



**Can you help us?** We would love to know who is using these questions. If you don't mind, can you write us a quick email saying who you are and how you are using the questions. [gmaston@gracepres.org](mailto:gmaston@gracepres.org)

## Church Preservation

Hebrews 12:18-29

Pastor Bryan Chapell

5-31-20

**Key Thought:** In times of persecution, pain, and pandemic, God's people are tempted to turn from Him.

**Key Question:** Why turn to God in time of trial?

**Read Hebrews 12:18-29**

### **A God Who Shows His Earthly Power: (vv. 18-21)**

*The writer of Hebrews gives his persecuted and dispersed readers the answer to their question, "If God is for us then why is all this happening to us?" His answer cuts deeper than their question to their hearts, helping them see, if God is only what we sense or understand then we will not hear or endure Him. We will only fear Him.*

#### **1) What happens when the god you turn to is only as big as your own ability to understand or sense him?**

- Have you ever experienced someone limiting God to only what they sense or understand? What did you observe, feel, or want to say in response to them?
- What does the history lesson of verses 18-21 teach us about the idolatry of our senses?

### **A God Who Reveals His Heavenly Purpose: (vv. 22-24)**

*What we have to do is believe there is something God is doing beyond human fathoming. We need to read v. 22-24 through that lens. We will see then we have a God who reveals His heavenly purpose. He is throwing a party as well as extending great privilege and an amazing pardon. This gives us courage and cause to rejoice even in the midst of difficulties.*

#### **2) Explain the party, privileges and pardon revealed in vv 22-24.**

- What is intended when the vine dresser prunes branches? (see John 15)
- Share what God brought about from certain pruning in your life.
- Explain how the "sprinkled blood" of Jesus relates to the blood of Abel. (v.24)
- Hebrews 12:22-24 is not looking through the rear view mirror but rather calling us to look beyond even the headlights. What is the significance of doing that for you personally?

### **A God Who Gives a Heavenly Invitation: (vv. 25-29)**

*God may whisper in our blessings but He shouts in our pain to make His appeal to the world to see how fragile their idols are, yet He is unshakable. God also lovingly issues a warning here, bigger than past warnings with an invitation to trust in Him alone.*

#### **3) How does Hebrews describe the shaking to come? What will and will not be shaken? (vv25-29)**

- What happens as we worship the Lord, motivated by what we have in Christ, in the middle of difficulty?
- Whom are you trusting today and what are you looking forward and rejoicing over already?

### **Q's for Kids: (Read Heb 12:18-29 together)**

- 1) Sometimes we don't understand why God would allow painful things to happen. But what do we know is always true and how does that give us courage and reason to rejoice in God?**