

SERMON TEXT: Hebrews 12:18–29

SERMON TITLE: Hearing Him Who Speaks from Heaven

Main idea: God has given Christ to be the display of His glory to us, and the reflection of His glory in us and the worthiness of God's glory for us, in the holy assembly of the Lord's Day.

¹⁸ For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: “*And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.*” ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, “*I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.*”)

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven, ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “*Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.*” ²⁷ Now this, “*Yet once more,*” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For “*our God is a consuming fire.*”

Introduction

You are in great danger! (the greater glory of the preaching in NT worship, v18-25). In some ways, the danger is heightened because the preaching and worship are so unimpressive on earth.

1. Him Who Speaks

It is Jesus who speaks.

- (1) **His blood speaks first**, v24. It announces His salvation. His ascension. His reigning. His sanctifying us.
- (2) **It is Him Whom we either receive or refuse/reject**, v25a.
- (3) **It is He who speaks from heaven**, v25b. cf. Heb 2:2-4, w/Rom 10:14-17 and 1Thess 2:13. Esp. Heb 2:12. This is how He glorifies His Father. This is how Christ is glorified.

Implications for the preacher: 1Cor 2:1-5, 2Cor 4:1-7. Fancy preaching and man-made wisdom aren't just *spiritually* ineffective; it despises the glory of Christ.

Implications for the hearers...

2. Do Not Refuse Him

- (1) **Do not forsake the assembly** (cf. 10:25)
- (2) **Do not wander in your hearts** (cf. 3:7-4:13).—the Word work is sword work!
- (3) Run the race, look to Jesus, pursue holiness (cf. 12:1-17)

3. What He is Doing

- (1) **Shaking heaven and earth**—removing both the current heaven and current earth
- (2) **Giving us a kingdom** that cannot be shaken
- (3) **Giving us grace** by which we may worship—even grace by which we may grow in hearing well!

Conclusion

You are greatly privileged! (the greater grace and blessing of the preaching in NT worship).