

Hebrews 12:12-29
(Luke 12:22-34)
“Do Not Refuse Him”

Introduction

Our author now starts to close the loop he began back in chapter one, verse one: “Long ago ... God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” (1:1-2). Now he writes, “See that you do not refuse him who is speaking” (12:25). The one who is speaking, who has always been speaking to us through his creation, through his people, through his written word, supremely through his Son, is none other than God. So he is saying, “Do not refuse God!”

But, how might I refuse God without even being aware that I am doing so? How am I to receive him, rather than rejecting him? Our author gives a three-fold warning that provides another biblical key to answering a question of ultimate importance: How am I to experience and manifest the enduring faith that the author has commended throughout this work, faith that believes and receives God’s amazing grace?

Body

1. Be careful how you live, lest you miss God’s grace (12:12-17).

Live out of the strength that is ours in Christ Jesus (v.12-13)

Live out of the peace that Christ has won for us (v.14)

Live out of the holy passion that his Spirit creates in us, (v.14-17)

2. Be careful how you hear, lest you miss God’s message (12:18-27).

Remember the danger of refusing the old covenant message (v.18-21)

Realize the greater danger of rejecting the new covenant message (v.22-25)

Recognize the urgency of the message, its offer and its warning (v.26-27)

3. Be careful how you worship, lest you miss God’s glory (12:28-29).

A call to grateful worship (v.28)

A call to reverent worship (v.28)

A call to awe-filled worship (v.28-29)

Conclusion

Sometimes we are so very careless in the way we think about and speak of God, forgetting that we live in his presence. Wisdom comes as we remember these words: “Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire” (v.28-29). “See that you do not refuse him who is speaking” (v.25).

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