

Hebrews: The “Better” Life

The Supremacy of Christ:
In Example Heb 12:4-29

The Message so far...

- **JESUS BETTER IN REVELATION [1:1-4:13]**
- **JESUS BETTER IN MEDIATION [4:14-7:28]**
- **JESUS BETTER IN MINISTRY [8:1-12:3]**
 - **Jesus: I. The Exalted High Priest [8:1-6] [Outline Intro]**
 - **Jesus: II. The Better Covenant – 8:7-13**
 - **Jesus: III. The Better Sanctuary – 9:1-12**
 - **Jesus IV. The Better Sacrifices – 9:13-10:18**
 - **Jesus V. The Better Promises – 10:19-12:3**
- **JESUS BETTER IN EXAMPLE – [12:4-29]**
 - **Example in Discipline – 12:4-13**
 - **Duty and Dangers – 12:14-29**

Reminders:

- Pursue (*dioko*) – chase, as in a hunt, relentless, to press after
 - PEACE – a primary need today!
 - “the sanctification” ... specific, not generalized (*hagiasmos*)
 - Could this “pursuit” be the great race?
- See to it that no one:
 - Falls short of God’s grace
 - No roots of bitterness springing up
 - Beware immorality
 - Beware “Esau” – tears cannot undo it! (17)
- Mountains...
 - Many OT characters had a mountain in their lives

Responses to His Presence

- Fear and trembling...
- This is the Old Covenant – approach to God was difficult
 - People responded by begging to hear no more! (Ex 20:19)
 - Offerings, Legalistic external obedience
 - Materialistic externals when God wanted internal intimacy
 - Holy but Distant God... no mediator except in High Priest...
 - This left a difficult approach to God at best...
- The NEW and BETTER approach (21-24)
 - You have come... *proserchomai* – draw near; perf. act. ind
 - Mt Zion
 - City of the Living God (He 11:10,16; Ga 4:21-31)
 - Heavenly Jerusalem – where God lives... (Rev 21,22)
 - If this is our place... how should we live?

Our New Companions (see 12:1)

- General assembly- 1x- universal gathering of all for festivals
- Church – *ekklesia*, called out ones
- The first-born (Ex 4:22) the Lambs book of Life
- Citizens of heaven living on earth
- To God the Judge of all – we must never forget this!
- Spirits of the righteous made perfect – (He 11, see vs 40)
 - Perfect passive participle... God is the One who makes perfect
- And to JESUS!!!
 - Mediator – *mesites*, one who intervenes to make or restore peace & friendship, form a contract, or for ratifying a covenant
 - New Covenant (7:22; 8:6,8,9,10; 9:15) made perfect
 - Sprinkled blood – at the Day of Atonement (9:19-28)
 - Better than Abel? (Ge 4:10)

What about Abel's blood?

- When Abel was killed by his brother Cain, his blood cried out for vengeance and justice. But not the blood of Christ. The blood of Christ cries out for man to be forgiven and cleansed of sin. The blood of Christ cries out for mercy upon those who would kill, reject, deny, and curse Him.
- Christ once again is the superior Blood for us!
- What does the Blood of Christ cry out to you?
 - He 9:14,15; 24-28
 - How should we respond?

Do not Refuse!!! (25-29) [Great Warning]

- “See” (*blepete*)– keep watchful, alert,
- Refuse (*paraiteomai*) – make excuse, avoid (see 12:19)
- Him who is speaking ... ??
 - By His Blood – JESUS! (24)
- Those in the past did not escape...
 - Warned - *chrematizo* – taught, admonished
 - Moses brought the message and all who refused perished
- But now it is JESUS who is speaking and calling
 - His Blood speaks of the finished work of Calvary
 - Our entrance to the Throne (4:14ff)
 - We have far less chance if we willingly turn away (10:29!)
 - Why would we do this?