

Sermon Handout

“Deeper Meaning of God’s Law”

Hebrews 12:11-29

I. The broader context of Hebrews 12

A. Heb 10:35-39

Do not abandon your confidence in God v. 35

It will bring God’s reward in your life

Remain patient v. 36 (see Zeph 2:3)

The patient should seek patience (cf. Jas 1:3)

Trust in God; righteousness shall emerge Ps 37:4-9

The promise of glory will appear in your lives

Christ is the promised glory vv. 37-38 (quoting Hab 2:3-4)

The “vision” becomes the ascended Christ

(“He” shall come)

Hab 2:4a now *follows* Hab 2:4b

He who shrinks back (“his soul is lifted up”)

becomes the one in whom God “has no pleasure”

But genuine Christians are not like that! v. 39

Instead, they remain steadfast, confident in Christ

They do not draw back (see I Thess 3:3)

They receive the promised glory

How long must we endure? Until we have **done** God’s will v. 36

B. Heb 11 The “cloud of witnesses” (cf. 12:1)

Common theme: trust God, despite the evidence of our senses

C. Heb 12:2-3 Look to Jesus, don’t give up

II. The intervening passage Heb 12:4-17

A. Reiterates the lesson of the “cloud of witnesses” (Ch. 11)

B. The difficulties of this present life are a gift for our good

They prove we are sons of God (vv. 6-8)

They ultimately produce righteousness (v. 11)

C. Do not, then, be set back by difficulties (vv. 12-17)

III. The true mountain, the city of the Living God Heb 12:18-29

A. The mountain to which Moses came vv. 18-21 (cf. Ex 19:16-25)

It was a fearful place!

B. The mountain to which Christians have come vv. 22-29

Where Jesus, the mediator, dwells v. 24

From which we receive an immovable kingdom v. 28a

Whereby we may serve God acceptably v. 28b

The 10 Words teach us what is “acceptable”