



MZBMP

Sunday Morning Service Study Notes
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TITLE:

Warning Against Refusing, Turning Away and Serving

TEXT:

Hebrews 12:25-29

INTRODUCTION

- Hebrews 12 shows the occasion why Paul wrote the epistle.
 - Heb. 12:1-13 is the appeal to endure the trials and persecutions that the Jewish believers are experiencing.
 - Heb. 12:14-29 is the warning against apostasy.
- Paul tells the Jewish believers that they are not under the Old Covenant but of the New Covenant by saying that, “ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched (Mt. Sinai) ... but ye are come unto mount Sion.”
 - The Old Covenant was so fearful because it requires perfect obedience and there is a punishment and judgment that is accompanied by it.
 - The New Covenant makes a believer a citizen of heaven while he is still on earth.
- Believers today are no longer under the ceremonial and some civil aspects of the Law, but we are still under the moral aspect of the Law.

WARNING AGAINST REFUSING, TURNING AWAY AND SERVING

- These Jewish believers don't refuse nor reject God who speaks through the New Covenant (v.25a).
- The Jews in the time of Moses didn't escape when they refused God who spake on the earth - referring to 12:18-21.
 - Escape from the punishment that the people in the OT received when they refused the voice of God - to obey the Law of God.
 - E.g. Exo. 32:1, 26-28.
 - These people received punishment and judgment by refusing God.
 - God is calling men by the gospel (2 Thes. 2:14). Whenever you hear the preaching of the gospel, it is God's voice calling you.
 - You can either accept it through repentance and faith or refuse it.
 - Those who refuse the gospel will not escape from the punishment of hell.
 - How much more if we turn away?
- The word “turn away” (ἀποστρεφόμενοι - apostrephomenoi) means to turn oneself away from.
 - Yes, we didn't refuse but the question is, ‘Are we going to turn away?’
 - This is a warning to the Jewish believers who didn't refuse the voice of God but because of the persecution, they tended to go back to the work salvation - Law of Moses for their salvation.
 - Turning away or apostasy tells that a person didn't really get saved.
 - A saved person can turn away for some time, but the divine chastisement is immediately applied.
- God's voice shook Mt. Sinai (Exo. 19:18) and the people refused it.
 - Paul quoted Hag. 2:6 to illustrate that the God that you are about to turn away from would not only shake the earth but also the heaven.
 - He is saying that there is a sorer or severe punishment for those people who turn away from God.
 - See Heb. 10:28-29.
- Everything in this world will be shaken. This will begin during the Great Tribulation and conclude with the destruction of the present heavens and earth (2 Pet. 3: 7, 10).
 - There are things that can't be shaken that will remain.
 - The kingdom of Christ can't be moved (Heb 12:28).
 - Whosoever is “in Christ” can't be shaken or destroyed.
 - Our work and labor for the Lord will remain (Heb. 6:10).
 - There are things that will be shaken and there are things that will remain. Where do we put our strength, time, and wealth?

- Knowing we are receiving a kingdom that can't be moved. What should we do in return? - To Serve.
 - To serve:
 - Serve by grace. We can't serve God in our own strength.
 - Serve acceptably. This tells us that you can serve God unacceptably. Serve acceptably means to serve in a manner well pleasing to God.
 - Serve with reverence. Reverence is translated as "shamefacedness" in 1 Tim. 2:9. Serve God with a sense of shame or honour, modesty, and respect.
 - Serve with godly fear. This is what Christianity lost - godly fear. People think that they can do whatever they want in the ministry. Every service that we do will be dealt with in the Judgement Seat of Christ.
- For our God is a consuming fire.
 - Paul quoted this from Deu. 4:24.
 - Why should we not refuse the gospel? Because God is a consuming fire.
 - Why should we not turn away from God? Because God is a consuming fire.
 - Why do we need to serve God by grace, acceptably, with reverence and godly fear? Because God is a consuming fire.