

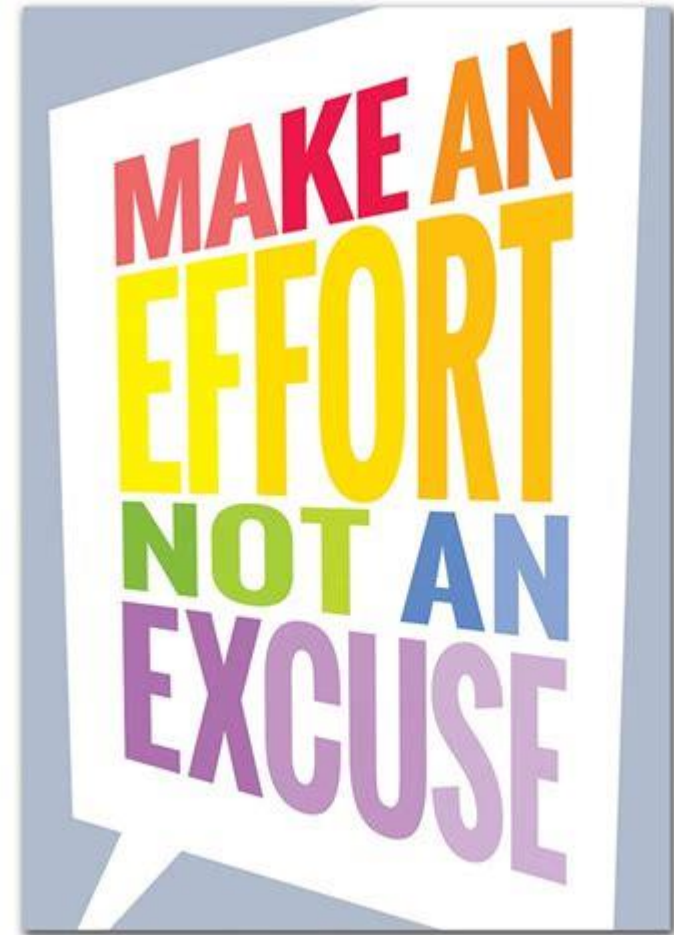
Hebrews 12:14-29

**FINAL
WARNING**

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy;

Try !

The Essential character - Christ-likeness
(through faith lived out)

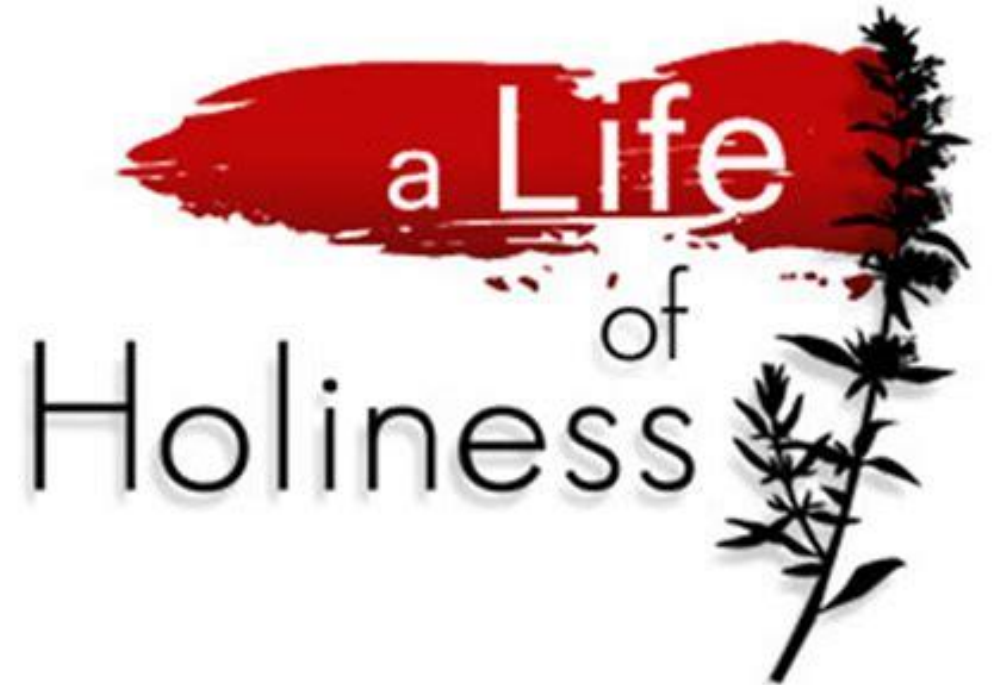


Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy;
without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Seeing God.

This should be our personal experience now
as believers

Holiness - You are not going to heaven
without it!



See to it that no one misses the grace of God

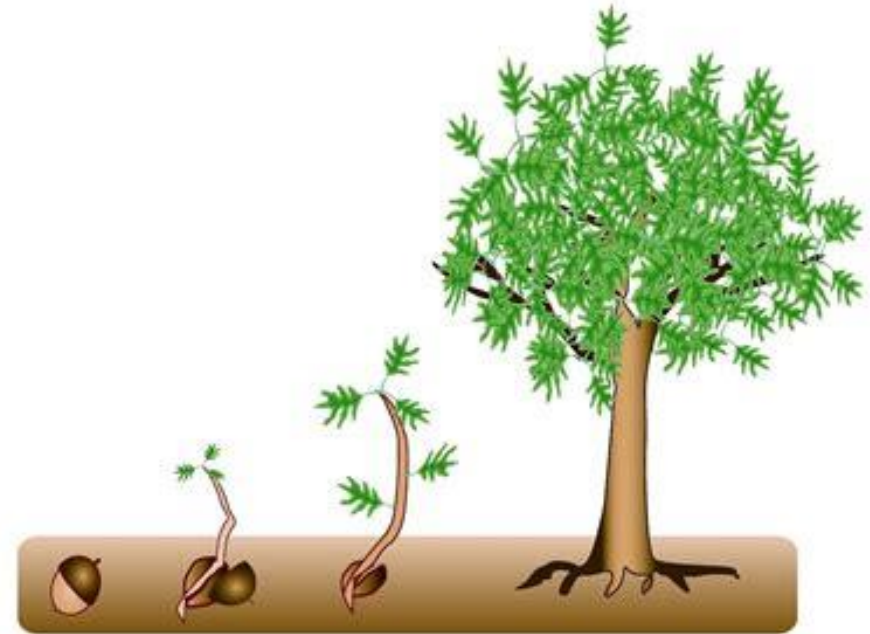
Hit the target.

- grace (it is available) vs. everything else
(We can be on the look-out to help others)



See to it that no one misses the grace of God
and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Corrosive poison for self and others
Cf. Deuteronomy 29:18



See to it that no one misses the grace of God
and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

What are the causes of bitterness and its cure?

Hurts
Persecution
Resentment
Envy
Etc.



Galatians 5:22-23

Forgiveness

More grace.

See that no one is sexually immoral,

Is this a leaders' responsibility or a personal instruction?



Great danger –this is one of Satan's deadliest weapons

God's plan for life and marriage
(The writer mentions this in Ch. 13)

or is godless like Esau,
who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

Just plain worldliness

- only seeing the 'here and now'

In hindsight it was a seriously bad deal!

What do you value?



Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

Familiar with his story?

Regret when it's too late.

This is a warning – no coming back!

Some things can't be reversed when we've lost them.

Emotional attempts won't work then.



You have not come to a mountain that can be touched
and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm;

Contrast the time at Mt. Sinai and the giving of the law (torah)
with the New Covenant.

Early lessons for Israel?



to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them,

Frightening presence

The 'fear' of God is...



Exodus 20:20, And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

because they could not bear what was commanded..
"If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned."

Strict boundaries . Exodus 19:12



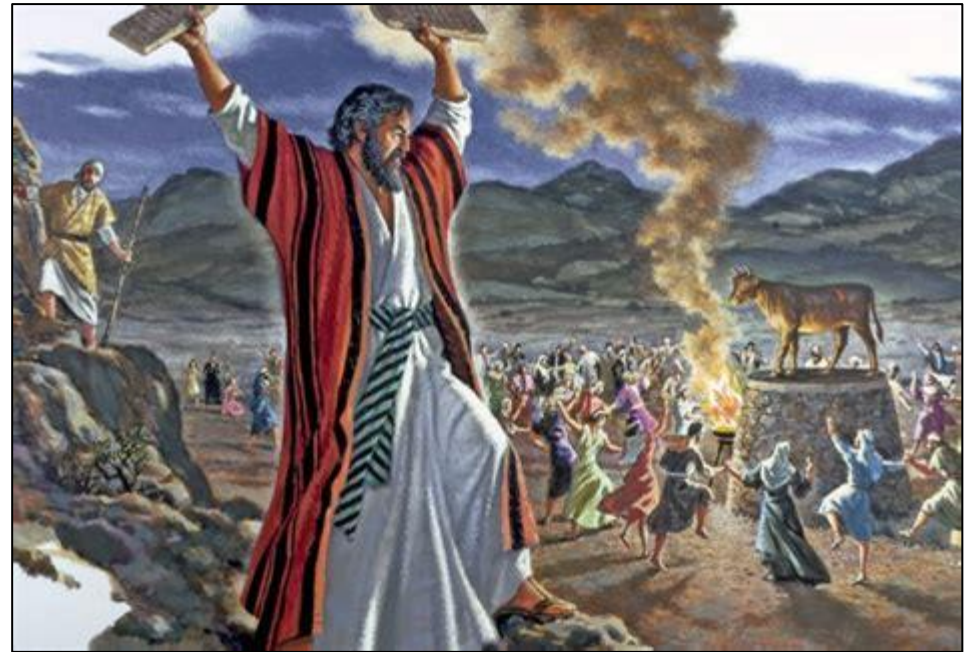
Don't come near!

The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

God's chosen mediator felt afraid.

Deuteronomy 9:19

God was about to destroy the nation



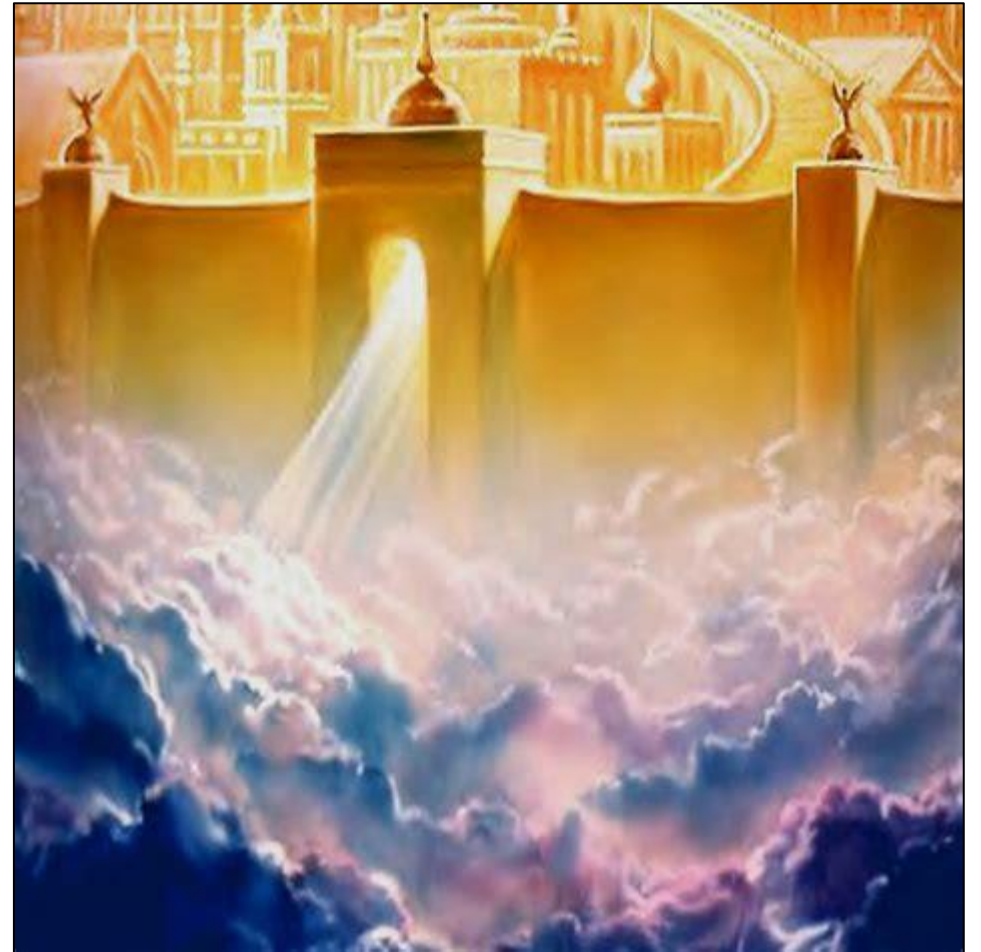
But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem,
the city of the living God.

Such a great contrast

Another mountain – salvation

Heaven is the reality of the earthly symbol

The dwelling place of the **true** God



You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,

Wonderful company!

Angelic worship

A Joy to be there

Enter now?

Faith's doorway and invitation



You have come ...

to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

Church = God's chosen people

Firstborn – inheritance receivers!
(through the firstborn – Jesus)

A Name is more than a label
- where we belong

Written = enrolled
(in the book of life)



You have come to God, the judge of all men,

Access to our wonderful God

The Righteous Judge – in justice and truth



to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,

At present we join with former
believers in worship
(waiting their resurrection bodies)

Their spirits are now made perfect
– sinless!



to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant,

Jesus- the only one through whom it is possible.
He brought in the new (in time) covenant
– the old is superseded. (by his blood)



and to the **sprinkled** blood
that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

The blood is applied to atone and to cleanse

Contrasted to Abel's death

Abel's blood calls for justice and punishment.
Genesis 4:10-11



See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks.



A Strong warning is coming

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?

Read your history – there's a strong lesson

Apply it to ourselves today.

Man's warning carried consequences (God spoke through them)

How much more!!! God's warning

Don't turn away



**Danger of
death**

At 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."

There were dramatic effects then
But there is a future promise ...

Everything going to be dealt with

Haggai 2:6-7,
"yet once, it is a little while"



The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken--
that is, created things

Created things



Creation will be transformed

Cf. destruction of old creation (this one)
and the making of the new creation in
2 Peter 3, Revelation 21

--so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

Only eternal things will survive this change.

Treasures in heaven.

Saved souls.

Heavenly fruit.



Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,
let us be thankful,

Can we have a present taste of future?

It is 'ours' as a sure promise

Be thankful – appreciate and enjoy



and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

The right way to worship that God accepts.

Reverence and awe.

Touched by his presence?



and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,
for our "God is a consuming fire."

Deuteronomy 4:24



Anything not of him will burn up