

Unshakeable
Our Privileged Citizenship
Hebrews 12:18-29

We are living in troubled times...

I was reminded again this week in my one year Bible readings...

Mark 13:8 (NLT) — Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in many parts of the world, as well as famines. But this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

The war in Ukraine continues...

Since the war began on February 24th, over 1 million people have fled Ukraine... half of those fleeing are children...

In the U.S....

Inflation...

Inflation in America is higher than it has been at any point in nearly 40 years.

Trade Deficit...

A trade deficit occurs when a country's imports exceed its exports during a given time period.

As of December 2021, the U.S. monthly trade deficit increased 1.8% to \$80.7 billion.

Another milestone (or more accurately millstone) was recently passed by the U.S. economy as the January trade deficit surged to an all-time record high of \$107.6 billion, up some \$26 billion from December's \$80.7 billion imbalance.*

Divided Nation...

Our nation continues to become more and more divided in most every way...

- ***Politically***
- ***Socially***
- ***Racially***
- ***Economically...***

As a result, anxiety, depression, and suicide are hitting record levels...

With shaky foundations all around us, what are we to do?

For many, keeping their heads in the sand helps them maintain a sense of comfort... even though it is a mirage...

Others attempt to find various “coping” mechanisms to survive...

But what about believers?...

What must we do?

Do we have any answers?

Do we have any way of offering help to those around us?

Over the next several weeks I am going to be preaching a series I've titled, “UNSHAKEABLE”...

As believers, we have become entitled to several UNSHAKEABLE benefits that will keep our feet on a firm, unshakeable foundation no matter how many tremors are shaking around us...

ONE THING

Our heavenly CITIZENSHIP brings many earthly BENEFITS to keep us FIRMLY grounded through all of life's TREMORS.

We are in Hebrews 12 today...

The believers were primarily Jews who had given their lives to Jesus as Messiah...

This had caused them great difficulties...

Most were rejected by their families...

As such, many lost their homes, livelihood, and their families...

They were ridiculed for believing such “nonsense”...

At first they were fine... the newness of life in Jesus was exciting and filled with joy!

However, after a while, the newness wore off and the problems of life began piling up...

“Was it really worth it?” became a haunting whisper in their minds...

Like them, many of us are living through these struggling times maybe wondering if living for God and His glory is really worth it...

The letter of Hebrews is a call to REMEMBER, RETURN, and RISE UP again to the truths of the Gospel

In Hebrews chapter 12 we are taken by the hand and led back to our unshakeable foundation

Today we are going to look at the first of our benefits mentioned in Hebrews 12...

We are citizens of God's heavenly Kingdom!

As such, we have many benefits that far outweigh every problem we may face...

1. RECEIVING your privileges of citizenship.

Hebrews 12:18–22a (ESV) — For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem ...

There are TWO MOUNTAINS to which everyone must bow...

→ Pic – The Two Mountains of God



Hebrews 12:25 (ESV) — See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

Every human who has ever been born will stand before the God of these two mountains...

Those who choose to live according to this world will be judged and sentenced to an eternity separated from God in a place called hell...

Those who choose to give their life to Jesus will live forever as children of God and citizens of His Kingdom!

Philippians 3:18–20 (ESV) — For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Peter 2:9–10 (ESV) — 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Our heavenly citizenship brings many earthly benefits to keep us firmly grounded through all of life’s tremors.

1. RECEIVING your privileges of citizenship.

2. RECOGNIZING your privileges of citizenship.

Hebrews 12:22–24 (ESV) — But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

We are given in these verses the SEVEN privileges of being citizens of heaven...

→ Pic - Unshakeable



Over the next several weeks we will be going over these amazing benefits we have being part of God's Unshakeable Kingdom!...

Our heavenly citizenship brings many earthly benefits to keep us firmly grounded through all of life's tremors.

1. RECEIVING your privileges of citizenship.

2. RECOGNIZING your privileges of citizenship.

3. RETURNING to your privileges of citizenship.

Hebrews 12:25–27 (ESV) — See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the

removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

→ STORY – Awakened by the Lord with a word

- ***Years ago I was struggling deeply with life***
- ***It wasn't like I was going to run after evil***
- ***Nor was I looking to walk away from the Lord***
- ***I didn't fully recognize it, but I was struggling with the Lord's faithfulness***
- ***I woke up early one morning with a Word in my mind...***
- ***“They must turn to you, but you must not turn to them”***
- ***I got up and thought to myself, “I think that's in the Bible...” But I wasn't sure***
- ***So I looked it up and here is where the Lord met with me that morning...***

Jeremiah 15:19 (ESV) — Therefore thus says the LORD: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them.”

He was telling me that I was the one who moved!...

Then I looked at the previous verse and heard the words that were echoing in my heart, but I was afraid to say...

Jeremiah 15:18 (ESV) — Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail?

This past week in my OneYear reading I came across this verse in Proverbs...

March 6, 2022

Crossgates AM Message

David Jett

Proverbs 10:25 (NLT) — When the storms of life come, the wicked are whirled away, but the godly have a lasting foundation.

As a citizen of heaven you have a firm, lasting foundation!

If you feel yourself slipping, return to your foundation!

1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV) — For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

So Jesus says to you...

Matthew 11:28 (ESV) — Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Our heavenly citizenship brings many earthly benefits to keep us firmly grounded through all of life's tremors.

- 1. RECEIVING your privileges of citizenship.**
- 2. RECOGNIZING your privileges of citizenship.**
- 3. RETURNING to your privileges of citizenship.**
- 4. REJOICING in your privileges of citizenship.**

Hebrews 12:28–29 (ESV) — Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Verse 29 is another quote ...

Deuteronomy 4:24 (ESV) — For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NLT) — 16 Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Romans 12:12 (NLT) — 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

Philippians 4:4 (NLT) — 4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

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Hebrews 12:18-29

Our heavenly _____ brings many earthly
_____ to keep us _____ grounded through all of life's
_____.

1. _____ your privileges of citizenship.

2. _____ your privileges of citizenship.

3. _____ to your privileges of citizenship.

4. _____ in your privileges of citizenship.