



HEBREWS 12:18-24: WOULD YOU LIKE TO UPDATE YOUR DEVICE?

Adam Barton | August 29, 2021

MAIN POINT: We're never done understanding who God is - keep updating the operating system.

The Hebrews needed to update their understanding of God...

- 12:18-21 You haven't come to the Old Covenant given at Mount Sinai... (Ex. 20:18-19, Rom. 7:6)
- 12:22 You've come to Mount Zion! ...and there's angels there. (Gal. 3:19, Ps. 91:11, Matt. 18:10)
- 12:23a You're the firstborn...you have a reservation! (Luke 2:20; Dan. 12:1, Rev. 3:5)
- 12:23b You are joining with all those *made* perfect before the Judge. (Rom. 3:21-23)
- 12:24 You've come to Jesus...a new covenant of forgiveness. (Jer. 31:31-34; Luke 22:20)

...and we don't have God all figured out either. Some common misconceptions about God:

God is not involved in my little world...That was just a coincidence...Jesus saves me and I'm responsible for the rest...God is a distant "higher power"...God never submits...God loves me for my potential...God is mad at me...God is unknowable...God will never give you more than you can handle...God takes away our fun...Jesus never judges...God is boring...The Holy Spirit is not a person like God or Jesus...God is tired of forgiving you over and over...God doesn't want to hear from you anymore...God will someday destroy everything...It's impossible to please God...When bad things happen, it's because God is punishing me...My behavior doesn't matter much to God...God just ignores me...God can't use someone like me...God's character is harsher in the Old Testament compared to the New Testament...God's words are outdated...God is not emotional...God will welcome you into heaven if you are good enough...I know which sins are a bigger deal to God than others...God doesn't want you to enjoy this life...God is close to giving up on you...God doesn't care if He would allow this to happen...God doesn't want you to have money or worldly success...God has a reason for everything...God agrees with all your political views...God will make life easier...God doesn't care about your suffering...God will heal you if you have enough faith...God controls everything in this world...God has a physical body...God is not interested in sexuality...Non-Christians can't teach Christians about God...I am closer to God than that other person...God loves you if you are good...I'm a Christian, there's nothing "major" I don't already know about God.

Keep growing in your understanding of who God is (Rom. 12:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Questions for discussion:

- How did your upbringing influence your perception of God?
- When was a time you realized you were wrong about who God really is?
- How has the Bible shaped and/or corrected your view of God?
- Read through the list of misconceptions. Can you think of any others? Where do you think God is leading you to update your operating system?
- How is discovering that you were wrong about God a blessing?

For Next Week Read:

Hebrews 12:25-29

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