

**"The Last Warning"**

**Hebrews 12:25-29**

**Introduction:** Tonight in our study of Hebrews we have come to the 5<sup>th</sup> warning given to those who received this letter. This will also be the last warning found within this letter. This last warning looks back over the entire letter and brings into focus the ultimate purpose of the writing of this letter. Let us consider a short review of what we have seen in the previous verses of the chapter which we are in.

Starting in Hebrews 12:18 and going through 12:24 the writer has presented a contrast between the Old and the New Covenants and as he did he presented the two Covenants as two different mountains; The Old Covenant or the Law is represented by Mount Sinai, the New Covenant is represented by Mount Zion. Sinai was a mountain of fear, separation, and death. Mount Zion is a mountain of grace, forgiveness, and security.

Some of those who received this letter were struggling to move forward in their new life in Christ.

**Hebrews 5:12-14**

*<sup>12</sup> For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

*<sup>13</sup> For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

*<sup>14</sup> But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

These who struggled were encouraged to continue to press on. Then there were those whom the writer was concerned for who were "professing" faith in Christ but may not have been saved. We have seen his concern for these people throughout the letter.

**Hebrews 10:26-29a**

*<sup>26</sup> For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*

*<sup>27</sup> But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*

*<sup>28</sup> He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:*

*<sup>29</sup> Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God...*

One of the concerns of the writer therefore was apostasy. In other words he was concerned for people who were blended in with the TRUE body of Christ but were not truly saved.

With all of this concern he gives to them this 5<sup>th</sup> and final warning.

### **Notice Hebrews 12:25a**

We need to slow down and look at this verse in sections. The first part of the verse contains an exhortation. He exhorted those who read this letter NOT to refuse Him that was speaking. This is in the PRESENT tense so the writer lets them know that God was speaking to them at the present time in their lives. Now the thought in the mind of the writer here takes us back to chapter 1.

### **Hebrews 1:1-2a**

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*

<sup>2</sup> *Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,*

God was speaking to those who had received this letter through Jesus Christ. You see they knew that Jesus Christ had been born of a virgin and lived for 33 years and then went to the cross and died for their sins and then rose from the grave to be their Great High Priest. They had heard how that through Him God had made a Way to enter into His presence and to have eternal life. Through all of this God was speaking to them and exclaiming His great love for them. God was also speaking to them through this letter for it is the inspired Word of God. God was calling those who were not saved and He was encouraging those who were saved that were growing weary. God was speaking to them but because of the persecution and the pressure there were some who were considering ignoring God and stepping away to live a life of ease and self-pleasure. There were some who were considering living a life pleasing to the flesh instead of surrendering to the Voice of God as spoken through Jesus Christ and His written Word.

### **Application:**

Today God speaks to us neither through an audible voice nor through dreams and visions. But God speaks to us through His Word. When we come here to open up the Bible it is so important that we come with great anticipation of what God desires for us to hear. There is always something which God would have us to hear.

I have heard people complain that they cannot get anything from church services. My reply to that is, the problem is not with the services but it is with the listener if within the services the Word of God is being proclaimed.

**Isaiah 55:11**

*<sup>11</sup> So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Now when we come to hear the Word of God we are then held responsible for what God gives to us and we are to take it and apply it to our lives.

**James 1:22-25**

*<sup>22</sup> But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

*<sup>23</sup> For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:*

*<sup>24</sup> For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*

*<sup>25</sup> But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

Now let us get back to Hebrews.

**Notice Hebrews 12:25**

Here now is the warning. The writer points back to the people of Israel as a means of reasoning with these people. The writer points back to Mount Sinai when God spoke to the nation and He gave to them the Law. The writer also has in mind the many times which God spoke to Israel throughout the Old Testament. Those who had received this letter would have understood that anyone who ignored the Word which God spoke back then could not escape His judgment. Let me give to you one example. When Israel came out of Egypt God had promised to bring them into the land which He had promised to Abraham. They were to trust Him and enter into the land. But in the book of Numbers they refused to believe the Word which God had spoken and they therefore rebelled against Him. The consequences were therefore devastating.

**Numbers 14:28-34**

<sup>28</sup> *Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:*

<sup>29</sup> *Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me.*

<sup>30</sup> *Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

<sup>31</sup> *But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.*

<sup>32</sup> *But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.*

<sup>33</sup> *And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.*

<sup>34</sup> *After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.*

(To understand the "BREACH OF PROMISE" you need to read Deuteronomy 28) The point is Israel refused to believe God and so there were consequences.

#### **Notice Hebrews 12:25 again.**

Today God speaks from Mount Zion and He speaks out of GRACE and NOT LAW. He freely offers eternal life and He freely offers the abundant life in Christ. For these Hebrews to turn their back upon the GRACE of God would surely bring consequences.

If those who were not saved turned away from Christ there would be eternal consequences. If those who were saved turned away from God's offer of the abundant life made possible by walking in faith they too would one day regret their decision just as Esau had regretted trading the spiritual for the eternal.

#### **Application:**

We also must understand that when God speaks to us through His Word there comes with His message, accountability.

#### **Matthew 25:14-19**

<sup>14</sup> *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

<sup>15</sup> *And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

<sup>16</sup> Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

<sup>17</sup> And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

<sup>18</sup> But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

<sup>19</sup> **After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.**

Luke 12:

<sup>42</sup> And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

<sup>43</sup> Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

<sup>44</sup> Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

<sup>45</sup> But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

<sup>46</sup> The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

<sup>47</sup> And that servant, which **knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.**

<sup>48</sup> But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

The more we know of God's Word the more accountable we are.

### Notice Hebrews 12:26

When God gave the Law on Mount Sinai the earth shook as He spoke. God has also promised that He will one day shake not only the earth but the heavens also.

### Haggai 2:6

<sup>6</sup> For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

This will take place in the tribulation.

### Revelation 6:12-14

<sup>12</sup> And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

<sup>13</sup> *And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

<sup>14</sup> *And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

Now let us notice the one of the reasons why God will shake the earth and the heavens.

#### **Notice Hebrews 12:27**

When God shakes the heavens and the earth in the tribulation it will be to remove those things which are temporary in order to establish that which is eternal being the Kingdom.

#### **Notice Hebrews 12:28a**

This earth and all that is in it is temporary. But the Kingdom is immovable!

#### **Revelation 21:1a**

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;*

The entire point of the writer of Hebrews is to help his readers to see the value of that which eternal. This reflects the teaching of Jesus in Luke 12.

#### **Luke 12:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

<sup>16</sup> *And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*

<sup>17</sup> *And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?*

<sup>18</sup> *And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.*

<sup>19</sup> *And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*

<sup>20</sup> *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

<sup>21</sup> *So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*

#### **Notice Hebrews 12:28**

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We are to exercise the grace given to us and serve God NOT THE FLESH in reverence and fear. We will close with the words of Wuest on verse 29.

**Notice Hebrews 12:29**

*"The fire and smoke which manifested His presence at Sinai (Heb. 12:18) were but symbols of that **consuming holiness** that destroys all persistent inexcusable evil. It is God Himself Who is the fire with which you have to do, not a mere physical, material, quenchable fire. The historical background of this last statement here is that of the apostate Jew who having left the temple sacrifices, and having made a profession of faith in Messiah as High Priest, now renounces that professed faith and returns to the Levitical system. To that person, God is a consuming fire."*