

Series: Hebrews

Lesson #57

Title: To Which Mount Have You Come?

Scripture: Hebrews 12: 18-25

Date: 11-23-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

The faithful witness of Christ Jesus the Lord always points the Lord's people to Christ.

FIRST, BELIEVER, UNDERSTAND WHERE IT IS THAT YOU HAVE NOT COME.

Hebrews 12: 18: For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19: And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21: And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

Mt. Sinai is the mountain where God gave the law to the children of Israel. Mt. Sinai represents the law of God. They could touch that mountain. However, the Lord commanded the children of Israel that they could not come to God in the law for if they touched that mountain, or even if one of their animals touched it, they would die. You and I can never come to God in the law before or after conversion.

When they beheld that mountain they beheld the wrath of God toward sinners--for all have come short of the glory of God--all have broken God's law. The law declares that heart of natural man is black. The law declares that all we are in ourselves is darkness. The law declares the tempest of God's wrath against those who are under the law. The law declares loudly as a trumpet blast that we can not keep it, we can not satisfy the justice it demands of us, nor can we remove the sin it declares we are.

When a sinner hears the law of God, by God's grace, we cry out for someone to Mediate between us and God. The Mediator between God and men is Christ Jesus the Lord. Christ Jesus has fulfilled the law of God entirely on our behalf. **Galatians 3: 13: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.** The believer, who by the Holy Spirit has come to Christ, has not come to the law, but to Christ alone. In Christ, the righteousness of the law has been fulfilled in us, by faith in Christ. **Romans 8: 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

SECONDLY, UNDERSTAND WHERE IT IS THAT YOU HAVE COME

Hebrews 12: 22: But ye are come unto mount Zion,

The earthly place called Mt. Zion was a type of heavens Zion where Christ sits at God's right hand. You who believe have come to God's mountain to Christ Jesus the Lord and you have direct access to God.

Look over to Hebrews 10: 11: **And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13: From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14: For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 15: *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16: *This is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin. 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20: By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21: And *having* an high priest over the house of God; 22: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (now connect this with) Hebrews 12: 18: For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched,...22: But ye are come unto mount Zion,**

Hebrews 4: 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

John 14: 23: Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Ye are accepted of God in the beloved.

Hebrews 12: 22:...and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem

Ephesians 2: 19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

These Hebrew brethren may have went in and out of the city of Jerusalem on earth, but the writer speaks not of an earthly Jerusalem. **Hebrews 13:14: For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come--this heavenly Jerusalem.**

Listen to Revelation 21:2: **And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

Brethren, you who believe are a citizen, in the city of the living God.

Hebrews 12: 22:...and to an innumerable company of angels,

What reason to lift up the hands that hang down, you have come to an innumerable company of angels...**Hebrews 1: 14: Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**

Christ our Lord has given his angels charge to protect you. His angels shall gather his elect from the four corners of the earth.

Hebrews 12: 23: To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven,...and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

This world's preachers tend to use church membership like the Pharisees did. When the blind man was brought into the synagogue his parents were afraid lest they be kicked out of the synagogue. Let some hireling threaten that he will remove your name from the church roll. You have come to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, whose names are written in the indelible ink of Christ's blood in heaven. You are a firstborn child of God in Christ the Firstborn from the dead.

Our church membership was written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. You are a son of God, a member of the church he purchased with his own blood.

The church in heaven and the church on earth are all one in Christ Jesus our Head. This chapter began with this word 1: **Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...**

Illustration: When a sinner repents and believes on the Lord we rejoice don't we. We are not the only ones. Our brethren do as well. **Luke 15: 6: And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7: I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance....10: Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.** Do you think you worship the Lord with just a handful of saints? You worship at God's throne here today with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, with Isaiah, with Peter, Paul and James.

And you have come...**Hebrews 12: 23: to God the Judge of all,**

Genesis 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?

Believer, your sins were judged by God in Christ on the cross. **Romans 8:1: *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit...*33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?**

It is God that justifieth. 34: Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Illustration: King Saul came out against David because he had heard that David spoke to hurt him. David said, **I Samuel 24: 14: After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea. 15: The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.**

Illustration: King Hezekiah was sick and the Lord restored him and this is what Hezekiah said: **Isaiah 38: 14: Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me. 15: What shall I say? he hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it:**

Folks ask me, how do you govern the church? My Judge does...and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

- **Jude 1:25: To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.**
- Paul said, **2 Corinthians 1: 24: Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.**
- I preach the word, bear witness of Christ, through his gospel the Judge of All rebukes, corrects, chastens, as well as through his providential dealings with us.

God's true messengers point sinners away from men to Christ...You have come to the Judge of all the earth...shall he not do right? Are you faint? Are you weary? Are you oppressed by your sin and by sinful men? Then let your cry be the same as Hezekiah's, "**O Lord, I am oppressed, plead my cause, undertake for me.**" The Judge to whom you have come promises to speak peace into your heart; while as yet you cry, he will say to you, **I myself have done it.**

Hebrews 12: 24: And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

More substantial than I am standing here before you, more caring than I can ever be for you, you who believe are the objects of the personal care and mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The new covenant is everlasting and it is yours. Christ Jesus is the Mediator of it. It is an ordered covenant because it was put into the hands of the Son of God before the world began. The covenant he has made with you is as sure as his blood before God. Because he is risen you are risen. Because he is seated at God's right hand you are seated at God's right hand. Because he ever-liveth you have life eternal.

He ever-liveth to make intercession--to speak--for you.

- **Christ blood speaks to God for your sin to be forgiven and so it is.**
- **Christ blood speaks to God for you to be kept from evil and so it is.**
- **Christ blood speaks to God for you to be his eternal possession and so you are.**
- **Christ blood speaks to God for you to behold the glory he had with the Father before the world was made and so you shall behold his glory in heaven forever.**

That is better than what the blood of Abel spoke.

Do you remember how the book of Hebrews began? **Hebrews 1: 1: God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son,...now the Spirit says,**

Hebrews 12: 25: See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.

There is a gap in which the enemy of righteousness is attempting an assault in our day which is far worse than homosexuality or any of the other immoralities of the day. Those things are like decoys placed to draw folks away from the attention of the worse breach that has been made in the wall, wherein the enemy assaults quietly and with the most force.

The scribes and Pharisees set themselves in the position of Christ. If you needed to pray you had to go to them; you needed council you had to go to them; if you needed to confess your sin you had to go to them. The same thing has happened in protestant churches in our day. The Lord said, **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. (Matthew 23:13)**

It is a blessing to have brethren, and to have pastors which the Lord has given. But true brethren and true pastors point sinners to Christ. To the natural eye, calling on men appears more real, but fact is, it is far less real than going to Christ our High Priest, the Counselor, the one on whose shoulder the Government of God and his church rests.

In this book of Hebrews, especially here in this 12th chapter, the believer is being encouraged to go to Christ—to look to Christ, to consider Christ, to behold the Father who loves his children enough to keep them from the evil of this world through chastening. Here is a most blessed truth, a fact more real, surer, and more steadfast than any other, an access which the believer has which is far better than any access you can find on this earth...**ye are come unto Mt. Zion.**

- You are not under the law, but under grace
- You have come, not to Mt. Sinai, but to Mt. Zion...
- Not to earthly Jerusalem to heavenly Jerusalem
- Not to a city made by man's hand but to the city of the living God
- Not to a denomination or a building or a place men have raised up but to the general assembly and church of the firstborn

- You have a better Savior than any earthly judge God has given...you have come to God our Savior, God our Judge
- Protected by his angels, rejoiced over by his angels and the perfected saints in his presence...
- Have you indeed heard Christ speak...see that ye refuse not him that speaketh.
- **Look unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of faith**
- **Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself**
- **Lift up the hands that hang down, and the feeble knees: And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.**