

Persevere:

Warning #4: Don't Persist in Faithless Rebellion (Part #14)

¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²² 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, ²³ 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, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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, Hebrews 12:18-28 (ESV)

How do we obey this warning?

#1: By heeding, 10:19-25.

#2: By looking, 10:32-39.

#3: By imitating, 11:1-12:2.

#4: By running, 12:1-3.

#5: By remembering, 12:4-11.

#6: By enduring, 12:12-17.

#7: By understanding, 12:18-28.

1. We understand what we have not come to—Mount Sinai, vv.18-21.

A. A place of earth.

B. A place of distance.

C. A place of death.

D. A place of fear.

2. We understand what we have come to—Mount Zion, vv.22-24.

A. A place of Heaven.

B. A place of closeness.

C. A place of life.

D. A place of security.

How does understanding this help our faith persevere?

1. Allow this truth to drive deep into your mind the dire consequences of gospel rejection, vv.25-27.

A. Think about the fact that gospel rejection results in inescapable judgment, v.25.

B. Think about the fact that gospel rejection results in permanent removal, vv.26-27.

2. Allow this truth to drive deep into your heart's gratefulness for receiving an eternal kingdom, v.28.

3. Allow this truth to drive deep into your life the response of acceptable worship, v.28.

What is acceptable worship?

*It's Christian

*It's grateful

*It's reverent