

## **Hebrews 12:14-29 – Peace, Holiness, Listen & Have Grace.**

- I. ([14-17](#)): Peace & Holiness.
  - i. **Pursue peace** with all men – harmony/tranquility.

Keep away from being a source of conflict, strife or war.

**Proverbs 16:28** - *A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.*

**Proverbs 17:14** - *The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.*

**Matthew 5:9** - *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

- ii. Pursue holiness/spotlessness/purity – stay the course of right living with God.

Without holiness none will see God; holiness is given to us through Jesus Christ who died for our sins, only through Christ shall we see God.

**Leviticus 20:7** - *Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:7** - *For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*

**Matthew 5:8** - *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

**2 Corinthians 7:1** - *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

“Unholy Christians are the plague of the church.” Charles Spurgeon

The absence of peace with fellow men and holiness before God leads to a fall from God’s favors, like Esua (**Genesis 25-27**) who sold away his inheritance for a plate of food, became bitter and caused strife in the family.

Bitterness blocks many from extending the grace of God to others, and it is rooted in personal hurt.

“William Barclay wrote that the phrase **fall short of the grace of God** might also be translated *failing to keep up with the grace of God*. The idea is that the grace of God is moving on, past the pain and hurt of the past. We should move on also.”

II. (18-29) Listen and be gracious

iii. Listen.

[Exodus 19:10-25](#) explains what it was like when Israel came to Mount Sinai. The mountain was fenced off, trespassing meant death. There was thunder, lightning and a thick cloud. There was the sound of a trumpet, calling forth the nation to meet with God. There was more smoke, like a furnace, and earthquakes; then the trumpet sounded long – until Moses spoke, and God Himself answered.

We are in a different place. Our relationship with God is not modeled after Israel's experience on Mount Sinai. We come to God's other mountain: Zion, Jerusalem.

**Consider the contrasts between Mount Sinai and Mount Zion mentioned here.**

Mount Sinai	Mount Zion
Wilderness	God's City
Keep away	Company of angels
Enemies all through	The Church
Burdensome Law	Loving Father
Death	Justification
Imperfect Priesthood	Jesus Christ and His precious blood

**Psalm 81:13** - *“Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!*

**Isaiah 55:2** - *Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.*

**2 Peter 1:17-18** - *For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

iv. Grace.

**2 Corinthians 6:1** - *We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.*

**Colossians 4:6** - *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

**2 Peter 3:18** - *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*