more important things – spiritual. So we can become partakers of His Holiness. Painful now but we will see the advantages later. Pruning.

Renew your courage and strength. We need to run the race. Plus we cannot discourage those around us. Try to be holy rather than conflicts, revenge, etc. We have to take care because of our nature.

We are always in danger of falling. Bitterness ruins groups, churches, ministries. Avoid it. Get bitterness, bitter fruit and problems instead of fruit. Can lead people away from faith.

Sexual immorality is always a problem. Profane- Esau sold something priceless for a trifle. Put aside sacred things for minor things. Didn’t value what the promise would have been. We have great privileges from our faith and we can be concerned about minor things.

Contrast between Mt Sinai and the New Mt Zion: People saw the glories on the mountain and were afraid. Wanted God to speak only to Moses. Sacred place; unholy people could not approach.

That mountain was a physical place that could be touch. There were sights and sounds. The Law was being given and the sights and sounds were meant to get the peoples’ attention. There would be requirements and prohibitions. Consequences.

Now not a physical mountain. No terror. Separation has been eliminated. There is freedom rather than bondage. This is the hill where God sets His King. Angels and saints. Saints have been made holy. We have communion with them. Saints from all times. First born by the Gospel. Their names are written in the Book of Life. This is by the sprinkling of His Blood. Covenant is sealed by Blood. Both covenants are sealed by the sprinkling of blood. Abel did sacrifices. This is different.

He speaks this Word from Heaven. Cannot be refused. Punishment will be unavoidable if we don't listen. He speaks to us in the New Dispensation, the New Covenant. He spoke from Mt. Sinai but now he speaks in a personal way. No thunder, lighting, and shofars but invitation, appeal, grace, and mercy. People who rejected Moses were rejected; this is MUCH more. Heaven and earth shaken by the coming of Messiah. We are in a Kingdom that cannot be shaken.

There will not be any other dispensations. This is the final message. Ultimate Sacrifice. So therefore we have to obtain the Grace and serve Him in this way. Otherwise, He is a consuming fire. (Deut 4:24) He has not changed.

Chapter 13

V 1-3: Brotherly love. Entertaining angels unaware. Care of prisoners.

Marriage is holy.

Be content with what he has given you. He provides and protects.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Don't go for other doctrines than what was outlined here.

Jesus was sacrificed outside the walls; like the animals were burned outside the camp. We must go out there; to identify with Him. We may be subjected to similar reproach and shame or even death.

This is not our final home; we seek He Who is to come. We approach and praise Him with our lips. Not like the High priests did with the blood sacrifices. The Sacrifice is done! We thank Him and praise His Name.

