

Hebrews 12:16-22

Leaving the Physical for the Spiritual

vs.16- this verse is a continuation from vs.15 which begins with “looking diligently” (oversee)

- the “root of bitterness” is used in vs.15 as a reference to Deut.29:18

(It speaks of those who turn away after having valid knowledge of truth- apostasy)

- “fornicator”- (pornos) one who gives themselves over to immorality, one who defiles themselves

(Here, the writer is implying spiritual, not physical)

- we can draw this conclusion with the writer’s use of Esau

(Esau had no perception of spiritual things as he traded for something his flesh desired)

- “profane”- (bebelos) unhallowed, ungodly, common

*Esau had no sacred enclosure in his life for God to dwell

(He took something deemed as sacred and treated it as if it were a common thing)

- in. Gen.25:30-32, he gives away his birthright for immediate gratification of appetite

vs.17- Esau was the firstborn between he and Jacob and thus would have been the one to

receive the “blessing” (consecration) from his father

Truth- we must be careful to not fall into profanity such as Esau did

*Esau was more concerned with temporary needs that he gave them priority over his right

as the heir of the Abramic Covenant

- “he was rejected”- his father could not reverse the blessing once it was given to his brother

- “found no place for repentance”- repentance means a change of mind

(This was not on Esau’s part, but on the part of his father, Isaac)

- after he had realized the severity of what he did, it was too late

*his is an example of the “failing of the grace of God” from vs.15

(“failing” means to come in late, to be tardy, or to fail to reach a goal)

Truth- Esau is a classic case of wanting the blessings without the Blesser

*God means business when He encourages us to pursue peace and holiness

(vs.18-22)- the writer uses 2 mountains to make his readers understand the importance of grace even better (Sinai and Sion- these 2 mountains depict the 2 covenants)

18- “for ye are not come”- this is a reference to Ex.19 when the Hebrews reached Mt. Sinai

(It was here that they received the Law- the system that they are being tempted to return to)

- “burned with fire”- (Ex.19:18) this happened when God descended upon it

19- this is a reference from Ex.19:16,19 and Deut.4:12

- it’s the voice of God heard by not only Moses, but all Israel heard

- “intreated”- what they were asking for was for God to not speak directly to them anymore but rather speak to them through Moses- the voice of Deity was fearful and overpowering to them

20- “which was commanded”- this is when God would not allow anyone or anything on the mountain while the Law was given- Ex.19:12-25 (they were to stay back)

21- this is quoted from Deut.9:19

Truth- this passage and illustration from the mountains reveal God as Supreme Judge and man will be judged on one of two basis- by Law or by grace

(All humanity will be judged either by his own works or by the work of Jesus)

*if man bases his salvation on himself and his efforts, then He has the provisions of Sinai

*and remember- the Law could never remove sin, it could only reveal it

22- if man bases his salvation on Christ alone, then He has the provisions of Sion (grace)

Truth- Sinai was the physical mountain where man learned he was a sinner and Sion is the spiritual mountain where man knows he has been cleansed of all sin

*it is the spiritual destination of the redeemed

Truth- God was on Sinai at one time, but dwells on Sion

*the writer is urging them away from Sinai (the Law) and fully commit to Sion (grace)

*under the Law and at Mt. Sinai, God said for them to “stay back”

(Now, under grace, God is saying “Come unto me”)