

- I) V18-21 INTRO: For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and
The writer has been exhorting believers to persevere through the hard times
They were struggling against unbelief, tradition, and especially, persecution
- II) They knew they could suffer and were concerned about having to endure this pain
They were criticized, ostracized, deprived economically and fearful of martyrdom
Heb 10:32-39 records what they have been already enduring, and their attitudes
PERSECUTION WAS INEVITABLE
- III) Jesus had taught His followers expect persecution from unbelievers
Mt 10:16-18 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: therefore
be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver
you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And you shall be
brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the
Gentiles.
V22 You shall be hated of all men for My name's sake but he who endures to the
end shall be saved
- IV) Though they were aware of this reality they needed exhortation
They needed to be stirred on to continued faithfulness to the Lord
- V) They needed to remember that there is something greater to fear than persecution
They needed to fear God's judgment
Mt 10:28 Fear not those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but
rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
Is 8:13 The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, **He is the one
you are to fear**, He is the one you are **to dread** (profound terror)
- VI) The writer is making **one thing** very clear
His readers will stand before God and there will be **one basis of judgment**
- VII) Are they coming to God on their own terms, or on His terms?
Ro 10:1-3 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that
they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their
zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes
from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's
righteousness.

YOU DON'T COME TO GOD ON YOUR OWN TERMS

- I) He has graciously provided a way to have fellowship with Him
Jn 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...
Ac 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

1 Ti 2:5 There is one God and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

THERE ARE TWO CHOICES

- II) You can try to come to God through the Law, or you can actually come by Grace
They can be judged based on their obedience to the law, or the Gospel

THIS IS THE PICTURE HE NOW DRAWS

- III) V18-21 For you have not come *to the mountain* that may be touched and that
This is a picture of Mt Sinai, where Moses received the Law from God (Ex 19)

- IV) V18 The mountain that may (might) **be touched** speaks of a physical mountain
It is experienced with the senses: It refers to a rudimentary relationship with God

POINT

- V) The Law was the basic, or foundational way God revealed Himself to man. This is how God communicated the basic principles of His will, requirements, and standards

DEVELOP

- VI) In preparation of receiving the law God had given requirements and restrictions
Ex 19 records that the people were to set themselves apart (symbolized by washing their clothes), to abstain from sexual relationships, and were forbidden to touch even the edge of the Mountain.

- VII) Why: Because God was about to reveal His holiness: No sinner could come near

WHEN MOSES RECEIVED THE LAW

- VIII) Thunder, lightning, clouds, loud blasts of a trumpet, fire, smoke and violent trembling of the earth occurred. This all revealed God as **absolutely unapproachable**

THE PEOPLE'S REACTION IS WORTHY TO NOTE

Ex 20:18-19 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and **heard the trumpet** and saw the mountain in smoke, **they trembled** with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us **yourself** and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us **or we will die.**"

- IX) They heard thunder, saw lightning, heard the trumpet, saw the mountain in smoke
I) They were eyewitnesses of the awesome power of God Almighty
It was so terrifying that they distanced themselves, appointing Moses to mediate

- II) The law revealed God's glory and His unapproachable Holiness
It also revealed the impossibility of perfectly obeying Him
- III) As such: It was not able to bring people a security of eternal life
2 Co 3:7 It was the **ministry of death**, in letters engraved on stones
- IV) Since no man could keep its demands, no man could escape its judgment
At Sinai, man stands helpless before a holy and terrible God
THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW
- V) When understood properly the Law of Moses has a variety of functions
Reveals God's will: Ro 2:18 And (you) know His will, and approve the things that are more excellent, **being instructed** out of the law
Requires obedience: Ro 2:13 For not the hearers of the law are just before God, **but the doers** of the law shall be justified.
Condemns: Ro 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law so that every mouth may be silenced, and **the whole world held accountable to God**.
Defines sin: Ro 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. No, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, You shall not covet.
Produces death: Ro 7:9 I was alive once without the law: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.
Brought a curse: Gal 3:10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."
Was intended to lead to Jesus: Gal. 3:24 The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
- VI) V21 So terrifying was the sight **that Moses said** I am exceedingly afraid and Moses, though close to God, could not stand before Him at Sinai without fear
Every sinner standing at the foot of Sinai trembles before a Holy God
- VII) V22-24 But you have come to **Mount Zion** and **to the city of the living God** the
I) The mountain of the new Covenant is Mt Zion, representing heavenly Jerusalem
This is the mountain of God's grace

- II) Zion, in the mind of the Jews, was synonymous with Jerusalem
- III) The temple was in Jerusalem, reminding the Jews of God's presence
This was where sacrifices were offered to God
In the mind of the writer: God's grace is revealed through this image
- IV) V22 **The city** refers to heaven, itself: Coming to God's grace is coming to Heaven
- V) From the moment of salvation Heaven becomes our home
Phil 3:20 Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there
the Lord Jesus Christ
1 Pe 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into **an inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade --**kept in heaven for you**
- VI) V23 to the **General assembly**, which would speak of the **angelic hosts**
The church of the firstborn: The Body of Christ
We are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, who is the firstborn of many brethren: (Ro 8:17, 29)
- VII) V23 **Registered**: Enrolled: Our names are on the Lamb's book of life
Rev 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life
- VIII) V23 **God the Judge of all**: We can come to the Holy judge without fear
Gen 18:25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not **the Judge of all the earth** do right
Ps 75:7 But **God is the Judge**; He puts down one and exalts another.
Is 33:22 For the **Lord is our judge**, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; He will save us
- I) In the NT it is revealed that Jesus is the Judge
Jn 5:22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son

Ac 10:42 And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is *the One* who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

- II) V23 **Spirits of** (just) righteous men made perfect
This speaks of the OT saints, who looked forward to forgiveness
They ran their race, remained faithful, and obtained the promises
- III) V24 To Jesus the mediator of the new covenant and to the blood of sprinkling that
This is the one we look forward to being with: He is the One we will go to
- IV) V24 And to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel
This is the picture of atonement, through the shed blood of Jesus, on the cross
BETTER THAN ABEL'S
- V) Abel's offering was offered in faith, but he offered only animal blood
- VI) Jesus' blood cleanses from all sin and makes it possible to be at peace with God
Heb 10:14 For by **one offering** He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified
Col 1:19-20 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
- VII) V25-29 See that you do not *refuse* (reject, avoid, decline) Him who speaks
Point: We have a personal responsibility to respond to the gospel of Jesus
- VIII) At Sinai God shook the earth, but this time the earth will shake in Judgment
2 Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.
- IX) V28 Some things are unshakable: These will remain
God has prepared a new home for us (Jn 14:1-3)
 - I) Rev 21:1-4 I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself

will be with them *and be* their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

- II) V28 **Let us have grace** by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence
Let us live and serve in grace, and reject returning to the Law
It is by God's grace we can serve God acceptably, being well pleasing to Him
- III) V28 It is through grace that we serve, but we do so with reverence and godly fear
Just because we are saved by grace does not allow us to live casually
God's grace and knowledge of His power moves us to serve with dread and awe
- IV) V29 Our God is a consuming fire (Dt 4:24)
Some of you have come to the edge of receiving Jesus
Don't withdraw, don't return to Judaism
- V) God has given you grace, but if you reject Him, He will bring judgment
Rev 22:12 Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to his work.
- VI) If you do not receive His grace, you **will** receive His judgement