

Appeasing the Right One

Hebrews 12:22-29 ²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ²⁷The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken--that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our "God is a consuming fire."

- I. This passage contrasts Israel in the Old Testament with the Church.
 - A. We have a heavenly mountain that is **welcoming**, not terrifying. V. 22
 - B. We have joyful angels in our midst **celebrating** with us. V. 22
 - C. We have a champion in Jesus Christ, the **Firstborn** son of mankind. V. 23
 - D. We come before the Judge with a **Mediator**. V. 23-24
 - E. We have God Himself **leading** us. This is much better than having the man, Moses, leading them. V. 25-26
 - F. Our main goal is to **please God**, not men. V. 27-29
- II. How does this apply to our series on Anger?
 - A. Living in peace with man begins by receiving the **Grace** of God.
Hebrews 12:14-15 ¹⁴Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. (NIV 84)
 - B. Having the same priorities as God makes us **unshakable** when conflicts arise.
 - C. It is essential that we never forget that God will not take **second** place to anyone or anything.