

“The Good News & The Bad News” *Hebrews 12:18-29*

INTRODUCTION: The Principle of Alternatives

- Successful living consists in defining realistic and legitimate alternatives and choosing properly. (Fred Smith)
- The general thrust of this passage is a comparison between two mountains: Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion. One is the mountain of law. The other is the mountain of grace.
- Every earthly security we rely upon can be shaken. When we build our lives on the foundation of His love, truth, and faithfulness. He will hold us steadfast and every fear will fade. (Charles Stanley)

The Alternatives, The Good News And The Bad News:

1. Note the good news about a _____.
(v.22)
2. Note the good news about a _____.
(v.22)
 - And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.”
(Revelation 19:9—New Living Translation)
3. Note the good news about _____.
(v.23)
 - Jesus is supreme as the word firstborn indicates—over all creation; literally, He is the firstborn of all creation. He is the firstborn from the dead, so that He might hold first place in everything.
(The Complete Jewish Study Bible)

4. Note the good news about your _____.
(v.23)
 - You take over. I’m about to die, my life an offering on God’s altar. This is the only race worth running. I’ve run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that’s left now is the shouting—God’s applause! Depend on it, He’s an honest judge. He’ll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for His coming.
(2 Timothy 4:6-8—The Message)
5. Note the good news about the fellowship of _____.
(v.23)
6. Note the good news about our friend in heaven. (v.24)
 - Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13—New American Standard Bible)

CONCLUSION: A Necessary Warning . . .

- The New Covenant is far better than the Old Covenant. But it is also far more vulnerable to being abused. When running by grace, we sometimes tend to shorten our strides and cut a few corners as we round the turn in the track. That’s why Hebrews 12:25-29 was written. It functions like a megaphoned warning from our coach.
- Some Personal Questions to Consider:
 - ✓ Are you taking the God of grace for granted?
 - ✓ Do you worship God with casual indifference?
 - ✓ Do you regard His Word lightly?
 - ✓ Do you live a cavalier life of abusing grace?
- Since by grace we have received a permanent relationship with God and a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, we should keep clinging to grace so that we can approach Him the way He deserves to be approached—with reverence and awe. (Chuck Swindoll)